



Notes from Nether Stowey Parish Council

The Parish Council meeting was held on 14 February. The Council were delighted to welcome Jan Burdge as a new member. There is still a vacancy on the Council to be filled now – or you can stand for election on 5 May (see below).

The Parish Council has agreed to buy £1,000 worth of sports equipment for the Playing Field and some educational toys for the Toddlers Group. There is still a little money left in the grants “pot” to be spent by the end of March, and the deadline is 4 March at the latest. If your group needs something, please get your form filled in as soon as possible. You can get one from the office or download one from <http://netherstowey-pc.gov.uk/local-organisations-and-activities>.

The Parish Council considered the planning application for the new village hall/community and sports facility, which they support. Although the application is in the name of the Parish Council (to save on planning fees), the application is from the NS Village Hall and Recreation Ground CIO who have put a phenomenal amount of work into it. By the time this edition of the QM is published it will be too late to comment, but for those who can't see the plans online, the CIO have made available a large-scale copy of the plans at the Library and we have a small-size version at the Parish Office.

The Council also discussed the proposal to remove the affordable housing from the Cricketer development. The Council are submitting a strong objection to the District Council and are grateful to the 140+ people who also wrote to object – it is important that the Planning authorities are able to see the strength of local feeling.

There will be local elections on 5 May to elect members of the new Unitary Council and, a year early, a new Parish Council. The deadline to register to vote is 14 April if you haven't done it before. Please remember if you have moved house and you need to update your details. Full details are available. The deadline to stand as a candidate for either election is 5 April. More details and nominations for candidates are available at <https://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/article/5366/Elections-2022> .

We are attending numerous meetings a week about the setting up of the new Unitary Council, though there is still a lot of uncertainty and lack of detail about how it will affect us, either as Parish Councils or individually. Hopefully it will become clearer over the next 12 months as work picks up when the new Councillors are elected. The Unitary Council formally takes charge from April 2023, after a period of running in tandem from May 2022. There is some information at <https://newsomersetcouncil.org.uk/> and no doubt more will be published and delivered through everyone's door in the run up to the election.

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 14 March at the Church Centre at 7pm.

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