

Otterton Parish Council

Date & Time	7 th July 2025	Location		Otterton Village Hall			
Councillors Present	Initials			Also Present	Initials		
Mr Richard Witherby	RW	Parish Councillor		Charlotte Fitzgerald			
Ian Simpson	IS	Parish Councillor	Chair	Members of the public	1		
Peter Wells	PW	Parish Councillor		Jess Bailey			
Jerry Fry	JF	Parish Councillor					

Apologies	Initials	Reason for Absence	Absent without Apology	Initials	
Belinda Shoemaker	BS	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 interest: Richard Witherby & Jerry Fry declared an interest in planning item 25/1231/FUL - Oil Storage Compound Church Hill Otterton. Whilst absent from the meeting Belinda Shoemaker also declared an interest in this planning item	
3	Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2025 as circulated were signed as an accurate record of the meeting. Matters arising not featured on the agenda: Gate at Stantyway: Ready to be installed JF & IS to action. Agreed a priority action. Lock on the existing gate is already in place. Ground is too hard for progress deferred to September Chapter 8 Training: Received. A discussion 2 x men at work direction signs £172.60. (Clerk to write to Highways) Rewilding at Stantyway IS to speak to ref Geoff Porter & Iain Ure to progress this project: Site walk agreed. Waste sorting. Clerk to chase report. Sandbag audit. – to be done.	Action clerk
4	Public Questions: None	

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5	Remedial work at Otterton Mill: No action needed. Tree on the Green: From Ian Ure: Please could I remind the PC that a replacement tree is needed (plant in the Autumn) on the Green for the horse chestnut tree that had to be removed. EDDC suggested Malus sp. or Pyrus, (crab apple or pear). They said that "the recommended replacement tree species for 24/17/14/PRETDD have been selected with the view of providing colour and interest, whilst maintaining amenity, throughout the growing season. The planting location is a constrained, triangular part of the green suited more to the growth of medium sized trees". I suggest that due to its probable location it will need protecting with a wooden frame to start with (protect against people and animals until it is established). Action: JF to speak to Freddie @ the Kings Arms regarding the kind offer of a replacement tree. Otterton School: We are hoping to have the Otterton School year 6 leavers party up at Stantyway playing field this year on Friday 18th July from 3pm - 5:30pm, and I believe we need to seek permission from the parish council. I contacted Ian Simpson today regarding this and he has given me your email address. The plan is to have an inflatable run-through assault course and an ice cream van. Would this be something the parish council would allow? If you could please let me know if this is ok, and anything else or anyone else I need to be approaching in order to get the go ahead for this? Your kind assistance would be very much appreciated. Nikki Bailey: Unanimously agreed RW to inform school. Tree at Jubilee Playpark (Vieux Close): Good Afternoon, I own 16 Vieux Close, next to Jubilee Park. There is an ash tree in the park, very close to my boundary - periodically I get in touch due to it's size. The tree is once again far too big and close to my property. I'd be really grateful please if it could be coppiced. The tree overhangs our garden and house. I attach a photo from our front garden, but councillors are welcome to visit and give us a knock. We'd be so grateful if this could be dealt with asap as it always causes an issue with flies and reduces our morning light in the house/garden. Best wishes Jenny Cracknell. Unanimously agreed in principle that work will be done. Action: Quote from Toby & Alan Dyer.	
6	To receive a report from the Chairman. <i>Heaths to Sea talk held in Otterton: 2540 hectares mixed agriculture with increased wetland & woodland, conservation land. Community orchard a possibility in field above the pub.</i> <i>Sadly River Otter now within group of 20% most polluted Rivers in the country. Pollution manly from agriculture & SWW. New group formed to try & fight SWW managed pollution. Strategy.</i> <i>20 is plenty signs now evident throughout the village.</i> <i>Matt Seager soap box race champion both in Otterton & Barnstaple – well done Matt!</i>	

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7	Local planning: 25/1231/FUL - Oil Storage Compound Church Hill Otterton: Not quorate so no comments recorded. 25/1277/FUL - Monks Wall Otterton Devon EX9 7JJ. Retrospective planning application. <i>No objection.</i> <i>Timber shed – No objection.</i> Local Plan: <i>From Clare James</i> <i>In terms of our two sites in Otterton, we are still awaiting reports on drainage and ecology so nothing further to report at present. I understand that ahead of discussion at the EDDC Strategic Planning Committee (8th July), details have been published in committee papers on Reg 19 consultation, which concluded on the 31st March 2025. It may be useful for you to review that report on line.</i>	
8	Bus Turning Area: IS Complaints – Dangerous driving. Highways respond dangerous practice. Rudeness of drivers, near misses. Evidence sent: Confrontation situation with cycle & cars. Witness that cars can get through. Stagecoach & Dartline. Letter to Dartline & Stagecoach.	Clerk to write
9	Flood Prevention regarding crops: Defer for next month.	
10	District & County: Lifeguard on Budleigh Beach. Jess Bailey: DCC 20MPH Report awaited. Men at work report - Emergency work, kit, signage. Clerk to send application following site visit report.	
11	Resilience Reports: Stone trap - OK Gullies – Remain blocked will address on Chapter 8. Environmental Reports – NTR Sandbangs: Audit awaited.	

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12	Reports from Councillors with specific responsibilities & reports on village amenities and Bodies: The Village Green - JF. All good. War memorial – PW. All good Cut needed. Speed Watch – RP: The Speed watch has in recent weeks noticed the increase in traffic we monitor the number of vehicles passing in an hour! It's averaging at the moment at around 89/ 103 per hour! We have recorded more cars recently doing over 30 but below the speed of 35mph which we can report ! We have seen close accidents of cars pulling out of drives and in particular cars pulling out of Maunders hill ! We now have a new site which is up by the new estate, this is also to observe vehicles who are breaking the 6feet width restriction ! We have also had comments made to us and observed double decker buses turning onto Fore street at the crossing of bell street which is very dangerous we have reported this in our observations! Village Hall – BS. NTR Telephone box- BS NTR Stantyway Recreation Field & Football Club – JF. NTR Raleigh Federation – RW. Term finishes 24th July & restarts Thursday 4th September. Jubilee Playground – IS: Site visit on Saturday midday. Clerk to write to Melissa wall. The Cemetery- PW: NTR Contracts & Finance – RW: NTR Village Defibrillator – FM. New Defib installed in cabinet. Old defib to be offered to the Old Vicarage. Clerk to write to owner. Footpaths – NTR. Some footpaths overgrown.	Clerk to reimburse
11	Financial matters: It was agreed that payments as per the agenda should be made. Proposed Meeting Dates 2025 agreed as, Sept 1, Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1.	
12	Further Actions: Church Fete: The date of the fete has been changed to 16th July to enable a joint effort with the school & support by the OPC.	
13	106 Funding: Melissa Wall at EDDC has confirmed receipt of funding from KACH. 106 funding balance now stands at £26538. IS awaits report from EDDC following meeting with engineer Neil Samson regarding solutions improvements to pitch at the Jubilee playpark. Rhino have sent quotes & ideas for a new piece of equipment which could also be moved	
14	Items for next Agenda: Bench for Clive Parnell, Tree on Green, Ash quotes, Jubilee Playpark.	
15	Village events. Princess Prom 3rd week in September in hall.	
16	Date of next meeting: OPC Meeting – 1st September July	

The meeting closed at 20.37

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