

OVER STOWEY
PARISH COUNCIL

OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the
18th September 2017 in the Village Hall

*Please note that these minutes are draft until approved
at the October 16th 2017 Meeting*

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor D. Peaster
County/District Councillor M. Caswell

2. Members of the Public

- Mr. M. Dunn and Mr. J. Venton re. planning application number 40/17/00013:

Mr. Dunn has applied for planning permission for a new building at the old quarry in Over Stowey for his blacksmith business.

This has been refused due to the location and Mr. Dunn attended the meeting to request the support of Over Stowey Parish Council in the re-application of his proposals. Mr. Dunn and Mr. Venn hope that with this, the planning department may view the application more favourably.

After reviewing the plans and listening to the case made by Mr. Dunn and Mr. Venton, the members present all agreed that there were no objections and would be happy to support the application.

The Clerk will compose a letter and forward to both parties by Monday 25th September 2017.

- Mr. R Osborne attended to update Over Stowey Parish Council on the situation regarding Stowey Woods.

Mr. Osborne communicated to the Parish Council that he and Mr. R. Ince had been working on the Millennium and Jubilee Woods and have turned their attentions to Stowey Wood, which is almost enclosed by Stowey Rocks but not owned by them. Mr. Osborne and Mr. Ince have been working with other groups to convert the trees from conifer to deciduous. A small stream has been put in and the eventual intention is to designate the path through Stowey Wood as a permissive path, thereby linking it with the footpath which goes through Stowey Millennium Wood and the one which goes from Nether Stowey farm to Over Stowey. This would complete a circular walk from Nether Stowey playing field. This is unlikely to happen until the wood felling by Bridgwater College has been completed.

Somerset County Council are looking to transfer woodland assets and have already licensed the Millennium and Jubilee Woods to Mr. Osborne, Mr. Ince and Nether Stowey Parish Council.

Stowey Walking support this as it would mean another amenity for the local area.

Somerset County Council are looking to do the same with Stowey Woods.

Stowey Woods is approximately 7.4 acres and it would become a community asset. All woods will still require a volunteer group to manage the upkeep of them.

Mr. Osborne asked the Parish Council if they would be receptive at all to an asset transfer from Somerset County Council.

Councillor Barrow asked if there were any charges and Mr. Osborne replied that there were no charges.

Councillor Barrow questioned this as the Over Stowey playing fields transfer required payments from the Parish Council – Mr. Osborne said that nothing had been said about any costs at this time.

Councillor White asked what would the transfer mean regarding legal ownership and in particular what implications would this have on insurance.

Mr. Osborne explained that Nether Stowey Parish Council have extended their boundaries to cover this.

Councillor Curtis commented that he feels the Parish Council requires more information about the scheme and that any cost implications need to be considered.

Mr. Osborne will communicate information when he receives it.

The Clerk will contact the Parish Council's insurance company for a quote to see how much the premium would increase by should the transfer take place.

Councillor Curtis thanked Mr. Osborne for attending and Mr. Osborne left the meeting.

- Mrs. Gloria Goddard attended the meeting as a potential candidate for the Parish Councillor vacancy (see **Items For Discussion** - resignation of Councillor John White)

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

Councillor Barrow declared an interest in the point re. Swang Farm Planning Permission under item 5 - Correspondence and did not take part in the discussion.

4. Minutes of the Meetings – 17th July 2017:

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

5. Correspondence:

- Annual Audit:

Notice of Conclusion – the Clerk communicated that the external auditors had concluded the audit and there were no issues to report.

- Swang Farm Planning Permission:

The Clerk communicated the concerns from the e-mail that had been received about the effect of the increased traffic not only on Spaxton, but other parishes, including Over Stowey. The Parish Council confirmed that they are aware that this has already been communicated to the relevant department at Sedgemoor District Council.

- Fly-tipping (Hack Lane):

This had been reported to Nether Stowey Parish Council who passed on the information to the Clerk. Councillor Cavill stated that the items had been cleared soon after they were reported.

- Stile at Hock Pit Lane:

This had been reported to Nether Stowey Parish Council who raised the issue with the Glenn Martin - West Somerset Rights of Way Warden. Mr. Martin e-mailed me to confirm that the steps of the stile were in good repair but four of the five posts needed to be repaired, which is in hand.

Items for Discussion:

- To receive the resignation of Councillor John White:

Councillor Curtis said how sorry we are to be losing Councillor White and that he has done a great job in the role with regard to his input and arranging articles for The Messenger. Councillor Curtis wished Councillor White all the very best for the future.

- Councillor Bartlett to sign Declaration of Acceptance:

Completed

- Update on if 'Give Way' road markings at the Quantock Lodge/Water Lane junction have been re-painted:

This has been completed

- Update on re-surfacing of church yard path – invoice paid:
Agreed by all members after the July meeting, to ensure the contractor was paid within the terms of the invoice.

- Update on Broadband coverage questionnaire:

The Clerk has all the information required and will arrange a questionnaire before the October 2017 meeting, which will be disseminated via the website, the Village Agent and paper copies will also be available upon request.

- Update on Village Hall grant applications for the kitchen refurbishment:

There has been no decision as yet from Sedgemoor District Council. The Clerk will contact Julie Cooper to confirm when it will be communicated.

- Annual Town/Parish Council Planning Seminars:

Thursday 12th and Wednesday 18th October 2017 between 6pm (5-45pm for teas and coffees) and 9pm at the Council Offices in Bridgwater (in the Sedgemoor Room)

Councillors Curtis and Tully will confirm which dates they are available to attend.

6. Matters Arising for the Agenda for September 2017 meeting:

- All Parish and Cluster meetings will be held in October and November. District Councillor Pay will e-mail the Clerk to confirm the dates and venues.
- A member of the public reported the following to Councillor Barrow –

An incident at the above crossroads at Marsh Mills occurred recently, where a car drove straight across the junction as the lines are very faded and Councillor Barrow stated that when he went to check the area, that the STOP sign on the left-hand side of the road was turned around and not visible from the road.

He moved it back and has had to do this a number of times since. It would appear that lorries are hitting it as they pull up to the junction causing the sign to move out of view.

The car was clipped on the back by another car that drove past as the first car drove over, fortunately no-one was hurt but this needs addressing before something worse happens.

A suggestion made, was that a sign could be put up prior to the crossroads informing drivers that they are approaching this and also that the STOP sign is moved to avoid it being hit, but keeping it highly visible.

The Clerk will report this to the Highways department as a matter of urgency.

7. Planning:

Application Number: 40/17/00013/LE – see above in ‘Members of the Public’

8. Financial Matters:

- a) Clerks Wages - **£146.98**

**Proposed by Councillor Tully
Seconded by Councillor Barrow**

- b) Annual Audit fees – **£120.00**

**Proposed by Councilor Morley
Seconded by Councillor Bartlett**

- c) Brush cutting training (Mr. R Ince) – invoice not yet received

- d) The following payment was made since the last meeting with members' approval – Re-tarmacking of the graveyard path (Mr Penfold) - **£1920.00.**

Agreed at the March 2017 meeting and communicated and acknowledged by e-mail July 2017

9. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 16th October 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/District Cllr M Caswell, District Cllr J Pay