

MINUTES OF NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 11 JULY 2022 AT 7.00pm
AT ST MARYS CHURCH CENTRE

Present: Parish Councillors John Roberts (Chairman)
 Penny Everett
 Colin Falla
 Kevin Ferriday
 Margaret Hogg
 Barbie Rich

In Attendance: Caro Slaymaker (Parish Clerk)
 Cllr Brian Bolt (Somerset County Council)
 Cllr Julie Pay (Sedgemoor District Council)
 Two members of the public

5911 Apologies

Cllr Jeanes had sent apologies as he was on holiday. His absence was approved. Cllr Caswell sent apologies as he was ill.

5912 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Rich declared an interest as the Parish Council's representative to Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee.

5913 Public Session

Mrs Jones, representing the Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground (NSVHRG), thanked the Parish Council for the grant for Party in the Park. The Party had been a success, raising £1,200.

She said the skateboard half-pipe needed to be replaced and the CIO were considering whether a skate park would be better. They were aware of the lack of provision for older children. She had a meeting with a child, who had requested this (and had a letter with the signatures of about 70 of his friends in support) and his father. His father had a friend who designed skate parks professionally and would be willing to design something suitable for NSVHRG free of charge. This was ideal timing as the half-pipe would have to be relocated soon anyway. She had asked the boy and his father to attend the CIO meeting on 14 July to discuss putting a proposal together and discuss fund-raising and to create a Youth. The Chairman added that all the local skate parks seemed to be very well-used there was general agreement that this was a great idea.

5914 Minutes of Previous Meeting

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

5915 District and County Liaison

Cllr Pay had chaired a meeting of the Audit and Standards Committee on 4 July, which was about the Code of Conduct. The Committee accepted the proposal to adopt the latest LGA model code and would so recommend to the Full Council meeting who would make the final decision. The Chairman confirmed that Nether Stowey Parish Council had adopted the same model Code in May, and most members had had training or would do so in the next couple of months.

Cllr Bolt reminded the Parish Council that SDC still held RLT funds for sports/play equipment that needed to be used soon which might help with the two projects under consideration.

He had attended a political group meeting with Alyn Jones for an update on progress to the Unitary Council. The main topic had been Local Community Networks (LCNs) – there was a four-week slippage on deciding boundaries. He suggested finding a similar sized parish in (eg) Cornwall to find out about their experience. Cllr Bolt said that they had been unable to

tie Mr Jones down on details. There was a lack of detail still, and 1 April was not far away. The Chairman said that he had provisionally arranged a meeting for 5 September with Alyn Jones for local parishes, to follow up on the meeting held on 28 February, though some were not interested. He agreed that there was still a lack of information. After the previous meeting they had followed up with a written list of questions and feedback to Mr Jones but had never received a substantive answer. The old Quantock Cluster had been very effective until it was amalgamated with another cluster that included Bridgwater. He didn't want the rural parishes eclipsed by bigger parishes in an LCN in the same way. At the moment it did not seem to be workable.

Cllr Bolt added that originally there was £ 18.5m in savings expected, half of which was supposed to go to LCNs, but now a lot of it would be going to SCC's main budget. Of the pilot schemes, the Highways Steward scheme in Exmoor seemed to be going well but all the rest were in bigger towns such as Frome. But what works in Frome won't work in more rural areas such as West Somerset.

Cllrs Bolt and Pay left the meeting at 7.20 pm

5916 Request for a dog bin

It was **agreed that** the need for an additional bin on the Banneson Road/Oak Road footpath did not justify the cost. The Clerk would write to the lady to explain.

5917 Play equipment

Members considered the outline proposal and it was **agreed** that the Chairman and Clerk should pursue the idea to put together a costed workable proposal for further consideration.

5918 Planning – Stringston Lane proposal

It was **agreed** that there was far too little information for the Council to form any view, but that the Council would be willing to engage when further details would enable them to identify any planning impacts and suggest how they might be acceptably addressed. The Clerk's draft reply was **approved**.

5919 Planning Applications

Planning Ref: 36/22/00010 – Poole House, 21 Castle Street, Nether Stowey

Proposal: Works to trees in a Conservation Area

Response: No Objection.

5920 Financial Management

a) The Budget Report for the year to 10 June was **noted**. A copy of the report is appended to these minutes.

b) Expenditure incurred since 13 June:

Date	Payee Name	Cheque	Amount	Transaction Details
21 June	Staff payroll	122506-09	2,106.77	Staff payroll June, PAYE/NI/LGPS
21 Jun	Sedgemoor DC	122510	100.00	Election expenses May 2022
25 Jun	BT Business	DDR	47.94	Office Phone/broadband (bill 25 June)
27 Jun	GWB Services	122511	650.64	Village maintenance (May)
27 Jun	Post Office Ltd (NS)	CARD	32.64	48 second class stamps
1 Jul	Somerset ALC	122512	25.00	Councillor's Training (AJ)
1 July	EDF Energy	DDR	22.00	Public toilets electricity July
1 July	E Martin Computers	DDR	28.34	Website maintenance contract July
4 July	EDF Energy	DDR	105.00	Office electricity July
4 July	EDF Energy	DDR	9.00	Clock Tower electricity July

Date	Payee Name	Cheque	Amount	Transaction Details
4 July	Somerset ALC	122513	30.00	Councillor's training (JR)
6 July	Rialtas Business Solutions	122515	154.80	Alpha Accounts software 2022/23
8 July	GWB Services	122516	614.64	Village Maintenance (June)
10 July	Sedgemoor DC	DDR	53.00	Cemetery rates
10 July	Sedgemoor DC	DDR	225.00	Office rates
13 July	Zoom	card	14.39	Zoom subscription (July)
15 July	P J Addicott	SO	350.00	Office rent (15 July)
15 July	Microsoft OneDrive	card	4.56	Microsoft OneDrive (July)
15 July	Santander	DDR	0.70	Bank charges a/c 3 (June transactions)
Total Expenditure			£ 4,574.42	
Transfer of funds (chq 122514)			200.00	to a/c 3 (for debit card expenditure)

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

c) The most recent bank statements/reconciliations to 2 July were noted. Cllr Ferriday would carry out the bank/voucher check on 12 July.

Afternote: the check was carried out on 12 July; Cllr Ferriday was satisfied that all was in order.

5921 Highways

The new traffic lights were expected to be operational on 14 July. The contractor was expected to reinstate the verges with grass, however the Chairman had asked if wildflowers could be used. Cllr Revans, Leader of SCC had put him in touch with the right person in Highways but as yet there has been no reply.

5922 Chairman's Report

The Chairman had attended the Hinkley Point SSG meeting. He reported that the last reactor at Hinkley Point B station would shut down Wednesday 1 August bringing to an end 60 years of nuclear electricity generation until Hinkley Point C starts up in a few years.

HPB are doing everything to ensure a smooth transition into defueling. All employees who want to remain at Hinkley Point B for defueling will be able to do so. There will not be any compulsory redundancies.

There are ongoing talks and meetings between Hinkley Point A and Hinkley Point B to begin to understand potential interaction between the decommissioning and waste management programmes of both sites pending handover to Magnox of the HPB site following de-fuelling.

The Chairman would be attending a tour/meeting at HPB on 22nd July for a briefing on the plans for defueling and decommissioning etc.

5923 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that work of the parking survey for the Hinkley Point scheme had been completed, circulated to members on 28 June. There had been no feedback as yet.

Despite reminders, there had been no reply to the request to have the blue sign on the A39 replaced or removed and Also no reply about the change to the bus stop parking restriction signs. which was promised on 5 May.

There had been no reply from Ian Liddell-Grainger MP to the Parish Council's letter of 19 April. A reminder had been sent on 24 May and again on 7 July.

Stowey Green Spaces have done a super job clearing the brook by the fire station.

The Clerk had met two scaffolding companies for the Clock Tower and had received two quotes, a third had promised to call back but had not done so, and she would try another company.

Despite the earlier fears about the cost of the election, in fact the Parish Council had been charged £100 as the election was uncontested and no contribution to the County Council election was charged.

The Council's landlord was inching closer to repairing and repainting the office exterior.

The Clerk had received an e-mail from the Western Free Press enquiring about the road closure at Castle Hill. It was agreed to refer them to Wessex Water.

Letter from a parishioner complaining about Plot 173 (which has now been cut); a playing field gate (referred to CIO) and the difference in Council Tax between Nether Stowey and Wembdon (an explanation of how the tax base is calculated provided, which explains how, the same total precept costs Wembdon residents just under half. It is not something that Parish Councils have any control).

5924 Members Reports

The Chairman would be attending the HPC Transport Forum on 14 July.

Active Living: (Cllr Hogg) Active Living had had a quiz with 10 people attending the last meeting. They would keep going for the moment, while they still had sufficient funds.

Village Hall and Playing Field: Cllr Rich said that Party in the Park had gone well apart from the weather. There was a problem about goal posts being available for informal kickabout games, as the new movable ones were not available for them to use. They were looking for volunteers to empty the Village Hall.

JAC and Footpaths: Cllr Falla would attend the JAC meeting on 19 July. Given that the next PC meeting was in September, Cllr Falla would send a summary of the discussion after the meeting. He had been doing a lot of strimming since his return from holiday. The SCC Footpaths Warden was currently isolating.

Library: (Cllr Ferriday): the next meeting was in September.

5925 Forthcoming Events

The Clerk would be away from for the week of 18-22 July and the office would be closed. Members could contact her if necessary. She would also be away for two weeks from 8 August unless there was a Parish Council meeting.

Thurs 14 July	– HPC Transport Forum	Cannington	JR
Tues 19 July	– AONB JAC meeting	Halsway Manor	CF
Wed 20 July	– LGR Clerk's forum	Teams	CS
Fri 22 July	– SSG tour/meeting	HP/B station	JR
Wed 27 July	– Affordable Housing Forum	Zoom	KF, CS
Mon 5 Sept	– LGR meeting for local Parishes	Church Centre	All
September	– TP Library	TP Library	KF

5926 Next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **Monday 12 September** at the Church Centre at 7pm. There was no meeting scheduled in August. However, if necessary, a meeting would be convened on Monday 8 August and the agenda issued on 3 August

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Monthly Budget Report 2022/23
as at 8 July 2022

Income	Outturn at 31 Mar 2022	Budget 2022/23	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	First quarter	July 2022	Second quarter	Total income to date	% Original budget
1002 Allotment Rental	100.00	100.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.0%
1004 Bank Interest	2.86	85.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.0%
1011 Precept	63,412.00	68,748.00	34,374.00	-	-	34,374.00	-	0.00	34,374.00	50.0%
1006 Cemetery Income	3,513.27	2,000.00	68.00	205.00	495.00	768.00	-	0.00	768.00	38.4%
1005 Comm Infrastructure Levy	14,454.05	0.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	**
1012 Printing & Copying receipts	45.40	100.00	-	-	8.45	8.45	-	0.00	8.45	8.5%
115 VAT Refunds	1,706.14	-	750.00	-	-	750.00	-	0.00	750.00	**
Total Income for Year	22,157.37	2,285.00	35,192.00	213.11	503.45	35,908.56	0.00	0.00	35,908.56	**

Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2022	Budget 2022/23	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	First quarter	July 2022	Second quarter	Total spent to date	% Original budget
Parish Office										
4101 Office Rent, rates + supplies	4,199.36	4,310.00	384.00	350.00	350.00	1,084.00	350.00	350.00	1,434.00	33.3%
4102 Office utilities	3,445.97	3,900.00	325.50	388.61	-230.31	483.80	330.00	330.00	813.80	20.9%
4103 Postage	57.69	75.00	-	-	32.64	32.64	-	0.00	32.64	43.5%
4104 Stationery + equipment	157.79	250.00	-	-0.55	0.00	-0.55	-	0.00	-0.55	-0.2%
4105 Telephone & Internet	479.89	480.00	79.90	0.00	79.90	159.80	-	0.00	159.80	33.3%
4106 Website + IT costs	544.70	772.00	27.42	122.42	27.42	177.26	152.62	152.62	329.88	42.7%
4107 Books and publications	26.74	50.00	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4108 Printing costs	159.15	200.00	-	30.53	0.00	30.53	-	0.00	30.53	15.3%
4109 Office Miscellaneous	-29.94	-	-	-	0.00	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	**
TOTAL Parish Office	9,041.35	10,037.00	816.82	891.01	259.65	1,967.48	832.62	832.62	2,800.10	27.9%
Staff Costs										
4201 Salaries	23,250.09	22,600.00	1,841.77	1,841.77	1,841.77	5,525.31	-	0.00	5,525.31	24.4%
4202 Staff travel and expenses	36.90	30.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4203 Staff Training	0.00	60.00	20.00	-	-	20.00	-	0.00	20.00	33.3%
TOTAL Staff Costs	23,286.99	22,690.00	1,861.77	1,841.77	1,841.77	5,545.31	0.00	0.00	5,545.31	24.4%

Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2022	Budget 2022/23	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	First quarter	July 2022	Second quarter	Total spent to date	% Original budget
Administration & Finance										
4301 Audit Fees	585.00	595.00	-	285.00	-	285.00	-	0.00	285.00	47.9%
4302 Bank charges	44.50	35.00	3.65	1.05	0.70	5.40	0.70	0.70	6.10	17.4%
4303 Chairman's Honorarium	250.00	250.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4304 C/llrs' Expenses/training	87.25	395.00	-	90.00	250.00	340.00	55.00	55.00	395.00	100.0%
4306 Elections	0.00	1,000.00	-	-	100.00	100.00	-	0.00	100.00	10.0%
4307 Insurance	1,384.55	920.00	-	979.37	-	979.37	-	0.00	979.37	106.5%
4308 Statutory Fees	35.00	35.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4309 Subscriptions	570.64	620.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4310 Meeting room hire/Zoom	330.41	280.00	11.99	107.99	11.99	131.97	-	0.00	131.97	47.1%
TOTAL Admin & Finance	3,287.35	4,136.00	15.64	1,463.41	362.69	1,841.74	55.70	55.70	1,897.44	45.9%
Cemetery										
4402 Cemetery Rates	251.67	285.00	50.05	53.00	53.00	156.05	53.00	53.00	209.05	73.4%
4403 Maintenance + bins	3,788.16	3,800.00	-	394.00	424.00	818.00	295.50	295.50	1,113.50	29.3%
TOTAL Cemetery	4,039.83	4,085.00	50.05	447.00	477.00	974.05	53.00	53.00	1,027.05	32.4%
Community Services										
4501 Christmas Tree & Lights	70.00	200.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4502 Allotment	100.00	100.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4504 Support for tourism	0.00	250.00	200.00	-	-	200.00	-	0.00	200.00	80.0%
TOTAL Community Services	170.00	550.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00	36.4%
Village Maintenance										
4601 A39 Verge	781.20	980.00	-	116.00	78.80	194.80	39.40	39.40	234.20	23.9%
4602 Clock Tower Maintenance	0.00	285.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00%
4616 Bellcote repair	0.00	715.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4603 Clock Tower Electricity	76.24	110.00	9.00	9.00	6.79	24.79	9.00	9.00	33.79	30.7%
4604 General Maintenance	192.69	215.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00%
4605 The Cross, Gaol and WM	53.60	150.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.00%
4606 Palmers Path	368.31	845.00	-	58.00	39.40	97.40	19.70	19.70	117.10	13.9%
4607 Public Seating	327.62	250.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4608 Public Footpaths	306.60	529.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4609 Dog Bins	1,636.10	1,794.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.0%

Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2022	Budget 2022/23	April 2022	May 2022	June 2022	First quarter	July 2022	Second quarter	Total spent to date	% Original budget
Village Maintenance continued										
4610 Coleridge Road	55.80	160.00	-	37.20	-	37.20	19.70	19.70	56.90	35.6%
4611 Millennium Wood	127.79	296.00	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4612 Plot 173	932.80	400.00	-	74.40	-	74.40	-	0.00	74.40	18.6%
4613 Mill Ln/Lime St maint	595.20	588.00	-	-	-	0.00	39.40	39.40	39.40	6.7%
TOTAL Village Maintenance	5,453.95	7,317.00	9.00	294.60	124.99	428.59	127.20	127.20	555.79	7.6%
Castle St Toilets + Car Park										
4701 Castle St Toilets Cleaning	2,147.56	3,515.00	293.72	265.00	265.00	823.72	-	0.00	823.72	23.4%
4702 Castle St Toilets Electricity	207.43	240.00	19.00	19.00	13.47	51.47	22.00	22.00	73.47	30.6%
4703 Castle Street Rates	-1,086.25	840.00	798.40	-	-	798.40	-	0.00	798.40	95.1%
4704 Castle St Toilets Repairs	3,113.78	350.00	-	-	-	0.00	49.25	49.25	49.25	14.1%
4705 Castle St Toilets Water	565.27	450.00	-	461.93	-	461.93	-	0.00	461.93	102.7%
4706 Castle St Car Park maint	1,791.45	592.00	-	-	-	0.00	49.25	49.25	49.25	0.0%
TOTAL Castle St Toilets + Car Park	6,739.24	5,987.00	1,111.12	745.93	278.47	2,135.52	120.50	120.50	2,256.02	37.7%
Grants										
4801 Grants Pool	1,353.27	2,800.00	90.00	1,590.00	150.00	1,830.00	-	0.00	1,830.00	65.4%
4803 Library	0.00	-	-	-	-	0.00	-	0.00	0.00	**
TOTAL Grants	1,353.27	2,800.00	90.00	1,590.00	150.00	1,830.00	0.00	0.00	1,830.00	65.4%
TOTAL CIL + Capital Expenditure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	**
VAT Account										
515 VAT Paid	1,498.03	0.00	36.40	412.32	159.90	608.62	30.52	30.52	639.14	**
Total Expenditure	54,870.01	57,602.00	4,190.80	7,686.04	3,654.47	15,531.31	1,617.48	1,617.48	17,148.79	28.70%
Total Income	85,569.37	2,285.00	35,192.00	213.11	503.45	35,908.56	0.00	0.00	35,908.56	**
Balance expenditure-income	30,699.36	68,748.00	-31,001.20	7,472.93	3,151.02	-20,377.25	1,617.48	1,617.48	18,759.77	

Balance Sheet Bank:
 19,324.69
 60,470.78
 260.51 = **£ 80,055.98**

Balance: as at 1 Apr 61,296.21
 Plus: income 35,908.56
 Less: payments 17,148.79 = **£ 80,055.98**