

# Otterton Parish Council

| Date & Time         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 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 | 12       |  |  |
| Peter Wells         | PW                         | Parish Councillor |          | Jess Bailey           | JB       |  |  |
| Belinda Shoemaker   | BS                         | Parish Councillor |          |                       |          |  |  |

| Apologies | Initials | Reason for Absence | Absent without Apology | Initials |  |
|-----------|----------|--------------------|------------------------|----------|--|
| Jerry Fry | JF       | Holiday            |                        |          |  |

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

| Ref | Main meeting agenda item, comment & decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Action Owner |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1   | <b>Welcome &amp; Apologies received &amp; accepted as above.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |              |
| 2   | <b>Declarations of interest: None</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |              |
| 3   | <p><b>Minutes:</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 as circulated were signed as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p><b>Matters arising not featured on the agenda:</b></p> <p><b>From February Meeting: Post on Green – responsibility of OPC.</b> IS &amp; RW offered to repair the post. Many thanks to you both</p> <p><b>Dates for meetings booked for 2025 – need to consider annual meeting &amp; content.</b></p> <p>Event on the 5<sup>th</sup> April to be styled as Coffee Morning. Clerk to invite clubs &amp; groups in Otterton to come along. Emergency plan details to be shared at the meeting &amp; 'Love your Village' Group to be introduced.</p> <p><b>Gate at Stantyway:</b> Ready to be installed JF &amp; IS to action.</p> |              |
| 4   | <p><b>Public Questions: John Edmond</b></p> <p><b>Railway Bridge:</b> This is one of the National Highways Historic sites – a recent assessment undertaken shows that repointing needed &amp; steelwork needs to be managed which may mean road closure. Road surface on bridge will also need to be addressed which is a major job and could cause disruption &amp; potentially further road closures.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |              |
| 5   | <p><b>Correspondence from members of the public:</b></p> <p>Tractors through the village. CDE urge OPC to have meeting with local farmers to discuss issues.</p> <p>Closure of Budleigh Salterton Post office for refurbishment: Closes 29<sup>th</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> June</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |              |

# Otterton Parish Council

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| 6 | <p><b>Water Testing: GP on behalf of the OVA gave a presentation on water quality in the River Otter.</b></p> <p><b>Classified as Poor ecological status (putting it in the bottom 20% of UK rivers) Water tested all around the village &amp; other conurbations on the River Course. Results show: High level of phosphates 3 x higher than it should be.</b> From many sources including cattle which are high contributors.</p> <p>Algae on river bed reduces oxygen levels for fish. Citizen scientists came about due to reductions in Environment Agency staffing – they filled the gap.</p> <p><b>Turbidity:</b> too much soil &amp; waste has impact on eggs &amp; fish. This often happens in Brook due to run off. Recent 4 months period has been very bad.</p> <p><b>Dissolved solids is TDS (Total dissolved solids:</b> Exacerbated by increased rain fall &amp; flooding.</p> <p><b>Temperature of water is also a significant concern.</b> Healthy temperature 19.5C (18 – 22). Changes due reduced flow &amp; shade on river. Fish die due to lack of oxygen when it gets too warm.</p> <p><b>The Otter Valley Association</b> has created a new group to focus on water quality :- <b>Otter River Catchment Action - ORCA.</b> The aim is to test the river and some of its tributaries at 12 points on the same day fortnightly between Honiton and Budleigh.</p> <p>'water stations' and 'places' should read SWW treatment works</p> <p>River Fly testing identifies invertebrates in the riverbed that indicate how healthy it is; the more varied the healthier it is.</p> <p>Citizen Scientists seek to add ammonia to testing outcomes as this indicates waste.</p> <p>Current water stations are already at capacity so waste is discharged into river far too often.</p> <p><b>River Fly Project: this would indicate quality of the water this should be considered in terms of the Emerging Local Plan. Also involved Devon Wildlife Trust &amp; other interested parties.</b></p> |              |
| 7 | <p><b><i>To receive a report from the Chairman:</i></b></p> <p><i>Need for volunteers to do work along the brook, removing weeds from the wall, branches on the green need to be removed.</i></p> <p><i>Plea in the newsletter for volunteers for jobs to be done around the village 'Love your Village' will also be introduced at Coffee Morning.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |              |
| 8 | <b>Chapter 8 Training: 21<sup>st</sup> March Joining instructions to be sent to candidates</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |              |
| 9 | <p><b>Local planning:</b></p> <p><b>A Tree Protection Order</b> has been granted to tree on site opposite Rydon Orchard: As a result of an application by a member of the public stating that said tree is of amenity value. (Large trees of residential value). No consultation necessary by the OPC for TPOs <b>EDDC Emerging Local Plan.</b> A public consultation is available online, it is easy to use and contains lots of useful information. There is also an opportunity to feedback individual areas of concern either online or by post. Consultation will close 31.3.25</p> <p>The clerk read out a statement from Clare James at CDE regarding the 2 proposed development sites which is attached to these minutes.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Clerk action |

# Otterton Parish Council

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| 10 | <p><b>District&amp;County:</b></p> <p><b>CF:</b> Explained the contents of the EDDC Emerging Local Plan which confirmed the details of the letter from Clare James and brought to the council concerns regarding the EXMO20 proposals. 700 homes planned on site opposite Archery Club on the outskirts of the town. Concerns regarding increase in transport &amp; safety of pedestrians as no footpaths on main road into Exmouth. Whilst this site is designed to be part of the wider Exmouth conurbation in reality it is equidistant with Budleigh Salterton Centre which may cause logistical challenges.</p> <p><b>JB.</b> £300 received from Locality Budget for speed watch signs. Many thanks to Jess Bailey</p> <p>Natural Flood Management: Project in progress. Concerns re Fluxton water treatment works &amp; discharge into River.</p> <p>JB requested knowledge of planning applications which come before the Council from a Highways perspective.</p> <p>Devolution concerns regarding services from both DDC &amp; EDDC are ongoing.</p> <p>Regarding concerns relating to Bridges please copy Jess Bailey into correspondence.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                        |
| 11 | <p><b>Resilience Reports:</b> Reports from Councillors with specific responsibilities:</p> <p><b>Stone trap</b> needs to be unblocked. Clerk to write to Highways as this is the responsibility of this department.</p> <p><b>Gullies</b> – Tom Cox has been investigating blockages. These need to be reported on line. It was recognised by Councillors that water levels in the brook rise &amp; fall very quickly and are impacted by the tide.</p> <p>Sand bags &amp; salt available for distribution as needed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>Action clerk:<br/>7.2.24</p>        |
| 12 | <p><b>Reports from Councillors with specific responsibilities &amp; reports on village amenities and Bodies:</b></p> <p><b>The Village Green - JF.</b> Post on Green needs to be mended IS &amp; RW to action. Surface of Green needs topsoil.</p> <p><b>War memorial – PW</b> NTR</p> <p><b>Speed Watch – RP:</b> Clerk to request report for next meeting.</p> <p><b>Village Hall – BS.</b> Proposed solar panels to be reviewed.</p> <p><b>Telephone box:</b> To be emptied &amp; refurbished in March. New shelves to be installed. All books need to be cleared. Message in newsletter</p> <p><b>Stantyway Recreation Field &amp; Football Club – JF.</b> Gate ready for installation &amp; tidyup needed.</p> <p><b>Raleigh Federation – RW.</b> PTFA Chocolate Bingo event to take place on 3.4.25. Love my school event to be confirmed in near future. New playground surface to be installed and play area for younger children to be covered. All work has been funded by the activities of the PTFA</p> <p><b>Jubilee Playground – IS:</b> Some remedial work to be actioned in readiness for ROSPA report.</p> <p><b>The Cemetery- PW:</b> NTR</p> <p><b>Contracts &amp; Finance – RW:</b> NTR</p> <p><b>Village Defibrillator – FM.</b> Await delivery of new defibrillator.</p> <p><b>Footpaths</b> – Thanks to Iain Ure for his report on the Definitive Map Review which has framed the OPC response.</p> | <p>Clerk to include in newsletters</p> |

## Otterton Parish Council

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| 13 | <b>Financial matters:</b> To agree payment of cheques as per schedule below<br>Clerk is to meet with Ro Smith to discuss arrangements for updating of website on his return from holiday.<br><b>Dates for 2025 meetings:</b> Proposed Meeting Dates 2025 agreed as: April 7, May 12, June 2, July 7, Sept 1, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1. |                 |
| 14 | <b>Further Actions: Annual meeting 5.4.25 – see matters arising.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Clerk to action |
| 15 | <b>106 Funding:</b> Melissa Wall at EDDC has confirmed receipt of funding from KACH. 106 funding balance now stands at £26538.<br>IS awaits report from EDDC following meeting with engineer Neil Samson regarding solutions improvements to pitch at the Jubilee playpark.                                                       |                 |
| 16 | <b>Items for next Agenda: Consider items of business for next meeting.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                 |
| 19 | <b>Village events.</b> Coffee Morning 5.4.25 Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> May                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                 |
| 20 | <b>Date of next meeting:</b> OPC Meeting – 7 <sup>th</sup> April which will include AGM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                 |

The meeting closed at 20.32

### Letter from Clare James of Clinton Devon Estates regarding the EDDC Local Plan for Otterton

"Devon is facing a housing crisis, caused in no small part by a shortage of homes. The Devon Housing Commission has found this is negatively affecting the public services, the economy and care and health services upon which we all rely. East Devon's population is growing and will continue to do so for some time to come. There are 2,732 households - around 5,700 people - in housing need and on waiting lists for social or affordable housing in East Devon.

Clinton Devon Estate's 2030 Strategy, which can be found via the front page of our website, says we will take a proactive approach to identifying appropriate opportunities to provide homes and business premises for local people with sustainability at the forefront of our decision making. As a responsible landowner we will, as we have done for centuries, respond to society's needs where we can. We have been building and renting homes for local people in East Devon for hundreds of years.

The two sites in Otterton have been selected for a development of new homes in the draft Local Plan being prepared by East Devon District Council. We recognise that Otto\_02 was not included in the recent draft, Committee were reminded that as the site was within a flood zone it would need to go through a stage 2 strategic flood risk assessment which would cost over £10,000 and delay the Local Plan process so the recommendation is to not proceed with the site allocation. Committee were advised that in principle as the site was within the settlement boundary of Otterton it could still come forward as a planning application. RESOLVED: To not allocate Otto\_02 in light of the need for additional work to demonstrate the nature and extend of flood risk at the site noting that it has already been agreed for inclusion within the settlement boundary.

Over the coming months we will be working with the local community to consider how best these homes and other facilities can be delivered to support the needs of Otterton. Through consultation and engagement, with the parish council and community we want to plan a development that meets the village's needs.

We are a three times recipient of the Queen's Award for Enterprise in the category of Sustainable Development and are pleased to be bringing forward these sites as we have a commitment to ensure the landscape is where communities, business and wildlife can thrive."

Kind regards Clare

Clare James MRICS FAAV Head of Residential, Land and Tourism

Meeting of the Otterton Parish Council      minutes

Signed .....

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Dated.....

# Otterton Parish Council

Draft until signed