

OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 15th July 2020
at the Village Hall (with strict guidelines in place regarding COVID-19)

*Please note that these minutes are draft until approved at the
September 16th 2020 meeting*

Present: Parish Councillor K. Barrow
R. Curtis
P. Tully
B. Bartlett
D. Peaster (from 7.35pm)

District Councillor J. Pay
District/County Councillor M. Caswell

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr M. Cavill, Cllr G Goddard

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. Confirmation of current Vice-Chair stepping down and to receive nominations to elect a new Vice-Chair

Cllr Curtis confirmed that he would like to step down from the role and nominations were requested.

Cllr Curtis proposed that if Cllr Tully was willing, he would like to propose Cllr Tully. Cllr Tully confirmed that he would be willing to take on the role.

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

5. Minutes of the last meeting – June 2020

Proposed: Cllr Peaster **Seconded:** Cllr Tully

6. Correspondence:

- JAC Meeting - Tuesday 21st July 2020 at 2.15pm
 - Cllr Caswell stated that he will be attending the online meeting

7. Items for Discussion:

- Feedback for SALC re Local Government Reorganisation
 - Cllr Caswell updated the Parish Council with the following:
It is thought that at the Somerset County Council full council meeting on the 29th July 2020, that the Leader will formally seek a resolution to dissolve The County Council in May 2021, then form a 'shadow' Council for a year and have an Election to the 'New' County Election in 2022. A business case will then be submitted to the Minister after that date

The Leaders of Sedgemoor, Somerset West and Taunton, Mendip and South Somerset District Councils will submit their proposals for the future of local government on Monday 24th July 2020

Further information should be available at the September 2020 meeting

- It was considered that as all the options are still unknown, that any feedback will be forthcoming once any consultations are undertaken
- Review viability of re-grading the uneven surface at Bincombe Green to improve the visibility and safety for all road users
 - Cllr Caswell recommended making an application for a Small Improvement Scheme grant and recommended providing a drawing of the area and also how the Parish Council anticipate the area to look after the proposed works
 - Cllr Bartlett raised concerns regarding any wild flowers that might be affected. Cllr Barrow suggested topping the section that would be re-graded to keep and then re-scatter to ensure no loss of flora and fauna
 - It was agreed that before any decisions are made, to cost the work and discuss further at the September meeting
 - Cllrs Peaster, Bartlett and Tully will contact relevant contractors

- Restart review of the area opposite the Cottage Inn regarding improving the visibility at the junction
 - Awaiting costings to check the viability of doing the work
- Website Accessibility Requirements
 - The Clerk has contacted the website administrator and is awaiting their response. In the meantime, basic checks are being undertaken to ensure that the action plan and accessibility statement are in place for September 23rd 2020. The Clerk requested that if any costs are incurred up to £250.00 prior to the next meeting, could authorisation be given to meet any necessary costs. This was agreed by all members present

Proposed: Cllr Bartlett

Seconded: Cllr Curtis

- Consider letter from SLCC re the need for support to secure the financial viability of Town and Parish Councils
 - Cllr Caswell was of the view that Parish Councils should be supporting this communication
 - It was agreed that the Clerk will forward a letter of support to the relevant parties

Proposed: Cllr Tully

Seconded: Cllr Peaster

- Consider a response to the Walking and Cycling Manifesto for Somerset
 - It was agreed that although the initiative has merit, there was little that Over Stowey Parish Council could undertake to meet any of the proposals due to the rural nature of the area. Therefore, no response would be submitted
- Request from the Clerk to consider allowing the Homeworking Allowance to be paid during the month of August
 - The Clerk requested this as although there is no meeting during August, administrative tasks are still undertaken and communications made by phone or email throughout the month
 - It was agreed by all members present that the Homeworking Allowance could be paid year-round to include August

Proposed: Cllr Curtis

Seconded: Cllr Tully

- Consider response to new Code of Conduct consultation (Parish Council response or individual)
 - It was agreed that the Clerk with the comments received from members should word the response to the consultation

Proposed: Cllr Curtis **Seconded:** Cllr Tully

- Consider motion to allow for the re-instatement of Delegated Responsibility in the event of a further lockdown, whether on a local or national basis
 - It was considered that due to the uncertainty during these exceptional times, that it would be prudent to have this in place to ensure business continuity

Proposed: Cllr Peaster **Seconded:** Cllr Bartlett

- Confirm extension of six-month rule for individual councillors if required (agreed at the June 2020 meeting)
 - It was agreed that the six-month rule could be extended for up to twelve months for Cllr Cavill

8. Matters Arising for the Agenda for the September 2020 meeting:

- Dog bins – confirmation of when they will be installed
- Local Plan – review and discuss if any updates are necessary as the existing plan was produced in 2006

9. Planning:

- **40/20/00008** - Erection of a two-storey extension to the side (West) elevation and erection of a second storey to the side (East) elevation. Erection of a porch to front (North) and side (East) elevations.
White Horse Farm, Over Stowey, Bridgwater, TA5 1HG
 - It was agreed by all members present after reviewing the amendments that there are no objections in principle to the proposals, but the Parish Council would like to draw attention to the planning department the Over Stowey Design Statement 2006 to ensure that this is followed when the application is considered

Proposed: Cllr Peaster **Seconded:** Cllr Tully

10. Financial Matters:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| a. Clerks Wages | £245.34 |
| b. Clerks additional hours plus Homeworking Allowance for August (as agreed under item 7) | £113.38 |
| c. SALC/NALC annual affiliation fee | £102.68 |

Proposed: Cllr Tully

Seconded: Cllr Curtis

a. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 16th September 2020 at 7.30pm at Over Stowey Village Hall
(subject to Government guidelines and restrictions in place at the time)

Amanda McMurren
Clerk to Over Stowey Parish Council

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

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