Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Tuesday 19th April 2017 at 7.00pm in The Institute, Yonder Street, Ottery St Mary

Present: Mayor Councillor Dobson

Councillors Holmes, Edwards, Pang, Faithful (**Town Ward**)

Bartlett, Gori (North Ward) together with the Clerk, Press and

approx. 27 members of the public

Apologies: Councillors Giles, Harding, Carter and Pratt and Rev Steve Weston, PCSO Maria

Clapp and Phyllis Baxter

Philip Algar led the meeting in prayer.

1. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR - COUNCILLOR GLYN DOBSON

Cllr Dobson welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 26^{TH} APRIL 2016

The Minutes were approved and they were signed by the Mayor.

3. NEW LIBRARY UPDATE

The Mayor advised that the Library/Information Centre was now open and that the toilets would be operational shortly. The library was something to be proud of and its longevity was reliant on regular usage and the services of volunteers. He encouraged the town to support and use the facility

4. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR THE PARISH – AN UPDATE Chris McIntyre Town Clerk gave the following report on behalf of Jo Talbot

The Ottery St Mary and West Hill Parishes Neighbourhood Plan have been in preparation since 2015.

During that time West Hill made a successful bid for independence. This has not affected the plan in any way. The designated Neighbourhood Plan area was agreed with East Devon right at the beginning of the consultation and the plan incorporates both parishes.

Various drafts have been submitted to the working group which have required amendments. These have now been completed and we were able to give it to EDDC for them to submit it to the three statutory consultees on our behalf. These being The Environment Agency, Historic England and Natural England. We are currently waiting their response.

Meanwhile, plans are being put in place for the public consultation at the end of May. A leaflet and poster campaign is currently being designed. There will be information on the OSMTC and WHPC websites and articles in the press.

We are also arranging drop in sessions for the plan to be seen, during June. There will be people present who will be able to answer any questions that you may have. The public will have a

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chance to comment on the plan. The views of the public are a very important part of this process and will be greatly appreciated. There will be comment boxes provided at all the venues and at the council offices.

The dates for the drop in sessions are;

- a. Alfington Village Hall on Saturday 3rd June from 10.30 to 3.00pm
- b. West Hill Village Hall on Friday 9th June from 2.30 to 7.30pm
- c. Tipton St John at the Community Hall on Saturday 10th June 10.30 to 3.00pm
- d. Wiggaton Church on Wednesday 15th June from 10.30 to 3.00pm
- e. The Station, Ottery St Mary on Saturday 17th June from 10.30 to 3.00pm.

If you can't make any of these sessions please don't hesitate to make an appointment to view the plan via the clerk at OSMTC and WHPC.

The public consultation will end on the 30th June. All comments will be analyzed and the plan will be adjusted accordingly.

It will then be given to EDDC and an independent inspector engaged to look at it. If the inspector agrees it is sound we are expecting to go to public referendum autumn of this year.

It has been a long and difficult road. There has been a lot of hard work from councillors and members of the public who volunteered to join the working group.

There have been areas of the plan that have been tricky because Ottery St Mary and West Hill experienced a huge growth in housing that was not as the residents would have wished and the parishes were not equipped to deal with it. So preparing a plan and taking that into account has been a balancing act and one we have tried to get right. This in turn has created a new group of people looking at the possibilities of a regeneration project for Ottery Town which covers among other things the traffic and parking issues. This is a very positive side effect highlighted by the Neighbourhood Plan.

There is still a huge amount of evidence gathering and archiving of information being done. A neighbourhood Plan is an important and really big deal to a community and one that it is hoped will bring a better future.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their participation in making the Plan a reality, particularly Cllr Talbot who he considered had committed much of her own time and energy to bringing the Plan to fruition

5. REPORT FROM DEVON & CORNWALL POLICE

Cllr Ian Holmes gave the following report on behalf of PCSO Maria Clapp

OTTERY ST MARY POLICE REPORT 2016/2017

Firstly, I would like to send my apologies for not attending this meeting in person. I would also like to thank Ian Holmes for reading this report.

Due to this meeting being held a week earlier than usual, the official end of year crime figures are not available at this time.

The Ottery Parish covers Ottery St Mary, West Hill, Tipton St John & Alfington.

The Ottery officers are as follows....

Richard Stonecliffe is the Sergeant/ Neighbourhood Team Leader. He is based in Exmouth.

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PC Vaughan is the Neighbourhood Beat Manager who works & assists the 3 PCSO'S when required. Therefore he covers the whole of the patch.

Myself, PCSO Clapp, covers Ottery St Mary, West Hill, Tipton St John & Alfington.

PCSO Trail covers Rockbere, Talaton, Whimple, Feniton, Clyst Hydon, Clyst Honiton, Clyst St Lawrence & Aylesbeare.

PCSO Stannard covers Cranbrook, Broadclyst, Poltimore, Upton Pyne, Bramford Speke, Rewe, Huxham, Stoke Canon & Netherexe.

I have mentioned the whole area,that the Ottery St Mary station covers, although the report for this meeting would only cover the area covered by myself.

There are no response officers based at Ottery St Mary. They do call into the station from time to time. Therefore you will see their vehicles around the town & surrounding area.

Patrols of the whole patch are conducted on a regular basis by all of the officers.

Considering the affluence of the area, crime figures are low. I think we are very lucky to live in this part of the country. We should be pleased, but we would still like to make the area a perfect place to live.

Usually most detected crimes come from recorded assaults, where the victim invariably knows the assailant. Or police generated crimes, including drunk or disqualified drivers. Or public order offences, such as being drunk & disorderly & being found in possession of drugs.

Police plans are well underway for our local events, with the Special Constabulary supporting us. These events include Pixie Day & Tar Barrels.

Cycle training has been arranged at the Primary School in May.

Recently the Scouts did a litter pick in the Land Of Canaan & surrounding area. It was amazing what we picked up in just over an hour!

Community Speed Watch is up and running in West Hill.

Ottery St Mary have one official site at the moment. They are waiting for approval of the other sites. This includes one in Alfington, after their concerns regarding the speed through the village.

There is no news at the moment, regarding the future of the PCSO'S.

That concludes the Police report.

Thank you

PCSO MARIA CLAPP 30018 Ottery St Mary

6. "CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2017" PRESENTATION

The Mayor praised the large number of volunteers who worked tirelessly in the Parish. A number of nominations for Citizen of the Year had been received. The person nominated with the largest number of public votes was Phyllis Baxter. It was agreed that Phyllis was a worthy recipient who worked tirelessly around the town. Unfortunately Phyllis was away on holiday and therefore the Mayor was unable to present her with a commemorative shield at the meeting. However he would arrange to make a presentation to her shortly. The Mayor thanked the nominees and all volunteers of the town.

7. THE NEW PARISH OF OTTERY ST MARY

The Mayor advised that West Hill had now split from the Ottery Parish and had formed its own council which would consist of seven councillors of which five had currently been elected. The first election would be held in May when the remaining councillors would be elected. This would leave the Parish of Ottery St Mary with the wards of the town, Tipton St John and Alfington with a population of around 6000. There would be eleven councillors and an opportunity to increase this number if it was considered necessary after six months. The Mayor had every confidence that the new parish would continue to be successful and would work to improve facilities for the residents

8. REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2016-17 BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Cllr Glyn Dobson gave the following report MAY 2016

There were no County district or Town elections this year so the only task we had to address was the election of offices to the Town Council. I was delighted to be elected Mayor again for the Ottery Parish and also that Cllr Holmes was elected as my Deputy.

JUNE 2016

Much of June was taken up with the proposed split of the Parish to allow West Hill to form their own Council. A boundary for the split was put forward by EDDC and was disputed by West Hill who wanted a far greater area.

A great deal of time was also taken up with the negotiations for the library and progress was very slow and frustrating the amount of time being taken.

JULY 2016

Our Full Council Meeting in July was held at West Hill. There was a presentation from Colin Butler explaining the particulars facing Tipton School and his support for building a new primary school at Ottery which would incorporate the Tipton Primary. Ottery Town Council was presented with a plaque and a cheque for £100 by Cllr Hen Parr, Vice Chairman of EDDC in recognition for its hard work in providing a new Youth Club at the Old Railway Station

The lease of the Tourist Information Centre expired this month and we were grateful to John and Myra Campion of Seasons for their offer to provide temporary accommodation for Phyllis.

AUGUST 2016

Full approval was confirmed by EDDC for West Hill to have its own Parish. The Chief Executive, Mark Williams was to send out a draft order and comments would be invited.

Work started on preparations for the Tour of Britain which for the first time was to include Ottery St Mary.

The first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan was produced and comments invited. At last this month, the Head of Terms were agreed for the lease for the new library.

SEPTEMBER 2016

This month there was a threat that the town would have no Christmas lights as the Chamber of Commerce could not afford to make a contribution. However, Claire Wright made a donation from her locality budget and the day was saved.

A great deal of work was being put into the Tour of Britain with Cllr Gori and Phyllis Baxter taking a leading role in organising the various events that would take place.

OCTOBER 2016

In October it was agreed that a Regeneration project should be progressed and a presentation be prepared to go to EDDC by the end of November.

The Tour of Britain took place and it was a huge success, attracting many visitors to the town and it was resolved to hold a hill climb for cyclists again in 2017 and to try and make it an annual event.

NOVEMBER 2016

In November a formal agreement was reached to let the Old Railway Station to the Youth Club and I am pleased to say that they Youth Club, along with other local organisations are making full use of the building. During this month the removal of the strong room as the Old Nat West Bank took

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place. This was a major task and it was necessary to bring a specialist company in from Plymouth to carry out this work.

DECEMBER 2016

During December we were negotiating with the Rotary Club to fit a defibrillator to the new library building. This was entirely funded by the Rotary Club.

It was also noted that the C.A.B. which operates in the Council offices intended to move to the old station building.

JANUARY 2017

An Ottery Regeneration group had been formed chaired by Cllr Geoff Pratt and committee members include Councillors and members of the public. Terms of Reference where agreed and I am sure over the next few months we will be hearing a great deal from this group with ideas of how we can improve Ottery for the benefit of the residents.

FEBRUARY 2017

Several Councillors attended the Kings School and took part in a political speed dating session which included a group of students asking a number of questions about Politics and Ottery in general.

It was also agreed to write to Hugo Swire outlining the Council's objections to the proposal to cut funding for schools and asking for his support in fighting the cuts.

MARCH 2017

The Neighbourhood Plan that a committee has been working on for approximately two years was not ready to be presented to EDDC who would scrutinise it and then return with any comments when these have been addressed the plan will go out for public consultation for six weeks for their comments

9. REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Ian Homes gave the following report:

In the last 12 months the Planning Committee has had 23 meetings.

177 planning applications were discussed by the Committee with welcome input from residents. Many of these applications were alterations and extensions to existing houses and most of these were supported by the Committee, however there were some contentious applications where permission was being sought to build houses in gardens especially at West Hill

Updates on developments

The Blue Cedar development at Slade Farm.

A public meeting was held at the Station in August 2016 and the residents and Committee did not support the application.

The East Devon Planning officers agreed with this and the application was refused. The decision was challenged by Blue Cedar and went to appeal, the result was not known at the last Parish meeting but I am pleased to say the appeal was dismissed.

Gerway Nurseries for David Wilson Homes

This development is well underway and the controversial pedestrian access has been completed. Salston Manor Hotel 29 apartments

Work seems to have stopped and we await further updates from the Developers.

Butts Road for Redrow

The development of 161 houses is now almost complete, the old allotment site is built on and the new allotments well established.

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Factory for Acorn Property Group

Planning permission was granted for 41 homes on the demolished factory and the Otter View sites and work is well underway.

Island Farm for Bovis

Many of the 165 approved homes have been built and occupied.

The 66 bed care home has been approved with a controversial design but there is no sign of the building work starting.

London Inn

Permission was granted last August for the building of 13 apartments to the rear of the London Inn but work has yet to commence.

As a matter of interest the application for a car wash at Finamore has been withdrawn after advice from EDDC pending further discussions.

Normally we hold Planning Committee Meetings on a fortnightly basis but with West Hill having its own Parish Council and dealing with its own Planning applications I can see that we could have a smaller amount of applications to deal with so we are in the future holding meetings when we have sufficient applications to warrant calling a meeting.

10. REPORT BY JOSEFINA GORI ON i. TOUR OF BRITAIN, ii. THE KING AND QUEEN OF THE MOUNTAIN, iii ACTIVE LIFE & MIND PROJECT

Well, are you prepared for this? According to the Agenda I am supposed to report on the Tour of Britain coming to Ottery in 2016, The King & Queen of the Mountain event planned for October and the latest project backed by the Council under the name "Active Life & Active Mind". Not the usual subjects for a Parish meeting but I promise you; it is going to be fun.

It is a shame Phyllis Baxter is not here to be part of the presentation as without her cooperation and hard work none of that had been possible. But "let me tell you" as Phyllis would say... without that community spirit that has made Ottery St Mary famous and without the support given to me by the Council, traders and all the organisations that formed the different working groups, non of that had been possible either.

You probably don't know this but we almost missed the opportunity of having the Tour of Britain in Ottery. Rosie's Chip sharp corner turned out to be a nightmare for the cyclists who didn't want to have an accident so early in the race. I still remember that dreaded call from the organiser of the Devon Stage saying he couldn't assure me they were coming. So as stubborn as I am I asked him: what can we do to convince you to come to Ottery? His answer was: sell Ottery to the organisers and convince them Ottery is the place worth taking the risk.

The rest is history! When something has to be done to prove the world that Ottery is the place, you certainly can count on the locals to give it a shove and do a great job. You all must remember the windows beautifully decorated with the Tour theme, the bikes and signs painted by the youngsters of the Youth Club, the great big breakfast and all the cycling clubs parading their club colours through the square, the excitement of the primary school children up Chineway Hill. All in all the result of a big community effort, which gained us the tittle of the best-advertised town in the whole of the Tour and the possibility of the Tour coming to Ottery again in two years.

Now, the King & Queen of the Mountain event. I am sure you are asking yourself what on earth is that? Well, as a result of the success of the Tour of Britain in Ottery, 1st Chard Wheelers Cycling Club and British Cycling who organise many big cycling events as the one in Seaton during the

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summer, approached us and suggested to organise a yearly Hill Climb event on Chineway

(Chineway was the first King of the Mountain of the Stage 6 of the Tour of Britain). Chineway Hill has become the most popular climb among local and regional cyclists. So here we were again, getting the working group together, involving the local traders and the public and getting the idea rolling. So now we are proud to say that on the 15th of October this town will be hosting the 1st King and Queen of the Mountain Chineway Hill event in the morning and a "go ride" event in the afternoon. We are in the process of organising the program and on the 26th of April we will have our 3rd meeting. The response to the event has been overwhelming and we are expecting around 200 participants to the different events. There will be entertainment and competitions open to all age groups without distinction of sex or ability.

Organizations such as Exeter Aces Cycle Speedway Club have announced they participation in the event with a demo in this new version of the sport. Also Cranbrook Active Mums Cycle Rides (mothers on bikes with toddlers in a carrier at the back attached to the bike) are coming. A well-known London cycling team is joining us and many more surprises are being programmed.

This takes me to the final item of my presentation. OSM Active Life & Active Mind Programme. I can only define it as a new health and well being scheme aimed at keeping Ottery going and residents fit and active. A program supported by the Council and the result of the experiences learnt by organising the previous events. I represent the Council in different organisations such as FOOL (Friends of Ottery Library), Twinning, former Chamber of Commerce, Skate Park, Local Information Centre, etc. and during the time I have done it and the many times I have walked the town with Phyllis Baxter talking to traders, restaurant owners, etc. I have learnt that Ottery has a tremendous potential to become the town where you can have an active life and active mind simply by combining our resources and letting people know of what they can do. So at the moment Phyllis and I are coordinating those resources and providing several groups such as the Library, FOOL, Ottery Twining Association and the Help Scheme with volunteers. In September when the weather gets bad we hope to have developed an Adult Education program with language classes, international cookery workshops, wine tasting sessions, etc. by simply using what we got in town.

We have already created a FB page for the cycling event and for the Active Life & Active Mind Scheme and with the upcoming of the new Gazette we will make sure you will be kept informed.

But the most important thing I would like you to remember when you walk out of this room is that we live in an incredible place and that it is important for those who lately has chosen Ottery as their home to know what we got, what they can do, how they can help, how to enjoy the traditional festival, etc. exactly as we did. Spread the word and encourage them to volunteer with the many organisations that do such a good job in town. Volunteering not only help others but also helps those who volunteer to keep active and motivated.

If you would like to be part of these projects please feel free to contact either Phyllis or me. Our contact details are in the Council's website or simply call the Council Offices.

Thank you.

11. REPORT ON PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP (P3)

Leigh Edwards gave the following report:-

Ottery St Mary Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Report 2016-17

There are 70 footpaths and bridleways totalling over 47 kilometres (29 miles) in the newly revised Parish of OSM there for recreational use or simply navigating around the Parish. Prior to the creation of a separate West Hill Parish there were 83 paths totalling over 55 kilometres (34 miles).

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These paths require regular checking and upkeep for the benefit of all. The Parish Paths Partnership, or P3, scheme is designed to help with this.

Ottery St Mary - Parish Paths Partnership, OSM - P3

P3 is an initiative to ensure that the entire rights of way network in the OSM Parish is legally defined, properly maintained and well publicised. The main aim of the scheme is to improve and maintain the condition of the local rights of way and keep them open and in use. Funded by Devon County Council, P3 is designed to encourage community involvement in the enjoyment of the public rights of way. Devon County Council works in partnership with Parish/Town Councils, landowners and local voluntary groups.

Mapping

An Ordnance Survey map is available in the OSM Town Council Offices that shows all of the 70 numbered footpaths and bridleways in the Parish which come under the scheme. Street Plan maps with numbered footpaths are available from the Tourist Information desk in the new Library.

Path Improvement and Maintenance

Devon County Council, via Contractors, do annual work to clear and maintain the footpaths, bridleways etc. In addition OSM Town Council receives a modest annual grant (from DCC based on the total distance of the paths), under the terms of a P3 Partnership Agreement, to undertake further rights of way work and any special projects. There are additional opportunities for OSM TC to apply to DCC for further funding for special projects. Funds are used for developments and improvements such as upgrading and re-opening paths by undertaking practical work such as vegetation clearance, repairing stiles and rights of way marking, in consultation with farmers and landowners as required.

Path Survey and Inspection

Each year before the Town Council receives its small annual grant it organises a full survey using volunteers to assess the condition of all the rights of way. Since funds are very limited the scheme does rely heavily on input from OSM Town Council and work by a number of local volunteer surveyors. Volunteers walk the paths looking for any issues and feedback information annually, and as needed, via the OSM Town Council P3 coordinators. Surveyors look for obstructions, broken gates/stiles, missing signage etc. This information allows corrective action to be taken either by Devon Council Contractors or in some cases by local volunteers from Ottery St Mary.

Over the past 18 months or so there was no P3 coordinator in place to organise the annual survey so no grant from DCC to OSM TC was received for 2015/2016. This situation is now resolved and the survey has been resumed and a grant has been received by OSM TC from DCC for this financial year. I'd like to thank all of the volunteer surveyors, Councillor Peter Faithfull plus the volunteers from Men's sheds for their hard work over the recent months and hope they will carry on their valuable work over the coming year.

How Can You Help, Should You Wish To?

Pass this information sheet on to all your friends and walking companions. Report any issues you see en-route to one of the OSM P3 coordinators as detailed below. Please be patient it can take time to address issues raised. Volunteer to be a surveyor or to help with minor works. Or simply take secateurs or a pruning saw when walking to help clear around overgrown gates, stiles or signs etc., every little helps.

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OSM P3 Points of Contact

If you have any further questions about P3 or wish to help please contact one of the above. Peter Faithfull, OSM Town Councillor and OSM P3 Coordinator, peterh.faithfull@gmail.com Leigh Edwards, Volunteer Surveyor and Deputy OSM P3 Coordinator, leighp3@sourcemode.com

The Mayor thanked the P3 team for all their hardwork

12. REPORT ON THE INFORMATION CENTRE (FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE)

Cllr Anne Edwards gave the following report:

Good Evening – for those of you who don't know me, let me introduce myself – My name is Anne Edwards and I am the Town Ward councillor for Ottery St Mary, Town Council.

Normally Phyllis Baxter would talk about the tourist information but unfortunately she is away on holiday at the moment, so you have me instead.

This has been quite a difficult year for the tourist information office, the lease expired on the building in Broad Street which meant we had to vacate. We looked at various options for temporary accommodation and as some of you will know for a short while Phyllis moved into Seasons Tea Rooms, for which we give thanks to John and Myra for accommodating us whilst renovations were going on at the new library, where it was agreed that is where the tourist information would eventually re-locate.

We appreciate these are early days of the tourist information being in the new library and are aware that the space available is quite limited. We are actively looking to the future and working to obtain more space into which the tourist information can expand.

We are also looking at different ways to promote the town – these are very different times and we need to adapt to the many changes taking place.

The tourist information is now completely run by Volunteers who give their time generously for free, and for that reason I would like on behalf of the town to thank Phyllis Baxter (in her absence) for her tireless work she does around the town, promoting the many fetes, fairs and functions, and also wish to thank her willing helpers, also volunteers Joy Richardson and Claire Taunton.

We at the town council appreciate the work that volunteers do and would ask that if anyone wishes to put themselves forward to help out just contact the town council offices, or approach Phyllis directly.

Thank you for your time

Wishing you all a very good evening.

13. REPORT REGARDING OTTERY IN BLOOM (OIB)

Keith Spittlehouse gave the following report:

Ottery in Bloom is currently run by small committee together with additional helpers in summer. Planters which are located at Butts Road, Silver Street, Nat West Bank forecourt, Esso Garage, Canaan Way and St Saviours Bridge are maintained by OIB with the support of sponsors and waterers without whom we would find it difficult to continue. Ottery in Bloom and Town Council liaise on planting of roadside verges in Ottery.

THANKS are due to many local individuals and organisations without their support we would not exist. Apologies if I have missed anyone from this list.

to TOWN COUNCIL for the Council Tax grant which covered the cost of the plants and compost with any balance going towards renewal of the planter stands.

to SPONSORS Rotary Club of Otter Valley, Inner Wheel and Lions Clubs, Otter Nurseries (who plant the bridge) Ottery St Mary Garden Club, and West Hill Garden Club

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to WATERERS, again Rotary, Inner wheel and Lions Clubs, Ottery WI, West Hill Garden Club together with a number of individuals. It is hoped that thee Ottery Youth Club will also assist this summer

for ASSISTANCE WITH PLANTING to Guides, Brownies and Beavers

The summer bedding displays are due to be planted in early June

The two new planter tubs sited on the Nat West Bank forecourt have been moved to adjacent the former Ottery Gazette Officesl.

For continuity of Ottery in Bloom there is an urgent need for others to offer assistance with planting or with watering and we welcome any new ideas to enhance the Town.

Keith Spittlehouse, Secretary.

14. REPORT FROM THE ALLOTMENT GARDEN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE Chairman Carl Richmond gave the following report:

Good evening everyone.

We have now had one year at the new allotments and things seem to have settled down after all the upheaval. The complaints about the soil have died down too.

In fact the soil has turned out to be really good if you judge it by the amount of veg produced. Lots of plotholders have told me how astonished they have been by the quantity and quality of their crops, I know I've never seen so many French beans, courgettes and sweet corn on my plot. I suppose it could be the rabbit proof fence working, maybe the rabbits were eating all our veg on the old allotments.

Looking round the new site, it does appear quite busy with an assortment of sheds springing up and lots of work being done.

We were sorry to see Pat Leisk giving up his plot, he said it was getting a bit too much for him. He was Chairman for a number of years and a source of inspiration to us all.

Finally I would like to thank the Councillors and Sue and Chris for their work and support.

And will finish by saying that there are about a dozen plots of varying sizes that are vacant - so if any of you fancy growing your own - now is your chance.

Thank you.

15. FINANCIAL REPORT 2016-2017 INCLUDING PRESENTATION OF GRANTS Cllr Paul Bartlett gave the following report:

This time last year Councillor Jo Talbot from West Hill delivered the financial review of the year to you.

It has been a busy and exciting year. The finances of the council have remained healthy throughout the year once again. And will enable us to work on useful projects for the parish throughout the rest of the year. The final figures for 2016/17 are still being prepared but we are not expecting any surprises whatsoever.

The finances of the council were healthy at the start of the year and certainly so at the end of this year ending on the 31st of March. The income for the year was around £300K, but expenditure was up to £308K.

However we have redecorated the outside of the council offices and also some of the interior, and laid new carpet.

We also put monies aside to assist Libraries Unlimited do the alterations and furnish the new library.

The toilets, that are going into the same building as the library, be-longs to the council. So we have put monies into that facility.

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The precept had to be raised this year due West Hill being able to form their own Parish Council. That left us with a shortfall. We did our best to minimise the increase in Precept, but at the open meetings we had I did state that this would probably happen.

I have printed off pie charts showing how the Council's money has been used.

Once again because of our healthy and robust position we are pleased to be able to award a number of Grants to various organisations in the Parish.

The Finance Committee take these applications very seriously and discuss them at great length. We have only a limited amount of money we can allocate and inevitably there will be some disappointed by the outcome for which we are sorry – but please, don't give up, keep trying. Our Mayor will now present the grants to representatives of the following organisations:-

East Devon Citizens Advice Bureau
Men's Shed Ottery
Tipton Times
Ottery in Bloom
Coleridge Memorial Trust
Ottery Men's Forum
Thomas Axe Charity
Ottery St Mary Heritage Society
Vision OM
Ottery Station
Ottery St Mary Twinning Association
Tipton St John Playing Fields Association
Ottery Community Theatre

Ottery Community Theatre
Pixie Day (Ottery St Mary Joint Guide & Scout Committee)
Ottery St Mary Food & Families Festival

Ottery St Mary Carnival

Tipton Residents Association

16. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Q What progress was being made with the redevelopment of the old factory site?

A There was little progress taking place but it was understood that it would be developed shortly

Q What was happening to the former library building?

A A public consultation exercise was currently taking place to gauge support for a museum/heritage centre

Q When is there going to be a replacement local publication in view of demise of the Gazette? **A** The Gazette will re-commence publication in June

17. OTHER MATTERS

- i. Keith Spittlehouse spoke about the defibrillator and advised that it would be in situ (on the library wall) shortly and familiarisation events would be staged locally so members of the public would know how to use it
- ii. Anne Decent who was visually impaired, advised that Saddlers Lane was becoming more difficult for her to negotiate in view of vehicles being parked there and cyclists also using it. She advised that Saddlers Lane was a public footpath and should not be used by motorists or cyclists. She advised that the situation was becoming worse and in view of her impairment was finding the situation dangerous. Cllr Faithful would investigate the matter and the Mayor/Cllr Faithfull would report back to Mrs Decent

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18. MAYOR'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He also expressed his thanks to Chris McIntyre Town Clerk and her two assistants Sue Ginman and Liz Graveney. He invited everyone to join Councillors for tea and coffee.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 8.29pm.

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