

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 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 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.