

OVER STOWEY
PARISH COUNCIL

OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on December 14th 2022

**Please note that these minutes are draft until approved
at the January 18th 2023 meeting**

Present: Parish Councillor

P. Tully
K. Barrow
B. Bartlett
R. Curtis

County/District Councillor

M Caswell (left at 19.45)
B Bolt (left at 19.45)

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllrs Lindley/Peaster/Goddard
Cllr Pay

2. Members of the Public:

No members of the public were in attendance

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

Cllrs Tully and Barrow declared an interest in item 10.b. – however this was subsequently deferred until the January 2023 meeting.

4. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on November 16th 2022

Proposed: Cllr Barrow **Seconded:** Cllr Bartlett

5. Correspondence:

a. Email re Crowcombe Park Gate Car Park

- An email has been received stating that due to the sad death of one of the joint owners, the project will not continue at this point in time. Therefore the s.38 application has been withdrawn

6. Items for Discussion:

a. Update on the future use of the Campbell Rooms

- The Campbell Rooms will be let by a new contractor from April 2023 and will be run in a similar way to how it has been previously; for the benefit of families and groups who may not otherwise be able to access holidays and facilities, particularly in a rural area

- b. Consider provision of a noticeboard/sign for the MUGA
 - It was proposed and agreed unanimously that the Parish Council fund a notice for the use of the MUGA

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

The Clerk will contact ActiveSigns and place the order in the New Year
- c. Somerset Transport Services – Bus Back Better representative update
 - A name has been put forward and will be confirmed in January 2023
- d. Somerset Council update
 - The Clerk had not been able to attend the most recent online meeting, but work is progressing on various aspects e.g. the branding has been agreed, work on the website is being undertaken and the planning process is currently being reviewed
- e. Highways issues – feedback re. works schedule spreadsheet from Cllrs Bolt and Caswell
 - i. Signage at Plainsfield
 - ii. Quantock Lane traffic calming request
 - iii. Signage (sharp bend) request re long vehicles for road through Over Stowey
 - iv. Update from site visit by Highways (undertaken September 2021)
 - v. Damaged visibility mirror at Marsh Mills crossroads
 - vi. Update on reports made re drains and STOP sign
 - Cllrs Bolt and Caswell have been communicating with the relevant officer at the Highways Department
 - It has been established that various aspects of the above have not been undertaken by the Highways Department
 - The officer will contact the Clerk in the New Year to confirm what will be done when and what progress has been made to date

The Parish Council thanked Cllrs Bolt and Caswell for their help in this matter

f. Potential projects for the parish

- Follow up with the relevant parties the possibility of a grant to replace the wooden fencing with metal railings at the recreation ground
- Discuss the possibility of providing a storage shed at the Village Hall
- Councillors to put forward any ideas they may have at the January meeting

g. Query re charges at the Bridgwater Recycling Centre – Cllr Curtis

Cllr Curtis has queried the cost of taking certain items and waste to the recycling centre and has concerns that this contributes to the level of fly tipping in the area. This was noted.

7. Matters arising for the Agenda for the January meeting

- Somerset Transport Services – confirmation of representative
- Update re highways reports
- Consider donation to the Village Hall for 2022/2023

8. Planning:

a. Planning application 40/22/00010

Applicant: The Great Wood Trust

Location: Great Wood Camp, Adcombe Lane, Over Stowey, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 1HN

Proposal: Erection of a store cabin, on site of existing (to be demolished)

Following a review of the application it was considered that the proposals should be supported as the new structure will be in keeping with the existing buildings at this location. Additionally, the materials to be used will be more sustainable, therefore reducing the impact on the environment.

Proposed: Cllr Barrow

Seconded: Cllr Bartlett

9. Personnel:

a. Consider training request from the Clerk

A SALC training session on Contracts and Procurement has been scheduled for January 2023 and the Clerk considers that this will be helpful with the upcoming changes expected with the new unitary authority

Proposed: Cllr Curtis

Seconded: Cllr Bartlett

10. Financial Matters:

a. Final consideration of the budget and precept for 2023/2024 following release of tax base figures

- The budget was agreed and it was proposed that for the first time in seven years that a slight increase to the precept from £7649 to £8000 should be requested
- This is mainly due to the likely increase in workload for the Clerk and increased costs for services and subscriptions
- Due to the increase in the tax base, this actually equates to a **decrease** of £0.33 on an average Band D property
- For further details on how this is calculated, please contact the Clerk

Proposed: Cllr Bartlett

Seconded: Cllr Barrow

b. Review grant application from the Over Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee for funds towards the purchase of the play tower for the play area

- Deferred until the January 2023 meeting

c. Agree transfer of £3825 (precept payment September 2022) from General Reserve to Current Account

Proposed: Cllr Curtis

Seconded: Cllr Barrow

d. Payments

i. Clerks Wages	December 2022	304.20
ii. Jubilee Plaque	Fine Memorials	113.28
iii. Grant awarded	Over Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee (deferred until the January 2023 meeting)	
iv. Cemetery re-levelling	Wood-Land South West (amendment to incorrect invoice)	864.00
v. Grass cutting	Wood-Land South West	1176.00
vi. HP Ink	November 2022	4.49
vii. Mobile phone contract	D/D December 2022	<u>22.95</u>
TOTAL		£2484.92

Proposed: Cllr Bartlett

Seconded: Cllr Curtis

11. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 18th January 2023 at 7.00pm at Over Stowey Village Hall

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 8.00pm

Amanda McMurren - Clerk to Over Stowey Parish Council

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

Signed:

Dated: