



OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Note: Minutes are draft pending Council approval at the meeting on 17/02/2014

Minutes of the Parish council meeting held on the 20th January 2014 in the village hall.

Present:

Parish Councillor	R Curtis (Chairman)
	B Bartlett (Vice Chairman)
	P Tully
	D Peaster
	K Barrow
	M Cavill
District Councillor	M Caswell

1.APOLOGIES

Parish Councillor	J Rees
County Councillor	J Edney
District Councillor	J Pay

2.MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs Hoare was present at the meeting tonight.

3.Declarations of Members Interest in respect of Items on the Agenda

There were no declarations of members interest.

4.MINUTES OF DECEMBER MEETING

The minutes of the December meeting were approved by Cllr Peaster and seconded by Cllr Tully.

5. New Items for Discussion

Somerset Village Agents

Cllr Curtis introduced our local Village Agent, Mrs Hoare to the meeting. He then passed over to Mrs Hoare.

Mrs Hoare thanked the Parish Council for inviting her and explained that Village Agents are members of the Community employed by The Community Council for Somerset, (CCS). The organisation is a Charitable Organisation and is Lottery funded. They have also recently managed to get funding from Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Services.

The role of the Village Agent is to help Parishioners in rural communities have easier access to information and services. They have been called “Info hubs”. Village Agents live in or very near to the “clusters” as they have understanding for what the needs are in the area.

Village Agents cannot cold call but they can call if they have been referred by someone and they have the person in questions permission, home visits are available. The services in which they can help are: home safety, social care, health issues, pensions & benefits, housing, transport, advocacy, employment, leisure, volunteering, lifelong learning & skills to name but a few.

Village Agents have all been trained by the Citizens Advice Bureau to be able to do gateway assessments, this can help them fast track clients to advisor appointments if needed.

Mrs Hoare is employed for 14 hours per week and covers 6 Parishes: Over Stowey, Broomfield, Durleigh, Enmore, Spaxton and Goathurst and also 3 Zoy Villages: Chedzoy, Middlezoy and Westonzoyland.

There are at the moment 15 Village Agents in Somerset, the bigger villages will have “One stop shops” where once a week they will have an open day. They hope to have the one stop shops going by the end of the year, beginning of next year.

6. Matters Arising

Stowey Rocks Hedges

Clerk spoke to Alex Meletiou, Land Agent for Stowey Rocks and was advised to speak to the tenant first as it is their responsibility for hedgerow management. Cllr Curtis went and spoke to the tenant and he assured us he will get the work completed.

Grants for Recreation Areas

The Cllr’s that represent the Parish Council at the Village & Recreational meetings will go along to the next meeting and ask them what their thoughts are.

Landowners letters about hedge cutting

All Landowners have been approached by Councillors and most hedges have now been cut back. All landowners have to the 1st March to cut their hedges. If at the next meeting some of the landowners have not cut their hedges we have 11 days to pursue this and make sure it is completed.

7.Any Other Business

With the bad weather recently many areas have struggled with flooding. A lot of the problems are down to the drains not being maintained properly. A lorry from Somerset County Council was sent out after the first lot of storms to suck the gullies out. Some of the drain holes that were the worst areas for flooding were bypassed as they couldn't pull the grids out due to rusting. They were asked by a member of the Council who happened to see them to Jett these drains but they were told they weren't allowed to do that, they had to report the problem. This is highly frustrating as they have the machinery on the lorry to do the job.

Cllr Caswell has a meeting with Lawrence Hackling from Highways soon about the same problem in Stockland Lovell, he will mention about Over Stowey as well.

A Parishioner has been in touch about the road going from Bincome Green up towards the hills to Crowcombe, on the left hand side as you turn the corner the road has a ditch which is quite dangerous and deep. Clerk will get in touch with Highways about this as soon as possible.

8.PLANNING

Planning Reference:40/13/00028/CG

Proposal: Erection of building to form stables with storage rooms

Location: Plainsfield Court, Plainsfield, Over Stowey, TA5 1HH

Applicant: Mr and Mrs Wyman

No objections.

Planning Reference: 40/14/00002/CJA

Proposal: Conversion of redundant agricultural building to dwelling (amended scheme)

Location: Pepperhill Farm, Over Stowey, Ta5 1HL

Applicant: Mrs I Wayatt

No objections.

Planning Reference: 40/14/00001/CJA

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 40/13/00001 to replace approval drawings with drawing numbers: 1913(A)-PL10, 1913(A)-PL11, 1913(A)-PL12 - PL17, variation of condition 3 to replace approved drawing with drawing number: 1913(A)-PL11, variation of condition 6 to be replaced with drawing now: 1913(A)-PL11 and 1913(A)-PL-12 to enable design changes

Location: Agricultural Building at, Pepperhill Farm, Over Stowey, TA5 1HL

Applicant: Mrs I Wyatt

No objections.

9.CORRESPONDENCE

SDC	Cluster Meeting Agenda 28/01/14
SCC	Fairer Funding for Somerset
SDC	Somerset Compostable Carrier Bags
SCC	Updated Budget spending Plans

10.FINANCIAL MATTERS

Clerks wages	120.48
Photocopies	8.50
Grass Cutting	264.00

TOTAL OF JANUARYS 2014 BILLS 392 pounds and 98 pence

Cllr Bartlett proposed the above bills be paid, seconded by Cllr Cavill.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS DUE TO TAKE PLACE ON 17th FEBRUARY 2014 IN THE VILLAGE HALL.