



## OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

### **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held online via the Zoom platform on the Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 Please note that these minutes are draft until approved at the May 19<sup>th</sup> 2021 meeting**

Present: Parish Councillor

K. Barrow  
P. Tully  
G. Goddard (from 8.07pm)  
D. Peaster  
R. Curtis  
B. Bartlett  
T. Weeks

District Councillor

J. Pay

**1. Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr Caswell

**2. Members of the Public:**

There were two members of the public in attendance

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

None declared

**4. Minutes of the last meeting:** March 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 – held on the Zoom platform

**Proposed:** Cllr Peaster    **Seconded:** Cllr Weeks

**5. Correspondence:**

A request had been received by the Clerk to ascertain if the Parish Council would be prepared to sell the phone box at Aley to a private individual

- Cllr Barrow explained that the phone box had been purchased by Somerset County Council in the late seventies/early eighties and was subsequently bought by the Parish Council for £1
- Cllr Barrow asked how the Parish Council members feel about this and the response was mixed
- Issues raised include:
  - Is it a liability cost wise to keep it as previous repairs were expensive?
  - If it were to be sold, is there any tax implication to the Parish Council?
  - If it is agreed that it is to be sold, the going rate would have to be researched to ensure a reasonable charge made
  - How would other residents of the parish feel about the request?

- If it was agreed that it should stay, could better use be made of it?

It was proposed that initially the residents of the locality where the phone box is situated should be asked their opinion and that research is undertaken to ascertain what price phone boxes are sold for generally

**Proposed:** Cllr Peaster      **Seconded:** Cllr Weeks

## 6. Items for Discussion:

- i. **Consider how meetings will be held after March 7<sup>th</sup> 2021 re in-person meetings/delegated responsibility and the**

[Governments 'Call for Evidence' re the future of remote meetings](#)

The Clerk confirmed that if the 'roadmap' out of lockdown continues to proceed as expected, the May 19<sup>th</sup> 2021 meeting can be held at Over Stowey Village Hall. Weather permitting it will be held outside, otherwise it can be held indoors with all health and safety precautions regarding Covid-19 in place. The Clerk will ensure the checklist and risk assessment is reviewed and updated if necessary.

The Clerk will also forward the questions from the 'Call for Evidence' to all councillors to complete. The responses will be collated by the Clerk before the next meeting, when a full Parish Council response can be agreed for the Clerk to submit

- ii. **Consider email from the Chairman of Nether Stowey Parish Council re the formation of a 'cluster group' in anticipation of the Unitary Authority outcome**

It was agreed unanimously that Over Stowey Parish Council endorse the idea of a cluster group to address the issues that will arise following the outcome of the Unitary Authority bids. The Clerk will contact Nether Stowey Parish Council with the response

- iii. **Feedback from tree inspection at the cemetery**

This will now take place in May and feedback will be given at the May meeting.

- iv. **Update re self-closing bridleway gates**

Cllr Curtis had visited the locations with the Public Rights of Way officer. When riders went through and demonstrated how the gate was working, the gate stayed open as the handles to move the latch are not through the top eyelet and the gate is too tight, which means there is not enough room to manoeuvre. The post needs to be moved to make it easier to open and to avoid reins getting caught. It was agreed that the contractor will make the necessary adjustments.

This matter is now closed.

- v. **Update re Marsh Mills crossroads road markings**

The road markings have been re-painted.

This matter is now closed.

**vi. GDPR considerations re email addresses – Cllr Weeks**

Cllr Weeks explained that her roles include being a Clerk for another parish, running her own business and undertaking internal audits for Town and Parish Councils in addition to her new role as a Parish Councillor. A number of issues had been highlighted in recent audits for other councils, one of them being that a council should use an official email address for contact to ensure compliance with the Practitioners Guide and GDPR. The Clerk will send out the relevant information prior to the May meeting, where this issue will be discussed further.

**vii. Consider information from Nether Stowey Parish Council re A39 speed limit**

With regards to the development at the Cricketer, there will be changes to the speed limit on the A39. It has been suggested that the 40mph limit continues from Keenthorne to the traffic lights at the junction for Nether Stowey and Stogursey Lane to avoid any confusion with changes from 40mph, to 60mph and then back to 40mph. Nether Stowey Parish Council had requested a response from Over Stowey Parish Council to this. It was proposed that the Parish Council support this.

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

**viii. Consider feedback from residents re speeding and reckless driving within the parish**

Concerns have been growing about the above over the last few years and this is something that the Parish Council have addressed with Highways on a number of occasions, sadly with little success.

A local group have met informally and a representative of the group was in attendance at the meeting. The suggestion from this group is to look at ways to ensure all drivers consider the dangers in rural areas such as; blind bends, tractors, commercial vehicles, walkers, cyclists and horse-riders. This could include signage sited at local businesses to inform people of the hazards, appropriate road signs and road markings. Unclassified roads have a speed limit of 60mph, which is not suitable for the rural lanes, however this does dictate what can and can't be done.

It was proposed that the Clerk should contact the Highways Department again with the approach of what actually can be done, rather than highlighting the issue and being told what can't be done due to legislation and criteria. Details on any response from the Highways Department will be communicated at the May meeting. Additionally, the Clerk will contact the local PCSO for advice on what is available regarding driver education.

**Proposed:** Cllr Weeks      **Seconded:** Cllr Tully

**7. Matters Arising for the Agenda for the May 19th 2021 meeting:**

- Cllr Bartlett had been approached about the regulations regarding rocks and other items being placed on private property that is adjacent to the highway. The Clerk will seek clarification on this for the May 2021 meeting

## 8. Planning:

- i. 40/21/00003 – withdrawn (awaiting revised application)

Proposal: Erection of a field shelter for horses

Location: 1 Quantock Lane, Over Stowey, Bridgwater, TA5 1HB

- ii. 40/21/00004

Proposal: Erection of a detached chalet bungalow with garage

Location: Knightsmead, Hockpitt Lane, Over Stowey, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 1EX

- A number of local residents have been in contact with their Clerk with serious concerns about the proposed development
- Cllr Peaster proposed that a site visit should take place to discuss the issues raised
- One of the residents had requested that if a site meeting were to take place, that they would like to be present. The Clerk had informed them that due to the pandemic, it would be appropriate to keep the numbers of attendees to a minimum
- It was proposed that three councillors attend and two members of the public as representatives for the residents
- It was also proposed that the observations from the meeting are passed to the Clerk as the agreed response from the Parish Council

**Proposed:** Cllr Bartlett

**Seconded:** Cllr Goddard

*Resolved unanimously*

- iii. 45/20/00022 Consulted as a neighbouring parish)

Proposal: Erection of a holiday lodge and formation of turning and parking area

Location: Land At, Tuxwell Farm, Tuxwell Lane, Spaxton, Bridgwater, Somerset

- It was agreed that there are no observations to make regarding this application and it was proposed that this should be the response from the Parish Council

**Proposed:** Cllr Goddard

**Seconded:** Cllr Curtis

## 9. Financial Matters:

- a. Review Clerks arrangements for frequency and method of payment

- Cllr Weeks had reviewed with the Clerk how annual leave was being calculated and explained that; as the roll up pay was no longer allowed the Clerk should be paid over 12 months and the annual leave allowance is now higher due to the length of service
- It was proposed that due to the increase in the holiday Allowance (as per the Local Government Services' Pay Agreement 2020-21), as the work still needs to be undertaken, a slight increase from 4 hours to 4 ¼ hours in the hours worked per week would be appropriate

- It was also proposed that the hours are reviewed in six months' time
- The payments can also be set up as a Standing Order once the new online bank account is open and can be agreed on an annual basis for the Clerk to action each month

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

b. Agree Direct Debit for annual Water2Business payment

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

The Clerk will arrange this once the new online bank account is open

c. Payments

i.	Clerks Wages (based on new arrangements)	239.12
ii.	Water2Business	82.42
iii.	Village Hall hire 20/21	100.00
iv.	Expenses	
	<b>HMRC 20/21</b>	
	<b>Zoom subs Mar/Apr 2021</b>	<u>28.78</u>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£450.32</b>

The Clerk confirmed that the HMRC payment of £0.60 had been made to ensure no penalty was incurred, however had then omitted to include it in the above. This will be reimbursed at the next meeting.

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

**10. Date of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May – Annual Meeting of the Parish Council at 7.30pm at Over Stowey Village Hall (subject to change should Government guidance be amended)

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 21.10pm

Amanda McMurren - Clerk to Over Stowey Parish Council

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