

Otterburn Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council held on 4 July, 2023

Held at Otterburn Memorial Hall

MINUTES

Present – George Peto (Chair), Ruth Appleby, Joanne Nichols, Steve Bloomer & Denise Corkin

In Attendance—Martin Chilvers (Clerk). John Hartshorne, Alison Woodcock (Headteacher Otterburn School)

1. **Apologies for absence –** There were apologies from Andrew Shone
2. **Declarations of interest –** Cllr Bloomer item 8a
3. **Minutes of the last meeting –** The minutes of the last meeting, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.
4. **Public Question Time –** a) Cllr Riddle was unable to attend.
b) The Chair welcomed Alison Woodcock who provided her background to the role she presently holds as Headteacher at Otterburn School since January 2023. She provided details of the school numbers as well as clubs and other initiatives she is looking to introduce.

5. Opportunity for members of the public to raise matters: Nothing was raised.

6. Matters arising

a) item 6a: Ray Windfarm update: The Clerk's Report was received and agreed. The Clerk advised that the the payment from Vattenfall for 2023/24 should be received by August. Anyone wishing to apply for a grant should visit the website <https://raywindfund.co.uk/> for details.

b) item 6b: Road safety in the Parish: The Clerk provided details of the email he had received from Neil Snowdon (NCC) showing the proposed plans for the installation of bollards along sections of the main road and the planters / reduced road width at the junction of the A696 and B6320. Cllr Bloomer highlighted that boundaries on the map appeared to be wrong and invited NCC to contact him to clarify locations. Otherwise there was agreement to the proposed plans. There was discussion regarding the build-out near Snaith Depot that had been hit a couple of times recently. It was hoped NCC would be making repairs at the location shortly but concern was raised about the close proximity to children walking to and from school. The Chair asked whether the school was part of the Safer Schools Partnership and if so whether there was anything that could be done to improve matters.

g) item 6g: School flashing light and other road signs: The Clerk advised that the parts to replace the sign and place it on two posts had, according to NCC, still not arrived. He also advised he was chasing NCC for the other signs due to be replaced in the village.

h) Footpath towards Otterburn school: Both the Clerk and Alison Woodcock advised that they had not received any response from NCC on the matter of the narrowing footpath and overhanging shrubs restricting the route for the children to the school.

c) item 6c: Revitalising Redesdale local footpaths: There was discussion regarding the need to trim back the overhanging trees along the trail where the new fence was due to be installed. It was agreed that the work required a professional and the Clerk was asked to contact a tree surgeon to receive a quote. In the meantime the Clerk advised he was waiting to hear from Martin Dodd for the date to carry out the work on this as well as the drainage on another two sections of the trail.

d) item 6e: Electric power supply in the Millennium Green: The Clerk's Report was received and agreed.

e) item 6f: Northern Powergrid energy resilience grant funding: The Clerk's Report was received and agreed.

f) item 6g: EV charging point at the Millennium Green: The Clerk's Report was received and agreed.

i) item 6k: Redevelopment of the Otterburn public toilets: The Clerk's Report was received and agreed.

j) item 9a: Local Transport Programme 2024/25: There was agreement to resubmit a request for safety features to be introduced along the road between Willow Green junction and the entrance to Otterburn Hall Estate. Additionally there was agreement to submit a request for safety measures to be introduced at the bridge on the B6320 near Otterburn Mill.

7. Finance

a) Finance update: The Clerk advised the current bank balance was £18,240.

b) Clerk's salary and expenses for June, 2023: The payments of £334.48 & expenses of £4.00, £1.99 and £12.64 were agreed.

c) Payment of invoice to C. Mowatt for grass cutting: The Clerk advised he had not received the invoice as yet for the recent grass cutting.

d) Payment of invoice to JRB Enterprise Ltd for dog poo bags: The Clerk advised that the bags and invoice had been delayed.

e) Payment of invoice to Play Safety Ltd for Play area inspection: The Payment of £96.00 + VAT was agreed.

8. Planning

a) 23/01978/LBC: Listed Building Consent: Renovation and thermal upgrade of the east wing of the Old Vicarage: The Old Vicarage, Main Road, Otterburn, NE19 1NP: Following discussion there was agreement to support the application.

9. New Business

a) Speed Indicator Device at Redewater View end of village: The Clerk advised he had received confirmation that the refund will be made for the faulty SID. There was discussion regarding the quote received for a SID from Westotec. It was acknowledged this would be more expensive however there was agreement that there was sufficient budget to cover the purchase and the unit should be a higher quality device.

b) Otterburn in Bloom 2023: The Chair advised he did not have sufficient time to organise the competition this year. There was agreement it was too late to organise the event in 2023 but Cllr Corkin agreed to take on the role in 2024.

c) RTC Sports Centre future: There was discussion regarding the request from the RTC for more Trustees and a new Chair. It was agreed that it was an asset that needed to be kept but required greater use than it was presently getting. There was hope that some of the team that had run a very successful Rede River Rocks may join the Trustees and help to keep the centre open.

d) Mobile library service: The Clerk provided details of new library van being trialled by NCC as well as the timetable for visiting the area every other Thursday from 13 July. NCC was seeking feedback on the new van. Alison Woodcock advised the library had not been stopping at the school and the Clerk was asked to contact the library service to set up a visit.

10. Any other business / Matters for discussion at the next meeting of the Parish Council

a) The Clerk provided a summary of the report following the recent Play Area inspection.

b) Cllr Appleby asked what the latest was regarding the 'Tommy' statues and it was reported that these will be put in place within the next few weeks.

11. Date, time and place of next meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Council to be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5 September, 2023 at Otterburn Memorial Hall.
Meeting closed at 9.00pm.