

*The Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting of the Parish electorate. It is not a Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council Chairman calls and Chairs the meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting must be held between March 1st and June 1st (LGA 1972, sch 12, para 14). There is no prescribed format for this meeting and its recommendations are not binding on the Parish Council.*

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 19 May 2014 AT 7.00pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Peter Greig (Chairman)	30/32 Castle Street
Dave Davison	39 Lime Street
Rob Booth	17 Oak Road
John Graham	76 South Lane
Malcolm Hogg	4 Audley Close
Margaret Hogg	4 Audley Close
AD Rich	53 Banneson Road
Barbara Rich	53 Banneson Road
John Roberts	52 Mount Road
Mary Roberts	52 Mount Road
Ray Brooks	Non-voting, rep Nether Stowey Village Hall

In Attendance:

Caro Slaymaker Clerk to the Parish Council

### **1. Welcome**

Peter Greig, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed all attending to the meeting.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Mrs Pat Pardoe, Mrs Wendy Hobbs and Mr Roger Stacey.

### **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 20 May 2013 were **approved** as a true record and signed by the Chairman. It was commented that, contrary to her hope, the PCSO had been less visible over the past year. It was understood that there were going to be changes to her beat, and a rumour that a Police office was being set up in the library, but nothing more was known.

### **4. Chairman's report**

The Chairman gave his report Annual Parish Council Report, a copy of which is appended to the minutes. There were discussions on the following points:

- a) Clothes Collection point in car park. It was not known who had authorised this but it was assumed that Sedgemoor had done so and was believed to be a legacy of the previous recycling collection point. The Clerk would investigate and report to the Parish Council.
- b) Dog waste: the Chairman suggested that consideration be given to more draconian measures to deal with the dog waste issue, such as banning dogs from the Playing Field. Mr Davison said before that stage, he would like to appeal to those who are conscientious. It was no good turning a blind eye, dog-walkers should recognise that it was a privilege to be able to use the field freely. Reporting those who do not clear up after their dog would enable that to continue. The Playing Field committee generally did not want to lose the dog-walkers as they were valuable at noticing things going astray at the Playing Field such abuse of the MUGA. There was always someone on the field, from dawn to dusk, which

was a useful deterrent against vandalism. It was noted that there were also problems at South Lane, Butchers Lane and Palmers Path, and there was a discussion as to whether the school children's help could be enlisted. It was felt that one of the problems was the number who used mobility scooters, and who could not get off to clear up after their dogs. It was suggested that waste bag dispensers be installed at key locations: the Clerk would look into this and report to the Parish Council.

## 5. Finance Report

The Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee, Cllr Rob Booth, gave his report. A copy of his report and of the Annual Accounts are appended to these minutes. There was no further discussion.

## 6. Proposal for the Playing Field

Mr Dave Davison presented a report on behalf of the Playing Field Committee (see Appendix 3). He prefaced his report by saying that it had been approved by a majority vote of the Committee but did not represent their unanimous view. His report outlined a proposal to build a residential care facility on part of the land which provoked some discussion. The Chairman said that this would be unable to proceed until the Trustees could confirm the terms of their constitution regarding the disposal of the land. Mr Davison said that the Constitution was clear that the land could be sold or changed providing it was done with a mandate from the community. The Playing Field Committee would not wish to waste time or money on putting together a proposal without an indication that the community would support the proposal.

Mr Rich said that the Committee must look to the future. He had given the matter some thought and had an idea which he would put on paper.

Mrs Rich agreed that the Committee must look 30-50 years ahead.

The Chairman said that Hinkley Point C would have an effect on the parish as the A and B stations had had in the past. There was some discussion about whether the Hinkley Point project would go ahead in the light of recent developments.

There was a discussion about the general lack of volunteers to help with any Parish activities, such as the Playing Field, Village Hall, May Fair. Mr Rich asked if organisations could be invited to send representatives to Parish Council meetings. The Chairman pointed out that the Parish Council had representatives on both the Playing Field and Village Hall Committees. It was commented that the few who were involved already gave up a lot of their time, and may not wish to lose another evening. It was also noted out that invitations to the APM had been sent to many village organisations, but although the Clerk had received a number of written reports, as in previous years, no representatives had come.

Mr Hogg suggested that merging [the Playing Field and Village Hall] would bring together finance and members and there would be strength in numbers.

## 7. Reports from Other Organisations

Village Hall: Mr Brooks, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee gave his report, a copy of which is appended. He said that the Village Hall Committee had written to the Playing Field Committee proposing a meeting to talk in broad terms about the proposal to join forces. It had been agreed that such a meeting would be arranged after the Party in the Park, when they were less busy. There was further general discussion on this proposal.

CANS: Mrs Roberts presented her report, also appended to these minutes.

Other Organisations Written reports from other organisations (listed below) who did not attend the meeting are provided as a separate annex to these minutes.

- Books for Life
- Community Action Nether Stowey
- Friends of Coleridge
- Friends of Nether Stowey Library

- Nether Stowey Recreation Ground
- Nether Stowey Twinning Association
- Nether Stowey Village Hall
- Nether Stowey War Memorial Project Group
- Nether Stowey Women's Institute
- Quantock Active Living
- Quantock Musical Theatre Company
- Quantock Players

The above reports were available to anyone who wished to take one. They, and any others received after the meeting, would be available from the Parish Office or by e-mail. The reports are included as a separate annex to the minutes.

There were no other matters raised and the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 20 May 2013 AT 7.00pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Peter Greig	30/32 Castle Street
Martin Carpenter	29 Castle Street
Shaun O'Byrne	Over Stowey
Gemma Rogers	22 Castle Street
Malcolm Hogg	4 Audley Close
Margaret Hogg	4 Audley Close
Teresa Youé	4 Meadow Close
Patricia Pardoe	19 Castle Street
County Cllr John Edney	rep Somerset County Council
District Cllr Mike Caswell	rep Sedgemoor District Council
PCSO Georgina Long	rep Avon and Somerset Police
Ray Brooks	rep Nether Stowey Village Hall

In Attendance:

Clerk to the Parish Council	Caro Slaymaker
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**1. Welcome**

Peter Greig, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed all attending to the meeting. He said that, before starting this meeting, he hoped that we could find a way to make the meeting more attractive to the parish as attendance was always very small.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from District Councillor Julie Pay.

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2012 were **approved** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters arising from previous meeting**

Blue Plaque: as a result of an enquiry last year the Clerk had researched the matter, but the the original enquirer had not returned to the Parish Office. In the meantime, Poole House had been in the process of being sold: the new owners may wish to follow up. District Cllr Caswell suggested that the Blake Museum may be able to advise on their experience.

Affordable Housing: John Thompson (SHAL) reported that the sale of land to SHAL was progressing. It was expected that construction would start in August.

**5. Chairman's report**

A copy of the Chairman's report is appended. Regarding the report on the mobile phone network, Mr Brooks asked if the weight of visitors to the area could be used as an angle if this was going to be pursued. He observed that all companies had met their target coverage and that was why none had been interested in doing anything.

**6. PCSO's report:**

The PCSO reported that she was aware that road safety was an ongoing issue for the parish. Mill Lane and Lime Street were of particular concern, but there were other routes, such as Hack Lane. She said that she would be using the Parish Office as a base and would be more present in the village.

## 7. Reports from Other Organisations

Village Hall: Mr Brooks, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee reported as follows:

Two years ago the Village Hall was faced with a report indicating that the village hall needed work with estimated costs of around £80,000. Since then they had repaired the floor in the Club Room, had dealt with water ingress and had carried out some repairs to the roof. He thanked Mrs Barbara Rich, the previous Chairman, who had managed to take this forward. In the coming year they planned to redecorate the main room, improve the heating and replace the curtains. They would be painting the soffets, fascias and guttering next weekend. They also hoped to do some work on the kitchen facilities: while they would like to refurbish it, this was not practical at present, but they could make some improvements.

Mrs Pardoe said that, as Parish Council representative, she was impressed by the effort and commitment of the Village Hall Committee.

Mr Brooks paid tribute to Mrs Rich who had persuaded new energetic people to join the Committee.

Somerset County Council: County Cllr John Edney announced that he had received confirmation that the Small Improvements Scheme for road safety would run again in 2013/14. Highways were aware of the problems in Nether Stowey at the Mill Lane/Lime Street junction and invited the Parish Council to work out a preferred scheme for consideration.

He was also pleased to report that, despite cuts elsewhere, the County Council would again run the Health and Well-being Fund again in 2013/14, though the fund would be small.

Sedgemoor District Council: District Cllr Caswell reported that he understood that the Government and EDF were likely to reach an agreement on the new station at Hinkley Point soon, but there was no definite announcement as yet.

Other Organisations These reports and other written reports are appended to these minutes. Written reports had been received from the following organisations:

- Books for Life
- Community Action Nether Stowey
- Friends of Coleridge
- Friends of Nether Stowey Library
- Nether Stowey Recreation Ground
- Nether Stowey Twinning Association
- Nether Stowey Village Hall
- Nether Stowey War Memorial Project Group
- Nether Stowey Women's Institute
- Quantock Active Living
- Quantock Musical Theatre Company
- Quantock Players

The above reports were available to anyone who wished to take one. They, and any others received after the meeting, would be available from the Parish Office or by e-mail. The reports are included as a separate annex to the minutes.

There were no other matters raised and the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

## **Appendix 1 – Report from Peter Greig, Chairman of the Parish Council**

### **Parish Council Report 2013-2014**

#### **Meetings**

The Parish Council met every month during the Council Year, with the traditional exception of August. For those who don't know, Council meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7pm here at the Village Hall. We welcome members of the Parish to attend, and there is a short informal session at the beginning where issues can be raised. Members of the Public are also welcome to ask for items to be included on the Agenda for formal consideration – if you wish to do so, please contact to Clerk at least a week before the meeting when the Agenda is set.

A full programme of Council meetings is available on the table. Please note that separate meetings for planning matters or financial matters are only held when insufficient time is anticipated at the regular Parish Council meeting. This saves money in hall hire and avoids late sittings which are undesirable.

#### **Councillors**

There have been a number of changes in our line-up over the past year. We said good-bye to Martin Carpenter, Teresa Youé (after 13 years service) and Shaun O'Byrne. We have welcomed Barbara Rich, John Roberts, Andrew Jeanes and, as of last week, Colin Penny.

It is always a struggle to find replacements, and we frequently struggle with gaps. I would urge anyone who has an interest in parish matters and who would like to help shape the future of Nether Stowey to put their name forward. Whilst we hope that the present team will stay for the year, next year is election year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the unsung heroes of Nether Stowey who work for the Parish: no-one really notices what they do until it's not done!: Bob Scoins, for winding and generally tending to the clock; Colin Penny for opening the gaol and Heather Coates, Louiza Pearson, Mike Henry, Alex Ballinger and Colin Penny (again) for locking it up. Also many thanks to the diverse souls who clean up the Cross and Gaol area from time to time. Bench users please note! And finally Chloe Frost for opening and closing the public lavatories every day, and Colin Fall for agreeing to take on the role of Footpaths Liaison Officer.

#### **Quantock Cluster election of Chairman**

I remain Chairman of the Quantock Cluster of Parishes. Meetings of the Cluster are held quarterly under the guidance and organization of Sedgemoor District Council. This forum allows for Sedgemoor to give updates on projects in the areas and for many of the common problems facing the local parishes to be discussed directly with SDC and sometimes with the County Council and Hinkley Point C Station EDF representatives. The traffic problems on the A39 have featured in these discussions, and parishes' local knowledge provided some useful input into the emergency diversion plan. The Steart flood and wildlife scheme funded by the Environment Agency has been substantially completed and will be the subject of a site visit for the forthcoming meeting. If any parishioner feels that an item of concern could be usefully aired at a future meeting of all the Cluster Parishes please advise the Parish Clerk, Caro Slaymaker, at the Parish Office.

As Chairman of the Cluster I also attend quarterly meetings of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) which cover very broadly the major activities carried out by Sedgemoor District Hospital. The new Bridgwater hospital under construction and EDF Hinkley Point C Station, new schools and roads and bridges feature in what is a general overview. The meetings are held quarterly. The activities of the new Crime and Police Commissioner are also reported on.

#### **Audit Report**

The external audit for the last financial year (to 31 March 2013) was completed successfully, with no matters of concern raised. The Accounts for the latest financial year are currently being examined by the Internal Auditor and will be available for electors to inspect from 17 May until 28 June 2014 during office hours. They will then be submitted to the External Auditor. Copies of these draft accounts are available on the table to take away if you wish to. A vote of thanks to Caro

Slaymaker is due for all the hard work and efforts in preparation of these accounts together with Councillor Robert Booth and other Councillors who efficiently manage the Finance Committee.

### **Grants**

The Village Hall and Playing Field Committees both received grants during the year. In addition, the Parish Council has now taken on the cost of the dog waste and litter bins at the Playing Field. Parish Council have representatives on the relevant Committees. We also gave a grant to the Royal British Legion to help celebrate their 90th Anniversary.

### **May Fair**

The May Fair was successfully run again this year and the hard work put in by Mary Roberts the Chair of CANS and John Roberts and particularly Gemma for which they are all due a big vote of thanks. Thanks should also go to residents of Lime Street, St Mary Street and Castle Street for putting up with the disruption and moving (almost) all the cars off the street overnight. Mary will be reporting on this in more detail.

### **Floods**

We were lucky this year that we did not suffer the kind of major flooding endured by others in the area, and despite the huge pressures on them, Highways and the District Council were able to deal with most of our problems fairly quickly. Our biggest problem was a blockage in the culvert in St Mary Street from which we retrieved, among other things, a football. A CCTV survey of the culvert has recently been carried out and we await the detailed report.

### **Affordable Housing**

The construction of affordable housing at Stogursey Lane continues apace and it is expected that the first ones will be ready in late August. The Parish Council agreed that the new development will be called "Harry Prowse Close". Harry Prowse won the Military Medal (the equivalent of the Military Cross) of all the men from during his service in the First World War. A plaque will be installed to commemorate the service the Parish during that conflict.

Anyone wishing to be considered for a tenancy at these house MUST be registered with Homefinder Somerset, even if you expressed an interest when the project started and are still interested. At this stage you cannot register specifically for these properties – this will not start until the end of June, but you should not wait until then. The houses and flats will be offered first to those with a close connection to Nether Stowey, and then any that are left will be offered to those with a close connection to neighbouring villages. The allocation will be verified by Sedgemoor District Council to ensure that the agreement regarding tenants – which is legally binding – is properly adhered to.

The Parish Council regrets the inconvenience suffered by those who live in Stogursey Lane and Hartley Meadow during the construction phase, which has mainly been unavoidable.

### **Other Housing**

As some of you will know, for a few years now a developer has been interested in building on the field between the Playing Field and the allotments. We have been advised that an agreement has already been made with the landowner and the developer, Hannick Homes, is now keen to take his project further.

The designated site is outside of the authorised development boundary. This means that before any plans can be made a Housing Needs Survey is required in accordance with Sedgemoor District Council's Local Development Framework (Core Strategy).

The Parish Council's involvement is crucial to prevent developers building what is most profitable at the expense of the village's needs. Members of the Parish Council had an informal meeting with representatives of Hannick Homes at the end of November to learn more about their proposals. We have agreed that a Housing Needs Survey can be carried out in the Parish to better understand the Parish's current and future needs. This will be of value, whatever happens in the future. I would stress that, at this stage, the Parish Council have no view as to whether the Council would support any development plan: this depends on what the survey indicates is needed and what the developer proposes.

As yet we only a general indication of the type of housing Hannick Homes wish to build, and they have said that this will partly depend on what the Housing Survey indicates the Parish needs. It is expected that any housing would be a mix of open market housing, and may include some kind of affordable housing or specialised housing in line with development policy, or may offer an opportunity for other community benefits.

Hannick Homes have commissioned the Community Council for Somerset to undertake this work. The survey will be paid for entirely by Hannick Homes and NOT by the Parish Council. A survey questionnaire is currently being prepared and will now issue later in the summer.

One question that I know a lot of people are concerned about is the future of the allotments. To reassure you, I can confirm the developer has stated very clearly that they have no intention of building on that part of the site, and the allotments would be transferred to the Parish's ownership.

This is a decision which will need careful consideration at every stage, balancing the needs of the village and potential community benefits against over-development and will be discussed thoroughly at Parish Council meetings. Your views matter and we look forward to a better understanding and expression of interest.

### **Public Library Car Park and Toilets**

We expect to take ownership of the car park and public toilets in Castle Street in the next few weeks. The legal agreement transferring the property proved rather more complicated than expected but this is almost at an end. Following this take over The Council would be very happy to identify volunteers to help maintain the shrubs, grass and trees in the area. Many hands make light work. (Old EDF saying)

### **Coleridge Cottage**

Coleridge Cottage continues to be a popular tourist attraction and the consequent benefits to the economic life of the village are very positive. We congratulate them for their Gold Award for Small Visitor Attraction of the Year, as part of the 2013-2014 South West Tourism Excellence Awards.

### **Hinkley Point C Station**

Although the Government and EDF reached agreement earlier in the year, we still do not know when work will start in earnest. Sedgemoor believe that this will not now be until 2015.

### **Dogs**

The problem of dog fouling both on the streets and at the playing field remain a constant problem. Most dog owners are particular about clearing up dog poo. However, there are a few dog owners who refuse to carry out this most basic piece of hygienic good manners. **If you have a dog it is your legal responsibility to clear up after it, with no exceptions.**

In particular the Playing Field, well-used by both the general public and children, whether playing freely or in organised sports. Apart from the disgusting experience of getting faeces on shoes and clothing, there is also a serious risk to health – and in particular to children. Faeces can cause, amongst many other things, toxocarosis, a disease which kill a child within 72 hours or lead to permanent blindness.

### **Council Election 2015**

The 4 yearly election for Parish and District Councils will take place next year. The Council would be very happy to receive nominations from any qualified resident to pass onto the Election Manager's office.



## Parish Council Meetings 2014-2015

All members of the Parish are welcome to attend Parish Council and Committee meetings. Meetings are held in the Village Hall and start at 7 pm.

- Monday 9 June 2014
- Monday 14 July 2014
- *Monday 11 August (only held if there is urgent essential business)*
- Monday 8 September 2014
- Monday 13 October 2014
- Monday 10 November 2014
- Monday 8 December 2014
- Monday 12 January 2015
- Monday 9 February 2015
- Monday 9 March 2015
- Monday 13 April 2015

If you would like a matter included on the Agenda, please contact the Clerk. Agendas are prepared on the Tuesday preceding the meeting, and items for inclusion must reach the Clerk by the Friday before.

### **Finance & Audit Committee**

Finance and Audit Committee meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of the month (ie one week before the Parish Council meeting), but where possible, finance matters are included in Parish Council meetings and a separate meeting is only held if needed. The following (separate) meetings will be held:

- *Monday 3 November 2014*
- *Monday 1 December 2014*
- *Monday 6 January 2015*

### **Notes**

- All other Committee meetings will be arranged as and when required.
- Three clear working days notice are given for all meetings by publication of the summons and agenda on the Parish Council Notice Boards on the Wednesday preceding the meeting.
- All Working Group meetings are arranged by the Chairman of the Working Group. They are not public meetings.

## Appendix 2 – Report from Rob Booth, Chairman of the Finance & Audit Committee

The Parish Council's Budget has been set for the financial year April 2014 - March 2015. The members of the Finance & Audit Committee went through the proposed Budget line by line at its meeting in December. It debated the requirements for each aspect of expenditure and challenged whether it was necessary. The meeting was open to the public, as was the following meeting in January, when the Committee again robustly debated the figures in order to set a Budget that was fair and balanced.

Later in January the Parish Council accepted the Committee's recommended Budget, which will result in an increase of £2.21 per year for a typical (Band D) property in Nether Stowey. This is less than twenty pence per month for a typical household. The Parish Council was keen to avoid any increase at all, but two important factors made it necessary:

Firstly, other local authorities that are responsible for looking after our village, like Sedgemoor District Council and Somerset County Council, continue to reduce their service provision. The Parish Council targets some of its resources on making up for those reductions, for example by cutting grass verges or putting money aside to save for potentially maintaining or replacing the railings alongside the stream at the Recreation Ground end of the village. This helps protect our village from the impacts of cuts.

Secondly, the Parish Council wants to be able to respond to the concerns and ambitions of our community. This Budget allows the Parish Council to help make our village a better place to live, work and enjoy. For example, by investing in a new bench in the playing field, providing more dog bins, doubling its support for the Village Hall, and supporting local events through small grants.

It also enables the Parish Council to persuade others to invest in the village by demonstrating its own commitment to delivering local priorities, for example by setting aside funding to make the route to school safer for the families living in Hartley Meadow and the Stogursey Lane development."

In March significant changes to the Regulations governing Parish Councils' financial management was issued. A Working Group has been set up to study and implement them.

The Parish Councils' accounts are currently being examined by our Internal Auditor and are available for scrutiny by the Parish during office hours. They will be submitted to the External Auditor at the end of June.

### Appendix 3 – Report from Dave Davison, Playing Field Committee

#### IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES, IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES

No, the famous author has not posthumously joined the playing field committee but the iconic opening from his 'Tales of Two Cities' not only sums up the recent history of the playing field but the storyline reflects some of the choices ahead!

The best of times- the playing field is looking better than it has in a while as result of the clean-up day recently completed and the new MUGA is being well-used. After a number of knock-backs, there is a focus on getting the play area re-instated this year.

The worst of times- Our initial strategy for raising the money for the new pavilion has un-ravelled for a number of reasons and the committee, which has been steadily shrinking over the past couple of years, no longer has the resources to trawl for financial backing from main-stream funders.

An option for making progress on the regeneration project was presented at the Parish Council annual meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> May. This option entails investigating building a residential care facility on the north end of the playing field next to the cemetery (yes, we have already done most of those jokes). This proposal does not entail any selling of the playing field land; the building would be on a leasehold basis, and the project would be led by the community not developers.

We are aware that the Village Hall committee are wanting to discuss the future of the hall which could lead to a combined community centre and changing facilities being built on the playing field. This could be a further option for completing the regeneration project.

Potentially major changes to the village hall and playing field should be contentious and encourage the majority of the community to engage with the debate. If this in fact occurs then it can only be seen as a positive outcome.

There is little doubt that the village is set to significantly expand over the next five to ten years. Recent experience would suggest that there is little the community can do to prevent this. In fact, with current government guidelines even the local authorities do not have the final word.

If we as a community take the initiative and ensure our objectives are met we can maximise the benefits of the forthcoming developments and, hopefully mitigate the disadvantages. The alternative is to sleep walk into a situation whereby the attractions of living in a community like Nether Stowey start to dissipate.

The first stage is to get an idea of the options being considered and make sure your voice is heard. The easy way to do this is just turn up at a Playing Field Committee meeting which are held in the Portakabin on the field on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month starting at 19:00. These meetings are open to the whole community to come and express their views on the management and development of the playing field.

If you don't engage with the debate then your Great Expectations could be replaced with an outlook that is more depressing than Bleak House!

Well, what the Dickens was that all about? Next month, a posthumous report on the condition of the changing rooms by Oscar Wilde to include a proposal to stabilise it by making a never-to-be-seen painting of it!

On a lighter note, congratulations to the following winners of the May PFR super draw-

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	4 <sup>th</sup> Prize
£168.75	£84.37	£50.63	£33.75
P Tyndall	J Cheese	M & V Hayes	H Sells

The draw takes place in the George on the first Friday of the month at 8pm, Come along and watch your number being drawn, or if you are not a member come along and join or phone either Dave Davison on 732601 or Sharon Mayell on 732311. The membership is just £15 for the 6 monthly draws and will further support the regeneration of the Playing Fields.

## Appendix 4 – Report from Ray Brooks, Chairman of the Village Hall Committee

Nether Stowey Village Hall, Lime St, Nether Stowey TA5 1NH

Chair:	Secretary:	Treasurer:
Mr R Brooks	Mrs W A Hobbs	Mrs H Sells
Bonson House	6 Exeter Close	Keenthorne Cottage
Fiddington	Nether Stowey	Nether Stowey
Bridgwater	Bridgwater	Bridgwater
Somerset TA5 1JP	Somerset TA5 1NR	Somerset TA5 1HZ
Tel: 01278-732532	Tel: 01278-733197	Tel: 01278-732226
Registered Charity No: 271780		

### Report to the Nether Stowey Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 19 May 2014

The past twelve months have been a very good year for the village hall. With the help of villagers who have given up their time voluntarily, the main hall, toilets, stage and small hall toilets have all been decorated, with new curtains and stage curtains purchased for the main hall to complement those in the small hall. Externally, replacement soffits and fascias have been fitted to the front of the hall and the kitchen has been equipped with a new dishwasher, pans, utensils and glassware. Revenue from fund raising has increased to almost £2250 although overall revenue has reduced due to the loss of QMTC to Stogursey and reduced Brownie camps, Dance sessions, Yoga, Zumba and Parish Council use. Revenue from parties, Kick Boxing Stowey Bears and the bouncy castle has increased. With an increase in children's parties to 15, the bouncy castle has drawn in new users to the hall broadening village participation and increased revenues.

Other achievements last year included renewing the Quality Standard Hallmark 1 and gaining Hallmark 2. During November the committee distributed a questionnaire to every home in the village seeking information on areas of the hall we could improve, events or clubs that villagers would like to see introduced to the hall and guidance on the future of the hall. Although the response was a little disappointing, much interest was shown in the introduction of a movie night and a farmers' market. The committee has sanctioned a trial of a movie night over a three month period later this year and we are seeking volunteers to help with this and to consider a farmers' market.

We continue to work to attract other local groups and trust that the Parish council will be able to use the hall more frequently in the coming year.

Attendance at our AGM was higher this year and the new committee was asked by villagers whether we would consider partnering with the Playing Field committee in a new hall. This was not an option put to the village in our questionnaire last autumn but the committee thought that this should nevertheless be investigated as the benefits to the village of a combined venue would be high and it would ensure that modern facilities were available to both groups and keep running costs minimized. We have consequently written to the Playing Field Committee seeking their participation in a series of meetings to consider this proposition. We believe that in a short period of time (4 months perhaps) a combined group should identify what each group would ideally like in a combined hall, draw up an outline plan, identify a potential location, benefits, drawbacks, problems and obtain budgetary costs. The village hall committee would like to seek the help in this from an experienced retired builder who acted as project manager for Burtle village hall if this is agreeable to the Playing Field committee.

As always, we welcome additional people to help in any way you are able to and if you were kind enough to respond to our survey saying you would help, thank you. We will be in touch!

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who has attended events in our hall or hired it for private events, helped with fund raising or redecoration and DIY work last year, the clubs that hire our hall and the Parish Council for their support as without you the village would lose this facility and community asset - a meeting place for all.

Ray Brooks  
Chair

## **Appendix 4 – Report from Mary Roberts, Chairman of CANS**

### **CANS REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2014**

Margaret Hogg is now deputy chair with Barbara Rich also offering to come on the committee. The last meeting we had was to discuss the notice board and whether there was an agreement to partly fund this from CANS, this was agreed and reported at the following PC meeting.

#### Memorial book

Having spoken with Mike they have set a dead line of November to try and finish the memorial book, they are hoping to have a draft version to see sometime in June.

#### Notice board

We have raised the monies needed for the Notice Board apart from the final £500.00; it is unfortunate that we could not have this in place for the May Fair but perhaps next year.

We did write to a number of local businesses asking if they wished to contribute but unfortunately received no replies, we are at the present time waiting for replies from a grant application.

We are concerned that the longer it is left the more chance of the cost rising and we will forever be chasing a goal we may not reach.

#### May Fair

Following the success of the first May Fair seven years ago it was decided to try and make this a regular annual event and at that time The May Fair became a CANS project. So far we have been relatively successful and next year will be the eighth May Fair.

The organisation of each year's May Fair is carried out with assistance from the Parish Office and without the support they provide it would be impossible to stage the May Fair at all. We are extremely grateful for their help and the support of the Parish Council.

This year we had another successful day and once again the weather was very good.

Thanks must also go to Bob for keeping the entertainment running smoothly for the whole day.

We started with the opening of The May Fair by our twinning guests and then the children from the school entertained with Country Dancing, a group put together especially for the May Fair.

After complaints that there was not enough for the little ones in past years, we arranged for Molly Muddles to present a show and this was a great success.

Once again we had Punch and Judy throughout the day, QMTC sang some favourite songs.

After lunch we had Skin Tight Samba liven up the Cross with their drums etc. It was lovely to see the younger children dancing in the road.

I think the majority of the children who visited the fair also had their face painted by Angel Art, again this proved to be a great success.

Molly, Angel Art, Skintight and Punch & Judy have all been asked if they will come again next year.

We had the 1610 climbing wall and although it cost a lot of money to hire it I am sure you will agree it was a great attraction to the fair, we had some sponsored climbs as well as individuals climbing for the fun of it. With more time I am sure we can attract more people to participate thereby covering the cost of the wall and hopefully a small profit to go towards local projects. We have asked them to provisionally book the date for next year.

The day was only marred by the thoughtlessness of two people who could not be bothered to move their cars despite adequate notice and several reminders to do so and Castle Windows who decided they could leave early and drive through the crowds, they will not be invited again.

We now have such a number of regular stall holders that most people know what to do and where to go.

We need to have more volunteers on the day to man the barriers and the office as we struggled this year and some people had to do a few extra shifts.

Although the May Fair does not make huge profits it does showcase our village as it attracts people and stall holders from a wide area of the Southwest, this year we even had a brewery from Cambridgeshire. People see our village as a thriving and active community with all the local amenities.

Lastly on the May Fair we would like to thank all those residents who removed their cars etc. from the streets, this was a superb effort, thank you.

#### Blue Plaques

I was asked in the PC meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May if I would be happy to have new project and this would be for the plaques for houses of interest in the village. This is something we will look into very soon and hope to involve other people from the village.

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