



OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the
16th April 2018 in the Village Hall

*Please note that these minutes are draft until approved
at the May 21st 2018 Meeting*

Present:	Parish Councillor	K. Barrow P. Tully G. Goddard B. Bartlett
	District Councillor	J. Pay
	District/County Councillor	M. Caswell

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor R. Curtis
Councillor M. Cavill
Councillor D. Peaster

2. Members of the Public

Mr. R. Osborne attended the meeting to update the Parish Council on the work undertaken in Stowey Woods.

- Bridgwater and Taunton College/Cannington College forestry department have cut down the trees which will be sold to and cleared by a timber company, with smaller timber being brought as firewood.

This work has been held up due to the adverse weather conditions.

- Once cleared, four hundred and twenty saplings, which have been provided by the Woodland Trust, will start to be planted from autumn 2018.

- Stowey Green Spaces Group, made up of volunteers from both villages undertake litter picking every three weeks. Sedgemoor District Council provide the pickers and bags and then collect them once filled.
- A volunteer group will be clearing the rhododendrons.
- With regards to an asset transfer of Stowey Woods, Somerset County Council are no further with this, however the chairman of the Parish Council is welcome to write a letter to the County Council requesting a transfer.

The volunteer group feel that they have no formal status and are concerned that any support could easily be withdrawn.

Mr. Osborne concluded by thanking the parish council for their time and that all were welcome at Stowey Woods on Wednesday 25th April when the AONB's Quantock Countryside Volunteers will be there.

- Councillor Barrow expressed some reservations about the idea of a transfer of Stowey Woods to the parish council. He suggested that this and the potential implications in the short and long term should be discussed and considered by all members of the parish council and therefore will be included in the agenda for the May 2018 meeting.
- The Clerk will contact the relevant parties to ascertain what might be required if this were to happen.

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

None

4. Minutes of the last meeting – February 19th 2018

Proposed by Councillor G. Goddard
Seconded by Councillor P. Tully

5. Correspondence:

- Invoice for annual Village Hall hire received after agenda published – added to **Financial Matters** to ensure payment settled promptly.

6. Items for Discussion:

- Update on information re. Stowey Woods

See point 2 **Members of the Public**

- Update on trees over-hanging the road at Rocks Bridge:

This will be reviewed at the May meeting to give time for the works to be completed.

- Outstanding highways issues:

Gate post at repaired cattle grid – this has now been completed.

Numerous potholes and poor road surfaces are apparent due in part to the adverse weather conditions this year. The Clerk will report these via the online reporting website.

If anyone would like to report any problems, this can be done by the Clerk or at the following website:

<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-transport/problems-on-the-road/report-a-pothole-or-road-defect/>

- Update on playing fields gates:

The playing field gates are currently being sand blasted and powder coated. Once work is complete, Councillors Barrow and Tully will collect and re-hang them. Councillor Barrow suggested that the cost of this is covered by a donation from the Downing Legacy to complete the work undertaken at the playing fields.

This was agreed by all members present.

Proposed by Councillor Tully
Seconded by Councillor Bartlett

- Defibrillator installation:

The storage cabinet has still not been delivered – as soon as it is the Clerk will obtain the quotes for the installation. The Clerk will contact the supplier for an update on when the cabinet will be dispatched.

- Decision to be made on the most accessible place for where the grit (for adverse weather/road conditions) should be placed for winter 2018/2019:

It was decided that the locations should remain the same and Councillor Barrow can relocate the bags if necessary.

Councillor Goddard suggested that it might be a good idea to locate some of the smaller bags in the telephone box which would be accessible to local households.

This can be arranged when the bags for 2018/2019 become available.

7. Matters Arising for the Agenda for the May 2018 meeting:

- Update on trees over-hanging the road at Rocks Bridge
- Discussion on the potential transfer of Stowey Woods to Over Stowey Parish Council
- Update on General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and actions to be taken
- Annual Governance and Accountability Return to be agreed

8. Planning:

- No applications received this month

9. Financial Matters:

a) Clerks Wages - **£174.09**

b) Ink cartridges (March 2018 to include printing for documents reviewed prior to the Annual Governance and Accountability Return) - **£10.47**

*actual figure was **£7.49** – the figure of £10.47 was taken from the previous meeting*

c) Essential Clerk Training - **£85.00**

d) Village Hall annual - **£176.00**

All expenditure:

Proposed by Councillor Tully
Seconded by Councillor Goddard

10. Date of Next Meetings – Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting
of the Parish Council

Monday 21st May 2018 – 7.30pm

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 G Goddard, Cllr P Tully

County Cllr/District Cllr M Caswell, District Cllr J Pay