

**MINUTES OF NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 13 JULY 2009 AT 7.00pm**  
**IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Parish Councillors Tony Rich (Chairman)  
Rita Corbett  
Peter Greig  
Margaret Hogg

**In attendance:**  
District Cllr David Joslin  
Assistant Parish Clerk Jean Falla  
8 Parishioners

**3717 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Roberts (holiday), Cllr Parsons (Quantock Commoners Meeting), Cllr Malcolm Hogg (business), Cllr Pardoe (daughter's graduation) Cllr Youe (son's concert). The absences were **approved**.

Apologies were also received from Mary Roberts (Chairman of CANS) (holiday) and District Cllr Dyer and District /County Cllr Edney who were at other meetings.

**3718 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes for the meeting held on 08 June 2009 were **approved** and signed by the Chairman.

**3719 Planning**

- (i) Application Ref: 1/36/09/0006  
Address: Nether Stowey Primary School, Mill Lane  
Proposal: Retention of temporary units E701 and E710  
Response: No Objections
- (ii) Application Ref: 1/36/09/0007  
Address: Nether Stowey Primary School, Mill Lane  
Proposal: New Children's Centre plus additional car parking spaces and ancillary works

Response:

Whilst the Parish Council supports the development of the proposed Children's Centre it has grave concerns regarding traffic management and the parking provision as shown on the current plans as detailed below.

Traffic Management: The school and proposed Children's Centre are located at the end of a small cul-de-sac (Mill Close) which becomes seriously congested at times of the "school run", which extends to circa 45 minutes morning and afternoon. The congestion spills over to the adjacent Mill Lane, which does not have a footpath, and Mount Road. The additional traffic movements created by the Children's Centre will exacerbate this problem and create serious safety issues for both parents and children attending the site and local residents.

Parking: The proposed additional parking is not considered sufficient and there is no provision for a safe off road drop off point. It is completely unrealistic to state that parents of pre-school children using the new centre will continue to use the Village Hall car park. The Village Hall car park is not a public car park; it is a (small) private

car park solely for the use of people attending the Village Hall. It is probable that the Village Hall will have other users booking the Hall at the times currently occupied by Stowey Bears who will wish to use the village hall car park.

In view of the above, the Parish Council requests that the following amendments are made to the plans for the new Children's Centre:

- (i) resite and enlarge the on-site parking provision to the east of the new building
- (ii) create an on-site drop off / turning point in front of the building
- (iii) require the applicants to prepare (in conjunction with the school) a detailed traffic management plan to ensure safety for residents and users of the Children's Centre.

The above responses were **agreed**.

### **3720 Finance**

#### (i) Financial Reporting

The Clerk reported that in the last financial year the Parish Council accounts consisted of 263 payments, 300 receipts and 64 internal transfers, a total of 627 transactions. All payments are reported to the Parish Council but these only represent 42% of total transactions. It was, therefore, proposed to instigate a new monthly financial report that showed all movements, an example of which was circulated at the meeting. The first of the new reports would be produced in September with future reports being circulated with the agenda for the monthly Parish Council meeting. The proposed reporting arrangements were **approved**.

#### (ii) Grants to Outside Bodies

The Clerk reported that the 2009-2010 budget included provision for the following grants.

- Nether Stowey Recreation Ground £900 (Maintenance Grant) plus £1600 (Maintenance Expenditure) which was dealt with under minute 3682 (20 April 2009)
- Nether Stowey Village Hall £1150 (Maintenance Grant)
- Sedgemoor Community Transport £275 (for the operation of shopping trips for the elderly and infirm)
- Miscellaneous Grants £400

The following grants were **approved**, Nether Stowey Village Hall £1150, Sedgemoor Community Transport £275, Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance Charity £100

#### (iii) Expenditure incurred since the Parish Council meeting of 08 June 2009

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Details</b>
G Bickers	796.50	
Nether Stowey Village Hall	103.00	May Fair 2009
British Red Cross Society	92.00	May Fair 2009
Opal	32.96	Office Telephone
Gordon's Electrical Services	643.43	Works to Portacabin
Chanin & Thomas	166.66	Office Rent June
cancelled		
A Ensor	753.12	Salary June
J Falla	539.77	Salary June
A Rich	175.00	Chairman's Allowance
J Standing	150.00	Internal Audit Fee 2008/9
H Coates	100.00	CANS – Old Orchard design competition prize
Send a Cow	25.00	Active Living speaker fee
A Ensor	158.90	Postage £69 Active Living £29.92 Internet £59.98

T Youe	21.37	CANS – Village of Year
EDF Energy 1 Limited	6.21	Clock Tower Electricity
Nether Stowey Village Hall	21.00	CANS Meeting
Chanin & Thomas	166.66	Office Rent July
J Falla	1079.54	Salary July / August
A Ensor	1506.04	Salary July / August
HM Revenue & Customs	539.81	PAYE / NI
<b>Total</b>	<b>£7,076.97</b>	

The above expenditure was **approved**.

### **3721 Highways**

The following items were noted:

- Speed Indicator Device – the Clerk reported that Somerset County Council was offering a Speed Indicator Device for a period of two weeks every four months for one year funded by British Energy. It was noted that to be considered a site had to have a speed problem (85%ile recorded speeds exceed the posted speed limit by 10% + 3mph (i.e. 36mph in a 30mph area). Following discussion it was **agreed** to ask for a SID on St Mary Street between the junction with Banneson Road and the entrance to the cemetery.
- Overgrown hedge outside the telephone exchange. The Clerk outlined the steps taken to get British Telecom's maintenance contractor to cut this back; it was hoped that it would be cut back in the next week, failing which the Parish Council would take steps to clear the pavement of the overgrowth.
- Road Closure - South Lane adjacent to Highbeer Close for 4 days from 21 July for resurfacing
- Road Closure – Banneson Road from junction with South Lane to junction with Foxway for 14 days from 27 July for new storm drain.
- Parking in Banneson Road – the Clerk reported that Cllr Parsons had asked for this matter to be raised again. The problem was people parking adjacent to each other on either side of the road making it difficult for larger vehicles and emergency vehicles to negotiate the road. It was agreed that a letter be sent to all residents in Banneson Road and an item be placed in the next Quantock Messenger asking people to park thoughtfully with due regard to other road users.

### **3722 Reports**

Affordable Housing The Clerk presented a report by Cllr Parsons. The working party met for the first time on 6 July when Cllr Parsons was elected Chairman of the Working Party. The Housing Needs Survey identified 23 persons with a local connection seeking affordable housing in the village. The Working Party considered a number of possible sites around the village, some of which had been offered by owners. These will now be referred to Sedgemoor DC planners for their assessment. A further update would be made when the planners had assessed the sites.

Western Somerset LARC Cllr Greig reported that the Local Action Group meeting at Crowcombe on 9 June was well attended. Eight expressions of interest in the scheme had been received, regrettably all from the south side of the Quantocks. One possible scheme was for an energy advisory centre in Minehead and it would be advantageous if Sedgemoor DC could support this so the centre's area of operation could be expanded to include the Quantock Cluster. The Clerk undertook to contact the relevant officer at SDC regarding a possible small grant for the scheme. Cllr Greig would give an update to the September Cluster meeting.

Village of the Year Competition The Chairman reported that the village had been shortlisted again this year and that the judges visited the village on Sunday 12 July. The Parish Council recorded its thanks to Cllr Youe who submitted the entry and organised the reception for the judges.

Quantock Hills AONB The Chairman reported that subsequent to the discussion at the last meeting a number of interested parties attended a meeting at Fyne Court on 17 June with the AONB Service, Natural England and the helicopter company. The information given at the meeting relieved some but not all of the concerns about the spraying of the hills. Cllr Greig was thanked for preparing the minutes of that meeting.

SLCC The Chairman reported that, with the Clerk, he had attended a presentation on agendas, minutes and standing orders given by a senior lecturer from the University of Gloucester.

### **3723 District and County Council Liaison**

The Council recorded its congratulations to Councillor Edney on his recent election as Chairman of the Somerset County Council.

### **3724 Correspondence**

Correspondence received included:

- SDC Revised gambling policy consultation (ends 10 September)
- Letter from SDC re closure of Sedgemoor Splash
- Newsletter from Magnox South ( Hinkley A site)
- NALC Leadership Academy 15 – 18 September 2009, University of Warwick – cost £808.45
- Details about SDC Conservation Day 30<sup>th</sup> July at Bridgwater Town Hall

### **3725 Forthcoming Meetings and Events**

- Thursday 16 July 2009 - Junction 24 - Affordable Housing Open Day
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2009 – Parish Office - Beat Surgery
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2009 – Church Centre – Active Living (home composting & recycling)
- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2009 – Parish Office - Beat Surgery
- Tuesday 1 September – Wembdon – Quantock Cluster Meeting

### **3726 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in the Village Hall on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm