

Otterton Parish Council

Date & Time	6 th January 2025		Location	Otterton Village Hall			
Councillors Present	Initials			Also Present	Initials		
Mr Richard Witherby	RW	Parish Councillor		Charlotte Fitzgerald	CF		
Ian Simpson	IS	Parish Councillor	Chair	Members of the public	5		
Peter Wells	PW	Parish Councillor					
Belinda Shoemaker	BS						

Apologies	Initials	Reason for Absence	Absent without Apology	Initials	
Jerry Fry	JF	Unwell	Henry Riddell	HR	
Jess Bailey	JB	Diary Conflict			

In Attendance	Initials	Capacity	Minutes to
F Mills	FM	Clerk	Councillors, website, notice board

Ref	Main meeting agenda item, comment & decision	Action Owner
1	Welcome & Apologies received & accepted as above.	
2	Declarations of Interests: None	
3	Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 2 nd December 2024 as circulated were signed as an accurate record of the meeting. Matters arising not featured on the agenda: <i>Gate at Stantyway recreation Field: the hedge has been trimmed in readiness for new gate.</i>	
4	Public Questions: None It was noted that an enquiry had been received regarding the difficulties a resident was experiencing in charging an electric mobility scooter. Following a visit by RW & a conversation with clerk the matter was referred to EDDC Housing department.	
5	Budget 25/26 sign off: After review of budget illustrations it was unanimously agreed to apply for a 5% increase in precept for 25/26 financial year.	clerk
6	Correspondence: report from Jess Phillips 1. There is huge uncertainty over the impact of devolution following the publication of the White Paper on 16th December. The scrapping of district councils looks to be on the cards - to be replaced with unitary authorities of around 500,000 people. All the district and county authorities are due to hold council meetings to discuss matters during the week commencing 6th January but the agenda papers have not yet been published. The county council elections which are due to take place on 1st May 2025 may be postponed - this is certainly what some authorities such as Gloucester County Council have requested. 2. I have repeatedly reported the temporary roadworks sign which I understand had been knocked over by the brick cross prior to Christmas and requested the contractors come and re-instate it. Please let me know if this has been resolved. 3. I was horrified to learn that DCC are proposing to impose a fine of £21,000 for every pupil schools in Devon exclude. This puts headteachers in an impossible position and is quite wrong. DCC claim this is an attempt to drive inclusion - I don't believe that - I believe it is because there is a huge hole in DCC's finances and this proposal would potentially raise £5 million pounds per year for the council. I am pushing for DCC to shelve this idea - its quite wrong in my view. Wishing everyone a very happy new year.	

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7	Defibrillator: Update & progress action on village defibrillator The dimensions are approx. as follows: 21cm x 28.6cm x 7.8cm. Mindray C1A BeneHeart Fully Automatic Defibrillator SKU : AP-0654B-XA00002-1MPN : 0654B-XA00002 £799.00 (Incl VAT)£958.80 It was unanimously agreed that providing this unit can be housed in the existing cabinet a purchase would be made as above.	Clerk
8.	Grass Cutting Contract: Prior to the meeting JF was able to confirm that the Otterton Football Club would take on responsibility for the cutting of the football pitch at Stantyway recreation field. It was therefore agreed that of the three quotations received Halcyon Landscapes would be granted the contract to cut the grass areas in Otterton as per their quote received 2.12.24 .Halcyon Landscapes. £4905 inc vat. Clerk to confirm & write to other businesses thanking them for their quotes. (The clerk reported that the quote from Halcyon did not include cutting of the Stantyway recreation ground due to problems experienced over 2024. It was agreed that JF would speak to the Otterton Football Club to see if they had the capacity to take over the grass cutting of the pitch with support from the OPC when needed. A final decision will be made at the OPC meeting on 6.1.2025).	clerk
9.	Emergency Plan. A useful meeting was held from which an action plan was put together and can be found at the end of these minutes. Thank you to all who attended & to those residents who have pledged practical support.	
10	Resilience Reports: Reports from Councillors with specific responsibilities: Stone Trap & Gullies: RW Environmental reports: IS Water levels: PW Sand bags, sand & salt: JW No concerns were reported. It was suggested that a measure is placed where water often breaches the road on the entrance to the village to help drivers gauge the depth of the flood. Clerk to contact Jess Bailey/Highways.	Clerk
11	Agenda items for next meeting: Emergency plan, Defibrillator.	
12	Date of next meeting: OPC Meeting - Scheduled as follows 3rd February 2025 OPC Meeting.	

Dates for 2025 meetings: OPC Meetings: Feb 3, March 3, April 7, May 12, June 2, July 7, Sept 1, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1.