



OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish council meeting held on the
21st November 2016 in the Village Hall

*Please note that these minutes are draft until approved
at the 19th December 2016 Meeting*

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor P Tully
Councillor M Cavill
District Councillor J Pay

2. Members of The Public

Mrs. Alison Hoare
Mr. Phillip Rich

- Smart Meter Informal presentation and Q&A session
by Karen Smith Senior Project Worker Household Energy
Services

Further information is available on the website or on the Over
Stowey Parish notice board.

Other points which were discussed were:

- Cost – no upfront cost, however it may be that an additional £6.00 per annum will be added to bills. This may vary from supplier to supplier.
- It is not compulsory, but further on down the line this may cause problems with billing as paper billing becomes less of an option.
- Suppliers are obliged to show how to use the display when fitting the Smart Meter.
- Life expectancy of the Smart Meters is approximately 20 years.
- At present if a household has two tariffs a Smart Meter cannot be used. It will be possible but will be held back at the moment.
- If the mobile phone signal is poor, a booster will be used if either of the two frequencies do not provide coverage. It is estimated that around 3.5% of properties will not have any coverage. This is likely to be in extremely remote areas.
- Smart Meters being hacked – this is always a possibility with technology but as much as possible has been done to prevent this happening.

Mr. Phillip Rich attended the meeting to give the Parish Council an update on the recreation ground:

All paperwork has been signed off – on November 1st 2016.

Quotes are being obtained for the fencing and hedging. One has been received, a second one is due and a third one will be produced after a visit to the ground on Saturday 26th November 2016.

The first quote has come in at £4200.00. This includes stock fencing, the hedging (150m), protection from animals, care of the plants or replacement if they die (for three years).

The committee are hoping to obtain funding from the Greater Quantock Development Fund. Potentially this will cover the cost of all the plants and possibly some of the fencing. If successful, the funds may be granted in December 2016, but more likely January 2017.

At the next Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee meeting, the plans will be reviewed with a timetable being put in place for the works to be completed.

The completion of the play area has been delayed due to the pirate ship not yet being installed. This will be reviewed on Saturday 26th November and other options on how the pirate ship could be constructed will be discussed. The current situation is that the person who will be doing this is doing it voluntarily and has other work commitments.

Councillor Barrow suggested in the interest of fairness, as the materials had been donated, would it not be more prudent to pay for the labour to ensure the job is completed in a timely manner and to a high standard. The person who has volunteered has already made a pirate ship (again voluntarily) for another play area and it was noted that the end result *is* to a high standard.

A further update following the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee meeting will be given at the next Parish Council meeting.

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

None

4. Minutes of the Meeting September 19th 2016

Proposed by Councillor Barrow
Seconded by Councillor White

5. Correspondence:

- Winter Service 2016/2017:

Councillor Curtis will collect the grit on December 3rd 2016 as per the e-mail received.

- Cemetery and Graveyard Survey – the on-line survey could not be accessed by the Clerk but led to a discussion about the graveyard needing to be re-tarmacked. Councillor Barrow will provide a price at the December meeting.
- Precept Request 2017/2018:

The clerk produced figures for the parish council which shows how much is in reserve and this will help form the level of precept required for 2017/2018.

The Clerk has recommended that the precept is not increased and this will be discussed at the December 2016 meeting.

With regard to the reserves, Councillor Curtis asked the members to consider areas of capital expenditure that will benefit the village and to bring their ideas to the December meeting.

It was also suggested that the members meet at the graveyard to review what maintenance is required.

Another area to consider is the refurbishment of the village hall kitchen and the clerk will e-mail the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee to communicate this with a view to it being included on the agenda for their next meeting.

- Email received from Quick and Simple with an invoice attached to pay for website revamp - add to finance if agreed by the members.

Proposed by Councillor Bartlett
Seconded by Councillor White

6. Items for Discussion

- Footpaths –

Councillor Cavill was unable to attend the meeting so this item will be deferred to the December meeting. Councillor Barrow communicated that the gates between his land and the adjacent property have both been fitted. Only one is a kissing gate and when the other one is used, it is not always shut properly and sheep are able to get through. Councillor Barrow will contact the Public Rights of Way department with regard to this.

Councillor Curtis attended the launch of Stowey Walking and commented on how well it is operating and should help to bring walkers to the local area.

- Village Hall lighting –

Councillor Curtis demonstrated a small led light in the car park and after a discussion about how best to power the lights, it was decided that a meeting should be set up with Western Power to look at the options available.

District Councillor explained how an electricity source can be accessed without affecting anyone else's supply.

Councillor White stated that he felt strongly that no residents should be inconvenienced in any way and all members in attendance agreed with this.

The Clerk will arrange a meeting with Western Power.

- Forestry meeting re mountain bikes due on 27th October 2016 –

Councillor Bartlett attended the meeting and noted that the feedback seemed more positive and events were being advertised and highlighted with advance notice which is helping all users of the Quantocks.

- Information from Councillor White re. the Stanley family contact details if available:

Councillor White has spoken to John Stanley who explained the memorial was erected to commemorate Robert Stanley who was killed in the Boer War. Mr. J. Stanley was only too happy to agree to the memorial being re-pointed.

All members agreed that the works can go ahead.

- Members to review the cemetery path with a view to re-tarmacking:

See above in correspondence.

- Plaque for the cemetery gates to be discussed as agreed when funds were granted from the Downing Legacy –

To be discussed at the December meeting with the suggestions for the capital expenditure.

Another area to consider would be the replacement of the bench put up in memory of Mr. Cornelius (Corny) Cook. It is rotting and becoming unsafe. Councillor Curtis recommended sourcing a weatherproof maintenance free bench. Councillor Curtis will talk to Mrs. Cook in regard to this idea.

The Clerk will research alternative benches.

- Consider the possibility of a defibrillator for Over Stowey –

A discussion was had as to whether the purchase of a defibrillator would be a good use of funds particularly with fully trained co-responders in Nether Stowey who have the ability to be available within a short period of time in the event of an emergency.

It was also commented that as the parish is widespread, accessing a defibrillator quickly may not be possible.

Alison Hoare suggested that a better use of funds may be to train people within the parish in CPR as it may be more effective having people trained to administer first aid/CPR until further help arrives.

She also explained how Nether Stowey had recently held CPR training and the Clerk will contact Nether Stowey Parish Council for feedback on how much it cost and how well attended it was.

This will be discussed further at the December meeting.

7. Matters Arising for the Agenda for 19th December 2016 meeting

Precept to be agreed.

Suggestions for possible capital expenditure projects to be discussed.

Feedback from the Clerk on CPR training in Nether Stowey

Update on meeting with Western Power re. lighting in the car park.

Update on sourcing of memorial bench to replace the existing wooden one.

Update on the re-pointing of the Stanley memorial in the graveyard.

8. Planning

Application – 40/16/00008

The plans were reviewed by Councillors Bartlett and White and it was confirmed that there were no objections to the application.

9. Financial Matters:

A. Clerks Wages - £146.98

Proposed by Councillor Bartlett
Seconded by Councillor White

B. Transparency grant payment to Clerk for work undertaken November 2016 - £30.00

Proposed by Councillor White
Proposed by Councillor Bartlett

- C. External auditor's fees (Grant Thornton) for completing the annual audit 2015/2016 - **£270.00**
- Proposed by Councillor Bartlett
Seconded by Councillor White
- D. Citizens Advice Bureau donation as agreed at the October 17th meeting 2016- **£50.00**
- E. Printer – purchased from the Transparency Grant **£84.99**
- Proposed by Councillor White
Seconded by Councillor Bartlett
- F. Invoice received from website host Quick and Simple (see correspondence) **£100.00**

Date of Next Meeting - Monday 19th December 2016.

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 J White, Cllr P Tully, County Cllr J Edney, District Cllr M Caswell, District Cllr J Pay