

**OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the  
15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 in the Village Hall

*Please note that these minutes are draft until approved at the  
19<sup>th</sup> February 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 – December 18<sup>th</sup> 2019**

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

**5. Correspondence:**

- Hack Lane hedging/trees  
This issue has been resolved and the item is now closed
- Tree and Woodland Grant information  
The Clerk stated that this was now open for applications and if anyone was interested, they should email the Clerk for further information

- Email re ‘Working Together for the Future of Somerset’  
Information had been received regarding the future of the county and district councils in Somerset. There are various ideas on how this might work and research is being undertaken on what options could be consulted on.

Cllr Caswell communicated that although this was originally discussed ten years ago, there is now new thinking on how the councils work in the future.

Possible options include:

- Do nothing – this has been discounted
- Working together as separate county and district councils – this is already the case and many are in favour of doing this more closely. Examples of where this is already working is with highways and waste and recycling
- Have a unitary council and no district councils– cost savings sound good, but what would the cost be of setting this up?

It is agreed by the county as a whole that something has to change to avoid duplication and save costs. It is anticipated that the process and consultation could take between three and five years.

## **6. Items for Discussion:**

- Confirm arrangements for payment of the Downing Legacy donation for the Church community room

Due to an existing law from 1894, the funds from the Downing Legacy cannot be paid directly to the church and have to be paid through the ‘Friends of Over Stowey Church’

The Clerk has contacted SALC for advice and the above has been confirmed by them.

The church warden was in attendance and understood that this is the position and will contact the Clerk when the invoice is received with the name of who the cheque should be made out to. Work is currently in progress for the units and installation should take place in February 2020.

- Feedback on responses to letters to landowners regarding hedges that need cutting back

There have been no responses to date and this issue will be addressed at the February 2020 meeting as any work outstanding will need to be undertaken before the nesting season begins (March 1<sup>st</sup>)

- Condition of road towards Marsh Mills crossroads following cutting back of the hedging

Cllrs Barrow, Bartlett and Curtis attended a site meeting with the Highways department and discussed the above. Highways are liable for clearing the road and have stated that this will take place in the new financial year. However, Highways require the property owners to cut their boundary further – 4.5m straight up so there is no overhang. It was requested that Cllr Peaster contact the owners to inform them of this – the Clerk will communicate this to Cllr Peaster

- Update on signage at Marsh Mills crossroads

This has been actioned and this item can now be closed

- Update regarding requests for speed limits within the parish

This is still outstanding and will be put on hold until further information is forthcoming

- Progress made regarding area opposite The Cottage Inn – to increase visibility at the road junction

Awaiting response from the relevant District Council committee regarding the grant application

- Feedback from the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee re quotes for refurbishment of tennis courts

The Clerk will meet with the Treasurer before the end of January 2020 to start the grant applications

- Review and adopt Standing Orders

There are no amendments to these and it was agreed that they could be adopted for this year

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

- Follow up re site meeting with Highways department

At the site meeting Cllrs Barrow, Bartlett and Curtis attended and discussed what actions can be taken to clear ditches and drains. The Highways department stated that if on private land the landowner is responsible for maintaining any water courses within their boundary. Another issue is financial constraints and when looking at

undertaking any work, there are rules and regulations (including health and safety) that must be followed which all have cost implications. Cllr Curtis communicated that following the site meeting, drain jetting had taken place in the parish. It was asked if the Clerk could pass on the Parish Council's thanks for doing the work - this had already been communicated.

- Buckingham Palace Garden Party – nominations (for retired Chairs only) to attend

It was agreed by all members present that Cllr Curtis, if agreeable, be nominated. Cllr Curtis confirmed that he was happy to be nominated and that he is available if successful.

- Consider request from the Clerk to attend the 'Effectively Managing Your Council's Documents' seminar from SALC

The Clerk considers that this will be beneficial and will aid in the effective management of all tasks involved in the administrative tasks involved in the running of the Parish Council and. The costs can also be split with Old Cleeve Parish Council

**Proposed:** Cllr Tully

**Seconded:** Cllr Curtis

## **7. Matters Arising for the Agenda for the February 2020 meeting:**

- Hedge cutting

## **8. Planning:**

- 40/19/00009 – Bincombe Farm, Bincombe Road, Over Stowey, Bridgwater, TA5 1EZ

A site visit had already taken place which was attended by four members of the Parish Council.

It was considered by all members present at the monthly meeting, that there are no objections to the proposals and that the new access would be beneficial to the site.

**Proposed:** Cllr Tully

**Seconded:** Cllr Goddard

## **9. Financial Matters:**

### **a. VAT claim for projector and screen**

There is no VAT reclaimable, however as agreed at the December 2019 meeting, there will be no charges for using the equipment and although a

Parish Council asset, is available to the community through the Village Hall. The equipment will be stored at the Village Hall (storage space to be agreed) and the committee will need to ensure this is added on to their insurance policy.

- b. Clerks Wages** **£237.34**  
**Proposed:** Cllr Tully **Seconded:** Cllr Curtis
- c. Projector (£300.00) and screen (£89.99)** **£389.99**  
**Proposed:** Cllr Curtis **Seconded:** Cllr Goddard

**10. Date of Next Meeting** – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 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