

# Otterton Parish Council

Date & Time	13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026		Location	Otterton Village Hall			
Councillors Present	Initials			Also Present	Initials		
Ian Simpson	RW	Parish Councillor	Chair				
Richard Witherby	IS	Parish Councillor		Members of the public	4		
Belinda Shoemaker	BS	Parish Councillor					
Jerry Fry	JF	Parish Councillor					
Stevie Mears	SM	Parish Councillor					
Peter Wells	PW	Parish Councillor					

Apologies	Initials	Reason for Absence	Absent without Apology	Initials	
Charlotte Fitzgerald		Work Commitments			
Jess Bailey		Work Commitments			

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

## Minutes

1	<b>Apologies</b>	<i>Apologies received as above.</i>	Clerk
2	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	<i>There were no declarations of pecuniary interest on items on the agenda</i>	Chair
3	<b>Minutes</b>  <b>Matters arising</b>	<p><i>The minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 were signed as a as a correct record of the meeting.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Gate at Stantyway: Continues as a work in progress.</i></li> <li>• <i>Seat &amp; tree on Green with time capsule. In progress.</i> <i>Lifting of canopy for trees on Green:</i> <i>Andy Rowse has quoted £800 including application. After discussion this expenditure was agreed.</i> <i>RW to coordinate with Andy Rowse.</i></li> <li>• <i>Tree on Vieux Close. The work has been completed by Toby Taylor &amp; £100 contribution received from Jenny Cracknell towards invoice. It was agreed to pay £500 invoice.</i></li> <li>• <i>Water Quality: Well attended meeting in in B/S &amp; additional new water testers now in place. International tester to come become involved. GP to attend Colaton Raleigh AGM to promote work of OVA &amp; water testing.</i> <i>It was noted that dogs can become ill due to chemicals in the water</i></li> <li>• <i>Bridge at Box Cottage: Work in progress, communication ongoing with Highways</i></li> <li>• <i>Tree donations for OPC land. JF has spoken to brewery and they will come back to him with suggestions.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Chair/clerk</p> <p>Action RW</p> <p>Action Clerk</p>
4	<b>Public Questions</b>	<b><i>Vandalism in village.</i></b> <i>It was noted that an increase in petty vandalism has occurred in the village recently with Wisteria being</i>	Clerk for newsletter

Meeting of the Otterton Parish Council

minutes

Signed .....

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Dated.....

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		<p><i>pulled from walls and pots being thrown in the stream. A discussion took place regarding the benefits of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme which are to be promoted. However it was also recognise that confronting a perpetrator can often be unwise.</i></p> <p><i>It was noted that all residents can &amp; should alert the police to issues independently &amp; that communication of ongoing issues around the village through the use of social media can be helpful.</i></p>	
5	<b>Correspondence</b>	<i>There was no correspondence from members of the public.</i>	
6	<b>Chairman's Business</b>	<i>To receive a report from the Chairman. See report for AGM</i>	
7	<b>Parish P3 Path Partnership</b>	<i>It was agreed that an application would be made for P3 Path partnership &amp; the clerk was asked to contact Iain Ure to help with application.</i>	Clerk to contact Iain Ure
8	<b>Newsletter</b>	<p><i>Following last month's meeting &amp; the disappointing lack of volunteers to take over the newsletter SM got in touch with Jill Beacham. After discussion it was agreed that SM would take this on initially using a template provided by Jill Beacham. A new email has been set up for correspondence for the newsletter:</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:ottertonparishnews@gmail.com"><u>ottertonparishnews@gmail.com</u></a></p> <p><i>Jill Beacham has confirmed that she has managed to enlist the support of generous benefactors to print the newsletter however for the June edition it has been necessary to seek a commercial printer. RW &amp; SM have received a competitive quote from Copywright Exmouth of £53.67 which will be a one off charge while reduction of costs are explored. OPC unanimously agreed to this cost &amp; once again thanked Jill Beacham for her work with the parish Newsletter over many years &amp; to SM for taking on the voluntary task of printing &amp; editing the newsletter going forward.</i></p>	Action SM
9	<b>Snow Warden</b>	<p><b>Snow Warden:</b> <i>Thank you for your recent email re Jerry Fry to become the Parish's Snow Warden. The following link was used to provide information as requested.</i></p> <p><a href="https://www.devon.gov.uk/devonhighways/self-help/snow-warden"><u>https://www.devon.gov.uk/devonhighways/self-help/snow-warden</u></a><i>&gt; JF should now receive details of further video training.</i></p>	Action JF
10	<b>Road Warden Scheme</b>	<b>Chapter 8 Training from Highways:</b> <i>The HSA training is the first course of training which volunteers undertake and is done on-line, and my records show that Ian, Jerry, and Richard all undertook the course in January 2025. Can you confirm if the parish will be undertaking to fill potholes, as if so, I will send you the links for ordering the material and the link for the video at the same time. Confirmation sent 17.4.26</i>	
11	<b>Local Planning</b>	<p><b>26/0420/TCA - Approved</b></p> <p><b>26/0729/TCA - Approved</b></p>	
12	<b>Time capsule</b>	<i>RW to progress</i>	
13	<b>District&amp;County</b>	<i>Reports circulated.</i>	



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Draft until signed