

OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL

OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on March 20th 2024

**Please note that these minutes are draft until approved at the
April 17th 2024 Meeting of the Parish Council**

Present: Parish Councillor

P. Tully

K. Barrow

B. Bartlett

D. Peaster

R. Curtis

Somerset Councillors

B. Bolt (left at 8.00pm)

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllrs Caswell, Lindley and Goddard

2. Members of the Public:

- The Hinkley Community Safety Officer was in attendance
- The main area of concern is with regard to the increasing levels of traffic on the roads, with many incidents of speeding and also issues when vehicles are accessing the A39 from Inwood
- It was acknowledged that the Parish Council are aware this is not just related to traffic generated by Hinkley Point C but asked if the Community Safety Officer could pass on these concerns to the relevant parties so that contractors working at Hinkley can be informed of this to perhaps alleviate the risks in some way
- This was agreed and the Community Safety Officer will update the Parish Council as soon as possible

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

None were declared

4. Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on February 21stth 2024

Proposed: Cllr Barrow

Seconded: Cllr Curtis

5. Correspondence:

- a. Email received regarding issues in Hack Lane
 - Correspondence from a resident of Hack Lane had been sent to the Clerk regarding activity taking place on land and property in the location

- It appears that Somerset Council have undertaken work there and it is possible that a planning application may be submitted at some point
- The Parish Council will monitor this
- b. Parish Online – new website update**
 - The new website is now up and running
- c. Response from Nether Stowey Parish Council re the Hedgehog Highway Initiative**
 - Nether Stowey Parish Council agreed not to take part in this initiative should it go ahead
- d. Email received re Kings Portrait**
 - A free portrait of King Charles III is available to local councils. It was proposed that the Clerk applies for this
Proposed: Cllr Bartlett **Seconded:** Cllr Curtis

6. Items for discussion:

- a. A review of the following documents was undertaken and no amendments were required, therefore all were signed off**
 - i. Risk Management Report
Proposed: Cllr Curtis **Seconded:** Cllr Peaster
 - ii. Annual Review of Effectiveness
Proposed: Cllr Bartlett **Seconded:** Cllr Barrow
 - iii. Statement of Internal Control
Proposed: Cllr Curtis **Seconded:** Cllr Peaster
- b. Somerset Council update**
 - The Clerk had attended the online meeting with the following points being communicated:
 - The budget for Somerset Council was set in February
 - There will be a budget gap for 2025/2026, therefore SC are looking ahead with a transformation of the organisation taking place regarding structure and staffing
 - Measures are being considered to reduce the pay bill which will have an impact on a significant number of people
 - An executive report will be available on April 8th 2024 with an update
 - There has been a review of the Local Community Networks (LCN's)
 - The Chair's event went well with networking and workshops based on agenda items taking place
 - A boundary review is not being proposed at this stage
 - If a council has good cause to move to another LCN, then the council can contact the relevant department to request this
 - The next round of LCN meetings will be the AGM's
- c. LCN meeting feedback**
 - Cllrs Tully and Curtis and the Clerk attended the most recent LCN meeting
 - Agenda items included feedback from the first meeting of the Highways Working Group (see item 6.f.), Broadband connectivity in Devon and

Somerset, Somerset's Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation and the Hinkley Point C Community Fund – Small Grants Programme

- Minutes for these meetings can be found at the [Local Community Network - Dowsborough page](#) (or contact the Clerk if you have no access to the internet)

d. Fly tipping report

- No response had been received to date
- If nothing is received soon, the Clerk will send a follow up letter

e. Waste collections update

- Recycling collections in Quantock Lane/Aley/Quantock Lodge are still being missed
- The Clerk will contact the relevant parties to inform them that there are ongoing problems with the pick ups

f. Highways updates and new issues

i. Feedback from Highways Meeting

- Cllr Curtis attended the first meeting of the LCN Highways Working Group
- The meeting was positive in that highways officers attended and the issues that are affecting many roads were highlighted to them
- At the moment, there are no updates on the actions agreed, it was stated that these will be fed back to members when available

ii. Follow up re issues at Friarn

- The Clerk had sourced a drainage inspection camera for hire, but could only find companies that hire for a minimum of five days
- Cllr Curtis will investigate further the hire of a camera for a shorter period of time

g. Possible projects for the parish

- Cllr Lindley and the Clerk have undertaken an audit of the fingerpost signs in the parish
- One quote for the work has been received and another one is due for the refurbishment of all signs
- It was proposed that once these are received the Clerk submits a grant application to the Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme who may be able to provide a grant of up to 75% of the cost of the work. Work will only be undertaken if a grant application is successful, due to the cost of the refurbishment per sign

Proposed: Cllr Barrow

Seconded: Cllr Curtis

7. Matters arising for the Agenda for the April 2024 meeting:

- Planning application 40/24/00003

8. Planning applications:

a. Planning Application:

- No applications were received for the March 2024 meeting

b. Planning updates:

- No updates at this time

c. Resolution to hold a confidential session for item 8.d below

Proposed: Cllr Bartlett

Seconded: Cllr Barrow

d. Potential breach of planning

- A potential breach been reported to the Parish Council and it was proposed that the concerns be sent to the Planning Enforcement Department at Somerset Council

Proposed: Cllr Barrow

Seconded: Cllr Curtis

9. Personnel:

- No matters to be discussed at this time

10. Financial Matters:

a. Agree transfer of underspend (if any @ 31/03/2024) from Current Account to Business Reserve Account

- This will remain in the current account for the payment of the drainage inspection camera hire should it be needed before the end of the financial year

b. Agree transfer of £4000 of the precept for 2024/2025 to be made (when available in April 2024) from the Business Reserve Account to the Current Account

Proposed: Cllr Peaster

Seconded: Cllr Bartlett

c. Payments

i.	Clerks Wages	March 2024	325.00
ii.	MS365	Annual subscription	123.60
iii.	Parish Online	gov.uk website	336.00
iv.	Mobile phone contract	D/D February 2024	<u>26.25</u>
	TOTAL		£810.85

Proposed: Cllr Peaster

Seconded: Cllr Barrow

11. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 17th April 2024 at 7.00pm, to be held at Over Stowey Village Hall

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 8.15pm

Amanda McMurren - Clerk to Over Stowey Parish Council

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Signed:

Dated