



OVER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

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

Present: Parish Councillors P. Tully
T. Lindley
K. Barrow
D. Peaster
N. Bond
R. Curtis

Somerset Councillors

1. Apologies for Absence:

- Cllr Bartlett and Cllr Caswell

2. Members of the Public:

- Two members of the public were in attendance re Public Rights of Way (PROW)
- Both attendees gave an overview of how their group is supporting Somerset Council with reporting of issues on PROW's within the parish of Over Stowey and how the network can be improved
- Within this, they are looking at how they can be more productive and how Somerset Council and the Parish Council can liaise with them
- It was agreed that a dedicated page on the website could be added for this purpose with all the relevant links and contact details
- The Clerk has emailed the main contact to request details they would like on the website to include links, contact details, photos and anything else to promote this
- If there are any problems found when people are using the PROW's. these can be reported at ***Report a Problem with a Public Right of Way***
- It was proposed that the Clerk contact the website provider to get the page set up as soon as the relevant information is received from the above

Proposed: Cllr Bond

Seconded: Cllr Lindley

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

- None were made

4. Minutes from the Parish Council held on the 18th February 2026

- **Proposed:** Cllr Barrow

Seconded: Cllr Bond

5. Correspondence:

- An email had been received regarding fly tipping, details have been passed on to the Parish Council members

6. Items for discussion:

a. Review and agree:

- Risk Management Report - reviewed and agreed
Proposed: Cllr Barrow **Seconded:** Cllr Peaster
- Annual Review of Effectiveness – current document reviewed and agreed. Assertion 10 will be added when confirmed and reviewed at the April 2026 meeting
Proposed: Cllr Lindley **Seconded:** Cllr Curtis
- Statement of Internal Control – reviewed and agreed
Proposed: Cllr Barrow **Seconded:** Cllr Bond
- IT Policy - reviewed and agreed
Proposed: Cllr Lindley **Seconded:** Cllr Barrow

b. Assertion 10 update

- Further details regarding the AGAR for 2025/2026 were communicated by the Clerk

c. New councillor training opportunities

- It was proposed that the Clerk books Cllr Bond onto the relevant online training for a new councillor
Proposed: Cllr Lindley **Seconded:** Cllr Barrow
The Clerk will book this as soon as possible

d. Somerset Council/LCN update

- Cllr Caswell had given his apologies so there were no updates from Somerset Council councillors
- The Clerk was not able to attend the Clerks online meeting with Somerset Council so there were no updates

e. Highways

- Updates:
 - Work will be undertaken on the A39 near Swang Farm by the end of March 2026
- Highways Meeting:
 - The LCN Highways Working Group meeting will take place on Thursday 16th April 2026
 - Cllr Tully will attend
- New issues:
 - No new issues were reported

f. Cemetery

- Further reports of dogs fouling in the cemetery:
 - The Clerk will include this information in the Messenger
 - The Clerk will contact the grounds maintenance contractor for feedback on how often this is happening

- ii. Review of cemetery fees:
 - Defer to the April 2026 meeting
 - Also discuss in conjunction with a burial policy
 - Consider what options there might be to extend the cemetery
 - iii. Tree and memorial inspections to be undertaken:
 - The Clerk will contact the grounds maintenance contractor re the tree inspection to arrange a mutually convenient time for this to take place
 - The Clerk will contact Cllr Tully re the memorial inspection to arrange a mutually convenient time for this to take place
 - iv. Update re cemetery wall repair:
 - It is expected that the work will take place towards the end of April and be completed by mid-May
 - Cllr Tully has spoken to the contractor and they will be liaising with the resident that has the land adjacent to the section of the cemetery wall that requires repair
 - The Clerk will ensure notices regarding the work being undertaken are posted on the noticeboard and website
- g. Parish projects:
- Cllr Bond requested that consideration be given to a possible grant for Over Stowey Cricket Club
 - Further details to be provided

7. Matters arising for the Agenda for the April 2026 meeting

- Possible grant application re Over Stowey Cricket Club
- New notice board to consider
- Policies for 2026/2027

8. Planning applications:

a. Planning Applications

- i. **Application No:** 40/26/00001
- ii. **Proposal:** Erection of a single storey extension (with mezzanine) to the rear (North) on site of existing (to be demolished) and associated renovation
- iii. **Location:** The Slades, Broomyland Hill, Spaxton, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 1AN
 - Following a review of the plans, it was proposed that a site visit take place on Thursday 19th March 2026 at 9.00am
Proposed: Cllr Barrow **Seconded:** Cllr Peaster
 - Cllrs Barrow, Peaster and Lindley to attend
 - It was proposed that delegated authority be given to the Clerk to feedback the decision after the site visit has been completed
Proposed: Cllr Bond **Seconded:** Cllr Curtis

- The Clerk also attended the site visit and the following decision by Cllrs Barrow, Peaster and Lindley was agreed:
 - Over Stowey Parish Council fully support the application
 - With reference to the Design and Access Statement, the Parish Council consider that the proposals have been carefully considered with regards to its setting
 - The plans represent a significant improvement to the existing dwelling, both in terms of design quality and overall functionality
 - The proposed changes appear well balanced and proportionate, enhancing the character of the property while remaining sensitive to the surrounding area
 - The inclusion of sustainable elements within the design demonstrates a forward-thinking approach to energy efficiency and environmental responsibility, which should be encouraged in developments of this nature
 - Overall, the proposal is a positive enhancement and the Parish Council can see no adverse impacts that would outweigh its clear benefits

b. Planning updates

- Planning application 40/25/00010 – granted permission 25/02026

9. Personnel:

a. Consider Clerks request for overtime

- It was agreed that this should be paid

Proposed: Cllr Barrow **Seconded:** Cllr Bond

- The Clerk vacancy is still open, the Clerk will research locum options
- The Clerk requested that the July 2026 meeting be held on Wednesday 8th July 2026 due to annual leave

10. Financial Matters:

a. Agree Internal Auditor for 2025/2026 return

- It was proposed that R. Young be appointed as the internal auditor for the AGAR 2025/2026

Proposed: Cllr Barrow **Seconded:** Cllr Curtis

b. Financial update

- The above was circulated to the Parish Council members and it was proposed that it is agreed that this is a true and accurate account of the current financial position of the Parish Council

Proposed: Cllr Lindley **Seconded:** Cllr Peaster

c. Consider grant requests receive

i. Crimestoppers

- £100 had been requested and it was proposed that this is agreed

Proposed: Cllr Barrow **Seconded:** Cllr Curtis

ii. Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance

- It was proposed that a grant of £250 be agreed

Proposed: Cllr Lindley **Seconded:** Cllr Peaster

d. Payments

i.	Clerks Wages	March 2026 (including overtime if agreed under item 9.a.)	411.92
ii.	Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance	Grant application (agreed under item 10.c.i.)	250.00
iii.	Crimestoppers	Grant application (agreed under item 10.c.ii.)	100.00
iv.	Parish Online	Annual website fees	336.00
v.	Mobile phone contract	D/D March 2026	<u>12.76</u>
			£1110.68

Proposed: Cllr Barrow

Seconded: Cllr Bond

11. Date of next meeting:

Wednesday 15th April 2026 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

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

Signed:

Dated