Monday 14th July 2025 7:30 pm in Othery Village Hall

1. **Apologies: None**
2. **Present:** Cllrs Tizzard: Jennings: Selway: Atherton: Betty: Graham: Wright: Cllr Matt Martin: Gerard Tucker Chair of Aller Parish Council: Tim Lock on work experience with Ashley Fox learning about local government:
3. **Declarations of Interest:** These will always be declared at the agenda item when appropriate.
4. **Certifying the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th June 2025:** Agreed as a true record of the meeting.
5. **Public question time and Neighbourhood Watch/Crime report and an update from Cllr Matthew Martin with Gerard Tucker giving an update on LCN matters and the idea of Quiet Lanes:** Gerard Tucker addressed the Parish Council wearing several hats. Clerk of Aller Parish Council: Active Travel Group lead for the LCN: Pilgrim route historical group. Aller Parish Council are pushing to have a safe cycle route to Bridgwater using Aller Drove, Glastonbury and the Strawberry Way as safe cycle routes are not just for towns. Aller Drove could be a “quiet lane” and have suitable signs and the speed limit assessed. To this end he is talking to Somerset Council. He pointed out that Aller Church is involved in the project mapping King Alfred’s journey through Somerset. The travel plan consultation document which is up for consultation is considering a 30 mph limit to Aller and the support from Aller Parish Council for Aller Drove to be a up for quiet lane status. He also conceded that the speed on Summerhedge also needs to be included. Cllr Jennings asked is quiet lanes have to be 20 mph and the answer was No but the signage needs to be in place as this is very important. It was proposed by Cllr Tizzard and seconded by Cllr Jennings that Othery Parish Council support this initiative and that Aller and Othery need to work together. This was passed unanimously. Tim Lock spoke briefly about his desire to get involved in politics and that his time with Ashley Fox was very helpful and that he as already learning about the protocol at Parish Council meetings. Cllr Matt Martin outlined a few issues from his emailed update being the push for solar panels on all new houses and an acknowledgement that SEND is a local and national problem.
6. **Matters Arising:** **Bench Seat on private land:** No action can be taken by the Parish Council as the WI many years ago put the seat on the bank which is owned by the owner of the property above. Permission was obtained from the then owner of the property, but it is not known if the present owner is aware of the situation. Either someone has a conversation with the owner of the property, or the name of the owner and address of the property is given to the Parish Clerk who will write a letter.

**Parish Council representative on the Othery Village Hall committee**: Othery Village Hall is applying to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), as part of their registration Othery Village Hall committee have asked the Parish Council if we would like to continue with a Councillor representative on the new committee. It was agreed unanimously that Cllr Wright would be that representative.

**Alleged use of farm barn as industrial units:** The Parish Council has no evidence that this information is correct and cannot without the informant’s name pass that allegation onto the Somerset enforcement team.

1. **Playing Field:** No date has been given to the clerk regarding the inspection so the Clerk would renew that request.

1. **Cemetery:** **Need to review the charges in the Autumn to start in January 2026:** It was agreed to undertake this task at the September meeting and the Clerk would get data from local Cemeteries and Graveyards to give the Parish Council a guide. Access to the new part of the Cemetery from the old needs to be undertaken in the autumn.
2. **Highways:** Cllr Tizzard believes that the gullies might have been cleared out and he will have a look when he has the time. Cllr Wright informed the meeting the repair of Load Pool is already breaking up and again need attention. Also the white lines have not yet been completed after the resurfacing. Cllr Matt Martin would look into this and ask that the Parish Council minute be emailed to him. The overgrown hedges are becoming a problem and Cllr Jennings agreed to put together a list of the properties with the owners details so that the Clerk could send them a letter reminding them of their responsibilities. The village sign at the top end of the village needs the vegetation around it cut back and Cllr Betty agreed to ask Martin Pring to undertake this when he was next in the village doing other work for the Parish Council.
3. **Media Report:** Cllr Graham would like to get some of the media updates onto the WebSite and the Clerk agreed to send him Ed’s details so that he can make contact and gain access.

**11 Community Speed Watch:** Suspended because of the new 20 mph limit in Othery but the time limit is nearly up so Cllr Atherton has been trying to make contact with Paul Johnson and Bruce English to see if another suitable site could be found although he was not that hopeful having reviewed the criteria.

**12 Planning notice:** Planning application number: 38/25/00006/JMS & 38/25/00007/JMS: **Proposal:** Reinstate & rebuild section of a boundary wall. **Location:** Pathe Farm Cottage, Pathe Road, Othery, Bridgwater, TA7 0JF: **The Parish Council will endorse listed buildings offcer’s comments**. **Planning Enforcement**: Reference: E 38/00080: Location: Land at, Pathe Farm, Pathe Road, Othery, Bridgwater: It was noted that the list is very long for enforcement and few officers.

**13 Financial Matters:** Cllr Betty proposed that the July charity should be to donate £100 to the trim trail project at the village school and Cllr Wright in agreeing proposed that the August charity should be the Heart Foundation.

**Expenditure:** Salary £ 268.24

Salary administration £ 15.00

McMillans £ 25.00

Slashdotdash £ 8.00

SPFA £ 15.00

**Income:**

**14 Correspondence:** No new correspondence.

**15 Correspondence for Circulation: Already circulated by email:**

**16 Urgent Matters at the discretion of the Chairman:** Meeting dates for 2026 should be on the September agenda,

**Date and time of the next meeting: Monday 8th September 2025 7:30 Parish Council Meeting.**