

OVER STOWEY
PARISH COUNCIL

OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on November 16th 2022

**Please note that these minutes are draft until approved
at the December 14th 2022 meeting**

Present: Parish Councillor

P. Tully
K. Barrow
D. Peaster
(left at 20.30)
B. Bartlett
G. Goddard
T. Lindley

District Councillor
County/District Councillor

J. Pay (left at 20.00)
M Caswell (from 19.05 and
left at 20.15)
B Bolt (left at 20.15)

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllrs Curtis

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 items 6.c. and 6.i.i.

Cllr Bartlett declared an interest in item 5.e.

Cllr Lindley declared an interest in item 8.b.

4. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on October 19th 2022

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

5. Correspondence:

a. Email re Avian Flu:

- Information has been received regarding the above and has been posted on the notice board and [Parish Council website](#)
See the [Gov.uk website](#) for further details

b. Email re Somerset Emergency Community Contacts:

- Cllrs Tully, Barrow and Peaster agreed that they would be the emergency contacts for the parish. The Clerk will forward the relevant details to Somerset County Council
Further information can be found at [Somerset Prepared](#)

- c. Email re dog waste bins – supply and servicing:
 - Cleaner Surroundings had contacted the Clerk to check that the dog waste bins are being emptied and if the Parish Council would still like the third dog waste bin at Watery Lane (which had been removed without permission) to be replaced with the green version (as per the original order)
 - Cllr Tully will check whether they are being emptied
 - It was confirmed that the third bin is still required
 - The Clerk will email Clean Surroundings to confirm the above
- d. Email from Highways re the work undertaken at Friarn:
 - A Highways officer had inspected the work and suggested further work should be undertaken, however as during the recent heavy rain there had been no problems reported, it was proposed that this item should be closed
 - The Parish Council will monitor the location and respond accordingly should any further issues be raised in the future

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

- e. Email re Crowcombe Park Gate Car Park
 - An email had been received regarding amended proposals
 - It was proposed that as the Parish Council have no comments to make on the changes, that a response to the Inspectorate is not required

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

6. Items for Discussion:

- a. Confirm date for December 2022 meeting
 - It was proposed that the meeting should be held on Wednesday 14th December 2022
- Proposed:** Cllr Goddard **Seconded:** Cllr Bartlett
- b. Issues re water outside property on Castle Hill (within Over Stowey)
 - Cllr Barrow had been informed that during heavy rain, water runs down from Hack Lane and the drains at the bottom of the hill are completely blocked so the water floods until it gradually drains away. Cllr Barrow will send photos to the Clerk who will report this issue as soon as possible
 - Cllr Peaster will also forward photos of similar issues at Aley and the Clerk will report this as well
 - c. RLT funding for the parish of Over Stowey
 - The application has been successful and the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee have been informed
 - The additional funds required will be paid from the Downing Legacy as agreed at the October meeting
 - This will be included in the agenda for the December 2022 meeting
 - d. Missed recycling collections
 - No further issues have been reported within Over Stowey. This item is now closed but will be monitored

- e. Somerset Transport Services - Bus Back Better representative
 - No representative has been found to date, Cllrs Barrow and Tully will continue to look for someone who is willing to undertake this
- f. Somerset Council update
 - Work is taking place on various aspects that will need to be in place for vesting day e.g. the website and branding
 - The new structure is being formed and will be communicated as soon as possible. This will involve consultations and redundancies will be made, which is clearly unsettling for all
 - The precept will be paid in one amount in April 2023 to Town and Parish Councils
 - The LCN consultation responses are being reviewed and consideration is being given to the results before any final decisions are made on the LCN boundaries
 - Queries regarding charging of services have been raised as currently different districts may charge different rates for various services. It is expected that there will be inconsistencies initially as this has been experienced by other unitary authorities. This will be reviewed and direction for priorities within service delivery will be driven by Somerset County Councillors

For further details, visit the [New Somerset Council](#) website

- g. **Consider letter drafted by Cllr Peaster re hedge cutting**
 - Cllr Peaster has drafted a letter for the parish with regards to the possibility of the Parish Council taking on services from the new unitary authority, such as the verge cutting
 - This links in with a landowners responsibility to maintain any boundaries they have that are adjacent to the highway
 - There are a number of aspects to be considered and an open letter to residents and landowners will be produced in the New Year, with a view to discussing this fully at the March 2023 meeting
 - Further details will follow in early 2023
- h. **Highways updates**
 - 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
 - Cllrs Bolt and Caswell have met with the relevant parties at the Highways Department
 - A spreadsheet is being produced which will include works scheduled so that councils are aware of what is planned and where they are within the timetable

- This will be very much welcomed and will help to reassure residents and councillors that although the lead time may be longer than hoped for, work will take place at some point in time

i. Potential projects for the parish

- i. Update re the car park and future plans for it
 - This was discussed briefly by councillors, however no further action will be taken at this time
- ii. Feedback re grants available for the Village Hall roof repair
 - The grant application has been successful and the Village Hall Committee hope that the work will take place late spring/early summer 2023

7. Matters arising for the Agenda for the December 2022 meeting

- Review of grant application for Over Stowey Recreation Ground play equipment
- Highways updates – including reports to Highways re drains and STOP sign
- Feedback re availability of grants for the recreation ground boundary
- Update on the future of the Campbell Rooms
- Precept – final decision on level for 2023/2024

8. Planning:

a. Planning application [40/22/00007](#)

Applicant: Mr. & Mrs. Bailey

Location: Knightsmead, Hockpitt Lane, Over Stowey, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 1EX

Proposal: Replacement of flat roof with pitched roof and erection of a single-story extension to the front (West) elevation on site of existing (to be demolished)

Following a review of the application it was considered that the proposals will enhance the property and are in keeping with the locality. Therefore, it was agreed unanimously by members that the application is supported

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

b. Planning application [40/22/00008](#)

Applicant: Mr. A Payne

Location: Bincombe Farm, Bincombe Road, Over Stowey, Bridgwater, TA5 1EZ

Proposal: Variations of condition 2 of planning permission 40/19/00002 (Change of use and conversion of agricultural building to form 2 dwellings) to amend the approved plans

Following a review of the application it was agreed by all members that were eligible to vote that the application is supported.

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

Resolved unanimously by all members eligible to vote

9. Personnel:

a. Update re agreement on NJC (National Joint Council) pay scales.

The terms of the agreement include the following:

- With effect from 1 April 2022, an increase of £1,925 on all NJC pay points 1 and above
- With effect from 1 April 2023, an increase of one day to all employees' annual leave entitlement

[Follow this link for further information on updated pay scales](#)

See item 10.c.i.

10. Financial Matters:

a. Finance review:

- The Clerk has produced a breakdown of the current situation, the forecast and reserves
- Further details can be found on the [Parish Council website](#)

b. Consider draft budget and provisionally agree precept for 2023/2024:

- The draft budget was circulated to the members at the October meeting and has not been amended
- It was proposed that the final decision is made at the December 2022 meeting to ensure that all relevant information is available, particularly if there are any elements of the upcoming unitary authority to take into consideration

c. Payments:

i.	Clerks Wages	Nov 2022 (at new rate, including back pay from 01/04/22 see item 9.a.)		433.80
ii.	Expenses	Travel claim (LGR conference)	12.24	
		HMRC (PAYE)	6.60	
		Defibrillator pads	<u>59.99</u>	
				78.83
iii.	Expenses	Land registry search		6.00
iv.	HP Ink	Nov 2022		4.49
v.	Mobile phone contract - D/D Nov 2022			<u>22.95</u>
	TOTAL			£546.07

Proposed: Cllr Goddard **Seconded:** Cllr Barrow *Resolved unanimously*

11. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 14th December 2022 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.gov.uk Tel: **07391 313740**

Signed:

Dated: