Otterton Parish Council

Date & Time	2nd November 2026	Location		Otterton Village Hall			
Councillors Present	**Initials**			**Also Present**	**Initials**		
Ian Simpson	IS	Parish Councillor	Chair	Members of the public	5		
Richard Witherby	RW	Parish Councillor					
Jerry Fry	JF	Parish Councillor					
Peter Wells	PW	Parish Councillor					
Freya Morrow	FM	Parish Councillor					
Sam Pigeon	SP	Parish Councillor					
Stevie Mears	SM	Parish Councillor					

Apologies	Initials	Reason for Absence
Charlotte Fitzgerald		**Diary conflict**

Absent without Apology	Initials	

In Attendance	Initials	Capacity	
F Mills	FM	Clerk	

Minutes to
Councillors, website, notice board

Minutes

	Agenda Item	*Comment*	Action
1	**Apologies**	*There were no apologies.*	
2	**Declarations of Interest**	*There were no declarations of pecuniary interest on items on the agenda* *12 Rolle Barton*	Chair
3	**Minutes** **Matters arising**	*The minutes of the meeting held on 5th October 2026 were signed as a correct record of the meetings.* *Matters arising from the minutes, not elsewhere on the agenda.* • *Gate at Stantyway NTR* • *Seat & tree on Green with time capsule NTR* • *Tree donations for OPC land. NTR*	Chair/clerk
4	**Public Questions & Correspondence**	*Response to items received by email, post or in person.* *Double decker bus:* ***Stagecoach Case #02477598.*** 1. *Goods vehicle – taking route to Sidmouth also caravans through restricted route. RP has written to Police for guidance, illegal practice, increase traffic.* *18-24th November Safety week.* *Letter from OPC to Community Police* 2. *Brick Cross continues a problem.* 3. *Circular seat needs oiling.* 4. *20MPH speed limit. Concern about cost and how this will be achieved. Point raised that this does not affect all of the community. H&S a main concern.* ***5.***	*Clerk*
5	**Chairman's Business**	*To receive a report from the Chairman* *Thanks to residents who have helped with gullies & verges.* *Advice not to clear trees in windy weather, leave clearance to OPC.* *Bulb planting on entrance to village.*	
6	**District&County**	*Update of reports already circulated*	

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		Libraries: *change to organisation of library services. Currently outsourced. Plan for removal of supervisors, key personnel.* *JB is taking this up with Chief Exec. Agenda 26th November.* *20MPH phone consultant to get better fix on cost.* *JB recommends installation of flashing light scheme to coincide with peek usage. Sign needed at 3 points in village. Difficulty in placement for Ladram Road. Key point on Ottery Street.* *Locality scheme application to buy planters for the Green.*	
7	**Road Traffic matters**	*Cost of 20 MPH Scheme.* *Uffcombe - £31k* *Black Torrington £21k, Dalton £24k, OSM £47k, Brigerole £15k* *Reference: Tom Cox & TTG.* ***Letter Tom Cox/East Budleigh***	RW
8	**Brick Cross**	*SM attendance at TTG meeting.*	Clerk
9	**The Green**	*Renewal of planters. Stone troughs to be sougt. Possible sponsorship of troughs. See agenda item*	IS
10	**ParishPathPartnership**	*Update NTR. Speak to East Budleigh*	All
11	**Newsletter**	*Next deadline Friday 13th* *Santa's sleigh ride through the village 23rd December 2026* *Obituaries from families only.*	
12	**Warden Schemes**	*Progress on Road Warden scheme. NTR*	FM
13	**Local Planning**	*Discuss any applications received:* ***26/2063/FUL - 12 Rolle Barton Church Hill Otterton Budleigh Salterton - Approved*** ***26/2130/TCA - 7 Rolle Barton Church Hill Otterton. Approved TCA. Removal of hedge.***	
14	**Cemetery**	*I am available from 4pm on any of the following dates:* *21-22 November 21st November @ 16.00* *26-28 November Kind regards Clare*	Clerk to write to CJ
15	**Football Club**	*Wood to be used for bonfire but looking tidy.*	
16	**Resilience Reports**	***Reports from Councillors with specific responsibilities:*** *Stone Trap & Gullies, Environmental reports, Water levels.* *Sand bags, sand & salt.* **RW to contact Land solutions.* *JF to report condition of sand box on peak hill*	
17	**Reportsfrom Councillors with specific responsibilities & reports on village amenities and Bodies**	*Reports for the amenities & bodies:* *The Village Green - SM. Branches for bonfire – all good.* *War memorial – PW To have a wash before Remembrance Day.* *Speed Watch – RP. Speed week to come* *Village Hall – JF. NTR* *Phone Box – SP – Good usage* *Stantyway Recreation Field & Football Club – JF NTR* *Raleigh Federation – SP. Apple crumble* *Ladram visit. School play KS1. Parents invited in for Creation activity. Fireworks* *Jubilee Playground – IS Hedge to be trimmed* *The Cemetery- PW* *Contracts & Finance – RW* *Village Defibrillator – FM 55 Fore Street.*	All
18	**Financial matters**	*To agree payments as per schedule below.* *Agree Budget parameters for 2027 & Precept application.* *OPC Meeting dates 2027*	**Clerk**
19	**106 Funding**	*You have £19,330 remaining and you can spend that on open*	**Clerk**

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		space so sport, play, allotments etc.	
20	**Items for next Agenda**	*Consider items of business for next meeting. 20MPH, Precept, planters for the Green.*	**Clerk**
21	**Village events.**	*Reindeer Run 5th December* *Open Gardens 2027* *OPC Meeting dates 2027* *Sunday 15th November Stream Clean.*	**All**
22	**Date of next meeting**	*Scheduled* ***for 7th December 2026 (Committee Room)***	

Proposed meeting dates 2027

- **Early May bank holiday – Monday 3 May 2027**

- **February 1, 2027**
- **March 1, 2027**
- **April 5, 2027 - AGM**
- **May 10, 2027 – Annual Meeting (May bank holiday – Monday 3 May 2027)**
- **June 7, 2027**
- **July 5, 2027**
- **August 2, 2027**
- **September 6, 2027**
- **October 4, 2027**
- **November 1, 2027**
- **December 6, 2027**

Latest reply to me (Rosemary Birch) from Stagecoach Customer Service 28th October 2026 re Double Decker Buses coming through Otterton.

Reply 1

Hi Rosemary,

My name is Brooke, and I'll be responding to your enquiry today.

Thank you for your email. I'm sorry to hear that you feel your concerns were not fully addressed in our previous response.

I appreciate you taking the time to restate the issues and clarify the points you would like us to consider. I understand that your concerns relate specifically to the use of double-decker buses through Otterton and the impact this is having on residents, including privacy, noise, road suitability and the overall character of the village.

I have ensured that your comments, including the details outlined in your original email, will be shared with the relevant team for review. In particular, I have noted your concerns regarding:

• The suitability of double-decker buses operating through the village on a regular basis.

• The impact on residents' privacy due to the increased height of the vehicles.

• Concerns about noise levels and the effect of larger vehicles on local roads and turning areas.

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• Your belief that the current level of passenger demand does not justify the use of double-decker buses.
• Your request for the route to revert to single-decker vehicles.
I understand that this issue is important to both yourself and other local residents, and I am sorry that our previous correspondence left you feeling that your feedback had not been properly considered.
While I cannot make decisions regarding vehicle allocation or route planning, I can assure you that the points you have raised will be passed to the appropriate department for consideration.
Thank you again for taking the time to contact us and share your concerns.
REPLY 2 sent after I queried that I would not receive any response about discussions/conclusions Stagecoach may have, so would have no idea what had been decided, if anything! That's when Brooke suggested involving Local Councillors.
As advised, your comments and concerns have been forwarded to the relevant department for their awareness and consideration. As Customer Services, our role is to ensure feedback is recorded and passed to the appropriate teams; however, we are not involved in operational decisions regarding route planning or vehicle allocation and are therefore unable to provide any further updates or outcomes from internal discussions.
If you continue to have concerns about the impact of the service on the local community, you may wish to raise these with your local councillor, who may be able to represent the views of residents directly with the relevant transport authorities and stakeholders.
Thank you again for taking the time to share your feedback with us.
Budgeting & Precept considerations 2027

Inflation currently running at 3.5% but expected to increase dependent on the situation in the Middle East & USA.

Currently the balance on C/A is just over £20k from a starting point of £12747k April 2026 balance on saving account remains at £7261k.
Out goings to be considered?
Grass Cutting
Salary
Posts

106 funds £19k
P3 funds
Road Traffic signals £20K

D 9/9th £68,000 - £88,000 tax base 332.50 (Valuation 91)

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20000/332.50 £60

152981/332.50 £46.00 based on 5%

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