

OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the
15th July 2019 in the Village Hall

*Please note that these minutes are draft until approved at the
18th September 2019 meeting*

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

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Cavill

2. Members of the Public:

Five members of the public were in attendance – see item 6
(Neighbourhood Watch Scheme)

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

Cllr Barrow declared an interest in item no. 8

4. Minutes of the last meeting – June 17th 2019

Proposed: Cllr Bartlett **Seconded:** Cllr Goddard

5. Correspondence:

There were no items of correspondence

6. Items for Discussion:

- **Formation of Neighbourhood Watch Scheme by Over Stowey Parishioners**

A member of the community has been looking into the above as the previous scheme has not been active and the co-ordinator is looking to hand on the role. Having contacted Cllr Peaster, the Clerk and the local

police, they are happy to take this on. After liaising with the police, a flyer with a covering letter will be delivered to the households in the parish to ascertain the level of interest and support.

This is required from the residents to move the scheme forward. If this support is apparent, a start up meeting will be arranged to discuss what will happen and what the community can do.

Would require volunteers to help deliver the leaflets.

The Parish Council agreed that they are happy to; print the leaflets if required and cover the cost of this and to publicise meetings and the scheme on the notice board and website.

Further information and contact details will be available after the start up meeting.

- **Roadside verge cutting**

It is considered by the Parish Council that as the parish is further down on the schedule of works, that by the time this work is undertaken the visibility on the local roads is very poor and therefore dangerous.

It was asked by Cllr Peaster if the Parish Council are allocated the budget for the work, would they be able to undertake this?

Cllr Caswell recommended contacting the relevant department at County Hall to offer this as a service. The Clerk will follow this up.

- **Planning Seminars July 18th or July 30th from 6.00pm – 9.00pm**

Cllrs Barrow and Tully will attend the July 30th meeting.

- **Road closure notices**

The Clerk had received an email with the guidance contractors need to follow with regards to notices, which has been circulated. The main advice is that if the signs appear to be misleading or are causing confusion, contact the relevant agency who are undertaking the work. This should be clear on the signage, however if not, please contact the Clerk for the details.

- **Update on 30mph speed limit for Hack Lane**

Awaiting information from the Highways Department as to the recording of traffic and speeds along this stretch of road

- **Update from Lawrence Hackling following site visit**

With regards to the leat wall, it is considered by the County Council that they will not pursue unless costs have been incurred and the evidence of damage is overwhelming. It is quite probable that the repairs will involve the reconstruction of the wall/bank from foundation level and to undertake the work may involve accommodation works therefore very costly. Whilst the wall/bank is still performing, the County Council will not intervene unless there is evidence of potential collapse.

Over Stowey Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation and update the County Council as and when necessary.

- **Feedback regarding levelling of the cemetery grounds**
Two quotes have been received and the third is expected for the September meeting.
- **Feedback from Rural Housing**
Providing desperately needed Affordable Homes in our rural communities is very important to Sedgemoor District Council. The Housing Development team works with many rural Parish and Town Councils, to bring forward the homes that their Parishioners need.
To support this, the Housing Development team are currently working on updating the Affordable Housing Toolkit, designed to help rural communities lead the way on housing developments in their area. This tool kit will give an overview of a Staged approach that the Parish/Town Council can follow to provide affordable homes for their village.
The toolkit will include the following information and more:
 - What is Affordable Housing
 - Types of Affordable Housing
 - Rural Planning Policies
 - Identifying Housing Need
 - Local Lettings Plans
 - The Development Process
- **Why is Housing so important to Rural Communities?**
Rural communities are facing a number of housing related problems, such as rural house prices rising and a lack of affordable housing provision in the past. Both of these factors are being made worse due to the average salary for work in rural areas being lower than that of more urban areas. Housing provision plays a number of key roles in maintaining a sustainable rural community. Without provision of genuinely affordable homes in rural areas, there is a risk that younger generations will be priced out of the village they have grown up in. This can lead to them having to live at home for prolonged amounts of time or causing them to move to a more affordable area, away from their support networks. When the younger generations are unable to stay in their rural community; it can put facilities in the area at risk. Whether that be the school not having enough local students to remain sustainable or the demand for shops and pubs falling, putting these facilities at risk.

The Clerk will contact the relevant department to follow this up once the tool kit is available.

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

- Cllr Curtis announced that after due consideration he has decided to stand down as the Chairman. The first item on the September agenda will be with regards to nominating and voting a new Chairman in.
- Concerns regarding traffic volume and speed along the stretch of road from the Cottage Inn to March Mills crossroads

