



OVER STOWEY ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish council meeting held on the 13th July 2015 in the village hall.

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

Apologies: County Councillor J Edney

All declaration of office forms were signed at 6.50 before the meeting commenced, all Councillor's were present.

1. To elect a chairman

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

2. To receive a statutory declaration of office from chairman

Clerk handed out the form to the elected Chairman for him to sign.

3. To permit any unsigned declarations of office to be signed at a later date

All declarations have been signed.

4. To receive any apologies

County Councillor John Edney sent his apologies.

5. To elect a vice chairman

Cllr Curtis thanked Cllr Barrow for all his hard work and proposed he continue the position of Vice Chair, seconded by Cllr's Bartlett, Peaster, Cavill, Tully, White. Cllr Barrow took Vice Chair.

6. To agree the following representatives for the following groups

- A. Forestry - Councillor Bartlett
- B. B. Planning - Councillor's, Cavill, Tully & Peaster
- C. Village Hall & Recreational Committee - Councillor's, Barrow & Tully
- D. Messenger - Councillor White
- E. Hinkley Point C - Councillor White

7. To adopt the Councils Code of Conduct, standing orders, financial regulations and risk management

All codes have been received, read and understood by all councillors and approved. Clerk also handed out the Members of Registered Interest forms that have to be completed and returned within 28 days of taking office.

8. To receive the Councils financial statement for the year ending 31st March 2015

- A. To approve the annual accounts for the year ending 31st March 2015:
Clerk explained that the end of year total for all 3 accounts were: 11848.15.
Clerk had also received a legacy for a considerable amount. This will be mentioned in the next messenger asking the Parishioners for any ideas on how they wish some of this money to be spent.
- B. To approve the Statement of Control and Annual Audit: Clerk made sure each Councillor received a copy. All Cllrs approved.
- C. To confirm new auditor: Clerk explained that unfortunately due to workload, Maxwells Accountants could no longer do our audits. Clerk approached SALC (Somerset Association of Local Councils) for advice on what to do next. They recommended Richard Young who is the Clerk for a number of local parish councils and audits a lot of councils. He is also Clerk for a number of Parishes. All Cllrs approved.

9. To confirm the summons, notices and other such documentation may be sent to parish councillors by email.

All councillors agreed they were happy to receive all of the above via email.

10. To approve the minutes of the parish council meeting held, Monday 18th April 2015

The April minutes were approved by Cllr Bartlett and seconded by Cllr Cavill.

11. To approve the following items of expenditure

A. Clerks wages: Cllrs Barrow & Peaster approved and seconded.

B. Uncontested election fees: Cllrs White & Tully approved and seconded

C. Grass cutting: Cllrs Cavill & Bartlett approved & seconded

Total of Julys bills: 766.99 + 150 donation = 916.99

12. To receive the following reports, Somerset County Council, Sedgemoor District Council and Chairmans report.

There was no report from Somerset County Council.

Sedgemoor District Councils report:

District Councillor Caswell started the Sedgemoor report off by welcoming back the Councillors and congratulating them, he is very pleased to see the old faces back. There isn't much to report as it does go very quiet when its the elections. The biggest change to come is the Core Strategy will be changing from a 3 band to a 5 band. More information about the Core Strategy can be found on Sedgemoor District Councils website.

District Councillor Julie Pay again welcomed all Councillors back and was happy to see a new addition in Councillor White. She confirmed also that things had been quite over the election period. Committees have now been sorted and who will be on which committee.

District Councillor Caswell mentioned that at the moment there are grants available for Village Halls from Sedgemoor District Council for up to 10,000.00. He passed the information on to Cllr Tully who will take into the next Village Hall & Recreational Committees meeting.

Chairmans report:

Councillor Curtis thanked everyone for their hard work the last year and was very pleased with the work the council has done. Working as a team the Cottage Inn and Bincombe Greens grass and hedges are always kept clear for visibility. We have helped the Village Hall & Recreational Committee to start the application for a new play area at the cricket ground and to obtain a stretch of land to lease from Somerset County Council. This is still ongoing as these things take time. He thanked Woodland Southwest Ltd for all their hard work in keeping the grass in the cemetery and graveyard looking good. A lot of Parishioners have seen the work the Parish Council does and have been very grateful for this in offering their thanks. Councillor Peaster left the meeting at 8.00pm.

13. Matters arising

Members of the Public: Mrs Alison Hoare

Mrs Hoare has joined us tonight, she started off by offering the Council her moral support and to congratulate the Councillors back.

There are discussions in Nether Stowey to start up a Community Car Scheme, helping people that haven't got the transport to get to places for health appointments, shopping or even just to catch up with friends.

There is a booking fee per journey plus 5p per mileage.

It will be set up and run by a steering committee and volunteer drivers. Volunteer drivers will need a valid driving licence and a car with a valid MOT. The drivers do receive a mileage charge per trip to cover the running costs of the car.

Mrs Hoare is hoping that Over Stowey can join up with Nether Stowey to offer the facility to the local parishioners. The next step is to spread the word and for anyone who is interested in volunteering to be a driver or to join the steering committee to get in touch with herself. If you would like any more information then please contact Alison Hoare on: 01823 331222 ahoareva@somersetccc.org.uk

A. Request for donation for Kiln Nether Stowey School

Clerk had been approached by Mrs Oates about the possibility of another donation for the new kiln at Nether Stowey School. The total amount they need is 3529.00 which includes installation. Mrs Oates has done extremely well in managing to secure 2750.00 so far in grants and donations. The local schools PTA has also said they will donate 500.00 so they are 279.00 short. It was agreed that we would donate in total 250.00, we have already given 100.00 so another 150.00 will be donated.

B. Update on Plainfield signage

Clerk had been back in touch with Richard Newby, Area Traffic Engineer to ask if the 250 included the siting of the signs. Clerk had received a reply confirming that the price is inclusive of siting. It was agreed that the Clerk could go ahead and get the signs ordered.

C. Aley farm entrance

It has been brought to the Chairmans attention by a Parishioner that another entrance has been added to Aley Farm. It was agreed that Cllr Tully & Peaster would have a look.

D. Update on obtaining land

Clerk had been in touch with Pardoes for an update and was told that they are awaiting confirmation on who the trustees for the VH & RC are now since their AGM, they are also waiting for the paperwork which includes the agreed plans and specifications for the works.

E. Update on Viridor Application

Clerk had been in touch with the VH & RC and the application had been sent back asking for more letters of support, the Clerk drafted one out on behalf of the Parish Council and the local headmistress of Nether Stowey School also did one amongst a few others. The application was sent back by the deadline and Viridor have their next meeting next week. So we are hoping for more news then.

F. Website

Now the elections are out of the way and we are getting back to normal it has been decided that the Over Stowey Parish Council website should actually be owned and run by the Council and run by the Clerk. Clerk had received a few quotes and it was agreed that the Clerk would accept Quick and Simple hosting and commence the work. Clerk will let the current company know that we wish to cease our contract and would like the current website removed.

Items to go on the agenda for September from this meeting: Website, hedge cutting, tidy up the graveyard, footpath officer.

14. Date of next meeting

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS: 21st SEPTEMBER 2015 7.30pm