



OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the
17th December 2018 in the Village Hall

*Please note that these minutes are draft until approved at the
21st January 2019 meeting*

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

1. Apologies for Absence:

Councillor M. Cavill

2. Members of the Public:

One member of the public was in attendance to address any concerns raised about planning application 40/18/00015 (item 8 – planning):

A surveyor from Carter Jonas – the agent for the development - talked through the proposals and gave the councillors the updated plans to review.

Councillor Peaster questioned whether the access with increased visibility may actually encourage drivers to drive faster, but did not have any objections to the application overall.

Highways have no concerns over the access and the new access point with better visibility might make it safer.

With regards to a query about how the development will be marketed, it was stated that it will be put on the open market.

After further discussion about the access, although concerns were raised, it was considered that overall there are no objections to the application.

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

None declared

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

Proposed by Councillor Peaster
Seconded by Councillor Goddard

5. Correspondence:

- E-mail re Digital Mapping – the Clerk communicated the information that had been received and will investigate further to see if this is beneficial to parish councils.
- E-mail re rock salt purchase and supply – the Clerk had received emails stating that the process for ordering and collecting is yet to be determined.

The Clerk had been researching alternative suppliers and after reviewing the information and cost implications, all members present agreed that it would be prudent to order to ensure rock salt is available in the event of adverse weather conditions. The Clerk will order the supply and arrange delivery.

- E-mail from Zurich re data security – the Clerk communicated that there had been a security breach of various Zurich email accounts. However, after running security scans, it was ascertained that there were no signs of any breaches within the parish councils' emails.
- Donation request from Citizens Advice Bureau – all members agreed that a donation of £100 should be made

Proposed – Councillor Barrow
Seconded – Councillor Tully

- Donation request from Mendip Community Transport – all members agreed that a donation of £100 should be made. It was also suggested that contact should be made with EDF transport department to ascertain whether Over Stowey could be included on the free bus route once or twice a week. The Clerk will investigate this further.

Proposed – Councillor Barrow
Seconded – Councillor Tully

6. Items for Discussion

- Cluster meeting feedback –
Councillor Curtis reported that as the numbers attending the meeting were lower than normal, the content mainly referred to the transport issues in Bridgwater.

Other items were deferred to the next meeting.

County/District Councillor Caswell reiterated a previous offer of sponsoring two cluster meetings a year for the old Quantock cluster. This would enable issues relevant to more rural parishes to be discussed and acted upon.

Councillor Curtis suggested that Over Stowey could host one and invite the Quantock parishes. County Councillor Caswell stated that he would contact John Vassalli with a view to hosting the first one at Stockland Bristol.

- Feedback from Planning Seminar –

The Clerk communicated the information from the meeting with regard to:

- on-line planning applications and how to respond effectively – ensuring that the correct material planning considerations are taken into account and comments remain within these realms
- the impact on workload with regards to parish clerks producing the content for planning applications and being able to communicate these effectively prior to and during the meetings (purchasing an A3 printer for paper copies or a projector to display the plans at the monthly meetings are options)
- the Sedgemoor local plan and housing needs for the next twenty years

County Councillor Caswell expanded on the Sedgemoor Local Plan and explained that the area is planning to build an average of 754 new homes per year over the next twenty years to ensure enough housing stock is available to satisfy the demand.

- Update on condition of leat wall
Concern still remains as to what happens if the leat wall collapses and floods the area and who would be responsible.

Councillor Bartlett will visit the Forestry Commission to discuss this issue. Councillor Bartlett expressed disappointment in the response from EuroForest. The Clerk will word a letter communicating this and request further clarification on how this matter can be resolved.

- Parish Paths Consultation

The Clerk will ascertain what is required and work with those with in-depth knowledge of the paths to ensure the consultation is completed and returned before the deadline.

- Proposed drainage works in Aley– decision on timing

The Clerk communicated the information received from Lawrence Hackling regarding when would be the best time to undertake the works.

Councillors Peaster, Goddard and Curtis would be happy to have a meeting with the Highways Department to discuss this. The Clerk will contact Lawrence Hackling to arrange this.

Proposed by Councillor Bartlett
Seconded by Councillor Barrow

With regards to the issue of water running down the road in the same area - as discussed at the November meeting – this has now been resolved.

- Review new cemetery area plan –

This was reviewed and agreed by all members present.

- Update on signage issues –

The Clerk has still not received any information regarding when any work will take place and will continue to chase this.

- Information on mobile speed devices –

The Clerk had received the information regarding process and procedures for obtaining a mobile speed device and after reviewing the costings and regulations, it was decided by all members present at the meeting that the work and cost involved could not be justified. Therefore, this will not be pursued at this time.

- Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committees fund raising Bingo Night –

Councillor Barrow reported that the event had been very well organised, was very professional with good prizes and although he did not have an exact figure to report, had made approximately £800.00

Additional funds were raised by auctioning off the remaining prizes at the end of the evening.

7. Matters Arising for the Agenda for the January 2019 meeting:

- It has been reported that a tree from someone's property has come down on the bridle-path adjacent.

The Clerk will contact the homeowner to see if the tree has been removed.

- Councillor Tully will look into the possibility of obtaining a projector so that planning applications can be viewed on a larger scale at the monthly meetings.
- Councillor Bartlett had been asked by a parishioner if the Neighbourhood Watch scheme was still active in the area and if so, new signs need to go up. The Clerk will find out if it is running and who might be involved.
- A query with regard to the new car park at Crowcombe Gate was raised about whether Over Stowey Parish Council will receive a planning application in respect of this. The Clerk will contact Bill Jenman the Landscape Partnership Development Officer for the Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme.
- It has been reported that once again in the local area, a streaker has been seen. If anyone does see anything within the parish which they consider indecent or inappropriate, please report it to the police and inform the Parish Council.
- For various reasons the workload is increasing and to ensure all tasks are completed as required, the Clerk has asked for Parish Council members to consider a request for an increase in the number of hours that are paid. Councillor Tully asked that the Clerk record actual hours worked with tasks completed and present this at the January 2019 meeting.

- The Clerk has applied for another clerk role at a parish within the West Somerset area. The Clerk explained that they consider this will be mutually beneficial for both parishes and can be run alongside each other. The only issue is that both parish meetings are currently on the same day each month. It is anticipated that this can be resolved. The Clerk will update the Parish Council on this at the January 2019 meeting.
- Following the discussion about increased housing stock and also about planning applications, a discussion was had about how to keep the parish thriving in the future. It was suggested by County Councillor Caswell that a housing needs survey could be undertaken to assess if affordable housing would be beneficial to the area to encourage local young people to remain in the area.

The Clerk will contact Duncan Harvey at Sedgemoor District Council for further information.

- Following a discussion about the memorial bench which is still to be repaired, Councillors Curtis and Tully will undertake this work to ensure it is completed.

8. Planning:

- Application No - 40/18/00013 (amendments) –

All members present agreed that there are no objections to the amended planning application.

The Parish Council's previous view that the development will not be detrimental to the area and has the potential to enhance it, still stands.

- Application No - 40/18/00015 – see above under item 2 Members of the Public
- Application No – 40/18/00016 and 40/18/00017 –

All members present agreed that they have no objections to the proposals.

9. Financial Matters

- a) Review and agree precept for 2019/2020 –

The Clerk presented the budget for 2019/2020 and recommended no increase to the precept – all members present agreed

- b) Clerks Wages - **£174.09**

Proposed by Councillor Barrow
Seconded by Councillor Tully

- c) HP Connected Ink Cartridges (Sept/Oct/Nov) - **£10.47**

Proposed by Councillor Barrow
Seconded by Councillor Tully

- d) Grass cutting – church/graveyard/cemetery - **£1038.00**

Councillor Barrow requested that the Clerk ask for a quarterly bill to ensure the contractor is paid more regularly throughout the year

Proposed by Councillor Tully
Seconded by Councillor Bartlett

- e) Church Bell repair (Downing Legacy as documented in the minutes from the April 2017 meeting – a maximum of £300 was agreed) – all members present agreed that the invoiced amount of **£342.00** will be paid

Proposed by Councillor Bartlett
Seconded by Councillor Goddard

- f) Memorial plaques (as communicated in the Downing Legacy decision letters in March 2016) – **amount confirmed by Councillor Curtis £11.47**

Proposed by Councillor Bartlett
Proposed by Councillor Goddard

- g) **CAB - £100**

As agreed under item 5 Correspondence

- h) **MCT - £100**

As agreed under item 5 Correspondence

10. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 21st January at 7.00pm

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