

**Otterhampton Annual Parish Council Meeting  
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Held on 9 April 2026 at Otterhampton Village Hall, commencing at 7pm

All were advised that this meeting was recorded.

Presentation was made by Lilley Keelly-Watts from SALC about Community Engagement prior to the meeting which was well received.

**Present**

- Cllr L Parsons (Chair)
  - Cllr C Sanders (Vice Chair)
  - Cllrs M Haycraft, C Bradbury, S Parker, D Dodge, T Gardener
- Plus 13 members of the public.

The Clerk was absent due to annual leave. Cllr Gardener took the minutes.

**47/26. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Bolt and Cllr Caswell

**48/26. Declarations of Interest & Dispensation**

No declarations were made.

**49/26. Public Participation**

Concerns were raised by members of the public regarding the potential breach of planning conditions by the new owners of the Anchor Inn, in that it is now closed and operating as accommodation provider for Hinkley contractors. Chair confirmed that a breach of planning notification has been submitted by the Clerk to Somerset Council (SC). She suggested that probably the way forward was for the community to work together and as many members of the parish also submit a breach of planning notice, to ensure that the planning office is made aware of the concerns of the Parish. A petition has been started which has 350 signatures regarding the matter and will be sent onto SC in due course.

The Chair also confirmed that an application has been submitted to make the Anchor Inn an Asset of Community Value (ACV).

Further consideration to be given to contacting the local MP and ways to increase publicity.

**50/26. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Chair.

**51/26. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes on the Agenda.**

Cllr Bradbury provided a brief update regarding the potential siting of a new village shop on the grassed area adjacent to the children's play park. She acknowledged that this area has village green status but advised that as long as the building is of community benefit, then it would legally be possible to build there. This would need to be surveyed regarding the SSI and if it was possible for the building to be built there.

Further discussion ensued about the possibility of making the shop an ACV and siting the shop in the Anchor Inn, the church or the garages. Cllr Bradbury advised that all these potential sites are restricted in size available, access and have their own problems.

A suggestion was raised about altering the village hall layout so that the bar is upstairs making the area downstairs available for the village shop. Item to be added to next Agenda.

**52/26. Planning**

Signed by Chair \_\_\_\_\_

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Nil

**53/26. Finance**

- a. The bank statements and bank reconciliation were circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed. The balance as of the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2026 was £61,133.01
- b. The following Invoices for payment / receipts (inclusive of VAT), were unanimously APPROVED.

**c. Expenses**

<i>Staff costs</i>	<i>Wages, HMRC &amp; Pension</i>	<i>£1480.89</i>
<i>Clerk</i>	<i>Use of home office and Internet</i>	<i>£26.00</i>
<i>Baker Dolphin Coach Travel</i>	<i>Garden Club – SALC fund</i>	<i>£670.50</i>
<i>Somerset Council</i>	<i>Grass Cutting</i>	<i>£243.60</i>
<i>Somerset Council</i>	<i>Emptying bins</i>	<i>£608.40</i>
<i>X2 Connect</i>	<i>Repair of telephone kiosk</i>	<i>£121.20</i>
<i>Purnells</i>	<i>Printing of OtterTales</i>	<i>£299.80</i>

**d. Income received**

Interest from bank £24.46

- e. The Risk Assessment completed in accordance with Assertion 5 of AGAR was previously circulated to all members and was unanimously AGREED.
- f. The internal Auditors Letter of Engagement was not available for approval.
- g. All members AGREED to APPROVE the opening of a credit account with SWIS Co (Sign Shop)

**54/26 Parish Clerk Report**

Action List was circulated to Councilors prior to the meeting and is attached at Annex A.

Regarding the 20mph, Cllr Parsons received correspondence from a Parishioner who has kindly agreed to fund up to a value of £1500 the siting of two 'traffic mirrors' within the village at the junction of Ship Lane and Riverside and the junction of Brookside, Riverside and Church Hill. This will be added to the next Agenda for ratification and was considered by all an extremely generous offer.

Cllr Gardener has asked for clarification to be sort regarding the area of grass that is to be cut behind the goal post.

**54/26. Governance**

Consideration and APPROVAL was given to amend Section 9 of the Financial Regulations 2025 to read as detailed below.

*Any Debit Card issued for use will be specifically restricted to the Clerk and the RFO and will also be restricted to a single transaction maximum value of £500 unless authorised by council in writing before any order is placed.*

*A pre-paid debit card may be issued to employees with varying limits. These limits will be set by the council. Transactions and purchases made will be reported to the council and authority for topping-up shall be at the discretion of the council. Unanimously APPROVED that this paragraph is removed.*

*Any corporate credit card or trade card account opened by the council will be specifically restricted to use by the Clerk/RFO and any balance shall be paid in full each month. It was unanimously RESOLVED to APPROVE this paragraph.*

Signed by Chair \_\_\_\_\_

*Personal credit or debit cards of members or staff shall not be used under any circumstances.*

The above amendments were further PROPOSED by Cllr Bradbury and SECONDED by Cllr Haycraft and carried unanimously.

### **55/26 Flooding – Brookside Road**

Information provided by Cllr Dodge regarding the recent email from Mr Weston confirming the forthcoming meeting after Easter and that a request has been made by him to have a report submitted by the Operation Manager of Drain Fix SW to Richard Dunn be made available was noted.

No formal decision was made regarding the appointment of Cllr Parker and Cllr Dodge representing the Parish at the Somersets Community Emergency Hub Pilot, to be carried forward to the following Agenda.

### **56/26 Village enhancement/Amenities**

a. Lychgate – Further to the resolution passed (February minutes Para 22/26) Cllr Parker advised the Council that according to the Architects report the Lychgate is in a state of collapse. He has requested that due to the time that it is taking to obtain drawings/specification/prices from contractors/professionals, that the Parish Council approve the payment of scaffolding of up to £2,000 whilst waiting for the grant to come through, in order to safeguard the structure from falling down. He confirmed that the first round of funding request is to pay for scaffolding and engage the appropriate Professionals to carry out the initial surveying/planning which he estimates will be approximately £6,000. The next stage of the grant funding application will be made to the War Memorial Trust for funding for the works to be carried out. It was further confirmed that the money will be refunded to the Parish Council once funding was granted.

Due to potential health and safety concerns the motion was AGREED by all.

b. It was agreed to invite the Minister of Local Councils to visit the village during the appropriate occasion when it arises.

c. Anchor Inn – Cllr Parker advised members that he has started the application to make the Anchor Inn an Asset of Community Value. Discussion took place about the completion and wording of the application.

d. After a discussion it was AGREED by all that the Memorial Tree will be replaced by a sweet chestnut to be planted in the Autumn.

e. Consideration was given to an email received from a parishioner who had several complaints about the children's play park. They identified the following issues: -

Flooding when it rains

The see-saw is stiff

The hanging steps were left a long time before they were replaced.

The slide is old and the original slide from the previous play park.

The swings are stiff.

The flooring leaves black marks on trainers.

The metal swing chains are rusty and leave marks on hands and clothes.

Cllr Haycroft inspected the play park on receipt of the communication and found the following:

The see-saw was marginally stiff when in the neutral position. At the time it was being used by a couple of children who confirmed that they thought it was working ok. The seats of the swings had been twisted around by other children and shortened the chains; this had been put right.

He agreed that there was rust on the chains, but it was right at the top and not contactable and that they were dirty due to fingers prints and general use. He could not make his hands dirty when he tried.

Signed by Chair \_\_\_\_\_

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It was agreed that the slide was old, but it is in good condition and doesn't need replacing.

Cllr Dodge commented that he did think the playground was not particularly 'exciting', but the Chair explained that what was there was limited due to space restricted by the SSI.

Attention was drawn to the Councilors that the gates open 'outwards' which allows the children to leave the park area if they wanted to. Clerk to discuss with ROSPA.

f. Councilors acknowledged receipt of communications regarding Fly-Parking and the concerns of the Parishioners. It was agreed that the problem was not going away and will continue to represent the parish at the Transport Forum to make concerns heard. The availability of the 'parking app' is eagerly awaited. It was further noted that cars were being ticketed but no further action was being taken. A meeting is being arranged with Stacey Walker.

### **57/26 Reports of Representatives**

See Annex B

### **58/26. Correspondence/Communication requiring consideration**

- a. Concerns raised regarding the increase in precept for 2026-27 from a Parishioner – Clerk has been in correspondence and explained the Councils position regarding this matter and reasoning.
- b. Numerous complaints about 'fly-parking' within the village. – see item 56/26 para f.
- c. Enquiries about the future of The Anchor Inn. A petition has been started to ensure it is re-opened – see item 56/26 para c.
- d. Response from Landlord regarding the re-opening of the Pub. (Item 11c)
- e. Press release from CA West Somerset Advice. Clerk advises that the £100.00 donation recently agreed was not paid for this reason – see item 54/26 Action list.

### **59/26. Forthcoming Meetings/Events/Training**

Flood Group Network – 14 April @ 1800  
OVH meeting – 15 April @ 1830  
Dowsborough LCN Highway meeting – 16 April @ 1000  
Flooding and Planning 28 April 1830 (online)  
Radioactive waste planning 29 April @ 1000

### **60/26. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm.

Meeting closed at 2035

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Annex A

**Action List – April 2026**

Date of Meeting	Action to be taken	Ref No:	By Whom	Update/Completed
11.09.25	To change the postal address with Lloyd's bank	123/02-1	Cllr Gardner	
11.09.25	Add Cllr Bradbury as signatory to Lloyd's bank acct	123/25-3	Cllr Gardner	
11.09.25	Contact 20's plenty charity for assistance with Highways application- Purchase banner – needs siting	124/25-1	Cllr Parker	Cllr Dodge will purchase some posts from Mole valley. <b>Banners have been erected</b>
9/10/25	Progress application for 20mph in the village	Item 11. b	Full Committee	Resolutions need to be made for application and budget setting. Matter to be raised at next LCN Transport meeting for advice.
1.09.25	Contact campaign for rural Somerset grant from CPRE re: fingerpost sign on the Ci82 junction to Otterhampton Get a price from Contractor	124/25-3	Clerk	Poss. Insurance claim – matter to be raised at next LCN Transport meeting for advice.
11.09.25	New sign for the entrance to the village	124/25-2	Cllr Gardener	Contact local resident to potentially do a painting. <b>PUT ON AGENDA FOR ?</b>
14.09.25	Contact Angling Association regarding vegetation	Village walk	Clerk	Update – Chased as still not completed. Waterside Manager will do a site visit. Asked if PC has done anything about the land that has been 'grabbed' resident. I respectfully advised that it wasn't a PC matter.
14.09.25	Tidy up hedge at the beginning of the entrance on the LHS	Village walk	Clerk/ Cllr Parker	<b>Hedgerow has been cut</b>
9/10/25	Arrange a Riparian workshop	Item 12b	Clerk	Waiting for a proposed date from Dr Elliston 12.2.26 Needs follow up <b>Response from interested Villager after item in OtterTales, I will chase up a work shop on my return</b>
9/10/25	Look at the possibility of food vans coming into the village Fish & Chips/Pizza/Bread van	Item 16e	Clerk	Update – Williton Bakery don't do bread rounds, they only do sandwich rounds. No one in area. <b>Pizza van is starting on the 10<sup>th</sup> April and will be sited on the carpark outside the village hall.</b>

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Date of Meeting	Action to be taken	Ref No:	By Whom	Update/Completed
9/10/25	Need a form to register update of interest	Item 19a	Clerk	Form circulated.- Send a form to Lindsey
9/10/25	Review success of Foamstream application in the Spring	145/25-g	Clerk	
9/10/25	Contact Boat Club regarding works being carried out on the embankment – PC side  Contact Harbour Master regarding responsibilities	138/25	Clerk	Response received regarding works and area cleared. However, there are still some items left on the bank - To be chased on my return
9/10/25	Contact Colin Leppard regarding SSSI	138/25	Clerk	
11/12/25	<b>Anchor Inn</b> – Raise potential planning breach with Council	162/25	Clerk	Breach of planning raised  Application to register the pub as an Asset of Community Value commenced by Cllr Parker for approval at Full Council meeting in April.
12/2/26	Arrange a meeting with interested parties regarding the works to Brookside. Richard Dunn, Paul Elliston, SRA, EA, landowner, FWAG	Item 8	Clerk Cllr Dodge	To be scheduled after the Easter break. Mark Weston is organising
	Get some signage for dog fouling and put up	Item 11	Clerk	
12/2/26	Refurbishment of Lifebuoy stand and noticeboard on the Pill	Item 15.26	Clerk	
12/2/26	Promotion of Slinky bus available to all	19.26	Clerk	
12/2/26	Purchase Hi-viz jackets!	19.26	Clerk	Hi-Viz jackets are available now
12/2/26	Pay a donation to CAB of £100.00 under S137	25.26	Clerk	S/West CAB closed, donation not made
12/2/26	Contact Karen Barnes at the council regarding Fender Orchard not being cleaned	27.26	Clerk	
	Prepare paperwork for AGAR / Internal Auditor		Clerk	Update – In progress
	Set up a village Preparedness Work Group		Clerk	Update – 3 x volunteers plus one Cllr to attend workshop Training on the 23/3/26 - cancelled  e-mail received regarding a further workshop, Cllr Dodge and Parker are attending, request made that organiser emails them directly with further info, as I am on leave
	Removal of abandoned boats on the EDF bank of pill		Clerk	Advised that the boats should be removed within the next 3 months after the required notices have been displayed for 2 months

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12/3/26	Resend details regarding the Parish's boundary review. Information needs to be resubmitted to SC		Clerk 20 May	
Date of Meeting	Action to be taken	Ref No:	By Whom	Update/Completed
12/3/26	Complete Dog Survey		Clerk	
12/3/26	Speak to OPRA and request that the grass in the area behind the goal post is cut back further by up to 10m, as it is becoming invasive		Clerk	E-mail sent to Tina requesting
	AGAR			Works in progress

## Report from Representatives

### Stear Cllr Dodge

Wessex water- ongoing problems with leaks in various areas on the peninsula, it appears when one issue is fixed the resultant pressure exacerbates an issue further along. Steart residents have become used to water being unavailable with no prior notice and communicate loss of water and subsequent re supply via a flurry of (faster than our water supply) flowing messages via our neighbourhood WhatsApp group.

Spring lambs are springing, cows are mooing, bees are buzzing and dog waste is accumulating.

### Combwich community shop on village green Mr B Birkenhead

As the existing shop is no longer available, we are considering a shop on the village green. The suggested site is about 5 meters south of the children's playground. The land is part of the village green but designated SSSI. As you know I have been in touch with Colin Leppard who is a Higher Officer for Land Management & Conservation Severn Estuary (Avon & Somerset). I wrote to thank him when it looked as if the current shop was going to be our community shop and told him that the site in mind would be a possible back up plan. The main extracts from his in November 2025 after seeking advice from English Nature and other planning professionals' letter were: -

'I am advised that the initial research undertaken, regarding Unit 94, indicates that Natural England would be unlikely to have an objection 'in principle' to the proposed community shop (the 'development site').'

'To evidence the above, Natural England would recommend that an ecological survey should be undertaken of the site by a suitability qualified professional'.

A community shop in this location would be easily accessible for visitors to the Steart Marshes. Many of these visitors walk the circuit via Combwich and Otterhampton and would be attracted to the shop especially if a café was included and there is a suitable sign on the path to advertise the shop. If the pub gets going again this will attract more people to the shop as well.

I visited the Spaxton Community shop 2 days ago which is adjacent to a children's playground. It was a nice afternoon, and children were coming into the shop with their parents. The Spaxton shop is 12m by 5m but they are adding a sea container clad in wood to give more room for an office and for parcels.

It's unlikely that walkers, children or pub goers in this area would be attracted to a community shop on the Brookside garage site.

The suggested site on the village green is a far better proposition than Brookside Road garages. The site is ready; although it is boggy in the winter the ground could be built up or a shop could, if deemed necessary, be built on supports similar to the chalets at Blue Anchor. The water on the grass here is not from the river but is rainwater.

The Brookside Garage site would take many months and a lot of expense to make it suitable for a shop. It could get refused due to PROW, farmer's access and objections from neighbours. If the Brookside Garage site is used, there will be continuing complaints from neighbours about noise from people, especially if there was an outdoor café. Also inconvenience on the main road into the village from bad parking and delivery lorries

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So I have outlined my reasons why the village green would be the best site for a community shop: Attractive popular location, custom from Steart Marshes visitors, pub customers when the pub is up and running and less road traffic problems than Brookside.

I hope that you will all come round to agreeing this is the best of the two options. What's needed next is an ecological survey followed by an outline planning application.

**SALC Health and Wellbeing  
Cllr Parker**

**Garden Club yearly events 2026/27**

**2026/27 Dates for your Diary**  
Monthly Garden Club held at Otterhampton Village Hall. 7.00 pm for a 7.30 start on the second Tuesday of the month  
Other events as detailed below.

Date	Event	Date	Event
11th April	Propagation Day at the Village Market	5th September	Flower, Art and Craft Show
14th April	Annual General Meeting Pop Up Spring Flower Show	8th September	Early Autumn Meeting Flower Show Review and Feedback
7th May	Bishop of Bath & Wells Palace and Gardens Leave Combwich 9.30 am	13th October	Garden Design Sally Leaney Award Winning Garden Designer
12th May	Alpines in Troughs Richard Horswood Alpine Garden Society	10th November	Houseplants Micheal Smith
6th June	Plant Sale and Stall St. Peter's Church Fete	8th December	Christmas Decorations and Wreath Making
9th June	Late Spring Social	15th December	Christmas Social
20th June	Combwich Open Gardens Afternoon Cream Tea in the Village Hall	12th January	New Year Quiz
14th July	Water, Water Everywhere Bex Flintham Devon Wildwood Trust	9th February	Rare Plants of Combwich and the Severn Estuary Stephen Parker Somerset Rare Plants Society
17th July	Launch of Flower, Art and Craft Show. ManoAmano on the Village Common	9th March	Seed Swap
25th July	Garden Club Barbecue	13th March	Propagation Day At the Village Market
11th August	Late Summer Social		

**Art Group:**

Print Workshop on Saturday 25th April

Abstract Art session using paint and collage currently being organised for late spring/early summer.

Pottery workshop being organised for school summer holidays.

**Hinkley A&B  
Mr B Birkenhead**

The committee has decided to meet every 6 months after a vote, previously it was every 4 months. There was then a discussion on the distant future of the decommissioned sites in the UK. Whether to return the sites to nature except for the reactor buildings or use some of the sites to house small modular reactors. I told suggested that Hinkley Point would not have the grid capacity to support any more output in addition to that of Hinkley Point C. The Hinkley Point A director gave his report which was generally about dealing with the remaining nuclear waste on the site and the safe storage of the reactor buildings until the reactors could be dismantled in the distant future. The B station director announced that both reactors were now fuel free and that later this year the station would transfer from EDF to a company named Nuclear Restoration Services

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(NRS). Also, there is going to be a change of site license for a nuclear fuel free station. He stated that there has been a lot of work during the last 2 years to remove non-nuclear hazardous materials such as chemicals, gasses, diesel and kerosene from the site.

The Office for nuclear regulation and the environment agency inspectors then gave their reports with no significant incidents to report.

**OPRA**

**Cllr Gardener**

67 children took part in the Easter Egg hunt. The event was combined with the coffee morning, but this didn't work too well as it was a bit chaotic! The quiz was successful with 19 participants.

It was confirmed that OPRA will be holding a fun dog show on the 27<sup>th</sup> of June.