



NETHER STOWEY PARISH

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 24 MAY 2018 AT 7.00pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present:	Councillors	
	John Roberts (Chairman)	
	Colin Falla	Margaret Hogg
	Kevin Ferriday	Pat Pardoe
Residents *	Terry Binding	Wendy Hobbs
	Rob Booth	Ian Miller
	Dave Davison	Margaret Patel
	Jean Falla	Roger Stacey
	Judith Greig	Michelle Thomas
	Margaret Harris	Mervyn Todd
Others	Michael Caswell	Sedgemoor District Council
	Julie Pay	Sedgemoor District Council
	Mel Catchpole	Nether Stowey Parish Council
	Gareth John	SASP
In Attendance:	Caro Slaymaker	Clerk to the Parish Council

**There may be others who attended but did not sign the attendance sheet*

1. Welcome

John Roberts, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed all attending to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Barbara Rich.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held on 3 April 2017, were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman read out the Parish Council's Annual Report for 2017/18, summarising the Council's activities over the past year. A copy of the full report is appended to these minutes.

5. Items for Discussion

No matters were raised.

6. Reports from Other Organisations

Ian Miller, Nether Stowey Village Hall: over the past 12 months there had been a lot of change as the Village Hall and Recreation Ground underwent the process of merging to become one organisation. The costs entailed had been double what was expected, putting a strain on the Village Hall's finances.



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It had been a tough year in other ways dealing with issues of heating, drains, the flat roof etc. The fund-raising team had excelled thanks to Jan and Jane. Many popular events had been held including quizzes, Cinema evenings etc.

Ian thanked the Parish Council for their continuing support as well as all those who contribute to the running of the Hall and setting up events. Ian's full report is available separately.

Michelle Thomas, Nether Stowey Recreation Ground: the Committee's written report would be available as part of the Parish Council's Annual Organisations Report, but to be brief, as Ian had mentioned they were going through a merger process. She invites other village groups to see what they could offer and how they could work together.

The communications mast had been in place since December and it would hopefully be operational soon. They had received funds from Viridor and the Parish Council and the Fairfield Trust which had enabled them to fence off the children's play area. They had won a Bronze Award for Playing Field of the Year from Somerset Playing Fields Association. They were working together with Stowey Green Spaces to help maintain the playing field.

Party in the Park would take place on 2 June. They had moved away from a big event to just 2-3 live acts. Michelle then introduced Gareth John from SASP.

Gareth introduce SASP, a Charitable organisation with the aim of embedding physical activity for everyone. They had recently successfully bid for a CIM Fund grant for an Active Spaces Project working in areas most impacted by Hinkley Point, which would offer activities for everyone, of all ages.

Mervyn Todd, Books for Life: gave a report about the charity's activities and had provided a written report for further information. They had raised £200 from stamps collected locally and there is a box on the wall outside the shop where stamps can be donated.

Wendy Hobbs, Quantock Players: They had performed Snow White in 2017. The cast is small but they just about manage. They planned to do "Ali Baba and The Four Tea Leaves" in 2018. They had entered the Cinderella Awards and were waiting to hear results. They always welcome more volunteers, so please help!?

Judith Greig, Stowey Green Spaces: the Recreation Ground had had advice from Richard Ince for care of the trees and hedges etc. Stowey Green Spaces had begun as a sub-committee of the Playing Field Committee and had now evolved into an organisation going beyond the Playing Field.

A number of experts were involved with Stowey Green Spaces included a number of experts. At the Recreation Ground they had chosen trees which would be allowed to mature, were working on hedges and had built a compost bin. Elsewhere they had planted crocus bulbs on the green area behind Banneson Road, had arranged an autumn work and were planning a Spring walk that would finish with tea and cakes at the Pavilion. They had collected 120 bags of litter over the last few months – but less at the last litter pick, with only eight compared to 14 previously.

Trees had been procured from the Woodland Trust for Autumn Planting, and other groups were helping with the work. They were hoping to work with the AONB in the "Reimagining the Manor" Project. A more detailed report is available.

Colin Falla: Footpaths Liaison Officer: Colin had provided a written report but had two things to add. The first was that north of the A39 a number of stiles would be changed for gates, which would make it easier. Secondly there was confusion about the path behind the Church Centre. It used to be impassable, but no longer, and there is a new gate into the woods, with a signpost – it gives access to Lime Street.



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Roger Stacey FONSL: most of his written report promoted activities at the Library but he wanted to draw attention to the Library Services consultation. FONSL were proactive both encouraging use of the Library and working with the Parish Council in terms of the library's future. There was a long way to go but together they were doing their best. The Chairman urged everyone present to respond to the consultation.

Written reports from those who had spoken and from other groups were available to anyone who wished to take one. They, and any others received after the meeting, would be included as a separate report and would be available from the Parish Office, by e-mail and on the Parish Council website at www.netherstowey-pc.gov.uk/about/annual-parish-meetings/. These include:

- Parish Council Footpaths Liaison Officer
- Friends of Coleridge
- Urban Saints
- Nether Stowey Women's Institute
- Nether Stowey Short Mat Bowls
- Nether Stowey Wednesday Club
- Quantock Players
- Stowey Gardeners

There was no further business. The Chairman thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 7.50 pm.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2018

Some local groups and organisations have reported their activities for the past year, some will present their reports to you this evening and others are on display for you to read.

Before I get on to the main part of my report I would like to use this opportunity to express the thanks of us all to a number of people who do jobs around the village. The Clock continues to give good service and this is thanks to a dedicated crew of Tony Edney, Steve Scarrott and Ian Faris. Thanks also to Colin Falla for his work as Footpaths Liaison Officer and all the strimming, and to Roy Osborne and Richard Ince who look after the Millennium Wood, and, new this year – Stowey Green Spaces who look after other little bits as well as the Playing Field. Also to the volunteers at Stowey Shuttle who help keep villagers on the move. I'd also like to make a special mention of Terry and Eliza Sackett who have once more contributed their talents so generously for many village projects.

PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Colin Penny has unfortunately resigned from the Parish Council. On behalf of the Council I would like to record my thanks for his four years of service. This means that we have a vacancy for a parish councillor which we will fill hopefully in the summer, either by election or, if no-one comes forward, by coercion. Sorry – I think that should be co-option. If anyone present is interested in joining us, please get in touch!

As ever, we meet every month except August and all Councillors have another job for the Parish Council, attending meetings with EDF, the AONB, the District Council and local parishes. A list of the Parish Council meetings scheduled for the next months is available.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Consultation event on 13/14 April was fairly well attended, and a lot of comments had been put on post-it notes. The Group was now working on modifying the draft objectives and policies to reflect these comments and ideas.

This has turned out to be a much harder grind than we were led to believe and we are grateful to those who have stuck with this and the amount of work they have done.

LIBRARY

As hopefully you will all know, Somerset County Council is reviewing library services across the County. There are two main proposals for many smaller libraries – either a community-run library or a mobile service. In our case the matter is further entangled with the building itself. Somerset County Council have been offered the possibility for either the Parish Council or a charitable trust to rent or lease the building. And while this offers the possibility to take on the building the conditions offered means also taking on the considerable costs involved and a degree of risk, since it depends on the community being able to provide an adequate library service. And this means a committed and sustained force of volunteers.

A significant increase to the precept will be necessary to meet all the costs and liabilities of the building and its management. Although the various consultation events have been well attended by those who care about the library, we have to find the best solution for the whole of



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Nether Stowey, including those whose interests lie elsewhere. To this end we have had discussions with organisations who may be able to share the building and thus the financial burden as well as with FONSL

Is it right that we commit such a big proportion of our limited funds to this one thing? Should funds be shared with other community assets of equal value to other groups such as the playing field, which enhances the health and well-being of the community, or the village hall which contributes to our social needs. And possibly now the children's centre, which is so important to our young families.

This is a big decision and not one the Parish Council feels it should take without the endorsement of the whole community. We have therefore agreed that there should be a poll or referendum later in the year when we know what the County Council have decided. And could I remind you that there is still time until 13 June to give your views to the County Council. You can do it online or leave it with the Library.

PUBLIC TOILETS AND CAR PARK

Work continues to keep this area clean and tidy and we are now arranging to have an outside light installed for the safety of people in the evening.

GDPR

Like me, you have probably been bombarded with privacy notices – though sadly not from the spammers who I would most like to “unsubscribe” from. We have also been working hard to update our policies and procedures. The volume of work and confusion involved has been phenomenal. But please rest assured we do not give away, let alone, sell any details we have about you and only pass information on to proper authorities when it is necessary. Our website does not track you and our website and office systems are very well protected against hacking.

GRANTS

In a community such as ours it is important to encourage, help and support worthwhile groups that contribute to the life and well-being of the community. In the past twelve months the Parish Council has approved and provided grants to various groups within the village.

- a) NS Recreation Ground received £2,442 towards maintenance and a contribution towards the fencing at the children's play area which will be inaugurated at Party in the Park during the last financial year, and we have already agreed to donate a trailer and leaf blower.
- b) NS Village Hall had a new dishwasher costing nearly £1,800
- c) NS Football Club received a £700 for jackets for the children's teams – please do look at their report and the photos of the teams looking very smart.
- d) We also made a small donation to Mendip Community Transport to support Slinky Bus which serves Nether Stowey

CRICKETER

The site is for sale and until a buyer comes forward there will be no further progress.



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HINKLEY POINT PROJECT

Councillors continue to attend numerous meetings organized by EDF and the District Councils to discuss matters concerned with project, and to try to find resolution to the impacts that the influx of workers and the increase in transport. We have had some success with fly-parking and the office can report vehicles believed to be parked by those getting one of the buses from Nether Stowey. Unfortunately, this only applies to Hinkley workers who do not live in the village – and we know that there are quite a few village houses which have been rented as shared houses to several workers and others who have taken a lodger.

We know that the buses are causing problems in the village by parking in awkward places, causing unnecessary disturbance early in the morning, using Lime Street and chewing up the verge opposite Cricketer Farm. We hope by continually reporting incidents we can solve these problems, and the transport management assure us that they are issuing instructions to drivers. Please help by reporting problems to us –we do need is the date, time and ideally a registration number so that the drivers can be identified.

We do however also have to thank EDF for stepping in to provide a community bus service when the County Council would not help, and for listening to our feedback to work out a new timetable which gives a little bit longer in Minehead and Bridgwater.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL

We continue to work hard with both Councils to try to get the best possible services. You are no doubt all well that they operate in an ever tighter financial landscape (as do we) and this means that some services are less than we might like. The Parish Council does try to top-up these services, but we do have to pay for them through the precept, which means more on everyone's Council tax bills. We can no longer sit and wait for "them" to do things and I would urge everyone to do what they can – even something as quick and simple as sweeping up the leaves from the trees and bushes in your front garden can help stop drains getting blocked for example. The less the Parish Council has to spend on that kind of work, the more there is available for other things people want.