



OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

*Please note that these minutes are draft until approved
at the 10th April 2017 Meeting*

Present:	Parish Councillor	R Curtis K Barrow P Tully J White D Peaster M Cavill
	District Councillor	J Pay
	County Councillor	J Edney

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor B. Bartlett
District Councillor M. Caswell

2. Members of the Public

The following members of the public attended:

Mr. P. Rich
Mr. I. Barrow
Mrs. A. Hoare
Mr. M. Cook
Mrs. S. Gaulk-Rogers
Mrs. J. Lyons

Mr. Anthony Moore - an independent consultant attended the meeting with information on possible Broadband coverage within the parish.

Mr. Moore has a background in communications having worked for BT and openreach in various roles including operations manager, senior operations manager and business improvements manager.

He has now set up as a Broadband and Wi-Fi consultant, offering ideas and solutions to businesses and private customers.

He considers that there are missed opportunities within Broadband Britain and that there is the possibility of high quality and fast services at affordable prices.

Areas like Over Stowey are a long distance from the nearest exchange and the fibre optic boxes which feed the superfast speeds, thus creating a 'black spot'.

4G coverage is increasing – Vodafone has good coverage and have brought their prices down e.g. Home broadband with 4G on a monthly contract with 100Gb for approximately £16.00 per month with the option of additional 100Gb as a bolt on for an extra £15.00 per month. However, the speeds are slow.

EE has faster speeds but the 100Gb option costs £75.00

So, this is where alternatives can be looked for and there is also the potential of trialing possible solutions.

Mr. Cooke commented that the Broadband service he receives from BT (EE) is patchy inside the home and there is a small amount of coverage outside.

Mr. Moore explained about the LTE masts which can be fitted to the outside of a property (they can be affected by trees and the weather so site is important) and a SIM from a company with the best service available can be fitted.

Mr. Cooke asked how do you know if the mast will work and which is the best service.

Mr. Moore replied that there is a simple test to check the best service and a basic survey is undertaken with regard to trees.

He also said that 5G technology will overtake landline services.

Councillor Peaster commented that it felt as though a consumer was being cheated when the tariff for a service which has slow speeds due to the location, is the same as an area close to an exchange and fibre box which would have much faster speeds.

Mr. Cooke asked about fibre to the property, to which Mr. Moore replied that in the main, fibre to the property would probably only be in new sites and developments and fibre to the boxes is the usual route.

Councillor Peaster asked if the increase in 4G and upgrade to 5G will make it more likely that there will be more masts.

Mr. Moore replied that it would probably be a case of upgrading masts rather than having more. The mast at Cannington has been fitted with the signal being sourced upwards which means that lower areas may be in a black spot and the better signal is higher up.

Mrs. S. Rogers explained that in her situation, living in the highest property on the Quantocks, the lack of effective Broadband was having a direct impact on her business.

Councillor Curtis asked what the next step would be.

It was agreed that a survey should be produced to ascertain issues regarding Broadband.

With advice from Mr. Moore, the Clerk will produce a survey which will be distributed electronically and paper copies will also be available.

The Clerk will forward the survey to Mrs. A. Hoare who has distribution channels within the parish.

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 February 20th 2017:

Proposed by Councillor P Tully
Seconded by Councillor M Cavill

5. Correspondence:

- The information required from Councillor Barrow re. Somerset Emergency Community Contact was completed for the Clerk to forward.

6. Items for Discussion:

- Western Power application update – the Clerk has received the measurements and location of the lights so can now proceed the application to Western Power.
- Brush cutting schedule of works –

Mr. R. Ince has kindly agreed to a schedule of works which includes the area opposite the Cottage Inn and Bincombe Green. Any other footpaths or rights of way as to be instructed when deemed necessary. Councillor Morley will communicate these.

Mr. Ince will forward the receipt for the brush cutting training once completed and this will be included in the agenda of the next available meeting.

- Graveyard tarmac quote –

Councillor Peaster advised that the quote he received was higher than the first quote. It was agreed that the works will be awarded to C J Penfold at a cost of £1600.00 plus VAT. Date of the work to be confirmed at the next meeting.

Proposed by Councillor K. Barrow
Seconded by Councillor D. Peaster

- Update on quotes for the kitchen refurbishment

Mr. P Rich introduced Mr. I. Barrow to explain what was necessary to refurbish the kitchen.

Quotes have been obtained from a commercial kitchen planner from Exeter, called Bartletts.

They are looking at supplying stainless steel for the main units, but recommended that domestic units could be used for the storage cupboards.

The gas range will need to be replaced and an extraction system installed, again domestic items will be sufficient for this.

The quote from Bartletts, to include the hob, extractor and replacement units was £8795.

This does not include the flooring which will need replacing and the work from an electrician and gas technician with regard to the extraction system.

Councillor Tully had also suggested that additional works to bring the toilets up to a good standard should be considered as there is mould caused by the damp.

One of the issues is that there is no heating in the mens toilets, combined with the lack of ventilation and the age of the building. A slimline efficient radiator can be fitted.

The sanitary-ware needs to be replaced including urinals and splash-backs in the mens and the sanitary-ware in the ladies also needs replacing.

The anticipated cost for this work is approximately £3000.00 - the heater alone will cost £455.00. This figure also includes the doors, decorating with mould resistant paint and labour.

Councillor Tully said that as the range in the kitchen had been considered in good condition, but was now deemed not to be could the grants available from EDF be accessed?

The Clerk will liaise with Bridget Tully to find out how this can be applied for.

Councillor Barrow asked if the cost for the kitchen included labour, to which Mr. I. Barrow replied that it included stripping out the kitchen, re-fitting it with all the stainless steel and domestic units, a double sink and a hand basin, re-decorating and tidying up.

It had also been recommended by the kitchen planners that the preparation area and food warmer were relocated in the process.

Councillor J. White asked what level of funding the Village Hall Committee could provide and whether the Parish Council would be prepared to fund to a level, with the remainder being raised by the Village Hall Committee.

As the Parish Council representative for the Village Hall Committee, Councillor Barrow said that following the work that has taken place for the recreation ground, there was not a lot of money available at present. Fund-raising ideas have been requested for the next Over Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee meeting.

He also suggested talking to those who use the kitchen for their input on what is required with regards to the layout of it. Both Mr. I. Barrow and Mr. P. Rich felt this was a good idea.

Update on recreation ground progress – (invoice received 15/03/17 for hedging and fencing – payment to be agreed)

Mr. P. Rich then talked about the recreation ground and that with the pirate ship almost ready, they were looking for an official opening in June 2017.

He also thanked Councillor Peaster for the work he had undertaken.

- 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 – no bill as yet received but Councillor Cavill estimated that it will be approximately £300.
 - Tarmacking of the graveyard path – quoted at £1600.00 as both of the other contractors were unable to match the first quote.

Proposed by Councillor Barrow
Seconded by Councillor Peaster
 - Repair of the memorial in the graveyard - £160.00 as agreed at the October 2016 meeting.
 - Plaques x 3 from the Downing Legacy donations
Councillor Morley Cavill to arrange.

- Car park lighting – amount to be confirmed once the application to Western Power has been made and agreed.
- Memorial bench replacement (£20.00 already paid plus amount for the seat and back to be confirmed)
- Kitchen refurbishment – following the information provided (see above) the members present suggested that a figure of £11000 should be allocated to the village hall refurbishments; with £3000 for the toilets and £8000.00 towards the kitchen.

This will be fully discussed at the April 2017 meeting.

- Summer meetings start time to discuss –
7.30pm from April, winter meeting times to be discussed in early autumn.
- Councillor John Edney also spoke – he stated that it was the last meeting he would be attending as he is stepping down from his County Councillor role.

County Councillor Edney thanked the Parish Council for their support and input over the years and talked about the highs and lows of the role and also how he had enjoyed many of the meetings held by Over Stowey.

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

- Western Power application update
- Update on graveyard tarmacking
- Update on the kitchen and toilet refurbishment and Over Stowey Parish Council to agree funding amount for the projects

8. Planning:

Application Number: 40/17/00002

Mrs. J. Lyons attended the meeting and explained that the application was large and detailed as the planner has a background in historic house restoration.

The intention is to change the property back from two dwellings to one, as it was approximately four hundred years ago.

Probate documents show it as being a large farm house in 1642. In the mid-1850's the estate was changed to include a dairy.

Mrs. Lyons explained they are looking at restoring the original features with sensitivity and to take it back as far as possible to how it would have been.

After reviewing the documents and listening to Mrs. Lyons explain the reasoning behind the application, the Parish Council stated that they have no objections to the planning application.

9. Financial Matters:

- a) Clerks Wages - **£146.98**

Proposed by Councillor M. Cavin
Seconded by Councillor P. Tully

- b) Transparency grant payment to Clerk for work undertaken March 2017 - **£30.00** last payment (agreed September 2016 meeting)
- c) Recreation Ground hedging and fencing (see items for discussion) - **£4567.20** Wood-Land Southwest Limited

During the meeting Councillors Barrow and Tully questioned this invoice and it was explained by them that the RTL2 funding granted to the Over Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee was intended to be put towards this cost.

The Clerk handed the invoice to Councillor Tully who will forward it to the relevant member of the committee for payment.

10. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 10th April 2017
(change of date the third Monday in April falls on Easter Monday)

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