

## **OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the Parish council meeting held on the 18th November 2013 in the village hall.

Present: Parish Councillor R Curtis (Chairman)

B Bartlett (Vice Chairman)

P Tully D Peaster K Barrow M Cavill S Morgan

County Councillor J Edney

District Councillor J Pay

District Councillor M Caswell

## 1.APOLOGIES

### 2.MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SESSION

There were no members of the public present so the meeting continued with matters on the agenda.

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

There were no declarations of members interest.

# 4.MINUTES OF OCTOBER MEETING

The minutes of the October meeting were approved by Cllr Tully and seconded by Cllr Barrow.

### **5.New Items for Discussion**

### **Precept**

The clerk reminded the councilors of the increases that had been applied to the precept in the past three years:

2011/12 increased 25% 2012/13 increased 20% 2013/14 increased 17%

It was agreed unanimously to increase the precept by only 5% this year, as the council were not expecting any large expenses in the next 12 months.

### Provision of 20kg Bags of De-Icing Material Pick Up

SDC have been in touch to inform Over Stowey Parish Council that on Saturday 23rd November there will be 20kg bags of de-icing material that can be collected from the Area Highways Office. Cllr Curtis offered to go and pick the bags up.

# Pollarding of Trees in Over Stowey Churchyard

Clerk has received a letter from the Parochial Church Council maintaining that in 1991, the PCC transferred responsibility for maintenance of the churchyard to the Parish Council. Current members of the council had understood this referred to grass cutting which the parish council pays for every year on an ongoing basis. The letter implies that this task also includes maintenance of trees and the churchyard wall and requested that certain works of this nature are carried out in the near future. However the letter also confirms that the PCC paid for this type of work in 2002, thus implying that it was still their responsibility. As taking on these works would commit the parish to considerable expense, the council decided that they would look into the archives and study the minutes from meetings around this time before making any decision. In the interim the clerk will reply to the letter and advise that the council is looking into the matter.

# 6. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

## 7. Any Other Business

Landowners that have been approached by Council members to cut their hedges back have responded well. There are a couple more that still need to be contacted, but it is hoped that they will also comply.

Aley Phone Box update: Cllr Tully has received a quote of £704 to glaze and putty the glass, which was deemed to be too expensive. Instead the existing glass will be retained and the frames repinned. It was decided that some of the Councilors

would meet on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> to jet wash the telephone box and tidy the area. Unfortunately the book exchange idea has fallen by the wayside as no books have been donated. So a use is still being sought for the box to justify its upkeep.

Potholes. Cllr Peaster mentioned there were two bad potholes, one at Aley Farm and one at Aley Lodge. Clerk will get in touch with Highways to see if they are of the required size for repair.

It is with great sadness that Cllr Morgan has handed in her resignation. Cllr Curtis thanked Cllr Morgan for her many years service.

### 8.PLANNING

## Planning Reference: 40/13/00025/LE

Proposal: Change of use, conversion and relocation of former agricultural

buildings and lad to private equestrian use, log store and erection of

domestic workshop/tool shed

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

Applicant: Mr I L Wyatt

Cllr Tully and Cllr Morley will go and inspect the site and report back.

# 9.CORRESPONDENCE

QHJAC Agenda for November Meeting 2013

SDC Guide for Winter Service

AONB Quantock Hills AONB Draft Plan

# 10.FINANCIAL MATTERS

Clerks wages 120.48 Photocopies 8.50

# TOTAL OF NOVEMBER 2013 BILLS 128 pounds and 98 pence

Cllr Peaster 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 DECEMBER 2013** IN THE VILLAGE HALL.