

OVER STOWEY
PARISH COUNCIL

OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on June 21st 2023

**Please note that these minutes are draft until approved at the
July 19th 2023 Meeting of the Parish Council**

Present: Parish Councillor P. Tully
K. Barrow
G. Goddard
B. Bartlett
D. Peaster

Somerset Councillors M. Caswell (until 20.15)
B. Bolt

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllrs Curtis and Lindley

2. Members of the Public:

Two members of the public were in attendance re Planning – item 5.a.

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

Cllr Bartlett re Planning – item 5.b.

4. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on May 17th 2023

Proposed: Cllr Goddard **Seconded:** Cllr Peaster

5. Planning applications: (Moved from agenda item 8)

a. Planning Application 40/23/00005

Location

Three, The Cottage, Quantock Lane, Over Stowey,
Bridgwater, TA5 1HB

Proposal

Erection of single storey and 1.5 storey extension to the
North & East elevations on site of existing (to
be demolished)

Cllr Bolt left the room for this item. There were two members of the public in attendance with regard to this planning application. The issues and concerns raised were considered by the Parish Council and it was agreed that a visit to the neighbouring property would be undertaken.

It was proposed that delegated authority be given to the three councillors who would be attending the site visit and their response would be communicated to the Clerk for submission on the planning portal.

Proposed: Cllr Barrow **Seconded:** Cllr Peaster

The response submitted is as follows:

The Parish Council have reviewed the application and conducted a site visit. Whilst the Parish Council understand why the applicant wishes to extend their property, they object to the application as it stands, for the following reasons:

Policy 25, loss of privacy - the location of the new structure and the windows on both the ground and first floor overlooking the adjacent garden, combined with the proximity to the boundary, will have a direct negative impact on the residents of the neighbouring property resulting in loss of privacy

Policy 25, loss of light - the 2-storey structure will cause a loss of light as it will block the sunlight from the south, causing more shading of the garden of the neighbouring property. This will be all year round, but particularly in the winter months when the sun is lower, as the garden would be in the shade for most of the day

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|--------------------------------|---|
| b. Planning Application | <u>40/23/00006</u> |
| Location | Adscombe Farm, Adscombe Lane, Over Stowey, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 1HN |
| Proposal | Erection of single storey extension to the South elevation with erection of garage/store North of the house |

Cllr Bolt was not present and Cllr Bartlett left the room for this item. The plans were reviewed and it was agreed that a site visit should be conducted. It was proposed that delegated authority be given to the three councillors who would be attending the site visit and their response would be communicated to the Clerk for submission on the planning portal.

Proposed: Cllr Goddard **Seconded:** Cllr Barrow

The response submitted is as follows:

The application has been fully reviewed and a site visit has taken place. Over Stowey Parish Council support the application and consider that any work undertaken by the

applicant will be to a high standard. They have one observation regarding the colour of the roofing for the garage/storage building and recommend that this is green to blend in with the natural surroundings.

6. Correspondence:

a. Email received re the cemetery from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)

- The CWGC have an initiative to supply, install and maintain a sign for every cemetery and graveyard that has a war grave within its grounds. It was proposed that the offer is accepted. The Clerk will contact them to confirm location and size. It is anticipated that the sign will be up within the next twelve months

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

b. Email received re the possibility of a Coronation Bench for the parish

- It was suggested that with the cost of the bench identified within the email that funds could be better spent on other items to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III. This will be added to the July 2023 agenda

c. Email received re village fete within the parish

- After further investigation, it appears that although not a phishing email, it is possibly a generic email sent out to many organisations. If the correspondent contacts the Parish Council again, the Clerk will respond appropriately

7. Items for Discussion:

a. Policy reviews – Online Banking, Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

- The Online Banking policy has been updated to ensure greater protection for the accounts. It was proposed that this is adopted for 2023/2024

Proposed: Cllr Barrow **Seconded:** Cllr Goddard

- All remaining policies are the same as when adopted for 2022/2023. It was proposed that these are adopted for 2023/2024

Proposed: Cllr Bartlett **Seconded:** Cllr Peaster

b. Feedback from the first LCN meeting

- Cllr Peaster and the Clerk attended this meeting. It was mainly about setting up the structure of the meetings and appointing the Chair (Cllr Caswell) and the Vice-Chair (tbc). There was also a session for attendees to put down the issues they consider need addressing within the LCN and Somerset Council as a whole
- Concerns raised at the Parish Council meeting included:
 - How good will the LCN's be for local residents
 - It must be non-political and remain that way
 - With the many issues raised by all the attendees, what funding will be available?

- Will there be value for money if there is little funding available to the LCN's?
 - The next LCN meeting will be held in September 2023 – date tbc
- c. Somerset Council update**
- The issue of road safety on the A39 on the stretch of road from the Apple Tree Hotel to Nether Stowey has been taken to the relevant highways officer by Cllrs Caswell and Bolt
 - With regards to planning, if the Parish Council wishes for a planning application to go to committee, they must contact Cllr Caswell or Cllr Bolt to inform them of this
- d. Feedback from the Clerk**
- The Clerk has produced a draft contract and will progress this further over the summer
- e. Highways issues updates**
- i. Signage at Plainsfield - ongoing
 - ii. Quantock Lane traffic calming request - ongoing
 - iii. Signage (sharp bend) request re long vehicles for road through Over Stowey
 - It was agreed that further contact with Nether Stowey and Crowcombe Parish Councils and Somerset Highways Department is necessary with regards to this issue. The Clerk will follow this up
 - iv. Update from site visit by Highways (undertaken September 2021) - ongoing
 - v. Safety issues at Marsh Mills crossroads
 - The visibility mirror has been replaced
 - Additional 'SLOW' road marking on the approach to the crossroads from the Plainsfield side have been painted
 - Other issues are still ongoing
 - vi. Update on reports made re STOP sign - ongoing
 - vii. Review of rules regarding walking of dogs on public highways
 - The Clerk has spoken to the dog warden and further information will be forthcoming
 - viii. Overgrown trees on South Lane
 - Cllr Peaster met with a representative from Wessex Water. Work will take place to cut back the trees after the end of the bird nesting season
 - Cllr Barrow has spoken with an officer from Somerset Council regarding the hedgerow cutting and it is anticipated that work will be undertaken soon

f. Agree nomination for the Chair's Award

- It was proposed that Cllr Curtis is nominated for this award for his commitment and service to the parish

Proposed: Cllr Bartlett **Seconded:** Cllr Peaster

g. Possible projects for the parish

- Update on grant application for railings to replace fencing at the recreation ground
 - The grant has been paid and the work has taken place. It was stated that the shortfall for the cost of the work equates to the VAT element. This will be discussed at the next Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee (VH&RGC) meeting and it may be that a donation request will be submitted to the Parish Council. This will be confirmed one way or the other at the July 2023 Parish Council meeting
 - It was also suggested that a plaque or other items to remember the Kings Coronation would be a way to commemorate the occasion. This will be discussed further at the July meeting
- Update on work required and costings for the refurbishment of the Village Hall bar area
 - Cllr Lindley was not in attendance – this item was deferred to the July meeting

8. Matters arising for the Agenda for the July 2023 meeting

- Feedback from contact with Crowcombe Parish Council
- Possible donation requests from the VH&RGC
- Consider ways to commemorate King Charles III coronation

9. Personnel:

- The Clerk has requested annual leave from Monday 7th August – Friday 25th August inclusive (returning on Tuesday 29th August due to the Bank Holiday on the Monday)
- The Clerk reported that the printer has finally stopped working. It was proposed that a printer capable of printing A4 and A3 would be a good idea to ensure flexibility when printing. The Clerk had seen such printers at approximately £170 - £200 (including VAT). It was proposed that as the cost would be below the £250.00 threshold for purchases, that a new printer is ordered as soon as possible to enable the Clerk to continue to work effectively.

Proposed: Cllr Barrow

Seconded: Cllr Peaster

10. Financial Matters:

a. Payments

a. Clerks Wages	June 2023	305.00
b. Internal Auditor	Internal Audit for 2022/2023	25.00
c. Somerset Council	Dog waste bin weekly collection April – September 2023	250.85
d. HP Ink	May 2023	9.99
e. Mobile phone contract	D/D June 2023	<u>26.25</u>
TOTAL		£617.09

Proposed: Cllr Goddard

Seconded: Cllr Peaster

11. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 19th July 2023 at 7.00pm, to be held at Over Stowey Village Hall

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 8.45pm

Amanda McMurren - Clerk to Over Stowey Parish Council

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

Signed:

Dated: