

OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL

OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on July 17th 2024

Please note that these minutes are draft until approved at the
September 18th 2024 Meeting of the Parish Council

Present: Parish Councillors P. Tully
K. Barrow
B. Bartlett
D. Peaster
T. Lindley
R. Curtis
G. Goddard
Somerset Councillors M. Caswell (left at 8.00pm)

1. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Bolt

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 re items 6.g. and 10.c.vi.

4. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on June 19th 2024

Proposed: Cllr Peaster

Seconded: Cllr Curtis

5. Correspondence:

- No additional correspondence had been received

6. Items for discussion:

a. Review of policies:

- Complaints Procedure
Proposed: Cllr Lindley **Seconded:** Cllr Curtis
- Freedom of Information
Proposed: Cllr Bartlett **Seconded:** Cllr Barrow
- Press and Media Policy
Proposed: Cllr Goddard **Seconded:** Cllr Curtis
- Grievance and Disciplinary Policy
Proposed: Cllr Barrow **Seconded:** Cllr Lindley

- v. Standing Orders
Proposed: Cllr Curtis **Seconded:** Cllr Peaster
- vi. Financial Regulations
Proposed: Cllr Goddard **Seconded:** Cllr Barrow

b. Consider Biodiversity Policy

- The Clerk has attended initial training for this and will follow up over the summer period

c. Somerset Council update – Cllr Caswell

- The redundancy program is continuing within SC
- The September LCN meeting will have guest speakers from Connecting Devon and Somerset re broadband in local areas
- Changes to planning laws will be made and Parish Councils will need to be aware of the possible implications

d. Highways updates and new issues

- i. Follow up re issues at Friarn
 - Inspection camera update
 - Cllr Tully is awaiting a price
 - Cllr Barrow will also follow this up
- ii. Feedback from Highways re Marsh Mills crossroads safety options
 - A suggestion that coloured road markings on the approach from Plainsfield towards the crossroads was made
 - The Clerk will contact Traffic Management with a request to consider this if the parish decide this is a suitable option
 - This will also be taken to the next Highways Working Group meeting
- iii. Highways hedge cutting
 - Cllr Peaster proposed that members speak to local landowners to request that they cut their hedges back where their boundaries are adjacent to the highway
Proposed: Cllr Peaster **Seconded:** Cllr Barrow
- iv. Complaints re tractors/trailers being parked overnight on verges in Bincombe
 - Cllr Barrow has been assured this was a one-off situation due to unforeseen circumstances which have now been resolved

e. Consider next step re diseased ash tree

- It was proposed that the Clerk writes to the owner/s of the tree with the concerns that have been raised

Proposed: Cllr Goddard **Seconded:** Cllr Curtis

f. Chair's Award

- The nomination has been submitted and now awaiting the response

g. Review of donation request from Over Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee

- The application has been submitted with a request for £500 towards handrails for the path leading up to the hall
- Cllrs Tully and Barrow had declared an interest in this item and left the room during the discussion

- It was proposed that Cllr Curtis take the Chair whilst Cllr Tully was out of the room
Proposed: Cllr Goddard **Seconded:** Cllr Peaster
- The application was reviewed by the remaining members and it was proposed that the grant be awarded
Proposed: Cllr Lindley **Seconded:** Cllr Goddard
- Cllrs Tully and Barrow were recalled to the meeting and Cllr Tully retook the Chair
- h.** Update re issue of water running down the road towards the cemetery
 - Cllr Lindley has spoken to the landowner regarding work required to prevent this happening
 - This will be followed up by Cllrs Barrow and Curtis
Proposed: Cllr Lindley **Seconded:** Cllr Bartlett
- i.** Possible projects for the parish
 - i.** Fingerpost signs cleaning and maintenance
 - The grant has been awarded and the Clerk will contact the contractors with their decision
 - Further details regarding when work will take place will be available once confirmed by the successful contractor

7. Matters arising for the September 2024 meeting:

- Update re Biodiversity Policy
- Cattle grids – follow up re request to empty as they are full

8. Planning applications:

- a.** Planning Applications
 - No applications received
- b.** Planning updates
 - Planning application 40/24/00005 has been granted
- c.** Resolution to hold a confidential session for item 8.d below
Proposed: Cllr Barrow **Seconded:** Cllr Peaster
- d.** Potential breach of planning
 - A potential breach of planning has been reported to the Parish Council and will be forwarded to the Planning Enforcement Department at Somerset Council

9. Personnel:

- The Clerk will undertake the following additional tasks over the summer period
 - Archiving
 - Update of website
 - VAT reclaim

10. Financial Matters:

- a.** Financial Summary
 - A copy of the summary was made available to the council members for review
 - See appendix (i) below
Proposed: Cllr Lindley **Seconded:** Cllr Barrow
- b.** Confirmation of cost to renew McAfee subscription with discount available upon renewal (from June 2024 meeting) - £119.99

c. Payments

i.	Clerks Wages	July 2024	325.00
ii.	Clerks Wages	August 2024	325.00
iii.	SALC	Code of Conduct Training	120.00
iv.	Somerset Council	Dog waste bin emptying	267.70
v.	Over Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee	Donation Request (item D/D July 2024	500.00
vi.	Mobile phone contract		<u>12.00</u>
	TOTAL		£1549.70

Proposed: Cllr Goddard

Seconded: Cllr Curtis

11. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 18th September 2024 at 7.00pm at Over Stowey Village Hall

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 8.15pm

Amanda McMurren - Clerk to Over Stowey Parish Council

Email: clerk@overstoweyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: **07391 313740**

Signed:

Dated

**Over Stowey Parish Council
Reserves Balance
2024-2025**

<u>Reserve</u>	<u>Opening Bal.</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Spend</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Current Bal.</u>
Capital					
Graveyard Reserve	7,384.27	-235.53			7,148.74
Service Devolution Fund	500.00				500.00
TotalCapital	7,884.27	-235.53			7,648.74
Earmarked					
Downing Legacy Funds	2,993.17				2,993.17
Election Reserve	700.00				700.00
Bincombe Green					0.00
TotalEarmarked	3,693.17				3,693.17
TOTAL RESERVE	11,577.44	-235.53			11,341.91
GENERAL FUND					14,265.66
TOTAL FUNDS					25,607.57
714.16					
Graveyard				7148.74	
General Reserve				17744.67	
General Reserve breakdown:					
Downing Legacy (D/L)				2993.17	
Service Devolution Fund				500.00	
Election Reserve 700.00 + 350.00 (for 24/25)				700.00	
Remaining precept for 2024/2025				4550.00	
PC Reserve (based on 9 months of total precept)				<u>6412.50</u>	
Subtotal				15155.67	
Additional payments due:					
Village Hall grant application (from D/L)				500.00	
Election Reserve for 2024/2025				350.00	
Fingerpost sign refurbishment				<u>1276.50</u>	
Total				<u>17282.17</u>	
General Reserve				17744.67	
Less				<u>17282.17</u>	
				462.50	
VAT reclaim due (approx. as inc VAT reclaim for Fingerpost sign work)				<u>325.00</u>	
Total				787.50	