



OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the
20th November 2017 in the Village Hall

*Please note that these minutes are draft until approved
at the December 18th 2017 Meeting*

Present:	Parish Councillor	R. Curtis P. Tully D. Peaster M. Cavill B. Bartlett G. Goddard (co-opted on during the meeting)
	District Councillor	J. Pay

1. Apologies for Absence

District/County Councillor M. Caswell
Councillor K. Barrow

2. Members of the Public

Mrs. A. Hoare attended the meeting and brought the following to the attention of the Parish Council:

Mrs. Hoare had received a phone call from a parishioner about a tree which is leaning over the road and impacting on a telephone pole and the wires in the process.

The location is on the road to Taunton between the Gatehouse and Plainsfield. The Clerk will contact the Highways department to find out who is responsible for rectifying this.

Another issue that was highlighted was with reference to the response times of the ambulance service and what first response service is actually available in the local area.

This followed an incident recently when a parishioner collapsed in church. An emergency call was made and the response time appeared to be excessive.

The Clerk will contact various parties/agencies with regard to this to ascertain what service there is locally.

This discussion led onto the need for a defibrillator – possibly two – with one being located in the church entrance porch and the other at the playing fields.

The Clerk will research the options and costs relating to defibrillators and training. There may be grants available - the Clerk will contact District/County Councillor Caswell and the Clerk to Fiddington Parish Council as District Councillor Pay communicated that they have been looking at the same issue.

3. Co-opting of new Councillor:

Mrs. Goddard introduced herself to those present at the meeting and stated:

“As you know, I am Gloria Goddard and I have lived in the village for 18 years. I have also worked in the village for 15 years.

I am happy to serve the village and would like to be able to help preserve the community within it”

Nomination of Mrs. G Goddard:

Proposed by Councillor P. Tully

Seconded by Councillor D. Peaster

Vote:

The vote was undertaken by a show of hands and was unanimous. Mrs. Goddard was duly elected on to Over Stowey Parish Council.

Mrs. Goddard completed and signed the declaration and acceptance of office, which was witnessed by the Clerk.

The Clerk will forward the Register of Interest form for Councillor Goddard to complete as required following election onto the Parish Council.

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

None

5. Minutes of the Meeting - October 16th 2017:

Proposed by Councillor M. Cavill
Seconded by Councillor B. Bartlett

6. Correspondence:

Cluster Meeting Tuesday 28th November 2017 at Chilton Trinity Village Hall:

Councillors Curtis and Bartlett will attend.

Christmas Tree disposal schemes:

There is nothing in the parish at the moment. The Clerk will contact the Village Agent to see if anyone would like to undertake this within the local area.

Free bulbs to be collected:

The Clerk has collected the bulbs and will deliver them to Councillor Curtis to be distributed/planted around the parish.

Salt bag collection day:

Councillor Curtis will collect on Saturday 25th November.

Request for information via survey from Reading University student re: Hinkley Point

Please contact the Clerk for the link if you are interested.

7. Items for Discussion:

Clerk's hours review – increase of hours from 10 per month to 12.25 to cover a greater workload. This includes increased communications with relevant parties, the transparency code requirements, monthly Messenger updates and other additional duties as required:

Proposed by Councillor D. Peaster
Seconded by Councillor P. Tully

Financial report:

The Clerk circulated the most recent financial update which confirmed that the Downing Legacy donations are taking place and other funds have also been allocated to local initiatives:

- The amount of £5000 is ear-marked for the church meeting room refurbishment
- The amount of £8000 is ear-marked for the village hall kitchen refurbishment. A grant from Sedgemoor District Council has also been awarded towards the project – the amount is still to be confirmed.
- The amount of £3000 is ear-marked for the refurbishment of the village hall toilets.

There is still approximately £10,000 available from the Downing Legacy for which additional projects will be considered by the Parish Council, with the possibility of opening up to the local area for their suggestions.

For further details, the accounts are available on the Parish Council website in line with the transparency code.

The Clerk also recommended that the precept remains the same with no increase for the 2018/2019 financial year.

This will be discussed at the December 2017 meeting.

Start time of monthly meeting to be 7.00pm from December 2017 – March 2018 and from then on to be in line with BST and GMT:

Proposed by Councillor D. Peaster
Seconded by Councillor G. Goddard

Representative from Highways to attend TBC:

As no-one was able to attend from the Highways department, Councillors Curtis and Bartlett will address the concerns about the ongoing disruption from roadworks at the Cluster Meeting on November 28th 2017.

Update on planning application 40/17/00013 – District/County Councillor Caswell:

District/County Councillor Caswell was unable to attend the meeting, but District Councillor J Pay communicated that she has followed this up.

Councillor Curtis to confirm Clerk not eligible for pension provision – letter to be signed for the Clerk:

Actioned by Councillor Curtis.

8. Matters Arising for the Agenda for November 2017 meeting:

- Councillor Bartlett expressed concerns about the wall that holds the stream back opposite the Campbell Rooms in Over Stowey.

The wall is regularly hit, knocked and scraped by large vehicles which need to use that road.

Councillor Bartlett's main concern is that the wall will become unstable and potentially collapse.

The Clerk will contact the Highways department and request a site visit to review the stability of the wall.

- Setting of precept for 2018/2019.

9. Planning:

Application Number: 40/17/00014 - there were no objections to the application from any of the members present.

10. Financial Matters:

- a) Clerks Wages - **£174.09 (confirmed following agreement of increase to working hours. See item 7 - Clerks hours review)**

Proposed by Councillor P. Tully
Seconded by Councillor B. Bartlett

11. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 18th December 2017

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 P Tully, Cllr G Goddard

County/District Cllr M Caswell, District Cllr J Pay