

MINUTES OF NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 2016 AT 7.00pm
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Parish Councillors John Roberts (Chairman)
 Kevin Ferriday
 Malcolm Hogg
 Margaret Hogg
 Andrew Jeanes
 Patricia Pardoe
 Colin Penny
 Malcolm Reid
 Barbara Rich

In Attendance: Caro Slaymaker (Parish Clerk)
 Cllr John Edney, SCC
 Cllr Julie Pay, SDC
 9 members of the public

Public Session

The Chairman announced that, with Council's agreement, he proposed to suspend standing orders to allow members of the public to speak on item 6 concerning the proposed telecommunications mast at the Playing Field at that point in the meeting. All agreed.

The Chairman thanked Dave Hall for getting the tree and Dave, Tom, Richard and Chris Flay for turning out on Sunday to help erect the village Christmas tree and lights. He also thanked Cllr Jeanes who would dispose of the tree after Christmas.

No other issues were raised.

4905 Apologies

All Parish Councillors were present. Cllr Caswell was at a meeting elsewhere.

4906 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Penny and Cllr Rich declared personal interests in the Playing Field concerning items 6 and 9. Cllr Penny declared a personal interest in item 7 as the appellant was a close personal friend.

4907 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 November were **approved** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

The draft minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee meeting held on 5 December were **noted** and would be approved by the Committee at their next meeting.

4908 County Council Liaison

Cllr Edney reported that the County Council are awaiting the Local Government Finance Settlement due on Thursday. They expected there would be a relaxation on capping to cover social care. The County Council election will be held in May 2017.

Cllr Pay reported that the Licencing and General Purposes Committee were reviewing taxi licences and gambling licences. The Committee has asked for public consultation prior to overhaul of the latter.

Cllr Malcom Hogg asked whether this would include TV advertising will this be included. Cllr Pay said the Committee was most concerned about the slot machines (eg in betting shops) that will accept up to £100 at a time from a user and even this limit was easily circumvented.

The Chairman asked about the proposed change to rubbish collection every three weeks. He was concerned that this would be particularly difficult for young families using nappies and wipes. Would there be any flexibility to revert to fortnightly collections if this was a problem?

Cllr Pay: this would be considered by a full Council meeting and SWP will then decide on 16 December. There will be special new recycling containers for yoghurt pots, meat trays and similar plastics.

4909 Planning Application

Application Ref: 36/16/00026

Address: Playing Field, Nether Stowey

Proposal: Erection of a 22.5m high lattice mast with 3 antennas and 2 microwave dishes attached, 2 equipment cabinets and a meter cabinet all within a fenced compound

Standing Orders were suspended

Mrs Thomas, as Chair of the Playing Field Committee, gave background to the application. She endorsed the application which would provide a much-needed income to maintain and improve an important significant community amenity – the (few) volunteers were struggling to manage. Mrs Greig added that the Committee had worked hard to research local need and ensure the best coverage.

Several others spoke in support of the application – the main themes were the negative effect on local business and the local economy and the increasing number of services dependent on mobile phone directly and indirectly (smart meters, telemedicine etc), as well as the general social need. In the recent Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire, a majority of respondents had rated the signal is unsatisfactory.

There was no-one wishing to speak against the proposal. It was noted that there had been five objections posted on Sedgemoor's site by the afternoon of the meeting. All but the most recent had been circulated to Councillors. Objections mainly focussed on the negative visual impact of the mast.

Cllrs Penny and Rich withdrew from the meeting

Standing Orders were resumed

Cllr Hogg summarised the views expressed at the meeting and in the comments sent to Sedgemoor. He acknowledged that the mast would have a visual impact and the Council sympathised with the concerns. Nevertheless, he felt that the advantages to the community outweighed this negative point. And, as Mr Roper had said in his representations, at least the community would derive some compensatory benefit in that the Playing Field would be far more sustainable.

Other Councillors expressed their support for the application. Cllr Hogg proposed that the Parish Council send their response as **supporting the application on economic/business grounds and benefit to the community. Agreed** unanimously.

Response sent:

At their meeting on 12 December considered this application and agreed to respond as follows:

The Parish Council unanimously support this application.

Although recognising that there will be some detrimental visual impact, which is regrettable, the Parish Council nevertheless feel that this is outweighed by the benefits to the local economy and improvements to technologically-dependent services (eg the NHS), and to residents and visitors in terms of improved coverage. Additionally this provides financial support to sustain and improve the facilities at the Playing Field. Moreover, the demand for an effective mobile phone signal is well-evidenced in surveys carried out recently in connection with the Parish's Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Rich re-joined the meeting

4910 Planning Appeal

Application Ref: 36/16/00018

Address: Merrywood, Lime Street, Nether Stowey, Bridgwater, TA5 1NH

Proposal: Erection of summer house and retention of 1.2m fence and decking forming a front terrace.

The Parish Council had previously had no objection to the original application (see Min 4843(ii) of July meeting). Mr Hall confirmed that there was no change to the original application. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council maintained their position that they had no objection to consent being granted.

Cllr Penny re-joined the meeting

4911 Bus Service

The Chairman reported that the County Council were continuing to look at options, but it seemed the most likely would be a weekly "Shoppers' Service" – but this would require a significant contribution from the Parish Council to underwrite the costs. The best offer had been one that would cost £100 per day, to be split between participating parishes. It was expected that there would be further discussion after Christmas, before a final proposal could be brought to the Council for consideration as to the viability and financial implications.

4912 Grant Applications

Cllrs Penny and Rich withdrew from the meeting

- i) Nether Stowey Recreation Ground requested a grant of £750 towards legal fees in connection with the union of the Village Hall and Recreation Ground charities for the Stowey Centre project. Provision had been made in the current budget for support for the project. The Grant was **approved** (proposed Cllr Reid, seconded Cllr Jeanes, all in favour).

Cllrs Penny and Rich re-joined the meeting

- ii) Mendip Community Transport requested a contribution to funds. Recognising that MCT provided services to a number of residents (and were increasingly likely to in the future), it was **agreed** to make a grant of £100 (proposed Cllr Jeanes, seconded Cllr Malcolm Hogg, all in favour)

4913 Budget and Reserves Reports

The Clerk presented the Budget and Reserves Report to 9 December, copies of which are appended to these minutes. The reports were **noted**. The Clerk reported that she had now had confirmation of the payment of a grant from the AONB (Landscape Fund) for the new orchard trees in Plot 173, paid earlier in the year.

4915 Expenditure

Expenditure incurred since the Parish Council meeting of 14 November:

Date	Payee Name	Cheque	Amount	Transaction Details
14 Nov	Grant Thornton	103824	360.00	Fee - 2016 Annual return
21 Nov	Wessex Water	103825	165.25	Public Toilets Castle Street
21 Nov	Sedgemoor DC	103726	543.82	Cemetery/Playing Field Bins
21 Nov	NS Village Hall	103727	2,147.26	Grant (Min no 4892, Nov)
21 Nov	NS Recreation Ground	103728	2,776.00	Grant (Min no 4891, Nov)
21 Nov	SLCC	103729	157.00	Renewal fees
23 Nov	Staff	103730 - 33	2,261.45	November Payroll
29 Nov	BT Business	DDR	40.27	Office broadband and telephone
29 Nov	Chanin & Thomas	103734	750.00	Rent for Parish Office
05 Dec	ATG Planning	103735	250.00	Work on NHP topic papers
05 Dec	NS Village Hall	103736	22.50	Hire of Club room 14 November 16
05 Dec	EDF Energy	DDR	8.00	Clock Tower Electricity (s/o)

Date	Payee Name	Cheque	Amount	Transaction Details
05 Dec	EDF Energy	DDR	1.00	Public Toilets Electricity (s/o)
05 Dec	E Martin Computer Services	DDR	28.34	Web site Contract
		TOTAL	£9,510.89	

The expenditure was approved and (any) two of the authorised signatories were instructed to sign the relevant cheques (proposed Cllr Penny, seconded Cllr Rich).

4916 Bank Reconciliation

Cllr Penny had carried out a bank reconciliation and accounts check on 12 December and was satisfied that all was in order.

4917 Highways

The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted SHAL about the delayed resurfacing of Stogursey Lane (Theillay Close-A39). Halsall had received an “unreasonable” quote and were looking for new contractors. SHAL had promised they would follow up on this.

The failure of the street lights at the Stogursey Lane/Lime Street junction was caused by a power cable problem and was being dealt with by Western Power Distribution who had been at site twice in the past week. SCC were aware of the Parish Council’s concerns for the safety, particularly of pedestrians.

Wessex Water were still working in Oak Road. They were supposed to be finished in December, the Clerk had no information as to whether they would do so.

The Clerk had reported various small problems, mainly blocked drains, following the flooding on 21 November. In an e-mail on 7 December Highways had said they had already investigated most of them. A jetter had been spotted in Jacksons Lane that morning.

Lime Street/Mill Lane Safety Project: the Clerk had spoken to the Project Manager on 9 December after he had been to a meeting with the Safety Team who had reviewed the plans. Safety issues had been raised and the Project Manager would be addressing these. Some additional data was required. This would inevitably lead to a delay in the consultation and therefore the original start date (February 2017). Cllr Edney undertook to follow this up.

4918 Reports

FONSL (Cllr Pardoe) – there had been a social event on Wednesday. FONSL were running a colouring competition for children (prospective entrants should collect the picture from the Library). The monthly LEGO was proving successful.

Active Living (Cllr Margaret Hogg) – There had been a talk on windmills by the National Trust and they had their Christmas Tea. Well attended and thanks to Tea Rooms who catered for this event.

Playing Field (Cllr Penny) – the Mast was the main issue at present.

SSG/HPC (Cllr Malcolm Hogg) – there had been no meetings since the last Parish Council meeting.

Stowey Shuttle (Cllr Malcolm Hogg) – the Shuttle had now been operating for just over two months and was doing very well, with lots of new ideas. More volunteer drivers were needed. The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Shuttle’s Chairman, Mr Phillips, and his team.

Neighbourhood Plan (Cllr Hogg) – the last meeting on 21 November had had to be cancelled due to the flooding. The next meeting would be held on 16 January 2017.

Stowey Walking (Cllr Reid) – Stowey Walking – now accredited to Walkers are Welcome had officially launched on 21 November.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that there was a vacancy for Village Hall representative.

4919 Correspondence

Ian Liddell Grainger MP	Further reply on Parish financial capping consultation
Duncan McGinty, SDC	Reply to representations about the Quantock Cluster

4920 Forthcoming meetings and events

The Parish office will be closed Friday 23 December–Monday 2 January inclusive. The office reopens at 10am on Tuesday 3 January.

The Chairman will open the office, check for mail and answering machine messages on 28, 29 and 30 December.

Outside meetings and events

Sat 24 Dec	Carols on the Cross	The Cross	5.30pm
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Neighbourhood Planning

Mon 16 Jan	Neighbourhood Planning Group	Parish Office	7pm	MH, KF, MC
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4886 Next Parish Council Meeting

Next Meeting

Mon 9 Jan	Parish Council Meeting	NS Village Hall	7 pm	All
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The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Monthly Budget Report as at 9 December

Income

Account		Budget 2016/17	First quarter	Second quarter	Oct 2016	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Total spent to date	% of budget
1002	Allotment Rental	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00	**
1003	Council Tax Grant	4,228.00	2,114.00	2,114.00				0.00	0.00	4,228.00	100.00%
1006	Cemetery Income	1,400.00	30.00	606.00		207.00		207.00	0.00	843.00	60.21%
1012	Printing & Copying receipts	800.00	179.81	102.60	53.53	8.98		62.51	0.00	344.92	43.12%
1013	May Fair 2017 Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	234.00	80.00	40.00	354.00	0.00	354.00	**
1014	May Fair 2016 Income	0.00	812.27	313.50				0.00	0.00	1,125.77	**
1016	Village Trail Booklet Income	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00	see payments
115	VAT Refunds	0.00	0.00	844.02				0.00	0.00	844.02	**
1011	Precept	46,477.00	23,238.50	23,238.50				0.00	0.00	46,477.00	100.00%
Subtotal Income for Year		52,925.00	26,374.58	27,218.62	287.53	295.98	40.00	623.51	0.00	54,216.71	102.44%

Expenditure

Account		Budget 2016/17	First quarter	Second quarter	Oct 2016	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Total spent to date	% of Budget
Parish Office											
4101	Office Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00	**
4102	Parish Council Office Rent	2,100.00	750.00	853.50		750.00		750.00	0.00	2,353.50	112.07%
4103	Postage	130.00	0.00	0.00	23.10			23.10	0.00	23.10	17.77%
4104	Stationery	190.00	88.22	72.05				0.00	0.00	160.27	84.35%
4105	Telephone & Internet	350.00	98.70	70.65	32.24	65.73		97.97	0.00	267.32	53.46%
4106	Website + IT costs	705.00	130.85	282.86	23.62	23.62	23.62	70.86	0.00	484.57	68.73%
4107	Books and publications	40.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
4108	Printing costs	950.00	0.00	852.71		114.48		114.48	0.00	967.19	101.81%
4109	Office Move	0.00	0.00	77.94				0.00	0.00	77.94	**
TOTAL Expenditure Parish Office		4,465.00	1,067.77	2,209.71	78.96	953.83	23.62	1,056.41	0.00	4,333.89	93.91%
Staff Costs											
4201	Salaries	24,001.00	6,648.49	6,750.65	2,261.46	2,261.45		4,522.91	0.00	17,922.05	67.31%
4204	Staff travel and subsistence costs	170.00	0.00	107.51				0.00	0.00	107.51	26.55%
4205	Staff Training	400.00	145.00	138.00				0.00	0.00	283.00	41.80%
TOTAL Staff Costs		24,571.00	6,793.49	6,996.16	2,261.46	2,261.45	0.00	4,522.91	0.00	18,312.56	66.09%

Account	Budget 2016/17	First quarter	Second quarter	Oct 2016	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Total spent to date	% of Budget
Administration & Finance										
4301	Audit Fees	600.00	295.00	0.00		300.00	300.00	0.00	595.00	99.17%
4302	Bank charges	20.00	3.75	2.25	0.75		0.75	0.00	6.75	33.75%
4303	Chairman's Honorarium	250.00	0.00	250.00			0.00	0.00	250.00	100.00%
4304	Councillors' Expenses	250.00	75.00	17.15			0.00	0.00	92.15	28.81%
4305	Councillors' Training	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
4306	Elections	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	**
4307	Insurance	1,200.00	1,093.65	0.00			0.00	0.00	1,093.65	91.14%
4308	Statutory Fees	35.00	0.00	0.00	35.00		35.00	0.00	35.00	100.00%
4309	Subscriptions	500.00	382.16	28.00		157.00	157.00	0.00	567.16	113.43%
4310	Village Hall Hire	400.00	90.00	67.50	22.50	22.50	22.50	67.50	225.00	56.25%
	TOTAL Administration & Finance	3,260.00	1,939.56	364.90	58.25	479.50	22.50	560.25	2,864.71	73.93%
Cemetery										
4401	Cemetery Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	**
4402	Cemetery Rates	140.00	140.36	0.00			0.00	0.00	140.36	100.26%
4403	Maintenance	3,320.00	0.00	1,536.00	640.00	241.38	881.38	0.00	2,417.38	65.64%
4404	Pest Control	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	**
	TOTAL Cemetery	3,460.00	140.36	1,536.00	640.00	241.38	0.00	881.38	2,557.74	66.90%
Community Services										
4502	Allotment	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	see receipts
4504	Christmas Tree & Lights	200.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
4506	Oral History	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	**
4507	Parish Council Newsletter	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	**
4508	Neighbourhood Plan	2,000.00	308.35	133.10	160.30	122.80	250.00	533.10	974.55	see EMR 324
4509	Youth Services	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	**
4510	Village Trail Booklet	0.00	0.00	40.49			0.00	0.00	40.49	see receipts
	TOTAL Community Services	2,200.00	308.35	173.59	160.30	122.80	250.00	533.10	1,015.04	46.14%

Account		Budget 2016/17	First quarter	Second quarter	Oct 2016	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Total spent to date	% of Budget
CANS											
4503	CANS	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00	see reserve
4505	May Fair 2016 expenditure	0.00	1,853.65	90.00				0.00	0.00	1,943.65	see income
4513	May Fair 2017 expenditure	0.00	0.00	0.00	105.90	15.00		120.90	0.00	120.90	see reserve
4511	War Memorial Project expenditure	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00	see reserve
TOTAL CANS		0.00	1,853.65	90.00	105.90	15.00	0.00	120.90	0.00	2,064.55	**
Village Maintenance											
4601	A39 Verge	768.00	0.00	416.00	208.00			208.00	0.00	624.00	81.25%
4602	Clock Tower Maintenance	300.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
4603	Clock Tower Electricity	420.00	95.93	95.24	8.00	81.33	8.00	97.33	0.00	288.50	68.69%
4604	General Maintenance	500.00	3.42	4.56	1.20			1.20	0.00	9.18	1.20%
4605	Old Gaol + The Cross	575.00	240.50	79.08	45.50			45.50	0.00	365.08	63.49%
4606	Palmers Path	600.00	32.50	215.75	93.50			93.50	0.00	341.75	56.96%
4607	Public Seating	0.00	174.81	82.87	200.00	-485.29	-20.00	-305.29	0.00	-47.61	**
4609	Dog Bins	1,500.00	348.40	348.40		371.80		371.80	0.00	1,068.60	71.24%
4610	Coleridge Road	256.00	0.00	128.00	32.00			32.00	0.00	160.00	62.50%
4611	Millennium Wood	0.00	0.00	0.00	48.00			48.00	0.00	48.00	**
4612	Plot 173	200.00	0.00	424.00	32.00			32.00	0.00	456.00	228.00%
4613	Mill Lane/Lime Street maint	400.00	0.00	16.25				0.00	0.00	16.25	4.06%
4615	Mill Lane/Lime Street safety proj	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00	**
TOTAL Village Maintenance		5,519.00	895.56	1,810.15	668.20	-32.16	-12.00	624.04	0.00	3,329.75	57.59%
Castle Street Toilets											
4701	Castle St Toilets Cleaning	2,500.00	0.00	965.47	530.00	265.00		795.00	0.00	1,760.47	70.42%
4702	Castle St Toilets Electricity	400.00	48.00	18.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	3.00	0.00	69.00	17.25%
4703	Castle St Car Park/Toilets Rates	600.00	592.90	0.00				0.00	0.00	592.90	98.82%
4704	Castle St Toilets Repairs/Maint	200.00	0.00	16.00				0.00	0.00	16.00	8.00%
4705	Castle St Toilets Water/Sewerage	500.00	179.83	0.00		165.25		165.25	0.00	345.08	69.02%
4706	Castle St Car Park maint	450.00	42.25	171.75	237.80			237.80	0.00	451.80	100.40%
4709	Castle St toilets/car park misc	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00	**
TOTAL Castle Street Toilets		4,650.00	862.98	1,171.22	768.80	431.25	1.00	1,201.05	0.00	3,235.25	69.58%

Account	Budget 2016/17	First quarter	Second quarter	Oct 2016	Nov 2016	Dec 2016	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Total spent to date	% of Budget	
Grants											
4801	Miscellaneous Grants	1,200.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	
4803	Playing Field	1,800.00	0.00	0.00		2,776.00	2,776.00	0.00	2,776.00	100.00%	
4804	Transport	0.00	0.00	200.00			0.00	0.00	200.00	**	
4805	Village Hall Maint Grant	1,800.00	0.00	0.00		2,147.26	2,147.26	0.00	2,147.26	100.00%	
TOTAL Grants		4,800.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	4,923.26	4,923.26	0.00	5,123.26	83.67%	
Transfers to Reserves											
4851	Service Devolution Reserve	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	**	
4852	General Reserve**	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**	
4853	St Mary Street Railings	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	**	
TOTAL Transfers to Reserves		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**	
Capital Expenditure											
4901	Public Seating	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	**	
4902	Notice board	0.00	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00	**	
4903	Bus shelter	0.00	3,125.00	1,700.00			0.00	0.00	4,825.00	**	
TOTAL Capital Expenditure		0.00	3,125.00	1,700.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,825.00	**	
VAT Account											
515	VAT Paid	0.00	997.62	721.55	46.17	195.07	4.72	245.96	0.00	1,965.13	**
Total Expenditure A/cs For Year		52,925.00	17,984.34	16,973.28	4,788.04	9,591.38	289.84	14,669.26	0.00	49,626.88	84.44%
Income		52,925.00	26,374.58	27,218.62	287.53	295.98	40.00	623.51	0.00	54,216.71	102.44%
Balance expenditure-income		0.00	-8,390.24	-10,245.34	4,500.51	9,295.40	249.84	14,045.75	0.00	-4,589.83	