

OVER STOWEY
PARISH COUNCIL

OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on April 20thth 2022

**Please note that these minutes are draft until approved
at the May 2022 meeting**

Present: Parish Councillor

K. Barrow
P. Tully
T. Lindley
B. Bartlett
(from 7.05pm – 8.00pm)
R. Curtis
(from 7.10pm)

County/District Councillor

M. Caswell (left at 8.00pm)

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Goddard and Peaster
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:

Cllr Barrow declared an interest in item 7.b. (Planning)

4. Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on March 16th 2022

Proposed: Cllr Lindley **Seconded:** Cllr Curtis

5. Correspondence:

a. Email re updated Code of Conduct

A new Code of Conduct has been produced and it has been recommended that Parish and Town Councils consider the updated version for adoption at the May meeting following the election. This will be reviewed at the May 2022 meeting

b. Queens Platinum Jubilee event – update

- The commemorative glasses have been ordered
- The drinks order will be placed soon
- Regular meetings are being held and a meeting with the wider group will also be held before the next Parish Council meeting to discuss further details
- The grant funds from the National Lottery have been paid into the Parish Council current account and ringfenced for the event

- The Clerk is still investigating how the waste can be collected from the site and will report back at the May 2022 meeting

6. Items for Discussion:

a. **Consider way forward re non collection of garden waste from the cemetery by Suez**

The garden waste collection from the cemetery has not taken place since March 2021 as the address is not recognised on the online portal at Suez (the waste collection company). The Clerk has chased this numerous times over the last year by email and phone, but no-one at Suez has been able to resolve this. Cllr Caswell requested that the Clerk forward the details to him and he will speak to the relevant parties and report back his findings to the Clerk.

b. **New Somerset – update**

The Clerk attended an online update at which the following was reported:

- There is a lot of work being undertaken to ensure everything that needs to be in place at vesting day is ready
- Other counties undergoing a change to a unitary authority are looking at ensuring that from vesting day everything is safe and legal. New Somerset are also ensuring this *and* looking at how to deliver services from day one
- Many questions are being asked about how services such as planning, housing and highways will be delivered – this is being looked at and further information will be available later in the year
- A Town/Parish conference will be held in the autumn with a focus on Local Community Networks
- The Highways Steward pilot in Exmoor is continuing with positive feedback being given
- All pilots are on track, with commitments being met

Concerns have been raised regarding the capacity of a Highways Steward with many local issues such as verges, hedge cutting, drains, gullies, potholes, general road conditions, speed limits and road safety being priorities for many local councils.

Additionally, once the planning system is amalgamated, could it be that when a planning application is reviewed, those considering it are too far removed from the local area to be able to make appropriate decisions that directly affect local people.

The Clerk will take these concerns to the next New Somerset update meeting.

c. **Local elections 2022 – update**

With regards to Over Stowey Parish Council, there were seven vacancies and the seven current Councillors all chose to stand again. With no other candidates nominated for Over Stowey, the election is uncontested.

All local elections will take place on Thursday 5th May 2022. Full details can be found at the Somerset.gov.uk website

d. Confirm dates for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 11th May 2022

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th May 2022.

Both meetings will be held at Over Stowey Village Hall and both will start at 7.00pm.

e. Highways updates

i. Damaged culvert at Adscombe Lane

The work has been undertaken to repair the culvert, but it was reported that no work had taken place on the other side of the road (which had degraded whilst the barriers were in place and vehicles were having to drive on that side). The Clerk will follow this up

ii. Drainage issues at Friarn and Aley – update

- No work has taken place at Friarn re the ditch clearance. The Clerk has contacted Forestry England who will be undertaking the work and this is being chased up by them. The Clerk will continue to follow this up
- The Clerk has contacted the Highways department for an update but has not had a response. This will also be followed up and the Clerk will provide any updates at the May 2022 meeting

f. Projects identified to benefit the parish for 2022/2023

i. Memorial bench (cemetery) refurbishment – update

The bench has been repaired and is now in the cemetery. The work undertaken is of a very high standard and the Parish Council would like to thank Grandfields for their workmanship

ii. Request from Plainsfield for a road sign (on the north side from Over Stowey) – update

The Clerk has contacted the relevant Highways department again and received an acknowledgement but is still waiting for further information. The Clerk will follow this up and will feedback at the May 2022 meeting

iii. Village Hall car park – still to be confirmed

iv. Possible provision of electricity supply at the cricket pavilion for maintenance needs and the MUGA – to discuss at the May 2022 meeting

7. Planning:

a. Planning Application 40/22/00001

Location: The Old School House, Over Stowey, Bridgwater, TA5 1HA

Proposal: Proposed alterations and extension to existing front (South) veranda
Following a review of the above, it was agreed that the proposals and the

materials to be used for the veranda are appropriate and in keeping with the area and therefore the Parish Council support the application.

Proposed: Cllr Tully **Seconded:** Cllr Lindley

b. **Planning Application 45/20/00019**

Location: Higher Halsey Cross Farm, Radlet Road, Spaxton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 1JA

Proposal: Erection of an agricultural worker's dwelling (Class C3) and revised access (Revised Description)

Over Stowey Parish Council have been consulted as a neighbouring parish. Cllr Barrow had declared an interest in this application and after explaining what the amendments are, Cllr Barrow left the room whilst the plans were reviewed. Following the review, it was agreed unanimously that there are no objections to the amended proposals.

Proposed: Cllr Richard **Seconded:** Cllr Bartlett

Cllr Barrow rejoined the meeting after the decision had been made.

8. Matters Arising for the Agenda for the June 2022 meeting:

- Cattle grids needing to be cleared
- Consider supporting installation of electricity supply for maintenance and the MUGA at the cricket ground
- Consider supporting purchase of storage shed for the village hall

9. Personnel:

There were no personnel matters to be discussed

10. Financial Matters:

a. **Asset register to be reviewed**

The document was reviewed and signed off by the Chairman and Clerk

b. **Update re online banking application and consider other options:**

The Clerk has been researching the options available and has concluded that the Unity Trust account appears to be the most suitable for the needs of Over Stowey Parish Council. There is a £6 monthly fee, however this will be more than offset by the time it currently takes the Clerk to write the cheques, prepare the payments for posting and the postage costs. It was proposed that the Clerk opens the account as soon as practicably possible.

Proposed: Cllr Tully **Seconded:** Cllr Lindley

c. **Consider potential request for donation for books/toys for baby/toddler group which may be starting in Over Stowey**

This has been discussed by the Over Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee and it is considered that a more practical solution might be for the Parish Council to provide some funding for secure and waterproof storage for items used in the village hall. This will be discussed further at the May 2022 meeting.

d. Review current ink subscription plan for March/April/May

The Clerk recommended an increase to the subscription plan to £9.99 on a temporary basis to cover the additional printing requirements for the end of year and election period. It was proposed that the subscription is increased for three to four months and then changed back to the lower rate once the excess printing has been concluded.

Proposed: Cllr Curtis

Seconded: Cllr Lindley

e. Payments

i. Clerk's wages		
April 2022		281.60
ii. Expenses:		
HP Ink subscription (March 2022)	9.99	
MS365 subscription (March 2022 refund)	-8.81	
MS365 subscription (annual with gov.uk email)	135.36	
Queens Platinum Jubilee glasses	829.73	
HMRC	<u>87.40</u>	
		1053.67
iii. Over Stowey Baby/Toddler Group (tbc)		
Donation request (deferred to May 2022 meeting)		
iv. Mobile phone contract		
D/D March 2022		<u>21.00</u>
	TOTAL	£1356.27

Proposed: Cllr Curtis

Seconded: Cllr Tully

11. Date of next meeting:

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7.00pm
at Over Stowey Village Hall

Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 18th May 2022 at 7.00pm
at Over Stowey Village Hall

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 8.20pm

Amanda McMurren - Clerk to Over Stowey Parish Council

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