



## **OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the Parish council meeting held on the  
15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 in the village hall

Present:                    Parish Councillor                    R Curtis (Chairman)  
   K Barrow (Vice-Chairman)  
   M Cavill  
   P Tully  
   B Bartlett  
   J White

   District Councillor                    M Caswell

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Parish Councillor – D. Peaster

District Councillor – J. Pay

### **2. Members of Public**

Brigadier and Mrs. Pye, Mr. and Mrs. Cobbledick and L. Wyatt attended the meeting to express their concerns regarding the level of mountain bikers and the health and safety aspect of them using the woods for their pursuits. In particular, but not exclusively, the areas of Great Wood and Cockercombe.

During the discussion, it was communicated that there will be a meeting in April with the Forestry Commission, the mountain bikers and Members of the Public to address the concerns – these include:

- ‘Near misses’ with bikes and horses.
- Planned events may not be giving the eight weeks’ notice as required.
- Lack of understanding as to where the bridleways are and the impact that unexpected appearances of mountain bikers will have on a horse.
- Lack of understanding of the legalities with regard to bridleways.

- Verbal abuse from the mountain bikers, which Members of the Public have experienced when voicing their opinions whilst walking.
- Possibility of signage to help all those who use the area to understand the requirements of all, without the signs becoming ineffective due to positioning or over use – with regard to this, the point was also made that to ensure the natural environment is maintained, should signage be used at all. This then leads to the final point.
- Open days/sessions have been suggested to increase understanding of the nature of horses and how they react to fear. Triscombe Riders Collective have already held a meeting to address this, which is a positive step. An open meeting at Pepper Hill will be arranged (date TBC).

It was also commented that education for all may be better than signage in the long term.

It was agreed by the Parish Council that these points should be formally communicated to the Forestry Commission. The Clerk will be forwarding a letter by e-mail to Mr A. Harris of the Forestry Commission.

L. Wyatt will contact the Clerk to ensure any forthcoming dates for meetings are communicated to the Parish via the website.

Mr. P. Rich and S. Thomas representing the Village Hall attended to discuss their request for funds from the Downing Legacy.

They would like funds to continue with the development of the playground at Over Stowey Cricket Club. Grant applications have been made but as yet they have not been successful, however the committee is continuing to apply.

Councillor R. Curtis requested that the committee should put in writing what money is required and for what reasons to put to the Parish Council at the open meeting (March 21<sup>st</sup> 2016).

Councillor R. Curtis also asked what progress had been made on the acquisition of the additional plot of land. Mr. Rich communicated that Pardoes solicitors have been in contact and forms to arrange signatories are being sent to the Village Hall committee.

Mr. Rich stated that they are hoping for the paperwork to be completed within two weeks.

P. Rich and S. Thomas will be attending the open meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup> 2016 at 7.00pm.

### **3. Declarations of Members Interests in Respect of Items on the Agenda**

None – there were no declarations.

### **4. Minutes of the Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

The minutes of the January meeting were approved by Cllr. P Tully and seconded by Cllr K Barrow.

### **5. Correspondence:**

Stowey Woods - e-mail received re. AONB Quantock Countryside Volunteers (QCV) will again be working in Stowey Wood from 10am – 3 pm approximately on Thursday 25 February in an effort to clear the remaining cuttings and brash.

Clean for the Queen - e-mail received re. the national initiative scheduled for the weekend of 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> March. Information will be added to the website.

Garden Waste collection renewal - e-mail received. Information will be added to the website.

### **6. Items for Discussion**

#### **A. Downing legacy – requests for contributions**

See notes under Members of the Public.

An open meeting will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March from 7.00 – 7.30pm to allow interested parties to state their requirements for the Parish Council to consider.

Each organisation/group will be allocated a set amount of time depending on the number in attendance.

The Parish Council will consider the applications during a private session following the open meeting.

#### **B. Declarations of Financial and Other Interests:**

All forms from those present were completed. Clerk to collect Cllr. Peaster's, then check and forward all forms to Julie Poole.

#### **C. Over Stowey sign progress:**

Work has been completed by Somerset County Council.

**D. Quotes for port-a-loos:**

Booked by Cllr. Curtis as demand high that week due to other events and Glastonbury. Invoice of £180.00 due – to include on March agenda under Financial Matters.

**E. Mountain bikes at Cockercombe:**

See notes under Members of the Public.

**F. Highways:**

Potholes at Bincombe no through lane from Bincombe Cross.

Broad Road above Bincombe road – where there has been drainage work, on each side of the road there is a gap large enough for vehicles wheels to get caught in.

A recommendation has been made for a 30mph limit to be placed on the stretch of road from Halsey Cross to Marsh Mills.

Councillor Curtis suggested contacting Highways to meet with him for a tour of the parish to review the road conditions and the potential for a speed restriction as detailed above.

The Clerk will contact Highways to arrange a convenient day and time.

**G. Review of cemetery fees:**

All members agreed to keep fees as they are and update to February 2016.

**7. Matters Arising for the Agenda for March 21<sup>st</sup> 2016 meeting:**

A Public meeting will be held from 7.00 – 7.30pm for requests for funds from the Downing Legacy.

Suggestion for 30 mph limit from Halsey Cross to Marsh Mills – see notes from Highways (point 6F).

Port-a-loo invoice due.

**8. Planning:**

None

**9. Financial Matters:**

A. Clerks Wages £146.98

Proposed by Councillor Morley  
Seconded by Councillor Bartlett

- B. Transfer of funds from deposit to current account £5000 (letter signed by Councillor Curtis and Councillor Barrow).
- C. Renewal of SLCC  
(Society of Local Council Clerks) £65.00

Proposed by Councillor Tully  
Seconded by Councillor Barrow.

**10. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016**

Public meeting re. Downing Legacy requests from 7.00 – 7.30pm

Parish Council meeting – 7.30pm

Amanda McMurren  
Clerk to Over Stowey Parish Council

To: Members of the Parish Council Cllr R Curtis, Cllr B Bartlett, Cllr D Peaster, Cllr K Barrow, Cllr M Cavill, Cllr J White, Cllr P Tully, County Cllr J Edney, District Cllr M Caswell, District Cllr J Pay