

OVER STOWEY
PARISH COUNCIL

OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 16th June 2021

**Please note that these minutes are draft until approved
at the July 21st 2021 meeting**

Present: Parish Councillor

K. Barrow
P. Tully
D. Peaster
T Weeks

District/County Councillor
District Councillor

M.Caswell
J. Pay

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllrs Goddard, Bartlett and Curtis

2. Members of the Public:

There were no members of the public in attendance

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

None declared

4. Minutes of the meeting held on May 19th 2021

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

5. Correspondence:

An email had been received inviting each Parish Council to put forward an Environment Champion for the Sedgemoor Environment Champion Scheme. This will be deferred to the July 2021 meeting.

6. Items for Discussion:

a. Feedback from Cllr Weeks re suggestions from members of the public as to how the phone box could be used

- Following a request for suggestions, Cllr Weeks had received 16 responses, with 9 being from Aley. Ideas included; book swap, seed and plant swap, a seating area, an honesty stall and a wind phone
- The majority were in favour of the book swap and also the seed and plant swap ideas
- A number of people have already volunteered to take on the tasks of keeping the phone box clean, tidy and up to date, once the scheme is up and running

- In the first instance it was suggested that Cllr Peaster meet with a local carpenter to decide on the best way to shelf the phone box to enable books and seeds/plants to be displayed effectively

A proposal was then made that the phone box is used for book swaps and plant/seed swaps and Cllr Peaster will arrange a meeting as stated above.

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

Resolved unanimously

b. Update on quotes received re the sycamore tree at the cemetery

The Clerk has received one quote, another one is being produced and the Clerk will be meeting with another contractor for the third quote to be arranged. A further update will be made at the July 2021 meeting, with a view to making a decision on which contractor will undertake the work.

c. Consider change of the Parish Council domain/email address to '.gov.uk'

The Clerk has been researching the process and communicated this to the members. This is something that is recommended now but may become a requirement in the future. There is a cost implication which is currently £80 for two years when the new email address is set up and then a renewal fee every two years after that of £40. It was proposed that as this is likely to be necessary in the near future that the new email address is set up as soon as is reasonably possible.

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

Resolved unanimously

d. Feedback from the Highways Department re road safety within the parish

The response from the Highways Department at Somerset County Council regarding road safety and speed limits within the parish came back with the same text as before regarding criteria and traffic policy at Somerset County Council. It was proposed that the Clerk go back to the Highways Department to request; a change in policy for the parish (which would be a long-term project and this would be the starting point), a site visit to establish what additional signage and road markings can be implemented and a speed check set up on the road from Halsey Cross to the first gate on the left for information on average speeds. An update will be given at the July 2021 meeting.

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

Resolved unanimously

e. Feedback from local resident and the Highways Department re the regulations on rocks/boulders/bollards placed or erected on verges or within the curtilage of a property which is adjacent to the highway

- A response was received from a resident of Over Stowey regarding the above and it was suggested that a visit to them to discuss the options available would be appropriate
- The main concerns are that if a vehicle were to hit anything that have been placed on the boundary of a property and damage is incurred, would the homeowner be

liable? The Parish Council are looking into possible solutions to prevent any issues in the future, throughout the parish

- The Highways Department had replied and there are various regulations relating to this depending on what is required. Planning permission is required on certain installations. This can be investigated further if necessary
- Cllr Tully proposed that if the Parish Council agreed, he would visit the parishioner as stated above to look at what solutions might be suitable

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

Resolved unanimously

f. Feedback from Cllr Weeks following the ‘Councillor Essential Training’ from June 10th 2021

The training did not take place as there had been some technical issues from the training provider and the session has been rescheduled for June 23rd 2021.

Feedback will be given at the July 2021 meeting.

g. Response from the AONB and the Quantock Hills Joint Advisory Committee re issue of ash die back throughout Friarn and Adcombe

The following had been received regarding the above:

It is the landowners or the Highways Department at Somerset County Council responsibility to remove any trees that are considered a danger to the highway

This not only applies to ash, but any tree and if anyone notices a tree which could cause problems, this can be reported at [Report a Problem With a Tree By The Road](#) or to the Parish Council. If any reports are made independently, the Parish Council should also be informed. Cllr Peaster suggested that this is included in the next submission for the Messenger, to raise awareness of this issue.

The Clerk will action this.

h. Agree response to the ‘Call for Evidence’ for remote meetings

The majority of the Parish Council agree that although face-to-face meetings are the preferred option, remote meetings served a purpose, worked well and that the option of being able to hold them if deemed necessary for a particular reason should be made available. Accessibility issues were discussed and it was agreed that, if possible, hybrid meetings would make meetings much more accessible. The Government will review all the evidence submitted once the consultation closes and will make a decision in due course. The responses were agreed and it was proposed that the Clerk submit these.

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

i. Update on the drainage issue at Friarn

Cllr Weeks confirmed the location and the issues that arise whenever it rains. Water comes up and over the road and as the drainage ditch is full and the gullies and drains blocked, water cascades down the road. During the winter, if cold enough, this also freezes. The Clerk will report the drains and gullies online and contact the relevant department regarding the damaged pipes.

7. Matters Arising for the Agenda for the March 2021 meeting:

- Contact to be made with AirBand with a view to a representative attending the July 2021 meeting to discuss when the area can expect to receive an improved Broadband service
- Cllr Peaster requested that if the Clerk is contacting the Highways Department that the issue of the broken pipes at the drain in Aley is followed up again as they have still not been repaired
- Cllr Barrow requested that all councillors visit the cemetery if they haven't already to review what work they feel needs to be undertaken there to improve the area. Issues identified so far include hedging, the woodwork of the porch and also of the gate
- Confirmation of date for the work to re-level the cemetery to take place
- Review of planning application 40/21/00006
- Signage for Quantock Lane

8. Planning:

a. Planning application number: 40/21/00005

Proposal: Retrospective application for the change of use of the land from agricultural to mixed agricultural and equestrian and erection of a field shelter for horses

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

Having been reviewed by all members present and with knowledge of the site and previous history, it was agreed that there are no objections and a proposal was made that the application be supported by the Parish Council

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

b. Update on current applications

Planning application 40/21/00004 is under consideration and it is expected that the application will go to the planning committee at Sedgemoor District Council. This is still to be confirmed.

9. Financial Matters:

a. Agree Certificate of Exemption re Annual Return

The Clerk confirmed the income and expenditure amounts for 2020/2021, which had also been agreed by the internal auditor

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

The Clerk will submit this to the External Auditor

b. To receive and approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return - Section 1 The Annual Governance

The Clerk read through the statements with explanations as to how each statement had been achieved and that these had been confirmed by the internal auditor

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

c. To receive and approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return - Section 2 The Accounting Statements

The document was circulated to all members present and had been agreed by the internal auditor

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

The Clerk will publish all the necessary documentation on the website within the timescales required

d. Payments

i. Clerks Wages			239.12
ii. Expenses:			
	Cemetery exp (planting)	66.93	
	MS365 (May 2021)	9.48	
	HP Ink Mar/Apr/May 21	<u>10.47</u>	
			86.88
iii. Insurance - annual renewal			335.64
iv. Garden waste collection (cemetery)			<u>75.00</u>
			£736.64

TOTAL

Proposed: Cllr Peaster

Seconded: Cllr Weeks

10. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 21st July 2021 at 7.00pm at Over Stowey Village Hall

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 8.30pm

Amanda McMurren - Clerk to Over Stowey Parish Council

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