

**MINUTES OF NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 11 OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.00pm**  
**AT THE CHURCH CENTRE**

Present: Parish Councillors                      John Roberts (Chairman)  
   Colin Falla  
   Kevin Ferriday  
   Margaret Hogg  
   Andrew Jeanes  
   Malcolm Reid

In Attendance: Caro Slaymaker (Parish Clerk)  
                                 Seven members of the public

**5758 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Rich (unwell). Her absence was approved. The Council sent Cllr Rich their best wishes for her recovery.

**5759 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Jeanes declared an interest in Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground as the Parish Council's nominated Trustee.

**5760 Public Session**

A member of the public again raised concerns about the traffic on Mill Lane as outlined in the minutes of 13 September. Following last month's meeting she had prepared a petition which she hoped would help the Parish Council provide evidence to support the need for improvements.

The Chairman replied that the Parish Council had again written to Highways since the last meeting. Although there had not been a substantive reply on progress on the issues, they had learnt that since 2020 the County Council had started a county-wide project for flashing "20 when lights show" warning signs outside all schools in Somerset. It was hoped that Nether Stowey would have these lights by March 2022. The Chairman personally supported the petition and said the Council would be happy to provide any assistance including printing and promotion of the petition. He also suggested a Community Speedwatch project if there were sufficient volunteers.

Nicola Hale, introduced herself as the new Community Safety Officer at Sedgemoor. She gave a brief summary of her role and how she might help with community issues. She would be holding monthly drop-in sessions at the parish office on the last Monday of each month. The first would be on 25 October at 10.30. She undertook to take up the issues about Mill Lane traffic with Hinkley Point.

**5761 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 September were **approved** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**5762 District and County Liaison**

Cllr Pay passed on Cllr Caswell's apologies. He had nothing to report from County.

They would be attending fewer meetings in future as there were too many meetings on the same evening. She would try to attend every other month.

The last Full Council meeting had mainly been discussing catch up on things that needed to be adopted by Full Council in face-to-face meetings.

**5763 Standing Orders**

It was **agreed** to amend Section 39(w) to incorporate provision for decisions to be made in the event of an inquorate meeting. The revised Standing Orders would be published as soon as possible.

**5764 Green Waste Management**

It was **agreed** to subscribe to a Green Waste bin if possible.

**5765 Planning Applications**

- a) **Planning Ref: 36/21/00016** – A39 (near Lime Street junction), Nether Stowey  
**Proposal:** Application for the Prior Approval of the proposed installation of 15.0m Monopole C/W wraparound Cabinet and associated works (*revised application*).  
**Response:** *To send Comments– a copy of the response is appended to these minutes*

**5766 Financial Management**

- a) The Budget Report for the year to 8 October was noted. A copy of the report is appended to these minutes.
- b) Expenditure incurred since 13 September:

Date	Payee Name	Cheque	Amount	Transaction Details
15 Sept	BT Business	DDR	47.94	Phone/broadband (bill 25 Aug)
15 Sep	Stowey Green Spaces	122412	182.00	SGS Grant (insurance/venue)
15 Sep	Stowey Shuttle	122413	60.00	Shuttle Grant (telephone)
15 Sep	Microsoft OneDrive	CARD	4.56	Microsoft OneDrive Sept
20 Sep	Payroll	122414-417	2,085.09	Payroll Clerk and cleaner
20 Sep	GWB Services Ltd	122418	1,060.20	Village maintenance (August)
20 Sept	NSPC	122419	150.00	Transfer to a/c 3 for future expenditure
1 Oct	E Martin Computer	DDR	28.34	Website Maintenance contract Oct
1 Oct	EDF Energy	DDR	22.00	Toilets electricity Oct
3 Oct	EDF Energy	DDR	105.00	Office electricity Oct
4 Oct	EDF Energy	DDR	8.00	Clock Tower electricity Oct
8 Oct	E Martin Comp Svs	122420	30.00	Extended mailbox fee (clerk@...)
10 Oct	Sedgemoor DC	DDR	225.00	Office rates Oct
15 Oct	P J Addicott	SO	350.00	Office rent Oct
15 Oct	Microsoft OneDrive	CARD	4.56	Microsoft OneDrive Oct
15 Oct	Santander	DD	2.25	Bank charges (a/c3 Sept transactions)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>			<b>£ 4,364.94</b>	

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

- c) The most recent bank statements/reconciliations were **noted**. It was agreed that the Council would resume the monthly account checks and Cllr Falla would do the first check in the coming week.

**5767 Highways**

It was noted that Somerset County Council were jetting drains all over the village. There would be temporary traffic lights at South Lane on 18 October for jetting works.

Part of Lime Street would be closed for five days (18-22 October) for water supply works.

The road works at the St Mary Street/A39 junction should be finished on 15 October, but it appeared that work on the traffic lights would start straight after, until February.

**5768 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman had been unable to raise any interest his initiative on County Lines, "cuckooing" and related issues so would not take it any further. He had attended a conference on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) on 7 October – Cllr Ferriday would report further as the lead on LGR matters.

**5769 Clerks Report**

The Clerk continued to attend various virtual meetings on buses and Local Government Reorganisation.

As mentioned earlier, the Parish Office would be hosting monthly Community Drop-in events run by Nicola Hale, the first being on Monday 25 October from 10.30 am.

**5770 Members Reports**

Stowey Walking (Cllr Falla): He had attended the meeting. The Walking Festival had gone well. There was a presentation at the meeting from AONB about path improvements to enhance walking locally.

Cllr Falla also reported that the public footpath behind the Cricketer site had been diverted further, but there was now a properly made-up hard path.

Thomas Poole Library (Cllr Ferriday): the Library would be replacing their old sign and would contact the Parish Council for permission.

LGR Conference (Cllr Ferriday): as mentioned, he and the Chairman had attended the LGR Conference on 7 October. It was well attended and there were lots of presentations, many not relevant. It was possible the Local Council Networks would be based around the old Clusters rather than the CCG areas as previously stated. Most people seemed to feel that they left with more questions than answers.

Hinkley Point (Cllr Reid): Cllr Reid had attended the Community Forum on 23 September. There was nothing of great interest to the Parish. The site had created 12,800 jobs and about £3.5 billion had been spent in the Southwest region.

Bus Improvement Project (Cllr Reid): Cllr Reid had now taken this on, and would be the local representative for the project.

NS Village Hall and Recreation Ground CIO (Cllr Jeanes): The CIO was moving towards completion of the draft planning application and expected to submit it in late October. They had broken up into Working Groups to work on various aspects of the project. Cllr Jeanes would show the Council the final plans before submission.

**5771 Forthcoming Events**

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 13 Oct – SCC/Clerks Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)   | (Clerk) |
| 25 Oct Community Safety Drop-in Session at the Parish Office 10.30 am<br><i>Nicola Hale, Sedgemoor Community Safety Officer</i> |         |
| 27 Oct – SCC/Clerks Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)   | (Clerk) |
| 25 Nov – HPC Transport Forum  | (MR)    |

**5772 Next Parish Council Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 8 November** at the Church Centre at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7:50 pm

**Nether Stowey Parish Council Response.**

---

Siting of the mast

The area is already served by a communication mast situated in the Nether Stowey Recreation Ground. Consideration should be given to using this mast or siting an additional mast on the same site. We have been informed by the company responsible for the construction of the Recreation Ground mast that it was intended to be 5G compliant.

The proposed site for the mast will be at one of the main entrances to the village of Nether Stowey and will therefore impact greatly on the visual aspect of that entrance and the surrounding area.

---

The applicant states that “Figure 1-3 illustrates the site and the surrounding area. The surrounding area is residential in nature and to address any potential residential amenity Issues as much as possible the proposed monopole and associated equipment has been placed against a screening backdrop of tall mature tree planting.

The actual nature of the backdrop is a HEDGE that has grown tall and not mature planted trees. Its value as a screen is limited. It will not screen the mast from the neighbouring properties, 20 metres away, as the vegetation is deciduous and will be bare in the winter months.

Properties sited in Stogursey Lane are 30 metres from the site and will look directly at the proposed site without any screening at all.

The applicant states, The proposed works are not to the visual detriment of the surrounding area (being suitably distant from sensitive receptors). The proposal would not result in demonstrable harm to the character of the immediate or wider area; but are vitally necessary to ensure improved delivery of service. Capacity and coverage are the key drivers for this new 5G installation. The proposal would respect and continue to maintain the character of the area, would be suitably distant from potentially sensitive users, and so would accord with the principles of the Development Plan policies. It fully accords with the requirements of the NPPF.

The Parish Council strongly disagrees with the statements made in this paragraph. In fact the proposal will be visually detrimental to the surrounding area and as stated the entrance to the village.

The height of the mast will have a considerable visual interruption of the open view across to the Bristol Channel, contrary to Policy E4 of the Neighbourhood Plan (*“Open views towards the countryside or across open spaces will be maintained if possible. An assessment of views to and from the development should accompany a planning application wherever relevant.”*).

The proposal also results in demonstrable harm to the character of the area and the visual aspect of the village. The Parish Council, together with Stowey Green Spaces, have an ongoing program to enhance the

---

A39 bypass the proposed site is part of that program of rehabilitation and planting and creation of wildflower areas progressing towards the junction. The siting of a number of cabinets will significantly undermine the improved landscape that has been created and the hard work of the group that has been involved.

---

**Budget Report at 8 October 2021**

<b>Income</b>	<b>Outturn at 31 Mar 2021</b>	<b>Budget 2021/22</b>	<b>First quarter</b>	<b>July 2021</b>	<b>Aug 2021</b>	<b>Sept 2021</b>	<b>Second quarter</b>	<b>Oct 2021</b>	<b>Total income to date</b>	<b>% Original budget</b>
1002 Allotment Rental	100.00	100.00	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.0%
1004 Bank Interest	66.12	85.00	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.0%
1006 Cemetery Income	2,463.00	1,500.00	1,245.00	587.00	-	370.00	957.00	-	2,202.00	146.8%
1011 Precept	58,379.00	63,412.00	31,706.00	-	-	31,706.00	31,706.00	-	63,412.00	100.0%
1012 Printing & Copying receipts	12.00	300.00	12.80	11.10	-	-	11.10	-	23.90	8.0%
115 VAT Refunds	1,535.02	-	958.11	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	958.11	**
<b>Total Income for Year</b>	<b>62,555.14</b>	<b>65,397.00</b>	<b>33,921.91</b>	<b>598.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>32,076.00</b>	<b>32,674.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>66,596.01</b>	<b>102.1%</b>

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Outturn at 31 Mar 2021</b>	<b>Budget 2021/22</b>	<b>First quarter</b>	<b>July 2021</b>	<b>Aug 2021</b>	<b>Sept 2021</b>	<b>Second quarter</b>	<b>Oct 2021</b>	<b>Total spent to date</b>	<b>% Original budget</b>
<b>Parish Office</b>										
4101 Office Rent + supplies	4,245.90	4,315.00	1,084.39	350.00	351.00	309.48	1,010.48	350.00	2,444.87	56.7%
4102 Office utilities + rates	3,346.61	4,410.00	969.95	330.00	330.00	330.00	990.00	330.00	2,289.95	51.9%
4103 Postage	54.96	60.00	26.01	-	-	-	0.00	-	26.01	43.4%
4104 Stationery + equipment	153.23	250.00	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.0%
4105 Telephone & Internet	559.94	480.00	159.80	-	39.95	79.90	119.85	-	279.65	58.3%
4106 Website + IT costs	747.20	695.00	82.26	151.42	27.42	27.42	206.26	48.62	337.14	48.5%
4107 Books and publications	0.00	-	26.74	-	-	-	0.00	-	26.74	**
4108 Printing costs	167.54	450.00	0.00	-	13.66	-8.00	5.66	-	5.66	1.3%
4109 Office Miscellaneous	29.94	-	-29.94	-	-	-	0.00	-	-29.94	**
<b>TOTAL Parish Office</b>	<b>9,305.32</b>	<b>10,660.00</b>	<b>2,319.21</b>	<b>831.42</b>	<b>762.03</b>	<b>738.80</b>	<b>2,332.25</b>	<b>728.62</b>	<b>5,380.08</b>	<b>50.5%</b>
<b>Staff Costs</b>										
4201 Salaries	31,350.03	31,600.00	6,647.53	1,800.09	1,800.09	1,800.09	5,400.27	-	12,047.80	38.1%
4202 Staff travel and expenses	0.00	30.00	32.40	-	-	-	0.00	-	32.40	108.0%
4203 Staff Training	45.00	50.00	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.0%
<b>TOTAL Staff Costs</b>	<b>31,395.03</b>	<b>31,680.00</b>	<b>6,679.93</b>	<b>1,800.09</b>	<b>1,800.09</b>	<b>1,800.09</b>	<b>5,400.27</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>12,080.20</b>	<b>38.1%</b>
<b>Administration &amp; Finance</b>										
4301 Audit Fees	585.00	595.00	285.00	-	-	300.00	300.00	-	585.00	98.3%
4302 Bank charges	13.29	10.00	17.00	4.00	4.35	2.45	10.80	2.25	30.05	300.5%
4303 Chairman's Honorarium	250.00	250.00	250.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	250.00	100.0%

Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2021	Budget 2021/22	First quarter	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Second quarter	Oct 2021	Total spent to date	% Original budget
<b>Admin &amp; Finance (continued)</b>										
4304 C/llrs' Expenses/training	164.25	20.00	50.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	50.00	250.0%
4306 Elections	0.00	235.00	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.0%
4307 Insurance	1,197.18	1,230.00	884.55	-	-	500.00	500.00	-	1,384.55	112.6%
4308 Statutory Fees	35.00	40.00	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.0%
4309 Subscriptions	572.35	635.00	0.00	384.64	-	-	384.64	-	384.64	60.6%
4310 Meeting room hire/Zoom	131.89	420.00	57.97	80.49	11.99	11.99	104.47	-	162.44	38.7%
<b>TOTAL Administration &amp; Finance</b>	<b>2,948.96</b>	<b>3,435.00</b>	<b>1,544.52</b>	<b>469.13</b>	<b>16.34</b>	<b>814.44</b>	<b>1,299.91</b>	<b>2.25</b>	<b>2,846.68</b>	<b>82.9%</b>
<b>Cemetery</b>										
4402 Cemetery Rates	218.85	235.00	151.67	50.00	50.00	-	100.00	-	251.67	107.09%
4403 Maintenance + bins	2,791.79	3,500.00	471.98	558.00	427.80	409.20	1,395.00	-	1,866.98	53.34%
<b>TOTAL Cemetery</b>	<b>3,010.64</b>	<b>3,735.00</b>	<b>623.65</b>	<b>608.00</b>	<b>477.80</b>	<b>409.20</b>	<b>1,495.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,118.65</b>	<b>56.72%</b>
<b>Community Services</b>										
4501 Christmas Tree & Lights	288.04	60.00	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00%
4502 Allotment	100.00	100.00	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00%
4508 Support for Tourism	0.00	250.00	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00%
<b>TOTAL Community Services</b>	<b>388.04</b>	<b>410.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
<b>TOTAL Neighbourhood Plan</b>	<b>1,586.31</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>Village Maintenance</b>										
4601 A39 Verge	504.00	740.00	74.40	167.40	74.40	204.60	446.40	-	520.80	70.38%
4602 Clock Tower Maintenance	350.00	2,285.00	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00%
4603 Clock Tower Electricity	405.14	120.00	21.00	4.74	8.00	8.00	20.74	8.00	49.74	41.45%
4604 General Maintenance	230.08	190.00	0.00	166.67	-	-	166.67	-	166.67	87.72%
4605 The Cross, Gaol and WM	94.75	150.00	0.00	-	10.00	-	10.00	-	10.00	6.67%
4606 Palmers Path	351.00	460.00	18.60	55.80	18.60	37.20	111.60	-	130.20	28.30%
4607 Public Seating	0.00	250.00	27.62	-	-	-	0.00	-	27.62	11.05%
4608 Public Footpaths	0.00	25.00	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00%
4609 Dog Bins	1,603.50	1,900.00	789.88	-	-	-	0.00	-	789.88	41.57%
4610 Coleridge Road	0.00	160.00	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00%
4611 Millennium Wood	0.00	100.00	78.77	36.00	13.02	-	49.02	-	127.79	127.79%
4612 Plot 173	216.00	-	0.00	-	-	223.20	223.20	-	223.20	**
<b>Village Maintenance (continued)</b>										

Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2021	Budget 2021/22	First quarter	July 2021	Aug 2021	Sept 2021	Second quarter	Oct 2021	Total spent to date	% Original budget
4613 Mill Ln/Lime St maint	607.02	300.00	55.80	-	-	186.00	186.00	-	241.80	80.60%
<b>TOTAL Village Maintenance</b>	<b>4,361.49</b>	<b>6,680.00</b>	<b>1,066.07</b>	<b>430.61</b>	<b>124.02</b>	<b>659.00</b>	<b>1,213.63</b>	<b>8.00</b>	<b>2,287.70</b>	<b>34.25%</b>
<b>Castle St Toilets / Car Park</b>										
4701 Castle St Toilets Cleaning	0.00	3,515.00	0.00	374.54	292.40	-104.15	562.79	-	562.79	16.01%
4702 Castle St Toilets Electricity	179.64	200.00	42.00	14.00	7.27	22.00	43.27	22.00	107.27	53.64%
4703a Car Park Rates	798.40	852.00	798.40	-	-	-	0.00	-	798.40	93.71%
4703b Public Toilets Rates	1,884.65	-	-1,884.65	-	-	-	0.00	-	-1,884.65	see note 1
4704 Castle St Toilets Repairs	0.00	150.00	2,022.61	1,211.68	51.50	-855.53	407.65	-	2,430.26	1620.17%
4705 Castle St Toilets Water	239.78	360.00	115.43	-	-	-	0.00	-	115.43	32.06%
4706 Castle St Car Park maint	272.00	420.00	0.00	320.00	76.65	30.00	426.65	-	426.65	101.58%
4709 Castle St miscellaneous	0.00	-	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	**
<b>TOTAL Castle St Toilets/ Car Park</b>	<b>3,374.47</b>	<b>5,497.00</b>	<b>1,093.79</b>	<b>1,920.22</b>	<b>427.82</b>	<b>-907.68</b>	<b>1,440.36</b>	<b>22.00</b>	<b>2,556.15</b>	<b>46.50%</b>
<b>Grants</b>										
4801 Grants Pool	1,726.00	3,300.00	45.00	-	20.05	26.13	46.18	-	91.18	2.76%
4803 Library	500.00	-	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	**
<b>TOTAL Grants</b>	<b>2,226.00</b>	<b>3,300.00</b>	<b>45.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>20.05</b>	<b>26.13</b>	<b>46.18</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>91.18</b>	<b>2.76%</b>
<b>CIL + Capital Expenditure</b>										
<b>TOTAL CIL + Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>**</b>
<b>VAT Account</b>										
515 VAT Paid	1,379.60	0.00	472.81	45.53	45.83	183.86	275.22	9.72	757.75	**
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>59,975.86</b>	<b>65,397.00</b>	<b>13,844.98</b>	<b>6,105.00</b>	<b>3,673.98</b>	<b>3,723.84</b>	<b>13,502.82</b>	<b>770.59</b>	<b>28,118.39</b>	<b>42.99%</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>62,555.14</b>	<b>65,397.00</b>	<b>33,921.91</b>	<b>598.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>32,076.00</b>	<b>32,674.10</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>66,596.01</b>	<b>101.83%</b>
<b>Balance expenditure-income</b>	<b>2,579.28</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-20,076.93</b>	<b>5,506.90</b>	<b>3,673.98</b>	<b>-28,352.16</b>	<b>-19,171.28</b>	<b>770.59</b>	<b>38,477.62</b>	

Note 1 – Refund of rates paid in 2020/21

<b>Balance Sheet Bank:</b>	38,376.54	
	30,467.92	
	230.01	<b>= £ 69,074.47</b>

<b>Balance:</b>	as at 1 Apr	30,596.85
	Plus: income	66,596.01
	Less: payments	28,118.39
		<b>= £ 69,074.47</b>