



## 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 20 MAY 2019 AT 7.00pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors  
John Roberts (Chairman)      Andrew Jeanes  
Colin Falla                              Chris Pearson  
Kevin Ferriday                      Malcolm Reid  
Margaret Hogg                      Barbara Rich

Residents \*                      T Abbiss                              C Penny  
    TD Binding                              T Rich  
    J Falla                                      M Roberts  
    P Greig                                      S Sidaway  
    J Greig                                      S Sidery  
    E King                                      R Stacey  
    S Mayell                                      G Wright  
    N Palmer                                      C Penny

Others                              Mel Catchpole, Nether Stowey Parish Council  
    PCSO Jason Wyatt, Avon & Somerset Police

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 Pat Pardoe, Cllr Julie Pay (SDC), Cllr Michael Caswell (SDC and SCC), Mrs Wendy Hobbs.

#### **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held on 24 May 2018, had been published. It was noted that one report given by Mrs Greig had been omitted. There were no other comments.

*(Since the meeting, the omission has been rectified, confirmed with Mrs Greig and signed by the Chairman as a true record).*

#### **4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman gave the Parish Council's Annual Report for 2018/19, summarising the Council's activities over the past year. A copy of the full report is appended to these minutes.

#### **5. PCSO's Report**

PCSO Jason Wyatt introduced himself as the PCSO for the area for the last 18 months. When in the village he often works out of the Parish Office (including when the office is normally closed). He has a big area to cover. There have recently been a lot of rural break-ins. He asked that if residents found they had had a break-in, they should contact the police as this helped



## NETHER STOWEY PARISH

---

build a picture of activity. Recently the trend seemed to be for quad bikes, strimmers, chainsaws etc. He suggested protection by alarming sheds, CCTV, padlocks and immobilising property where possible. He also warned of people who might be seen in places where they had no obvious purpose. There had been cases of people pretending to be from Wessex Water or similar. If in doubt, challenge people, ask for ID, check, or contact the police. He reminded farmers and those with horses or other livestock to sign up for Farm Watch or Horse Watch.

PCSO Wyatt could be contacted via Facebook and Nextdoor.com (which is proving to be an effective way to warn local members about incidents/suspicious activity) as well as the usual police numbers (101 for non-urgent reports, 999 in an emergency/during a live incident).

There had been beat surgeries for the last 9 months, but as there had been little take-up surgeries would not continue, but he could be contacted on a drop-in basis either at the Parish Office or the Library or he will call at individuals' homes if requested.

### **6. Items for Discussion**

6.1 Grants: Mr Greig wished to report that he had had a discussion with Somerset Community Foundation (SCF) regarding grants from the HPC Community Fund. He was told that SCF would not deal with grants where there was more than one organisation from the same community. The Parish Council would be willing to co-ordinate, but it was unclear how this might work. However, SCF will not give funds if there is a plurality of applications. The Chairman confirmed that he had raised this matter at the Community Forum with a similar result and had arranged a meeting with the CEO of SCF in June. The CIM Fund is now closed, but the Community Fund has around £1million per year to disburse. He also noted that he had discovered that Magnox, now a subsidiary of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, had funded the Watchet Harbour Project at a cost of £5million. Locally Magnox's funding limit was low, but more was available through the NDA.

6.2 Housing: Mr Abbiss asked about the number of houses. The Local Plan says 75 minimum, but the proposed Cricketer development is for 110. The Chairman explained that the Local Plan set a minimum target of 75 in Nether Stowey towards the number required of the District as a whole. Strongvox considered that they needed to build 110 houses to make the development and junction improvements economically viable. Strongvox were aware of the Local Plan, and that their eventual planning application would be considered in line with Local plan policies. They were also aware of Nether Stowey's emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

### **7. Other Reports**

7.1 Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Ferriday reported that The Neighbourhood Plan continues to be developed with the input from the consultation events being incorporated. The Plan is nearing completion and it is anticipated that there would be a number of final consultation events in the near future to allow villagers to read and comment on the proposed Plan.

Copies of the draft Plan are already available on the Parish web site and anyone wishing to provide feedback is encouraged to send their comments to him via the Parish Office or direct by e-mail ([kevin.ferriday@netherstowey-pc.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.ferriday@netherstowey-pc.gov.uk))

Many thanks are given to the Neighbourhood Plan team who have worked throughout the last year to develop the various topic papers and who have given up their time for the benefit of the village.

7.2 St Mary's Church: Rev King had given a written report about the Church's activities and services but said that she was keen to give a message that it is everyone's Church and to please tell them if there was something that they could do.

7.3 Sharon Mayell, Nether Stowey Village Hal and Recreation Ground CIO: Sharon had provided a written report, and did not wish to read it out, but said that the CIO had taken on board what had been said about groups working more closely. She gave a brief summary of the evolution



## NETHER STOWEY PARISH

---

of the plans over recent years to the "Stowey Centre". New people were involved, there was a new charity set-up and they were ready to move forward.

There would be a public meeting on 3 June to discuss what happens next about the facility and the CIO's AGM would be on 18 June.

Party in the Park would take place on 8 June. It is a free event with music until midnight. Posters will be put up next week to advertise the event.

- 7.4 Judith Greig, Stowey Green Spaces: SGS were very proud that Stowey Wood (in Over Stowey) was now licenced to SGS. It is ancient woodland and had planted 420 broadleaf saplings. They were preparing for work on the Mount prior to grant funding for fencing so that grazing can be resumed. They have been able to use volunteer time as part of their match-funding requirement in some cases. Judith thanked the volunteers and those organisations who have been involved
- 7.5 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/](http://www.netherstowey-pc.gov.uk/about/annual-parish-meetings/). These include:
- Footpaths Liaison Officer
  - Nether Stowey Twinning Association
  - Nether Stowey Women's Institute
  - Nether Stowey Wednesday Club
  - Quantock Players
  - Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey
  - Urban Saints

There was no further business. The Chairman thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 7.40 pm



## NETHER STOWEY PARISH

---

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2019

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. Please help yourself to copies – if we run out, we can e-mail one or you can collect from the Parish Office.

As usual on this occasion I would like to use the opportunity to express our thanks to a number of people who quietly go around carrying out jobs around the village.

As always, the Clock continues to give good service and this is thanks to a dedicated crew of Tony Edney, Steve Scarrott and Ian Faris.

However, we have carried out a survey of the upper parts of the clock and found that there is a good deal of restoration work to be done. At the present time we are finalising the actual details and will then look into grants etc. to fund the works.

Thanks again also to Colin Falla for his work as Footpaths Liaison Officer and all the strimming he undertakes to keep the paths clear, copies of Colin's report can be found on the table.

There has been considerable investment in the public rights of way in the last couple of years, which has included the replacement of a quite a lot of "furniture – stiles etc, and some rationalisation of path routes and the creation of a new one.

Thanks also to Roy Osborne and Richard Ince who look after the Millennium Wood and put in many hours on our behalf.

The volunteers of Stowey Green Spaces who do a great job in and around the village.

Also to the volunteers at Stowey Shuttle who help keep villagers on the move so efficiently.

### PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

We have recently had the election process for parish councils. Our existing councillors all put themselves forward for election and as there were no other candidates the election was uncontested.

As ever, we meet every month except August and all Councillors undertake a number of jobs 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

Councillor Ferriday will provide a report on the neighbourhood plan later in the meeting.

### LIBRARY

Our library is now a community run library. As you are aware the library faced closure by the County Council. Friends of Nether Stowey Library undertook to keep it open and running as a community run library operated mainly by volunteers. A new charity was formed and is known as the Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey. The group have put a tremendous amount of work into this project and it is hoped that the village and the surrounding area will give them the support they need. The support of our own village and surrounding villages is vital to the success of this endeavour.

Their report is on the table



## NETHER STOWEY PARISH

---

### 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.

- NS Recreation Ground received £1,800 towards maintenance activities.
- NS Village Hall also received £1,800
- Citizens Advice received £100
- Stowey Walking £50 towards Walking Festival costs
- Stowey Bears £250 towards play and learning equipment.
- The Thomas Poole Library Nether Stowey - £1,200
- The Quantock Medical Centre towards equipment towards health activities (this grant is committed but not yet paid)
- One aspect that has been mentioned when we and other groups have attended grants workshops help by HPC and Community Fund is the lack of co-ordination by groups in Nether Stowey applying for grants. When you have five or six groups from the same area all applying for similar grants at the same time this can in fact be detrimental to all.
- The Parish Council is happy to help co-ordinate grants being applied from HPC by Nether Stowey groups, however it cannot do so if there is no communication.

### CRICKETER

As you will by now be aware, a local developer “Strongvox Homes” has been carrying out consultations with regard to building on the Cricketer site. The consultation is still open if you wish to make comments on the current proposals. Cricketer is classed as a “Brown Field” site and is the preferred location for development in the parish (from responses in the Neighbourhood plan questionnaire). Sedgemoor’s new Local Plan means that Nether Stowey is obliged to have at least 75 new houses in the period to 2032 – so we’re going to have more homes somewhere: so we need to influence the process to get to achieve what is best for the village as a whole.

One priority is an improved junction with the A39, with a pedestrian crossing being an essential part of that. I know that people are concerned about the effect on the Medical Centre, but we have discussed it with the Practice Manager at the beginning of the year, and are comfortable with an increase number, which adds justification to the medical centre’s continuing presence.

I have also had discussions with the school. At present that the school is at capacity and only accepting children from Nether and Over Stowey, and any expansion will add to the already difficult road safety situation in the immediate area. One possibility – and this is in accordance with our emerging neighbourhood plan – is to use this opportunity to look at a new school for Nether Stowey in a better location that can cope with the traffic.

We feel that it is better to try to get the process started now, rather than have to react when it’s already too late. As such we will shortly have further discussions with the School’s team, and with the District and County Councils, and others, and start thinking about a possible site. The school is a vital part of the village and its young people are the future.



## NETHER STOWEY PARISH

---

### TRAFFIC

We are working with the County Highways department to try and improve the traffic situation along Mill Lane, Jackson's Lane area. This will in all probability be changes to the speed limits and relocation of speed limit signage. Obviously, this then brings the problem of who will police these measures but that is always the case and should not be an excuse for doing nothing.

In the first instance the Highways department are to conduct a survey of the traffic using Mill Lane.

The virtual foot path that has been constructed in Lime Street seems to be appreciated; both drivers and pedestrians appear to be working together in this area.

We recently delivered 43 letters to Lime Street and St Mary Street to ascertain the feeling with regard to a rear entrance to properties in that area. Unfortunately, we only received 11 replies, therefore the project is deemed not viable.

However, we are still proceeding with the suggestion of a car park between St Mary Street and the By-Pass with access to the village and will see if this can be achieved.

### 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 using one or the other 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 quite a few people who have lodgers in their spare rooms.

Last year we reported that the buses were 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 are hopeful that these problems have now been resolved, however if you know differently please let us know.

Only by continually reporting incidents can we solve these problems, what 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. It must also be remembered that the use of the buses and the park and ride system has taken many cars off the roads even if we do see buses running around empty.

### 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 aware that they offer in an ever tighter financial landscape and this means that some services are less than we might like. The Parish Council does try to top-up these service, but we do have to pay for them through the precept, which means everyone's Council tax bills. We can longer sit and wait for "them" to do things and I would urge everyone to do what they



## NETHER STOWEY PARISH

---

can – even something as quick and simple as sweeping up the leaves from your front garden trees can help stop drains getting blocked for example.

### **POLICE AND CRIME**

I am pleased to welcome PCSO Jason Wyatt to the meeting. Since last summer we have had a regular monthly beat surgery in the village. Please do remember this – I am sure that, if there is no interest, it will be viewed as a waste of officer time that could be used elsewhere. Jason will say a few words in a moment, but I would mention that there appears to be an increasing number of rural crimes taking place in and around our community, sheds and out houses being broken into, quad bikes and other vehicles being stolen – so please think about locking your sheds etc and immobilising other property that could be taken away.

To conclude, I would like to thank all those who work in various ways for the community and to thank you all for coming.