

OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the
18th December 2019 in the Village Hall

*Please note that these minutes are draft until approved at the
15th January 2020 meeting*

Present: Parish Councillor K. Barrow
R. Curtis
P. Tully
B. Bartlett
M. Cavill
G. Goddard

County/District Councillor M. Caswell

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr D. Peaster
District Cllr J. 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 – November 18th 2019

Proposed: Cllr Cavill **Seconded:** Cllr Tully

5. Correspondence:

- Email from Highway Service Manager re verge maintenance

The Clerk had received an email from the above detailing the following:

‘Somerset County Council will shortly be issuing all Parish Councils with an information pack which will detail our ‘Parish Works’ initiative. In short, this will be an opportunity for Parish Councils to consider the procurement of additional highway services through

Somerset County Council, which would be delivered through our existing highway maintenance contract’

There are no further details at the moment, however once the pack is issued, Over Stowey Parish Council will consider the options available to the parish very carefully.

6. Items for Discussion:

- Feedback on responses to letters to landowners regarding hedges that need cutting back
 - There has been no response to any of the letters to landowners and to date no work on cutting back the hedgerows has taken place. This will be reviewed again at the January 2020 meeting
- Update on signage at Marsh Mills crossroads
 - The white lines have been re-painted, the issue with the STOP sign is still ongoing and the Clerk will follow this up in January 2020
- Update regarding requests for speed limits within the parish
 - This is also ongoing and will be followed up in January 2020
- Progress made regarding area opposite The Cottage Inn – to increase visibility at the road junction
 - The grant application has been passed on to the relevant committee by Cllr Caswell and the Parish Council are awaiting the decision on whether any funds will be granted
 - Once this is decided and a budget agreed, the Parish Council will liaise with the landowner to agree the new boundary line and the materials to be used. Quotes will then be gained for consideration
- Feedback from Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee re quotes for refurbishment of tennis courts
 - The committee have agreed that a grant application should be made. The Clerk will contact the Treasurer and arrange to meet to start the application

- Review and adopt updated Financial Regulations
 - The main amendments were with regard to dates of the new regulations and updated figures. These were reviewed by the Parish Council and agreement to adopt was made by all members present.

Proposed: Cllr Curtis

Seconded: Cllr Goddard

- Follow up re clearing the ditch at Adscombe
 - As there are various drainage and flooding issues within the parish, it was agreed that the Clerk contact the Highways department to arrange a site visit to discuss these. The Clerk will arrange this for January 2020
- Feedback from meeting/planning seminar
 - The Clerk attended the Sedgemoor South West Cluster Group which included the following:
 - A short update from PCSO Jason Wyatt on non-dwelling burglaries and also parking issues within various parishes. It was recommended that if a Parish Council has a problem with parking within its locality that they contact their local County Councillor who may be able to assist
 - Climate Change and Bridgwater Tidal Barrier presentations.

Climate Change Drop-In events will be held on Saturdays, between 10am and 4pm at the following venues:

18 January, Somerset West and Taunton. The Glassbox, Taunton Library, Paul Street, TA1 3XZ.

8 February, Sedgemoor District Council. The Sedgemoor Room, Bridgwater House, King Square, Bridgwater, TA6 3AR.

15 February, Mendip District Council. The Council Chamber, Mendip District Council Offices, Cannards Grave Road, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BT.

22 February, South Somerset District Council. Vicarage Street Methodist Church, Vicarage Street, Yeovil, BA20 1JB

Bridgwater Tidal Barrier – see the website
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bridgwater-tidal-barrier-progress>
or contact the Clerk for further information

- Future meetings will include; Somerset Waste Partnership update on Recycle More, Nether Stowey Parish Council – wild flower planting for verges and roadsides and an update from Anna Meares (Climate Emergency Graduate Support) on work and projects being undertaken in villages and small communities
- Cllr Caswell also communicated that during a full council meeting, a grant pot of £5000 has been made available for the planting of trees. If there are any areas within the parish that can facilitate this, a grant application can be made and will be considered
- Cllrs Barrow, Tully and Goddard and the Clerk attended the planning seminar. The main issues were on; Self Build and Infill, Trees and Hedgerows, the Historic Environment and Planning Enforcement. The session was very interesting and informative and has given all attendees a greater depth of knowledge with regards to planning applications

7. Matters Arising for the Agenda for the January 2020 meeting:

- For information only – Cllr Bartlett had attended the recent Forestry Commission meeting. Various issues including mountain bike events were discussed
- Hack Lane hedging issues
- Drains at Bincombe are blocked and therefore water is running down the road (the Clerk will include this with the request for a site visit from the Highways department). The Clerk will also forward the online reporting website to all councillors should they wish to report a road defect prior to a monthly meeting
- SALC training – request from the Clerk to attend the ‘Effectively Managing your Council’s Documents’

8. Planning:

- There were no planning applications to review

9. Financial Matters:

a. Budget for 2020/2021 – to agree and set precept for 2020/2021

The budget which had been reviewed at the November 2019 meeting was agreed by all members present and based on this, it was also agreed that the precept be set at the same level as last year £7649.00. Although there is no increase in the total figure, due to a slight reduction in the tax base, it does mean an increase in the precept from £45.64 to £46.45 for a band D property. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the Clerk.

Proposed: Cllr Tully

Seconded: Cllr Curtis

b. Clerks Wages £237.34

c. Clerks expenses – travel to SALC VAT training £ 9.95

d. HP Connected ink subscription £ 10.47

Proposed: Cllr Bartlett **Seconded:** Cllr Curtis

e. Donation to Citizens Advice £100.00
(agreed November 2019 meeting)

f. Donation to Age UK Somerset £100.00
(agreed November 2019 meeting)

g. SALC – VAT Training (split with Old Cleeve PC) £ 30.00

Proposed: Cllr Bartlett **Seconded:** Cllr Curtis

10. Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 15th January 2020 at 7.00pm at Over Stowey Village Hall

Amanda McMurren

Clerk to Over Stowey Parish Council

To: Members of the Parish Council Cllr K Barrow, Cllr R Curtis, Cllr B Bartlett, Cllr D Peaster, Cllr M Cavill, Cllr G Goddard, Cllr P Tully

County Cllr/District Cllr M Caswell, District Cllr J Pay