



OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 18th February 2026

Please note that these minutes are draft until approved at the
March 2026 Meeting of the Parish Council

Present: Parish Councillors P. Tully
T. Lindley
K. Barrow
D. Peaster
B. Bartlett
N. Bond
(following co-option item 3.)
Somerset Councillors M. Caswell

1. Apologies for Absence:

- Cllr Curtis

2. Members of the Public:

- Two in attendance re item 3.

3. Councillor vacancy:

i. Consider candidates for co-option

- Two candidates were considered individually
- The councillors felt that both were of a high caliber and therefore it was agreed that they should both be considered for the role and a vote via a show of hands to be undertaken
- It was agreed to appoint Nicola Bond as the new parish council member
- It was also agreed that if the other candidate were happy with keeping the application on file, should another vacancy arise and co-option occurs, the Parish Council would contact them to see if they were still interested in the role
- The Parish Council would like to express their thanks to both candidates for the above and for their interest in becoming a member of the Parish Council

- ii. The Clerk asked Cllr Bond to read and sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was then countersigned by the Clerk. Additionally the Clerk will forward the Register of Interest form for Cllr Bond to complete and return to the Clerk to forward to the monitoring officer within 28 days of being co-opted

The meeting then continued as usual.

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

- None were made

5. Minutes of the Special Planning Meeting of the Parish Council held on February 3rd 2026

- **Proposed:** Cllr Lindley **Seconded:** Cllr Bartlett

6. Correspondence:

- Two grant requests have been received, these will be reviewed at the March 2026 meeting
- An email had been received requesting feedback regarding the LCN meetings. The Clerk completed this after consulting with the Chair as the deadline for this was very tight (10th February). The form will be circulated to the Parish Council members for information

7. Items for discussion:

a. Annual Governance and Accountability return – Assertion 10 update:

- All areas of Assertion 10 have been covered apart from the IT policy
- The Clerk has been working on a draft copy and will ensure this is ready for review and adoption at the March 2026 meeting
- It was proposed that until certain elements of Assertion 10 become a ‘must’, no changes are to be made at present

Proposed: Cllr Lindley **Seconded:** Cllr Barrow

b. Civility and Respect Governance Checklist:

- The Clerk has completed this and there are no areas of concern
- Code of Conduct training will take place at some point in the new financial year

c. Somerset Council/LCN update

- The Clerk in consultation with the Chair completed the recent LCN survey and this was submitted by the deadline of the 10th of February 2026
- Cllr Caswell reported that the budget will have been discussed by Somerset Council on the 25th Of February and it is expected that the Council Tax increase will be 4.99%. For further information see Somerset Council Budget or contact the Clerk for a paper copy

d. Parish Projects:

- It was agreed that as there will be two grant requests at the next meeting, councillors contact groups that may require funding and ask them to contact the Clerk for the application form

e. Highways:

i. Updates

- The cattle grid on the road to Crowcombe has been emptied. Work regarding the ditch will take place at some point, but only when funding is available
- Cllr Peaster reported that the pothole in Quantock Lane had still not been fixed and the drain has not been cleared. The Clerk will report these again

ii. No new issues to report

8. Matters arising for the Agenda for the March 2026 meeting

- Parish Projects
- Grant requests
- End of Year Policies and Procedures
- Financial update

9. Planning applications:

- a. Planning Applications
 - No applications received
- b. Planning updates:
 - Planning application 40/25/00010 – at the time of the meeting, decision was still to be made (permission granted 25/02/2026)

10. Personnel:

- No new issues
- The Clerk vacancy is still open

11. Financial Matters:

a. Payments		
i. Clerks Wages	February 2026	251.12
ii. Mobile phone contract	D/D February 2026	<u>12.76</u>
		£263.88

Proposed: Cllr Peaster

Seconded: Cllr Barrow

12. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 7.00pm at Over Stowey Village Hall

There being no other business the meeting adjourned at 7.55pm

Amanda McMurren - Clerk to Over Stowey Parish Council

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

Signed:

Dated