



OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish council meeting held on the
17th October 2016 in the Village Hall

*Please note that these minutes are draft until approved
at the 21st November 2016 Meeting*

Present:	Parish Councillor	K Barrow P Tully B Bartlett J White D Peaster M Cavill
	District Councillor	J Pay

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor R Curtis,
District Councillor M Caswell,
County Councillor J Edney

2. Members of The Public

Mr. Phillip Rich

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

None

4. Minutes of the Meeting September 19th 2016

Proposed by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Tully

5. Correspondence:

- Information on Council Tax Referendum Proposals

Information only at present as these proposals do not yet apply. Parish Councils have been asked to add their support by lobbying against the idea. The Clerk will use the template letter from NALC to voice their opinion.

- Landscape Character Assessment of the Quantock Hills AONB.

After reviewing the information, all members agreed they did not feel it necessary to make any changes and no need to take any further action in this matter.

- Request for donation from the Citizens Advice Bureau – letter stating 66 people/families in the Over Stowey Parish required help from and accessed services from them.

After ascertaining from the letter that the numbers accessing help or services were from the Over Stowey ward, rather than parish as stated in the agenda, it was agreed that an amount of £50.00 would be donated to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Proposed by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Bartlett

6. Items for Discussion

- Annual Audit – external auditor certificate and opinion 2015/2016

After a summary of what the auditors have concluded, the Clerk will produce a financial report for the November meeting for the Parish Council to review.

- Update on bus services in West Somerset.

See link:

<https://somersexnewsroom.com/2016/10/19/decision-on-emergency-bus-funding/>

It was also commented by Councillor Morley that the car share scheme is now up and running. The Clerk will contact the Village Agent – Alison Hoare for details to add to the website and promote further.

- Update on recreation ground progress and plans going forward re. input from the Parish Council with organising materials and arranging help with putting in the fencing and hedging.

Mr. Philip Rich communicated the following:

- The documents for the lease have all been signed and are currently at Pardoes. Mr. Rich expects the documents to be completed and returned to the Village Hall and Recreational Ground Committee by the 21st October 2016.
- With regards to the play area, the pirate boat has been measured up for, the contractor who will be making it will be looking at what is required on Tuesday 18th October with a view to starting work on it on Friday 21st October.
- The slide will need securing; the contractor will be e-mailed to see what is required to do this.
- The equipment is weatherproofed for year round use.
- The committee are looking to open the play area to the public January/February 2017. The plan is to add topsoil and seed it ready for that time.
- Grandfield and Son have donated the timber for the fencing around the play area. This will need to be looked at by the committee to ascertain the total length of fencing required.
- Councillor Barrow suggested that the hedge should have a fence in front of it to keep the hedge back and avoid any injuries within the play area. The fence would need to be 1.5m high to achieve this.

- A meeting of the Village Hall and Recreational Ground Committee will take place with the date to be confirmed once the lease has been received back. This meeting will be a chance to discuss what is required next with regard to the fencing and hedge laying.
 - The Parish Council would like to help with the work required and are happy to allocate roles to the members once plans have been made. Councillors Barrow and Tully will attend the meeting to facilitate this.
 - Councillor Curtis has already stated that he will be able to help.
 - Price to be obtained for fencing – Councillor Peaster to request costing from M. Peaster for information.
- Over Stowey graveyard – memorial stone maintenance.

After contacting Grandfield and Son, it has been ascertained that the memorial stone is in memory of the Stanley family. Councillor White may have the contact details of a relative and will endeavor to produce these for the next meeting to enable a letter to be drawn up by the Clerk.

Councillor Tully estimated the cost of cleaning and maintenance to be no more than £150.00 for which the Parish Council will pay.

Proposed by Councillor Peaster
Seconded by Councillor Cavill

- Quantock Cluster – update from District Councillor Pay.

District Councillor Pay communicated the following information:

At the original meeting, the proposal was to bring the Quantock cluster in with the North Petherton and Bridgwater clusters.

The Quantock Cluster is the only viable one and it was voted unanimously to keep the Quantock cluster as it is.

Since then, another meeting has taken place where it was decided that the Quantock cluster can remain, but if attendance falls back, there will be another review.

The intention is that two meetings a year will be paid for and will be held in Bridgwater to ensure any big issues are addressed as one.

Other meetings can be held at local level, but all costs will have to be paid by the cluster itself.

The review and subsequent proposals came about mainly due to low attendance and viability.

This has not been the case with the Quantock Cluster.

- Look into contacting the Tennis Club with regard to the tennis courts and possibility of opening up to the wider community.

Mr Rich stated that it has to be paying members to ensure maintenance and upkeep which is managed by the Village Hall and Recreational Ground Committee. There is a need to encourage more members to join and they do have people from other areas playing. Numbers did go down when the Nether Stowey MUGA opened.

It was asked if there is a need to advertise this facility more.

Mr Rich said that this will be discussed at the next Village Hall and Recreational Ground Committee meeting.

- Watery lane - two big pipes were jammed up and pipes were not running properly at the time of the July meeting. Water was running out of them and they needed to be cleared. Councillors Barrow and Tully were going to look into this and see what was required. Has this been resolved?

To be confirmed by Councillor Tully.

- Burnt out car just outside Sandy Beds had been there for about a month at the time of the July meeting. Somerset County Council had been e-mailed but it was still there in mid-July. Has this been resolved?

Councillor White confirmed that when he checked at the beginning of September it had been cleared.

- Village Hall and Recreational Ground feedback re. lighting to car park and Wi-Fi for the village hall.

With regard to the lighting, it was discussed as to what would be appropriate for the village with the least impact on nearby home-owners.

This will be reviewed at the next meeting and Councillor Curtis will bring an example of a light he has sourced with information on how it operates. The approximate cost of each light is £13.00.

It was felt that the issue of Wi-Fi for the village hall is something for the Village Hall and Recreational Ground Committee to consider, with the support of the Parish Council.

7. Matters Arising for the Agenda for 21st November 2016 meeting

November – footpaths

Village Hall lighting

Forestry meeting re mountain bikes due on 27th October 2016. Councillor Bartlett will be attending and will feed back the information at the November meeting.

Information from Councillor White re. the Stanley family contact details if available.

Members to review the cemetery path with a view to re-tarmacking. Councillor Barrow will be able to obtain one price as a starting point.

Plaque for the cemetery gates to be discussed as agreed when funds were granted from the Downing Legacy.

Cheque for the Citizens Advice Bureau to be arranged.

8. Planning

None

9. Financial Matters:

A. Clerks Wages - £146.98

Proposed by Councillor Cavill
Seconded by Councillor Barrow

B. Transparency grant payment to Clerk for work undertaken for October 2016 as discussed and agreed at the September 2016 meeting - £30.00

C. External auditor's fees (Grant Thornton) for completing the annual audit 2015/2016 - £225.00

Invoice delayed from Grant Thornton, should be available for the November meeting.

D. Recreational ground payment to Pardoes - £1500 as agreed in the November 2014 meeting.

E. Additional fees from Pardoes re. the recreation ground - £240.00 (if agreed by the members).

Proposed by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Cavill

F. Recreational ground payment to Alvian Ltd for play area equipment and surfacing - £5000 as agreed in the March 2016 meeting (from the Downing Legacy).

G. Payment to Grandfield and Son for the cemetery gates - as agreed in the March 2016 meeting (from the Downing Legacy) - £680.79

Date of Next Meeting - Monday 21st November 2016.

A proposal was put forward by Councillor Peaster requesting that the start time of the meetings is brought forward from 7.30pm to 7.00pm. After a brief discussion, it was agreed by all members present that the start time from November 2016 onwards will be 7.00pm and will be reviewed if necessary.

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