

OVER STOWEY
PARISH COUNCIL

OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on September 15th 2021

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

Present: Parish Councillor

K. Barrow

P. Tully

R. Curtis

D. Peaster (until 8.30pm)

B. Bartlett

G. Goddard (until 8.00pm)

County/District Councillor

M. Caswell (until 8.10pm)

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Weeks and Cllr Pay

2. Members of the Public:

There was one member of the public in attendance re item 6.a.

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

None declared

4. Minutes of the meeting held on July 21st 2021

Proposed: Cllr Peaster

Seconded: Cllr Goddard

5. Correspondence:

- The Clerk had received an email about the Somerset Unitary Town and Parish Council Conference to be held on October 7th 2021. Cllr Barrow and the Clerk will attend
- An email had also been received regarding the grit bins for winter 2021/2022. Cllr Tully will check the grit bin at Hack Lane and report back to the Clerk

6. Items for Discussion:

a. Noise complaints received

- i. The fireworks that had recently been let off at Quantock Lakes had upset a number of livestock and pets and it had been requested by members of the public that the Parish Council address this on behalf of residents. The Parish Council had contacted the venue and are now on the mailing list for notification of dates when fireworks are planned for. This will be included on the Parish Council website and communicated throughout the parish in

various ways. Cllr Caswell stated that fireworks must not cause a nuisance and anyone can contact the Environmental Health Officer at Sedgemoor District Council at any time if there is any kind of noise nuisance.

It was proposed that the Clerk write to the venue to request start and finish times on the notifications and ask if they also include the dates in the Messenger and on their own website.

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

The Clerk had also received an email from a local resident of Bincombe, who will be having a firework display on October 23rd 2021. This will take place at approximately 7.00pm and will be posted on the Parish Council website.

- ii. Complaints had been received by the Parish Council regarding noise after a recent party at the village hall. Cllr Tully was aware of the complaints, but it was considered by all members present that as the Village Hall is not owned or managed by the Parish Council, that any concerns should be directed to the Village Hall Committee. The Clerk will communicate this to the relevant parties.

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

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

Cllr Peaster has looked at ways to fix the shelving without blocking the light and will update further at the October meeting with possible options.

c. Update re the sycamore tree at the cemetery

The work will take place in early October. The dates will be shown on the website and notices will be put up prior to the work starting. The details will also be included in the October issue of the Messenger

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

This work will have to take place after the sycamore tree has been removed. The Clerk will contact the contractor to confirm this.

e. Consider additional work to be undertaken at the cemetery

Cllr Barrow requested that councillors view the bench to ascertain what repairs or work might be necessary and report back at the October 2021 meeting. It was agreed that councillors will tidy up the porch and work on any areas of it that need a refresh.

f. Feedback from the Highways Department re road safety within the parish – including pothole report on Adscombe Lane

Cllr Weeks and the Clerk met with two Somerset County Council (SCC) Highways Department representatives for a site visit of the whole parish to ascertain what

road safety and speed measures might be possible in the area. It was a positive meeting and a number of potential actions were suggested and will be considered. These should address both the short term and longer-term issues to improve road safety for all road users. Further details will be made available once the Highways department collate the information from the meeting and share this with the Parish Council.

The issue with the culvert on Adscombe Lane, where there is a hole in the road over the stream, has been reported and investigations are taking place. We have been told that the repairs may take some time and again when further information is made available to the Parish Council; this will be communicated. Overgrown hedging is a major issue and the one metre cut from SCC which takes place towards the end of July/beginning of August every year can be very ineffective – whether it's not cut back sufficiently or areas are missed. Cllr Caswell asked that the Clerk email him with the issues and a request for the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways to attend a Parish Council meeting. The Clerk will action this.

g. 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

It was agreed that as the owners of any property might have to accept that in the event of any damage to a vehicle that there may be civil action that this is not within the remit of the Parish Council to address any further.

This item is now closed.

h. Update on the drainage issues at Friarn, Aley and Bincombe

➤ **Friarn**

- Cllr Bartlett had details of the landowner responsible for the ditch which runs alongside the bridlepath and gave this to the Clerk to request that the ditch is cleared
- Highways agree it is evident that the gullies are blocked and require cleansing so the High Powered Jetter will be sent to this site
- The jetter will check the drainage system from the outfall of the ditch adjacent the bridleway to the point where the drains leave the highway
- It was also stated by Highways that by the lay of the land the highway drainage is dependent on draining onto lower private land and the responsibility for maintaining drainage systems on private land does rest with the landowner. Highways have requested that this is brought to the attention of the landowner (Riparian Rights) as

Highway's contractors will not work on drainage on private land

- In addition to the above where the road slopes towards one of the properties in Friarn (where there is also a drain), this has been reported to the Highways department with a view to re-levelling the road to prevent vehicles leaning in towards the property adjacent to this part of the road. Damage has already been caused to the guttering and there are concerns by the residents that other damage could occur. Highways had contacted the Clerk and suggested that the hedging opposite could also be an issue as vehicles try to avoid the foliage and asked that the Parish Council contact the landowner to ask for it to be cut back

➤ **Aley**

- The Clerk had received a phone call and email from the Highways Department stating that they are hopeful that their contractor will be able to attend Aley in early October. However, this is very much dictated by the contractors work schedule and capacity, so no guarantee on this could be given. This will continue to be followed up until the work takes place

➤ **Bincombe**

- The Clerk had been informed that the drains in Bincombe have not yet been jetted but a task order is with the contractor. Again, no timescale could be given on this

i. Consider a representative for the Sedgemoor Environment Champion Scheme

At present there is no member available to act as a representative for the scheme. If this should change, the Clerk will forward this information.

j. Feedback re signage at Quantock Lane

Cllr Peaster had met with the Operations Manager from Sedgemoor District Council to discuss what is required. The Clerk had not received any further communications since this meeting and will follow this up to update the Parish Council at the October meeting.

k. Feedback re Broadband service from AirBand

The Clerk had received a communication from AirBand stating:

'In December 2020, CDS (Connecting Devon and Somerset), with support from the Government, signed contracts with Airband to deliver full fibre broadband to 40,154 homes and businesses in earmarked areas of Devon and Somerset and require the construction of an estimated 2,419 miles of fibre network. Delivery will be in phases between 2021 and 2024.

As part of this new Fibre to the Premise (FTTP) Broadband network, Over Stowey Parish has a number of premises within this contract that are to benefit directly. Many other premises along the fibre route and within close proximity may also be able to access the network once completed.

The section of the new network that will service your Parish is due to be completed in Quarter 2, 2023. Surveying will commence in Quarter 3, 2022 which will raise curiosity within your community. We intend to address this in advance where possible'

The Community Liaison Executive for the region, will be visiting the parish in the future to engage with the community and the Parish Council to give details of the technology, products and process that will be available for the project, and the benefits of full fibre broadband to residential and business communities.

Further updates will be made when available. Cllr Caswell confirmed this and will send a list of dates when the surveying will take place when he has more information.

I. Consider feedback re. election year change due to Unitary Authority result

The Clerk had received the following from SCC and the One Somerset Team via SALC:

'Our next ordinary elections are due to take place in May 2023. Normally, these would have coincided with the next district council elections, thus reducing the cost to the parish of holding an election. However, the creation of a new unitary authority means that elections to the shadow authority will now be held in May 2022 and there will be no principal authority elections in 2023. For those parishes and towns that have contested elections, this could lead to a significant increase in election costs; especially for smaller parishes with limited resources.

I would, therefore, be keen to know your views on whether the 2023 town and parish council elections should be moved forward to 2022 so that we can remain in sync with principal authority elections going forward. As time is limited, I would be grateful for your ideas before the end of September at the very latest'

After discussing the above and the options available, it was agreed it would be appropriate and cost effective to support bringing the Town and Parish Council elections forward to 2022 from 2023.

Proposed: Cllr Peaster

Seconded: Cllr Tully

m. Update on possible rough sleeper within the parish

The vehicle parked near the Campbell Rooms had already moved, very soon after the July meeting had taken place. Concerns had also been raised by local residents

about parking overnight at the village hall car park. This is being monitored by the local PCSO and Parish Council members.

n. Confirm free trees order and location

It was agreed that for this year, no order will be placed. The Clerk will research areas where it would be suitable for trees to be planted with the necessary permissions from landowners for the 2022 offer.

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

- a. Cemetery bench – confirm if any maintenance required
- b. Verge/hedge cutting – members to identify hedgerows that need cutting back with a view to contacting the relevant landowner if work has not yet been undertaken

8. Planning:

a. Planning applications

i. Planning application number: 45/21/00028

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

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

Following a review of the application, it was proposed that Over Stowey Parish Council supports this application based on the grounds that it has the potential to enhance the holiday offering within the area and to provide employment for local people.

Proposed: Cllr Tully **Seconded:** Cllr Curtis *Resolved unanimously*

ii. Planning application number: 40/21/00007

Proposal: 1 x new 11kv pole with 100kva transformer to be installed. From this length of new underground cable to be laid to the property (The Old Vicarage). WPD to replace 11kv pole 21EARA4. WPD to install an additional stay wire on 11kv pole 21EAR12. WPD to add a third wire between poles 21EAR5 and 21EAR12. New stay wire to be installed on pole 21EARA9. Overhead to be dismantled between 21EARA9 AND 21EARA5 and replaced with underground cable

Location: The Old Vicarage, Over Stowey, Bridgwater, TA5 1HA

Following a review of the application, it was agreed by all members present that there are no objections to the proposals.

Proposed: Cllr Bartlett **Seconded:** Cllr Peaster *Resolved unanimously*

9. Update on current applications

i. Planning application 40/21/00004

The Parish Council have been notified of a number of revisions that have been made to the original planning application and these were discussed. The

revised planning application is due to be published shortly. It was agreed that the proposals appear to be more acceptable, but there are still concerns regarding access and about how the 25m visibility splay will be achieved. It was proposed that the Clerk communicate this to the planning officer. It is anticipated that a revised planning application will be available at the October 2021 meeting.

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

10. Personnel Matters:

The Clerk will liaise with Cllrs Barrow, Tully and Weeks to arrange a suitable date and venue to undertake an appraisal.

11. Financial Matters:

a. Payments

i. Clerks' wages (<i>ratify August 2021 payment £239.12</i>)	
ii. Mobile phone (<i>ratify June/July/August £21.00 x 3</i>)	
iii. Clerks' wages – September 2021	239.12
iv. Microsoft 365 (July/August 2021)	18.96
v. HP Ink (June/July/August 2021)	10.47
vi. Sedgemoor DC (dog waste bins x 3)	234.00
vii. SALC – Councillor training	25.00
viii. Seagrave Nurseries (laurel hedging – cemetery)	<u>90.00</u>
TOTAL	£617.55

Proposed: Cllr Tully

Seconded: Cllr Bartlett

12. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 20th October 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

Email: clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.co.uk Tel: **07391 313740**