

## **Nether Stowey Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2000 at 7pm at Nether Stowey Village Hall.

Cllr. Standring, Chairman of the Parish Council, took the chair.

### Present:

Parish Councillors- Joyce Standring; Mike Harris; David Slocombe; Gill Bennet, Melissa Webb Mark Fitzmaurice, Alan Corkett, Dave Slocombe

District Councillor- David Joslin

5 parishioners

Clerk to the Council- Jenny Tyndall

Cllr. Standring welcomed those present.

### 1. Apologies for absence

These were received from:

Parish Councillors Shirley Watters and Sharon Smith

District Councillors: Ken Dyer; Lillian Cartwright and County Councillor Duncan Peaster  
Julie Nurton from the Youth Club.

### 2. Village Design Statement talk

Tim Russell spoke about Village Design Statements (VDSs). Planning applications for development within the area (e.g. the Poultry Packing station) are only to be expected in view of the Government's plans for housing development, therefore the existence of a VDS for Nether Stowey would be very important. Once accepted as supplementary planning guidance the VDS is an opportunity to exercise control over future development. It is a character statement for the village and includes materials used for buildings, local amenities and features (e.g. the stream, character of road signs and phone boxes). The Quantock Rangers are very interested in working with the Nether Stowey community to produce a VDS. It must be produced by the community. The Quantock Hills strategy also contains actions relating to this whereby the Rangers can assist in the work. West Bagborough VDS cost around £1700 and financial help is available. The effort required from individuals is not great. The first step is taking pictures of the character of the village and then these are categorised and the VDS developed from this. Chris Edwards, Tim Russell and Paul Dadson would be willing to come along and discuss the project in more details if required. Examples of other VDSs from other parts of the country are available.

### 3. Minutes of the 1999 Annual Parish Meeting

The Chairman stated that these had been approved at the May 1999 meeting of the Parish Council.

### 4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman read a report on the business of the Parish Council over the preceding year. (Copy attached). The need for restricted height planting of the triangle was raised.

Proposed by Cllr. Harris, seconded by Cllr. Slocombe.

### 5. Reports from Representatives

#### School Governors

Cllr. Standring read the report prepared by Cllr. Morse. (Copy attached)

Proposed by Cllr. Corkett, seconded by Cllr. Fitzmaurice.

#### Playing Fields

No report available.

### Cemetery

The report had been received but was not available at the meeting. It will be presented at the next Parish Council meeting.

### Hinkley Point Liaison

Cllr. Standing read her report. (Copy attached)

Proposed by Cllr. Fitzmaurice, seconded by Cllr. Corkett.

### Footpaths

Cllr. Slocombe gave a report. (Copy attached)

Proposed by Cllr. Bennet, seconded by Cllr. Harris.

### Youth Club

There was no report available.

### Financial

The Clerk read out the draft end of year income and expenditure account as prepared by Sedgemoor District Council, and the draft end of year receipts and payments (see attached). These are preliminary reports and will change in light of final accruals and notification of interest on investments. Questions were asked about increased Administration expenses and Street lighting decreases. Cllr. Standing reported that the Administration increase was due to the necessary increase in hours, the annual increment and the Clerk being in post for a full year, and the street lighting decrease was due to a smaller number of lighting units being purchased in 1999-2000.

Proposed by Cllr. Slocombe, seconded by Cllr. Corkett.

### Emergency Planning

There was no report available as there had been no meetings or correspondence received in the year.

### District Councillor

Cllr. Joslin read a report. (Copy attached)

Proposed by Cllr. Harris, seconded by Cllr. Fitzmaurice.

### Village Hall

Cllr. French read her report. (Copy attached)

Proposed by Cllr. Fitzmaurice, seconded by Cllr. Corkett.

### Quantock Hills Joint Advisory Committee and Over Stowey Custom Commons Monitoring Group

Cllr. Standing read a report. (Copy attached). The issue of swaling on the hills was raised (currently only 50 acres each year) and the possibility of this being increased to deal with the ticks. Cllr. Standing will raise this at the next QHJAC meeting.

Proposed by Cllr. Bennet, seconded by Cllr. Corkett.

### Nether Stowey United Charities

The Clerk read the report (copy attached). Mr Ham asked that any information on parishioners in need be passed onto any one of the Trustees. To be eligible, individuals need to have been resident in the village for 2 years.

Proposed by Cllr. Standing, seconded by Cllr. Fitzmaurice.

### Cub Scouts

Paul Wild gave a report on the activities of the Cubs. There were 16 – 20 boys over the past 4 years, although there used to be 36. At present there are 24 and this is at full capacity and a waiting list is in use. The Cubs receive excellent parental support and the boys are predominantly from Nether Stowey with 3 – 4 from outlying districts. The Cubs have 2 camps each year, one for the older boys and one for the younger boys and their fathers. Experts are invited to come and talk to the boys on a wide range of topics and site visits are also organised. The cubs have learnt Morris Dancing and hold swimming galas.

Plans for the future include joining in with the millennium jamborree at Dunster in May where it is predicted that 10,000 cubs and scouts will be present. A trip has been planned to Woodlands in June and there will no doubt be an end of term BBQ. The cubs pay 50p subs each week and they are grateful to the village hall for the low rental rates. The subs cover the hall fees. They have insurance of £20 / head to pay each year and this had risen greatly in recent years. A jumble sale is held in January to raise funds and they also support 'a job week'. They also do a litter pick in the village each year not only to raise funds, but to provide a service to the community. Paul also thanked the Parish Council for their annual grant.

Proposed by Cllr. Harris, seconded by Cllr. Slocombe.

#### Twinning Association

Cllr. Harris read a report (Copy attached).

Proposed by Cllr. Bennet, seconded by Cllr. Corkett.

#### Allotments

Dennis Chedghey read a report (copy attached).

Proposed by Cllr. Standing, seconded by Cllr. Corkett.

#### County Councillor

The report had been received but was not available at the meeting. It will be presented at the next Parish Council meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

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#### Nether Stowey Village Hall

#### Report to the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2000

Nether Stowey Village Hall continues to run reasonably successfully, and although the committee is poorly represented by the various clubs and societies which use its facilities, the committee still manage to hold various fund-raising events to help with funds. This, together with the grants and donations it receives, help with the general running and maintenance costs of the hall.

The Committee were unsuccessful in obtaining further funding when approached by Cellnet – who had hoped to site a mast for mobile phones in the hall's car park – when planning permission was refused and alternative sites looked into.

The provision of a disabled toilet is yet to be started as few of the many builders who have been approached have been interested in taking on the job.

Nether Stowey Village Hall's AGM takes place on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm.

Melissa French