



OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish council meeting held on the
20th February 2017 in the Village Hall

*Please note that these minutes are draft until approved
at the 20th March 2017 Meeting*

Present:	Parish Councillor	R Curtis K Barrow P Tully B Bartlett M Cavill
	District Councillor	M Caswell
	District Councillor	J Pay

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor D Peaster
Councillor J White

2. Members of the Public

Mr. Richard Ince attended the meeting to put forward his proposal regarding brush cutting training:

Mr. Ince requested approximately £65.00 from the Parish Council to allow him to undertake a strimming and brush cutting training course that is supported by Somerset County Council.

This has been running since 2009 and the benefit is that the training would lead to insurance coverage through Somerset County council's insurance scheme. This would ensure that any work carried out by Mr. Ince on any public rights of way within the parish, would have public liability and personal injury cover.

The other potential benefit to the parish is that Somerset County Council would provide a brush cutter dedicated to this application for use on footpaths and bridle ways.

Mr. Ince stated that occasional clearance work is needed and insurance coverage is critical.

Councillor Bartlett asked which areas have been cleared and Mr. Ince replied that the area between Hock Pit Farm and the adjoining land had been cleared.

Other areas are covered by Mr. M Peaster and a discussion followed about the area opposite the Cottage Inn and Bincombe Green, being areas where this work needs to be undertaken twice a year.

Councillor Barrow asked how would Mr. Ince be made aware of what needed to be cleared and Mr. Ince replied that the requests could come from the area manager in charge of footpaths, Stowey Walking, the Parish Council and members of the public.

This is a one-off payment for the training.

When Mr. Ince had concluded his presentation, the Parish Council members thanked him for this time and explained they would review his request and get back to Mr. Ince with their decision.

A discussion followed after Mr. Ince had left and it was decided that the funds will be forthcoming if Mr. Ince could agree that as a minimum he would happy to maintain the area opposite the Cottage Inn and also Bincombe Green twice a year and other footpaths identified under the direction of Councillor Morley.

No other members of the public were in attendance.

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

None

4. Minutes of the Meeting January 16th 2017

Proposed by Councillor P Tully
Seconded by Councillor M Cavill

5. Correspondence:

- Work at Withymans Pool carpark – any feedback to be communicated?

Councillor Bartlett confirmed that the work is needed to replace the wooden posts which ensure vehicles park in certain areas.

The members do not need to feedback any comments.

- Code of Conduct Training – Wednesday March 1st at 6.30pm.
The Clerk will attend.
Councillor Curtis will also attend.
- E-mail re. Joint Parish/Town Council Meeting Wednesday 22 February 2017.

Councillors Curtis and Tully to attend.

- E-mail re. Vacancy for Parish Representative for Sedgemoor Standards Committee.

This is a voluntary post open to all councillors, however, the closing date for applications was February 20th 2017.

6. Items for Discussion:

- Information on Forestry Commissions policy on drones being flown on the Quantocks.

Following an observation from a parishioner about drones, the Clerk contacted the Forestry Commission to pass this on and to see what the policy is on the Quantocks.

Andy Harris – Community Ranger responded as follows:

‘There is no specific policy on drones however there are national guidelines that all drone pilots must adhere to’

‘There is nothing to stop someone going and buying a drone and taking it out flying, as long as the drone weighs less than 20kg and isn't being used for commercial reasons. However, they must

avoid flying it within 150 metres of a congested area and 50 metres of a person, vessel, vehicle or structure not under the control of the pilot. During take-off and landing that is reduced to 30m. Right to privacy is important as well especially if using a mounted camera. If the drone is being used for filming, there's a strong chance that permissions will be required.

Whilst the drone is being flown it must remain within sight. This means it can't go above 400 feet in altitude or further than 500 metres horizontally. In order for a pilot to exceed that, they need to seek explicit permission from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

- Un-metered electricity update – car park to be measured up (for to scale plan) and location of lights to be decided.
 - Councillors Curtis and Tully will measure the car park and detail in the plan where the lights are to be fitted. They will scan and e-mail this to the Clerk who will be able to complete the application for an un-metered electricity supply to Western Power.

- Update on the village hall kitchen refurbishment plans
 - Ongoing as still waiting for quotes from an industrial kitchen supplier. The Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee will be meeting within the next two weeks to discuss this.

Further information should be available for the next meeting of the Parish Council.

- Somerset emergency community contact to be agreed
 - Councillor Barrow agreed to be the contact. The Clerk will inform the relevant party and follow up as necessary.
- Update on fencing for recreation ground
 - The old fence has gone and Councillor Peaster has levelled off the area. The new fencing will be put up soon.

Still waiting on completion of the pirate ship.

- Quotes for cemetery tarmacking
 - Councillor Tully had received a quote in excess of the first one.

Councillor Peaster will provide the third quote at the next meeting.

- Highways – feedback from Councillor Curtis
 - Councillor Curtis met with Tony Fairfax and reviewed the areas together.

The drain in Quantock Lane has now been cleared and Bincombe Lane and Friarn were also assessed. The culverts were checked and Councillor Curtis reported that he had cleared them previously, but is now unable to get the rods in.

To ensure the roads are maintained by the County Council, it was agreed that any defect reported is e-mailed as soon as possible and an electronic trail can then be built up.

7. Matters Arising for the Agenda for the March 2017 meeting:

- Western Power application update
- Agree tarmacking quote
- Update on quotes for the kitchen refurbishment
- Update on the recreation ground progress
- Consider what projects the Parish Council can allocate funds to for the benefit of the parish and record decisions to ‘ring fence’ these amounts.
 - Current projects include:
 - Church bell repairs
 - Tarmacking of the graveyard path
 - Repair of the memorial in the graveyard
 - Plaques x 3 from the Downing Legacy donations
 - Car park lighting
 - Memorial bench replacement
 - Kitchen refurbishment
- Summer meetings start time to discuss

8. Planning:

The Clerk communicated that the meetings regarding the Local Plan are taking place and the nearest one to Over Stowey will be held on March 2nd in Nether Stowey Village Hall.

9. Financial Matters:

- a) Clerks Wages - **£146.98**

Proposed by Councillor P Tully
Seconded by Councillor K Barrow

- b) Transparency grant payment to Clerk for work undertaken February 2017 - **£30.00** (agreed at the September 2016 meeting)

- c) Payment for Over Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee to be made (from RLT2 grant – Sedgemoor District Council) - **£2946.00**

- d) SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) renewal - **£55.00**

Proposed by Councillor B Bartlett
Seconded by Councillor K Barrow

10. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 20th March 2017

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