



## NETHER STOWEY PARISH

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***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 24 MAY 2021 AT 7.00pm IN THE VILLAGE HALL

#### **Present: Councillors**

John Roberts (Chairman)	Andrew Jeanes
Kevin Ferriday	Malcolm Reid
Margaret Hogg	Barbara Rich

#### **Representatives of the following organisations**

NS Village Hall & Recreation Ground  
NS Wednesday Club  
NS Allotments Association  
Stowey Green Spaces  
NS & F Women's Institute  
Thomas Poole Library

In Attendance: Caro Slaymaker, Clerk to the Parish Council

#### **1. Welcome**

John Roberts, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed all attending to the meeting.

#### **2. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Falla.

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

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held on 20 May 2019, had been published and were signed by the Chairman.

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

The Chairman gave the Parish Council's Report for the past two years, summarising the Council's activities and recording the Council's thanks to many residents for their services to the community. A copy of the full report is appended to these minutes.

Cllr Ferriday gave a brief report on the Neighbourhood Plan, thanking all those who had been involved and all those who had voted at the referendum.

#### **5. Community Reports**

Reports were read by representatives of Local organisations listed above. Written reports from those who had spoken and from other groups were at the meeting 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
- NS Village Hall & Recreation Ground
- NS Wednesday Club
- NS Allotments Association
- Stowey Green Spaces
- NS & F Women's Institute
- Thomas Poole Library
- Friends of Coleridge

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

There were no other items for discussion.

The Chairman thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 7.40 pm



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2021

**Monday 24 May at 7pm at Nether Stowey Village Hall**

This being the Annual Parish meeting it is the opportunity to see what village groups and people have been involved in. A number of people and organisations have reported their activities for the past year and these reports 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.

It is two years since we held the last Annual Parish Meeting and I do not need to remind everyone what a traumatic and momentous time we've had in between, however adversity has a habit of bringing out the best in people and we saw individuals and groups coming together to help others in their time of need.

At the start of the pandemic we put out a call for volunteers to help those unable to leave their homes or were isolating, this resulted in a good many people coming forward to offer the help, in particular with the collection and delivery of prescriptions from the Quantock Medical Centre: **Our Thanks To All Those Involved.**

As always our village Clock continues to give good service and this is thanks to a dedicated team lead by Tony Edney, who keeps it wound and on time.

Two years ago we reported we had 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. Unfortunately this was one of the victims of the pandemic and it is hoped this can be completed this year.

The volunteers of Stowey Green Spaces continue to do a great job in and around the village and one project that is ongoing is work to enhance the by-pass, which we are please to say has the backing of county highways and the parish council.

After a forced shut down the volunteers at Stowey Shuttle who help keep villagers on the move so efficiently are back in business, ready to help when needed.

Councillor Colin Falla continues 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.

I would also like to thank Norma Frod who has spent so much time finding out information about events, virtual tours, exhibitions and concerts to keep us all amused and sane during the past year.

One person who deserves a special mention is Helen Stacey our practice manager at the Quantock Medical Centre; Helen has been awarded a Somerset Medal for her work during the pandemic: the "citation" reads:

Helen Stacey is the Practice Manager at Quantock Medical Centre. Whilst all of the practices have worked hard to contribute to the local vaccination hubs, Helen has gone above and beyond for her patients in the rural villages as well as being the lead manager at the North Petherton Vaccination hub far more than her allocation. She has ensured it runs smoothly on the ground and not had a day off for months. Her biggest strength is putting the needs of the patient first – making sure services work around them.

Those of you who like me attended the QMC for your Covid vaccinations would have seen a small part of Helen's working in action.



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### PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Despite not being able to host face to face meetings the Parish Council continued to meet via the Zoom platform, strangely the number of meetings that councillors have had to attend has increased rather than decreased. EDF, HPC, County Council, Sedgemoor DC are among those we have been meeting and dealing with over the past two years.

Sadly this will be the last meeting we will hold in our village hall for the foreseeable future, in order to have clarity of a venue being available for the future; we will be switching to the Church centre for all forthcoming meetings.

A list of the Parish Council meetings scheduled for the next months is available. The Parish Council is responsible for

- Working with Sedgemoor and SCC to try and achieve quality services.
- Consultation with applicants and Sedgemoor on Planning Applications in the Parish
- Help residents if they have problems especially relating to local government
- Assisting where possible other village organisations and clubs
- Working together with our nearby parishes
- The administration and maintenance the cemetery
- The Parish Council is none political and will not be involved in party politics
- Support for appropriate and sustainable economic development
- The Parish Council will work towards the conservation of the parish
- Speaking for the Parish in statutory consultations
- The Parish Council is responsible for village maintenance,
- Bus shelters and Public Toilets
- Responsible for the provision of allotments, which at the present time appear popular.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Ferriday will provide a report on the neighbourhood plan later in the meeting, but the Parish Council is delighted that the referendum successful, and we thank everyone who worked on it and who turned out to vote.

### GRANTS

The Parish Council has awarded the following grants since the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2019

Sep 2019	Health Centre	Strimmer	£ 64
Oct 2019	NS Village Hall	Electrical Inspection, heating/cooling system (part)	£ 1,794
Feb 2020	SGS	Insurance/venue hire	£ 182
Feb 2020	NS Rec Ground	Portakabin repairs	£ 1,800
Jul 2020	TP Library	Running costs	£ 500
Oct 2020	Wednesday Club	Venue hire	£ 100
Oct 2020	NS Rec Ground	Table and benches	£ 1,515
Dec 2020	St Marys PCC	Christmas lunch and Christmas hampers	£ 161



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May 2021      various groups Tea + coffee starter kits for groups (ongoing)

### **CRICKETER DEVELOPMENT**

As you are probably aware demolition work has begun on the Cricketer site prior to building starting, we continue to hold discussions with both the developer and Sedgemoor planners on this development.

### **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 impact that the influx of workers and the increase in transport.

We have built a good relationship with the team who handle the fly parking and this is greatly reduced, where it does occur it is dealt with immediately.

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.

However we are working with HPC and Sedgemoor District Council to try and resolve the issues caused by workers living or lodging in the village and are hopeful we can mitigate some of the problems.

The community bus service provided by HPC has restarted and we thank them for stepping in to provide a community bus service when the County Council would not help.

### **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCIL**

We continue to work hard with both Councils to try to get the best possible services. Some services that used to be provided by Sedgemoor or Somerset CC have been cut back or are now non-existent. The Parish Council does try to top-up these services, but we do have to pay for them through the precept, which means everyone's Council tax bills. We try to work out what services give the most benefit to the most residents.

We can no longer sit and wait for "them" to do things and I would urge everyone to do what they 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.

The question of Local Government reorganisation rolls on, with a poll running until 4 June. Cllr Ferriday has been representing the Parish Council attending the various online meetings. It is not clear what will happen, but it seems likely that more activities will be devolved to Parish Councils.