

OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the
16th October 2019 in the Village Hall

*Please note that these minutes are draft until approved at the
20th November 2019 meeting*

Present: Parish Councillor K. Barrow
R. Curtis
G. Goddard
D. Peaster
(left at 8.15pm)
M. Cavill

County/District Councillor M. Caswell

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Tully
Cllr Bartlett
District Cllr Pay

2. Members of the Public:

No members of the public were in attendance

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

None declared

4. Minutes of the last meeting – September 18th 2019

Proposed: Cllr Goddard **Seconded:** Cllr Peaster

5. Correspondence:

- Concerns reported regarding increase in large vehicles working overnight
 - The Parish Council have not had any additional reports regarding this issue, but will monitor the situation. It was suggested that if the parishioner has reason to believe that there is a breach of the planning conditions, that they contact the planning enforcement team at Sedgemoor District Council. The Clerk will contact them with this information

- Information Commissioners Office (ICO) – new guidance on Data Protection
 - There are new guidelines regarding the use of personal mobile devices and tablets – the Clerk will develop a set of protocols in conjunction with SALC
- Update on grant application for projector
 - The Clerk was pleased to report that the application had been successful and would purchase the items as soon as the funds had cleared
- Email received from the Church Warden re the meeting room project
 - This had been received prior to the meeting and stated that:

I am pleased to report that the Chancellor has approved the works in Over Stowey church and has issued his formal permission. I have provided the specification for the servery to two local companies (Grandfields and Fullers of Weston) for prices and timescales to complete the woodwork

6. Items for Discussion:

- Feedback from the Joint Sedgemoor Parishes Cluster meeting

This included the following

- Commercial update – Sedgemoor District Council have produced a projection for the next five years with a forecast of a £1.2m shortfall. This is being addressed in various ways, one of which is commercial ventures. These are assessed for risk versus return and so far, three acquisitions have been made - two retail sites and one petrol filling station. Further investments will be made when appropriate sites/businesses are considered suitable
- Budget Consultation - was taking place with the survey to the general public (closed on October 18th 2019). This will form part of how the Council Tax rate will be set for 2020/2021

- Somerset Waste Partnership presentation – the Managing Director talked about the Recycle More initiative and progress being made. The scheme will be rolled out from June 2020, starting in Mendip. The other areas will follow with completion of the roll-out due in February 2022. Further information can be found at <https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/mendip-start-for-recycle-more-expanded-collections-2/>

 - Highways Update – the department is looking to be more proactive with regards to routine maintenance in the future. Budget cuts have meant this was not possible in recent times, however the idea behind this is to become more cost effective. Greater enforcement will also be taking place with possible court action if contractors do not fulfill their obligations when working on the highway. With regards to verges – there is a balance between safety and maintaining the natural environment to be considered and there will be no reduction in services. Verges will be cut to policy levels and landowners will be responsible for maintaining their boundaries. If there are reports of hedges obstructing the highway, in the first instance, the Parish Council will contact the landowner. If no work is undertaken, the enforcement team will take further action. The Highways department's view is that as the roads are becoming more and more busy, more action is required by all involved.
- **Feedback regarding hedge/verge cutting**
See Highways Update above

 - **Update on signage and road markings at Marsh Mills cross-roads**
No work has taken place as yet – the work is weather dependent; however, the Clerk will contact the Highways Department to confirm if there is a date for this work to commence

 - **Update regarding requests for speed limits within the parish**
No response has been received – the Clerk will contact the Highways Department to follow this up

 - **Progress on re-levelling of Over Stowey Cemetery**
Cllr Bartlett has offered the topsoil and Cllr Peaster will be helping with this. When the soil is available, the contractor will contact Cllr Barrow to arrange for the appropriate machinery to be available. It is recommended that signs are produced to inform the public of the work being undertaken. The Clerk will produce these when informed of the date that work will start.

- **Feedback regarding area opposite The Cottage Inn – to increase visibility at the road junction**

The landowner has confirmed that they are happy for the work to take place. They would like to agree the design and materials and would like assurance that the land will not be adopted by other parties or agencies. The Clerk will contact local fencing contractors to see if they would be willing to quote on the work once details have been confirmed. It was asked if there are any grants available for this work. Cllr Caswell recommended that the Clerk contact him and he will forward an application form to be completed as soon as possible.

- **Consider quotes received for the refurbishment of the tennis court and RLT3 application**

The quotes were reviewed and the information will be passed onto the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee for consideration

- **Councillor Training opportunities**

The planning seminars held by Sedgemoor District Council will take place in November. Cllrs Tully and Barrow will attend the first session and Cllr Goddard and the Clerk will attend the second. The Clerk will forward the SALC training onto Cllr Barrow regarding training for the Chairman role

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

Cllr Barrow requested that the Parish Council members make a note of any hedging that is obstructing the highway to bring to the November 2019 meeting for review

8. Planning:

- 40/19//00003 Crowcombe Gate Car Park

There were no objections to the proposals

Proposed: Cllr Curtis **Seconded:** Cllr Goddard

Agreed unanimously by all members present

- 40/19/00004 2 Cockercombe Road

As the proposed materials appear to be more in keeping with the local area there were no objections

Proposed: Cllr Goddard **Seconded:** Cllr Cavill

Agreed unanimously by all members present

- 40/19/00005 13 Hack Lane

There were no objections to the proposals

Proposed: Cllr Cavill **Seconded:** Cllr Curtis
Agreed unanimously by all members present

- 40/19/00006 Quarry Breach

There were no objections to the proposals, however it was considered that a site visit might be appropriate (tbc by Cllrs Tully and Peaster)

Proposed: Cllr Curtis **Seconded:** Cllr Goddard
Agreed unanimously by all members present

9. Financial Matters:

a. Financial Update – the Clerk circulated the up to date income and expenditure information, which can be found on the Parish Council’s website

b. Clerks Wages **£237.34**

Proposed: Cllr Curtis **Seconded:** Cllr Goddard

c. Neighbourhood Watch signs as agreed at September 18th 2019 meeting **£ 49.35**

10. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 20th November 2019 at 7.00pm at Over Stowey Village Hall

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