

OVER STOWEY
PARISH COUNCIL

OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on July 21st 2021

**Please note that these minutes are draft until approved
at the September 2021 meeting**

Present: Parish Councillor

R. Curtis
D. Peaster (until 8.30pm)
T. Weeks
B. Bartlett
G. Goddard

District Councillor

J. Pay (until 7.45pm)

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Barrow, Cllr Tully and County/District Cllr Caswell

As both the Chairman and Vice-Chair were absent, a chairman needed to be appointed for the meeting to take place.

Cllr Peaster **proposed** that Cllr Curtis chair the meeting – this was **seconded** by Cllr Goddard.

There were no objections and Cllr Curtis took the Chair

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:

Cllr Peaster re item 6.b.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on June 16th 2021

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

5. Correspondence:

The Clerk had received an email regarding the free trees available to Town and Parish Councils. This can be agreed at the September 2021 meeting.

6. Items for Discussion:

a. Update on work undertaken on the phone box (Cllr Peaster)

Cllr Peaster has cut back the trees and cleared the foliage, generally tidied up the area and washed the phone box inside and out. Cllr Peaster has also spoken to a carpenter about how the phone box might be fitted out and shelved. Cllr Curtis will liaise with Cllr Peaster to look at options. An update on further progress will be made at the September 2021 meeting.

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

Three quotes have been obtained which were reviewed and a contractor agreed upon. It was asked if they would be able to include replanting within the work. The Clerk will contact them and if possible and any additional cost is acceptable, the Clerk will inform them that they have been successful.

Proposed: Cllr Weeks **Seconded:** Cllr Goddard

c. Confirm start date for the re-levelling of the cemetery grounds

The Clerk has chased this; however, no response has been received. The Clerk will follow this up again.

d. Consider additional work to be undertaken at the cemetery

Work that needs to take place includes:

- Rubbing down and re-staining of the porch woodwork
- Assessment of the memorial bench – Cllr Peaster will undertake this
- Possible clean-up of the War Memorial (the Clerk will look into the best way to do this without causing any damage)

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

To date no response has been received from the Highways department.

The Clerk has a contact who is a traffic/roads consultant (who previously worked for the Department of Transport) who would be willing to meet with councillors to assess what might be possible within the parish. It was proposed that the Clerk arranges a site visit with the traffic consultant. Cllr Peaster considers that as the road from the A39 junction through Over Stowey is the gateway to the area, this should be maintained and made as safe as possible, especially as people are encouraged to visit the locality.

Proposed: Cllr Weeks **Seconded:** Cllr Bartlett

Cllr Goddard asked about reporting of road conditions – the Clerk will forward the online link which any can use to report a problem with a road

[Report a problem on the road \(somerset.gov.uk\)](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/report-a-problem-on-the-road/)

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

Cllr Tully will feedback on this item at the September 2021 meeting.

g. Feedback from Cllr Weeks following the ‘Councillor Essential Training’ from June 23rd 2021

Cllr Weeks reported that the session had been enjoyable and informative and had also highlighted a few items that Cllr Weeks was not aware of. In particular, The Good Councillor Guide provides detailed information for the role and what councils can do under their Powers and Duties.

h. Report from Cllr Weeks re diseased trees within the parish

Cllr Weeks has surveyed much of the area and has already identified 30 diseased ash trees, with at least 7 already dead. It was queried what the next course of action could be as many of these trees are on private land.

It was agreed that the Clerk highlight this issue again in the Messenger along with the need for landowners to take responsibility for cutting back their own hedgerows and boundaries that are adjacent to the highway.

i. Update on the drainage issues at Friarn and Aley (Cllrs Peaster and Weeks)

No work has yet taken place regarding the issues at Aley – the Clerk will continue to chase this up with a view to having more positive feedback at the September 2021 meeting. At Friarn, the drains have still not been jetted, despite being reported to the Highways Department. This is also being followed up and it is hoped that this will take place in August. Investigations into the ownership and responsibility of the drainage ditch and blocked/broken pipes are taking place. Cllr Weeks and the Clerk will look into this further and update the Parish Council at the September 2021 meeting. Similar issues at Bincombe have also been reported and the Clerk will continue to chase this up as well.

j. Consider a representative for the Sedgemoor Environment Champion Scheme:

As not all members were in attendance, this item has been deferred to the September 2021 meeting.

k. Feedback re signage at Quantock Lane

The site visit by the relevant department at Sedgemoor District Council has still not taken place. The Clerk will follow this up with a view to this being undertaken before the September 2021 meeting. Cllr Caswell is supporting the Clerk with this.

l. Feedback re Broadband service from AirBand

No details have yet been received. Cllr Caswell is attending a meeting at the end of July and will forward contact details to the Clerk.

m. Foliage clearing required at the bench near the Campbell Rooms

This has already been cleared. The Parish Council would like to express their thanks to the person who did this for the community.

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

- a. Parish Council mobile phone purchase to ratify
- b. Environmental Champion role to be considered
- c. Update on reports of possible rough sleeper in the area
- d. Feedback from local resident re rocks/boulders/bollards placed or erected on verges or within the curtilage of a property which is adjacent to the highway
- e. Consider which trees to apply for from Sedgemoor District Council 'Free Trees' Initiative and where they could be planted

f. Feedback re Broadband service from AirBand

g. Consider Personnel Matters further

8. Planning:

a. Planning application number: [40/21/00006](#)

Proposal: Formation of new access and parking, as well as the creation of a temporary access (revised scheme)

Location: White Horse Farm, Over Stowey, Bridgwater, TA5 1HG

It was agreed that due to previous comments submitted and the Speed Survey results within the application, there are no further observations to be made by the Parish Council

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

Resolved unanimously

b. Update on current applications

Planning application 40/21/00004 is still under consideration at this point.

9. Personnel Matters (Cllr Weeks):

a. Cllr Weeks will work with the Clerk to produce an up-to-date contract to include the correct holiday allowance

b. Additionally, an appraisal should be undertaken in the near future. Cllr Weeks will liaise with the Clerk to arrange this (with the Chair and Vice-chair). Feedback from all councillors will be requested by Cllr Weeks for the appraisal

c. Another issue raised was with regards to how pay rises could be awarded with an incremental increase rather than just the annual increase as set by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services

10. Financial Matters:

a. Agree transfer of £7649 from Business Reserve Account to Current Account

Proposed: Cllr Goddard **Seconded:** Cllr Weeks

b. Payments

i. Clerks Wages		239.12
ii. Expenses:	MS365 (May 2021)	9.48
iii. SALC annual affiliation fees		102.70
iv. Garden waste collection (cemetery)		90.00
v. Internal Audit for 2020/2021		<u>25.00</u>

TOTAL

£466.30

Proposed: Cllr Goddard

Seconded: Cllr Bartlett

11. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 15th September 2021 at 7.00pm at Over Stowey Village Hall

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 8.35pm

Amanda McMurren - Clerk to Over Stowey Parish Council

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