



OVER STOWEY ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council
held on May 19th 2021 in Over Stowey Village Hall
(Held outside to aid maximum protection re Covid-19.**

Necessary cleaning tasks were undertaken by the Clerk and all protocols were followed)

Please note that these minutes are draft until approved at the June 16th 2021 meeting

Present:	Parish Councillor	K Barrow (Chairman) P Tully R Curtis B Bartlett D Peaster (left at 8.25pm) T Weeks
	District Councillor	J Pay (left at 8.25pm)
	Distict and County Councillor	M Caswell (left at 8.25pm)

1. Election of Chairman and Chairman's Acceptance of Office:

Cllr Barrow requested nominations for the role. Cllr Curtis **nominated** Cllr Barrow and this was **seconded** by Cllr Tully. There being no other nominations and no objections, Cllr Barrow was duly elected as the Chairman. Cllr Barrow wished for it to be noted that he was happy to take on the role for the next 12 months, but will consider whether he will stand again at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Cllr Barrow signed the Acceptance of Office at the end of the meeting to ensure the health and safety of all.

2. Election of Vice Chairman and Vice Chairman's Acceptance of Office

Cllr Barrow requested nominations for the role. Cllr Curtis **nominated** Cllr Tully and this was **seconded** by Cllr Bartlett. There being no other nominations and no objections, Cllr Tully was duly elected as the Vice-Chairman.

Cllr Tully signed the Acceptance of Office at the end of the meeting to ensure the health and safety of all.

3. To receive any apologies for non-attendance

Cllr Goddard

4. To agree representatives for the following groups:

- a. Forestry – Cllr Bartlett
- b. Planning – Cllrs Tully and Peaster
- c. Village Hall & Recreational Committee – Cllrs Bartlett and Tully
- d. Footpaths and Bridleways – Cllr Weeks (supported by all Parish Council members)
- e. Finance and personnel – Cllr Weeks

5. Declarations of Members Interests in Respect of Items on the Agenda

There were none declared

6. Minutes of the last meeting – April 28th 2021

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

7. Correspondence:

- a. A local resident has emailed regarding the signage at Quantock Lane as delivery drivers do not realise the lane is split. Cllr Caswell gave the Clerk a contact at Sedgemoor District Council Sedgemoor who is responsible for signage. The Clerk will follow this up and report back at the June 2021 meeting.
- b. Correspondence has been received from members of the public by the Parish Council regarding planning application 40/21/00004. Following a site visit held on Thursday 29th April 2021, the Parish Council submitted the following to Sedgemoor District Council:

'The above planning application has been reviewed by Over Stowey Parish Council and it is considered that accessibility would be a major issue with any development at this site. This would contravene aspects of the Local Plan, in particular policy CO2.

Therefore, the Parish Council are unable to support this application'

The application is now being reviewed by the planning department at Sedgemoor District Council (as the sanctioning body) and will be going to the planning committee, but at this point, no date has been set.

- c. An email has been received from SALC about training available online. Cllr Weeks wishes to attend the 'Councillor Essentials' session. The Clerk will book this.

8. Items for Discussion:

- a. **Phone box at Aley** – following a request from a member of the public who used to live in Over Stowey as to whether they could purchase the phone box, members of the Parish Council obtained feedback from residents of the parish. It was overwhelmingly agreed by residents that people would like the phone box to stay. It was suggested that it is cleaned up and used for a particular purpose as it is a focal point in the area. Cllr Weeks will ask for ideas from the community via social media and local groups and feedback at the June 2021 meeting. The Clerk will inform the original contact that it has been agreed that the phone box will stay in situ.
- b. **Feedback from tree inspection at the cemetery** – the Clerk had met with a local tree surgeon for a full inspection of the cemetery. Most trees within the cemetery are stable and healthy, however the sycamore is of concern. It was stated that: 'It has become a large and imposing tree for the available space. It's multi-stemmed nature (from historical cutting) means that it spreads in all directions and over time

the stems will out compete each other with the smaller ones failing and potentially falling into the surrounding cemetery areas. There are a number of old headstones near the tree. In time the tree will continue to grow and the work will become more involved with larger pieces of timber to be removed near to the old headstones' It was recommended that this tree should be removed.

It was proposed that three quotes are obtained for the work required.

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

The Clerk will follow this up.

With regards to the work required at the cemetery to re-level the ground, due to access issues Cllr Barrow had been in contact with the agreed contractor to look at how this work can now take place. Amendments may need to be made with the use of additional machinery. The contractor is looking at the original quote and this may change in price. Once this has been actioned, it will be made available to the Parish Council for consideration, with a view to the work taking place after the summer.

Another issue is with regards to the view from the cemetery where the hedging on the neighbouring land has grown up obstructing the view of the Quantock Hills and needs to be maintained. This will be looked at a later date.

On another note, with regards to grounds maintenance in the parish, Cllr Barrow commented on the daffodils that had been planted by Cllr Goddard in the area around the Campbell Rooms and wished to extend his thanks to Cllr Goddard on behalf of the Parish Council in making the area look so lovely during the spring season.

c. Consider information re Parish Council email address

Cllr Weeks stated that to keep councillors covered under GDPR, a separate email address is recommended that can be published on the website and also that the Parish Council email address should have the gov.uk domain gov.uk domain to look more professional.

A number of councillors do not wish to have another email address and also would not wish for this to be made public and that any queries should be directed to the Clerk. The Clerk ensures that when forwarding any correspondence, this is on a need-to-know basis only and any contact details are removed prior to sending to ensure no breaches of GDPR. The Clerk will look into a new contact email for the Parish Council under the gov.uk domain.

d. Feedback from Highways re request for what can be undertaken to improve road safety within the parish

The Highways Department at Somerset County Council had been in contact to say they were looking at the request and will respond soon. The Clerk will feed this back at the June 2021 meeting.



e. Clarification on regulations re items being placed on verges and/or edge of property boundary, adjacent to the highway

The Clerk had contacted Cllr Caswell with various scenarios regarding rocks being placed on a verge/private boundary which is adjacent to the highway. Cllr Caswell stated that he does know of a situation where someone has been sued due to damage made to a vehicle in such circumstances, although he did not know what the outcome of the case was. One location has been noted by a number of local residents and brought to the attention of the Parish Council.

It was proposed that a letter is sent to the homeowner regarding this issue.

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

9. Matters Arising for the Agenda for June 2021 meeting:

- a. Following on from the discussion about the cemetery, the Clerk had noted when there, that the porch woodwork needs attention as do the gates. Cllr Barrow requested that when in the area that everyone has a look at the cemetery and brings any issues to the next meeting for consideration.
- b. Cllr Weeks has noticed that there are drainage issues from Friarn to Rectory Wood. The Clerk requested that Cllr Weeks send details of the exact location, so this can be reported and if possible, could Cllr Weeks also forward some photos.
- c. Cllr Weeks also asked what can be done about the many ash trees in Friarn and Adscombe that have ash die back. The Clerk will contact the AONB and Quantock Hills Joint Advisory Committee for information. Cllr Caswell wished for it to be noted that any work on ash trees, *must* be undertaken by fully qualified professionals.

10. Planning: - See item 7. Correspondence

11. Financial Matters:

a. Financial report for 2020/2021			
b. Clerks Wages			239.12
c. Expenses	HMRC	£0.60	
	MS365	<u>£9.48</u>	
			<u>10.08</u>
TOTAL			£249.20

Proposed: Cllr Weeks **Seconded:** Cllr Curtis

12. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 16th June 2021 at 7.00pm

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm

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