



OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish council meeting held on the 19th May 2014 in the village hall.

Present: Parish Councillor R Curtis (Chairman)
B Bartlett (Vice Chairman)
M Cavill
D Peaster
P Tully
K Barrow
J Rees

County Councillor J Edney

1. APOLOGIES

District Councillor M Caswell
District Councillor J Pay

2. Approval of Parish Council Minutes 21st April 2014

The minutes for the meeting on 21st April 2014 were approved by Cllr Peaster and seconded by Cllr Bartlett

3. Village Hall Report

Cllr Barrow and Cllr Peaster have attended most of their meetings during the last year and have worked hard in helping the Village Hall & Recreational Committee on a couple of projects that we hope to see finished this year, the purchase of some extra land for car parking adjacent to the recreation field and also the refurbishment of the local play area.

4. Bridle path Update

There were no updates on this, the whole thing is being reconsidered and we will have a revised consultation paper as soon as possible.

5. Recreational Park Update

Clerk had sent the application of for RLT2 funding and has had confirmation that this has been approved and we have been awarded £2946. Clerk has also finished the application form for Viridor Credits and this has been sent off. The next cut off date is 7th July and applicants will know the outcome within 10 working days.

6.Meeting Open to Public Discussion Time

Mrs Rebekah West joined us tonight on behalf of the AONB as the newest ranger, explaining that she has now been with the AONB for about 3 months. Previous to this she worked for Caerphilly County Borough Council as an Apprentice Countryside Ranger in the Countryside Parks. One of her first jobs since joining the AONB team has been the swaling on the Quantocks. This year they have done less than they planned to, but in October they will re-commence.

At the recent JAC meeting, Helen Booker joined them from the RSPB and was pleased to report that the heathland birds are doing really well but there seem to be less sightings of the Whinchat. If any members of the public do happen to see any Whinchat could they please contact Rebekah on 01823 451884 to report the location.

The deer count this year has now been done and the AONB are pleased to say that the count is up 20% from last year. A total of 511 has been recorded this year which is good news.

The Exmoor Pony Herd at Cothelstone Hill are now getting old and unfortunately there was an incident last week with one of the ponies standing away from the rest and generally looking unwell. A vet was called in and it would seem that the pony concerned was 30 years old and had lost her teeth. The most humane outcome was for the pony to be put to sleep. This leaves a remaining 9 ponies.

Up at Cothelstone Hill work will soon start to protect a scheduled monument which is a heritage feature thought by English Heritage to be a medieval pillow mound.

The monument currently has a clump of beech trees growing on it, so work will involve removing these trees over the next 4 years and a replacement clump being planted nearby, away from the heritage assets. These beech trees are not the original Seven Sisters beech trees but the small clump of trees nearby.

Rebekah commented about the amount of fly tipping that seems to be around at the moment, especially tiles from bathrooms and kitchens. This will be monitored and fines will be implemented if caught.

There also seems to be an increase in off roading at Triscombe, especially at Wilmot's Pool. They are in the process of working out what defences to put into place that wont disturb the environment. Perhaps bollards or motion sensor cameras.

Rebekah was very pleased to announce that The Quantock Hills now have a Wildlife Crime Officer, PC Rob Jacobs.

It was also mentioned by one of the Cllrs that now there is a parking meter at Ramscombe there seems to be a lot more sightings of people having BBQs on the open common instead. This is very dangerous and can cause so many risks.

Cllr Curtis thanked Mrs West for joining us.

7.Matters Arising

On-Line Banking

Clerk explained to the Cllrs that we can now have internet banking which would make keeping up to date with the accounts much more easier but would need the approval of the Council to do this. Proposed by Cllr Tully, seconded by Cllrs Barrow, Rees, Peaster, Cavill, Bartlett and Chairman.

8.Any Other Business

County Councillor Edney mentioned that the new roundabout that is being constructed on the A39 Quantock road between Sandford Hill and Danesboro Road is ahead of schedule. They are hoping to be open for the May bank holiday to ease the congestion but then close again. They are hoping to open fully the middle of June.

9.Planning

There was no planning received.

CORRESPONDENCE

SDC	Sedgemoors Achievements for 2013 - 2014
SDC	Annual Council Meeting - Approved Memberships 14
SDC	Executive Agenda - 21st May 2014
SCC	Highways - Environmental Maintenance Information 14

10.Financial Matters

Clerks wages April	120.48
Photocopies	6.00
Telephone Calls	2.50
Ink	19.85
Postage	2.30
Website Fee	25.00
Insurance	273.41

TOTAL OF MAY 2014 BILLS 449 POUNDS 54 PENCE

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

11.Date of Next Meeting

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS DUE TO TAKE PLACE ON 16th JUNE 2014 AT 7.30 IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

OVER STOWEY PARISH AGM

1. Approval of Annual Parish Meeting May 2013

The Clerk reported that the minutes were approved for the Annual Parish meeting of May 2013 at the Parish council meeting on 19th May 2014.

2. Chairman's Report

Chairman's report is attached.

3. District Councillor Report

There were no District Councillors present

4. Election of Chairman

Cllr Bartlett took the Chair and thanked Cllr Curtis for all his hard work over the last year and then proposed Cllr Curtis remain as Chairman, seconded by Cllr's Barrow, Tully, Cavill, Peaster, Rees. Cllr Curtis took the chair.

5. Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Bartlett thanked everyone for all of their support but would like to stand down from Vice Chair this year.

Cllr Bartlett proposed Cllr Barrow take the position, seconded by Cllr's Curtis, Peaster, Cavill, Tully, Rees. Cllr Barrow took Vice Chair.

6. Nominations of Representatives to Over Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Management committee

Proposed by Cllr Curtis, seconded by all councillors present, Cllr Barrow and Cllr Peaster were elected for the above.

7. Adopting Code of Conduct/Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Clerk handed out the forms, Declaration of Acceptance of Office for all Councillors to sign.

8. End of Year Accounts

Clerk handed out a copy of the end of year accounts to all Cllrs.

Chairmans Report May 2014

I would like to start by thanking every Councillor for all their hard work and dedication over the last 12 months. We have achieved a considerable amount this year and hope that the following year is just as positive.

Firstly I would like to thank Keith and Patrick for their hard work on the Cricket Grounds, installing new railings and improving the gateway. It has made a considerable difference to local people and visitors.

This year has proved that with a little thought and care we can prevent flooding from getting out of hand. This year we cleaned culverts at Bincombe and Rooks Bridge which really helped eliminate the flooding we have seen there in recent years. I have received a number of phone calls from Parishioners this year thanking us for all of our efforts.

The telephone box is all ready to have a re paint and that should be completed in the next couple of months.

On-going work that we are assisting the Village Hall & Recreational Committee with that should be completed this year are, the refurbishment of the play are and also the purchase of extra land to improve the parking up at the Cricket Ground.

I feel it has been a positive year for building relationships with the other local Committees and working together more.

Lastly I would like to thank the District Councillors with all their help and support over the last year.

Richard Curtis