

Otterton Parish Council

Date & Time	3 rd June 2024		Location	Otterton Village Hall			
Councillors Present	Initials			Also Present	Initials		
MS Melanie Martin	MM	Parish Councillor		Members of the public	30		
Mr Jerry Fry	JF	Parish Councillor					
Mr Richard Witherby	RW	Parish Councillor		Jess Bailey	JB		
Roger Pellow	RP	Parish Councillor		Charlotte Fitzgerald	CF		
Ian Simpson	IS	Parish Councillor					
Ms Belinda Shoemaker	BS	Parish Councillor					
Peter Wells	PW	Parish Councillor					

Apologies	Initials	Reason for Absence	Absent without Apology	Initials	
Henry Riddell					

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

Ref	Main meeting agenda item, comment & decision	Action Owner & deadline
1	Welcome & Apologies received & accepted as above. MM confirmed that sadly Cllr Steve Culverhouse has resigned from the OPC due to family & work Commitments. Steve was thanked for his work on the Parish Council. MM confirmed that this leaves 2 vacant place on the OPC	
2	Declarations of Interests: MM declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item number 4	
3	Co-opting of Parish Councillor: Kevin Hill was co-opted on to the Councillor	
4	Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 13 th May 24 were signed as an accurate record of the meeting. Matters arising not featured on the agenda: 4.Graffiti on bus stop reported by a resident will be addressed by JF. JF reported a work in progress. Open day: Enjoyed by many & excellent turn out of villagers ROSPA: Report now in and being studied by Jubilee playpark group to form plan for remedial work Emergency Planning Application. In progress Road warden scheme may be of interest. MM to explore. In progress River Otter Pathway: FM confirmed that a letter has been sent to the EA & DCC Main officer not well JB to communicate with EA & DCC Communication regarding playpark update. IS reported ongoing communication. Ramp Access onto River Otter: Clerk/JB to write to DCC regarding safety concerns represented by easy access to river Otter pathway.	

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5	Public Questions: Public questions related entirely to the Parish Council response to planning application 244/015/MFUL Ladram Bay. A number of residents reminded the council of the following: 1. The importance of the neighbourhood plan in informing planning proposals & the huge amount of time and effort which had been put into drawing this document together. 2. 90% of those voting for the plan had agreed for it to be adopted including the special policy which relates to the ongoing developments at ladram bay.. 3. The duty of parish councillors to be a voice for the residents of the parish. 4. Comments were also made about the planning application which it was thought would result in increased taffic & population of the site. 5. The East D Local Plan seeks to preserve this AONB, World Heritage site & the Jurassic Coastline. 6. Fire arrangements could be met by other means. Current use of land Cat 3c 7. Alleged historic abuse of previous planning applications.	
6	Correspondence: The clerk asked if the discussions in agenda item 5 had covered all aspects raised in correspondence received on the same topic. This was confirmed by those present who had also written to the council. The clerk then closed Public questions & Correspondence and moved to planning.	
7	Chairman business: Website: account with fast hosts. .gov.uk website Road warden scheme – through East Devon DC 4.6.24 Lloyds Bank facility in B/S. Flood warning light on the bridge to be explored. Events under consideration: A peace day. Raft race. Stream Clean & ditches. Introduction to Gary Cook new GM @ Ladram	
8	Reports from District & County Councillors HR: Only matter to report is that Line Kiln Car park in Budleigh is going to be getting some arrows painted to guide traffic. The toilets along there have been a bit delayed but work should be starting soon. I still haven't had a reply from SWW but I'm going to chase them again. JB: Reported that in regard to Otterton Bridge a 2 year 12.5.22 6 months check expected following which a report will become available. CF: Next phase of sea wall to be commenced.	
9	Chapter 8 Training. See agenda item 7.	

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10	Local planning: Ladram 244/015/MFUL Ladram Bay In light of the strength of feeling from residents & further reference to the neighbourhood plan it was decided to vote again on this planning application. The result of the vote: 6 objected to the application & 1 supported the application. Cllr Melanie Martin remained absent from the meeting throughout the discussion & vote. The clerk was asked to write to Planning at EDDC to place a consultee objection on the planning portal. It was noted that SHS was not invited to comment. Field on Ladram Road. Telegraph mast – radio mast – site visit. Agreement in N.P Increased demand – future planning. Site needs to be sympathetic to landscape. Unanimous vote against. Introduction to Gary Cook new GM @ Ladram	
11	Allocation of responsibilities & reports from Councillors: Where there is nothing to report the following abbreviation will be used (NTR) Village Green (MM) Flowers coming up & planters looking good. Date for meeting about water butt TBC. Hall (BS) Hall Committee in need of additional personnel. Internet café to be organised. Community shop: (KH) NTR War Memorial: (RP) NTR Stantyway recreation ground & Football Club: Quote for materials for installation agreed at £162.00. IS & JF will install asap. Otterton School: Sports Day will take place on 27th June/4th August sports. It was agreed that Otterton School can use the Stantyway Recreation Field for the purpose of their sports day and bring a car onto the field to facilitate the movement of equipment. Jubilee Play Park: New gate fitted by IS. Installation of swings ongoing. Cemetery: Contact being made with owners of benches in need of refurbishment. Contracts & Finance: The contract for the DAA Defibrillator has expired and the DAA will not replace. The current unit which, whilst out of guarantee, is still working well will continue to provide cover for the village until a new unit is purchased. The current unit will be checked 2 times a week by RW & FM and remedial action will be taken by FM Footpaths and Public Rights of Way: See agenda item 3 Speed watch: Ongoing.	
11	Wellbeing of Otterton Bridge: JB has written to the structural engineers seeking an early inspection of the bridge.	JB Action
12	Financial matters: It was unanimously agreed that all payments listed on agenda 3.6.24 would be paid. JB Locality Budget application has been made for £750	Clerk to action
13	Further actions: Advanced Arborio further check on Horse Chestnut has been arranged for June It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Tony Gray Treasurer of St Peter's Parochial Church Council if he would complete an internal audit & report for the OPC. Unanimously carried. Community Outreach: fundraising event to raise money for playpark. Currently 3 Initiatives which BS will bring to the next meeting. Agenda item	

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14	106 Funding: In the region of £8073.00 (Sport) £1683.00 (Recreation). The clerk reminded the OPC of the funds currently being held at EDDC and how these could be used. A meeting will be arranged to interrogate the ROSPA report & plan next action	
15	Items for next agenda: car park, fete, website emails, Speed watch, AGAR, road warden scheme. Invitation to EA. Dates for 2024 meetings: July 1 st , September 2 nd , October 7 th , November 4 th , December 2 nd .	Clerk to action
15	The next meeting will take place on Monday 1st July @ 7.30.	Clerk to action

The meeting closed at 21.25

Dear Fran,

1

I am sending this email to voice my concerns regarding the handling, by the parish council, of the recent LBHP planning application 24/0414/MFUL. I would be grateful if you could share this with PC at or before the meeting on 3rd June.

I was a member of the neighbourhood planning team, the aim of any neighbourhood plan is to give communities an opportunity to have a say in the future of the places where they live. It provides a plan with real legal weight that should direct development in the local area. Hundreds, if not thousands, of hours were given by the NP team to gather and publish the thoughts of parishioners over a 4 year period at the direction and on behalf of the Parish Council. It is in effect the Parish Councils Plan.

The process was complicated and Dee Woods, also a member of the NP team, with a wealth of experience in planning, volunteered to advise the council in regard to future planning applications and compliance with the NP. The PC was provided with a robust document from Ms Woods outlining a number of areas where the application in question did not comply with the plan. This document appears to have been ignored. The NP in its current form, is valid until 2031.

The notes from the meeting in the village hall with residents confirms, without any doubt, that the views of parishioners remain unchanged. However, the PC chose to support the LBHP proposal, after one short meeting with one member of staff at LBHP, without reflecting, in any way, the concerns expressed at the village meeting.

The application has been designated as a major development by East Devon planning department and in my view, could be considered a major deviation from the Neighbourhood plan. Are the PC aware that the government neighbourhood planning process was amended on 9/5/2019 and states that " Material modifications which do change the nature of the plan or order would require examination and a referendum. This might, for example, involve allocating significant new sites for development." I know from my own experience that t*his would be a significant and time consuming

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minutes

Signed

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Dated.....

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piece of work for the PC to undertake.*

My understanding is that the role of a Parish Council is to act on behalf of the communities they represent. One of the most important roles being to give views, on behalf of the community, on planning applications that affect the parish. Although I genuinely appreciate all of the voluntary work that the PC put in on behalf of the community; on this occasion I do not believe the PC acted on behalf of their parishioners and as such should be held to account.

With kind regards and thanks Linda Lowes

Dear Fran

2

I would be grateful if you would report my comments as a local resident of Otterton to the Parish Councillors at their meeting on 3 June 2024.

I was surprised and disappointed to learn of the Parish Councillors decision to support the current planning application at Ladram Bay. I understand that the vote was 5 in favour and one against.

The communities views about the application were well represented at the public meeting on 24 May, when it was obvious that the majority of residents present strongly objected to the application, and the further expansion of the site. I would like to see the recorded notes of this meeting.

In addition the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan policy, specific to development at Ladram Bay Holiday Park, limits further development outside the red line/agreed development boundary of the site. This Neighbourhood Plan was made, following the successful referendum on 6 May 2021, where 92% of residents who voted were in favour of the Plan. It seems very contrary that the Councillors should go against their own planning policy.

I refer to what Parish Councillors do, published on East Devon District Council's website :

"As a Councillor you will need to :

Listen and be a voice for your community: the single most important task is to listen to the views of the people in their community. By doing this, Councillors gain important information about the concerns and aspirations of the people they represent. It is for this reason that many public bodies turn to the Parish or Town Council for information about the services they provide. For example, the District Council consults the local councils on planning applications which affect their area. Local councils act as a voice for their communities, responding to other authorities and drawing attention to issues which concern the community."

I feel that the five Parish Councillors have completely failed to carry out this duty or to act as the voice for this community in this matter.

Yours sincerely*

*

Dee Woods

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Signed

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Draft until signed