

MINUTES OF NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7.00pm
AT ST MARYS CHURCH CENTRE

Present: Parish Councillors Kevin Ferriday (Chairman)
Lesley Bowditch
Colin Falla
Margaret Hogg

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

6386 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Roberts and Cllr Jeanes. Their absences, for reasons given, were **approved**.

6387 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

6388 Public Session

A member of the public asked about the maintenance of public footpaths. Cllr Falla advised the footpaths were the responsibility of Somerset Council but a local volunteer group, Stowey Green Spaces Group, carried out a lot of work on the paths near the main village. Faults could be reported at roam.somerset.gov.uk/Roam/Dashboard/Welcome or to the Parish Paths Liaison Officer on 0750 222 1881 or to the Parish Office.

A member of the public asked if the Village Hall had been withdrawn from sale. The Clerk confirmed that she had been so advised.

6389 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 July were **approved** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6390 Somerset Council Liaison

No Councillor was present.

6391 Membership of Dowsborough Local Community Network

It was **agreed** to withdraw from the Dowsborough LCN as discussed at the meeting in July. The draft letter was approved.

6392 Cricketer Estate

It was **agreed** to provide an additional dog waste bin at Church View. The precise location to be agreed with Somerset Council.(Unanimous)

6393 Grants to Local Organisations

It was **agreed** to award a grant of £320 to Nether Stowey Short Mat Bowls Club to purchase new jacks (proposed Cllr Bowditch, seconded Cllr Falla, all in favour).

6394 SALC Grant TP Library Project

The grant application to SALC was **approved** (proposed Cllr Falla, seconded Cllr Hogg, all in favour).

6395 Financial Management

- a) The Budget and Reserves Report for the year to 4 September was noted. A copy of the report is appended to these minutes.
- b) Expenditure incurred since 14 July. The expenditure was approved and any two of the authorised signatories were instructed to sign the relevant cheques/authorise online payments (proposed Cllr Falla, seconded Cllr Hogg). The expenditure list is appended to these minutes.
- c) The bank reconciliations were **noted**. Cllr Hogg would carry out the reconciliation and voucher check when the last statement had arrived.

6396 Highways

It was noted that part of Mount Road would be closed between 11 and 15 September. The Clerk had posted details and contacted the bus companies.

6397 Chairman's Report

There was no report.

6398 Clerk's Report

No interest/applications from would-be Councillors in response to the vacancy ad for what is now three vacancies.

The Clerk was pursuing a claim to have the business rates for the Parish Office reviewed.

The External Audit had been completed, with no issues or matters of concern raised.

6399 Members Reports

NS Village Hall and Recreation Ground: Cllr Bowditch reported that a few new groups were using the Playing Field and MUGA, increasing revenue a little. Party in the Park raised about £1,300.

Quantock Hills NL: Cllr Falla had attended the JAC meeting in July. Although there was nothing of particular interest for Nether Stowey, he reported the following points of general interest:

- a) Pine martens, reintroduced to Dartmoor and Exmoor, may be migrating to the Quantock Hills where there is suitable habitat. More information about the project at twomoorspinemartens.org/.
- b) QHNL had been having huge problems with Somerset Planning, but had managed to have a meeting with them. Good news that two enforcement officers had been recruited.
- c) The Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme, a £2.3m, five-year project has now finished. The Scheme covered 23 projects from hedgerows and orchards to archaeological excavations. They worked with a wide range of groups including schools and disadvantaged people.

Thomas Poole Library: Cllr Ferriday said the main focus of their recent activities has been the information kiosk project. Cllr Ferriday would be giving two IT talks in addition to his regular drop-in session.

Stowey Green Spaces Group: Cllr Ferriday would attend the next meeting later in the week.

Nether Stowey School: Cllr Bowditch reported that the new school year had begun with a new structure. Mr Luke be acting Head Teacher until a new Head is appointed.

6400 Forthcoming Events

- Wed 17 Sept – Clerks Forum
- LCN meeting
- Thurs 18 Sept – HPC Community Forum
- Tues 23 Sept – HP SSG meeting

6401 Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Meeting would be held on **Monday 13 October** at the Church Centre at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm.

Minute 6362 b – Expenditure incurred since 14 July 2025

The expenditure was **approved** and any two of the authorised signatories were instructed to sign the relevant cheques/authorise online payments (proposed Cllr Falla, seconded Cllr Hogg).

Date	Payee Name	Cheque	Amount	Transaction Details
15 July	Staff Payroll		2,584.84	Staff Payroll (July)
15 July	Santander	CHG	.70	Account 3 charges (June transactions)
25 July	BT Business	DD	58.74	Office phone/broadband (bill of 25 July)
3 Aug	EDF Energy	DD	65.94	Public Toilets electricity (Aug)
3 Aug	EDF Energy	DD	220.00	Office electricity (Aug)
3 Aug	EDF Energy	DD	23.83	Clock Tower electricity (Aug)
4 Aug	Somerset Council	OL 0408	628.80	New bins Cricketer + emptying June
10 Aug	Somerset Council	DD	52.00	Cemetery rates (Aug)
10 Aug	Somerset Council	DD	274.00	Office rates (Aug)
11 Aug	GWB Services Ltd	OL 1108	1,144.80	Village maintenance and bin service
15 Aug	Santander	CHG	0.70	Account 3 charges (July transactions)
15 Aug	Risdons Solicitors	SO	350.00	Office rent (15 Aug)
15 Aug	Microsoft	card	4.56	Microsoft OneDrive (Aug)
15 Aug	Blachère Illuminations	OL 1508	1,906.80	Christmas Lights
15 Aug	MW Slaymaker	OL 1508/2	716.00	Rebuild A39 steps, install notice boards
19 Aug	Staff Payroll	OL 1908	2,964.22	Staff Payroll (August)
25 Aug	BT Business	DD	58.74	Office phone/broadband (bill of 25 Aug)
31 Aug	Unity Trust Bank	CHG	6.00	Account 4 service fee (July transactions)
3 Sept	EDF Energy	DD	65.94	Public Toilets electricity (Aug)
3 Sept	EDF Energy	DD	220.00	Office electricity (Aug)
3 Sept	EDF Energy	DD	23.83	Clock Tower electricity (Aug)
3 Sept	Parish Office	card	56.00	Refund brook clearance payments
4 Sept	GWB Services Ltd	OL 0409	1,023.00	Village maintenance (August)
10 Sept	Somerset Council	DD	52.00	Cemetery rates (Sept)
10 Sept	Somerset Council	DD	274.00	Office rates (Sept)
15 Sept	Microsoft	card	4.56	Microsoft OneDrive (Aug)
15 Sept	Risdons Solicitors	SO	350.00	Office rent (15 Aug)
30 Sept	Unity Trust Bank	CHG	6.00	Account 4 service fee (Aug transactions)
Total Expenditure			£ 13,136.00	

Budget Report 2025/2026
as at 10 July 2025

Income	Outturn at 31 Mar 2025	Budget 2025/26	First quarter	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Second quarter	Total income to date	% of budget
1002 Allotment Rental	100.00	100.00							0.0%
1004 Bank Interest	2,937.39	2,500.00	747.18					747.18	29.9%
1006 Cemetery Income	4,713.69	4,400.00	1,166.87		412.00		412.00	1,578.87	35.9%
1009 Miscellaneous Income	454.58		45.00	112.00	300.00	56.00	468.00	513.00	**
1010 Grants received			840.00	2,000.00			2,000.00	2,840.00	**
1011 Precept	71,995.00	76,248.00	76,248.00					76,248.00	100.0%
1012 Printing & Copying receipts	130.98	65.00	45.70		21.35		21.35	67.05	103.2%
Subtotal Budget Income for Year	80,331.64	83,313.00	79,092.75	2,112.00	733.35	56.00	2,901.35	81,994.10	98.4%
1005 Comm Infrastructure Levy	8,155.09								**
115 VAT Refunds	3,856.88		676.40	2,544.11			2,544.11	3,220.51	**
Subtotal Non-budget income	12,011.97		676.40	2,544.11			2,544.11	3,220.51	**
TOTAL All income	92,343.61	83,313.00	79,769.15	4,656.11	733.35	56.00	5,445.46	85,214.61	

Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2025	Budget 2025/26	First quarter	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Second quarter	Total expend to date	% of budget
Parish Office									
4101 Office Rent and supplies	4,301.37	4,580.00	1,051.25	350.00	350.00	350.00	1,050.00	2,101.25	45.9%
4102 Office utilities and rates	3,983.42	4,700.00	1,627.80	487.78	491.41	494.00	1,473.19	3,100.99	66.0%
4103 Postage		30.00							0.0%
4104 Stationery + equipment	138.70	125.00	7.00					7.00	5.6%
4105 Telephone & Broadband	548.94	600.00	191.80	48.95	48.95		97.90	289.70	48.3%
4106 Website + IT costs	625.56	810.00	254.40	3.80	3.80		7.60	262.00	32.3%
4108 Printing costs	192.96	220.00	37.90					37.90	17.2%
4109 Office Miscellaneous	778.80		17.62					17.62	**
TOTAL Parish Office	10,569.75	11,065.00	3,187.77	890.53	894.16	844.00	2,628.69	5,816.46	52.6%

Budget Report 2025/2026
as at 10 July 2025

Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2025	Budget 2025/26	First quarter	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Second quarter	Total expend to date	% of budget
Staff Costs									
4201 Salaries	29,696.30	33,000.00	7,754.52	2,584.84	2,964.22		5,549.06	13,303.58	40.3%
4202 Staff travel and expenses	14.40	60.00							0.0%
4203 Staff Training	98.70	80.00							0.0%
TOTAL Staff Costs	29,809.40	33,140.00	7,754.52	2,584.84	2,964.22		5,549.06	13,303.58	40.1%
Administration & Finance									
4301 Audit Fees	609.50	625.00	304.00					304.00	48.6%
4302 Bank charges	89.65	103.00	22.80	6.70	6.70		13.40	36.20	35.1%
4303 Chairman's Honorarium	250.00	250.00	250.00					250.00	100.0%
4304 C/llrs' Expenses/training	320.66	330.00	105.90					105.90	32.1%
4306 Elections		235.00							0.0%
4307 Insurance	1,185.26	1,370.00	1,224.79					1,224.79	89.4%
4308 Statutory Fees	35.00	35.00							0.0%
4309 Subscriptions	700.51	965.00	705.47					705.47	73.1%
4310 Meeting room hire	351.00	420.00	112.00					112.00	26.7%
TOTAL Administration & Finance	3,541.58	4,333.00	2,724.96	6.70	6.70		13.40	2,738.36	63.2%
Cemetery									
4402 Cemetery Rates	364.27	385.00	156.27	52.00	52.00	52.00	156.00	312.27	81.1%
4403 Maintenance + bins	5,549.27	6,573.00	1,675.38	270.00	621.30	270.00	1,161.30	2,836.68	43.2%
TOTAL Cemetery	5,913.54	6,958.00	1,831.65	322.00	673.30	322.00	1,317.30	3,148.95	45.3%
Community Services									
4501 Christmas Tree & Lights	253.99	1,120.00			1,589.00		1,589.00	1,589.00	141.9%
4502 Allotment	100.00	100.00							0.0%
4504 Support for tourism		200.00							0.0%
4505 Defibrillator		425.00	150.35					150.35	35.4%
TOTAL Community Services	353.99	1,420.00	150.35		1,589.00		1,589.00	1,739.35	122.5%
Village Maintenance									
4601 A39 Verge	1,176.00	1,195.00	216.00			108.00	108.00	324.00	27.1%
4602 Clock Tower Maintenance	699.00	420.00							0.0%
4603 Clock Tower Electricity	221.67	245.00	63.86	22.71	22.84	23.83	69.38	133.24	54.4%
4604 General Maintenance	518.99	1,100.00	1,468.30		359.70	200.00	559.70	2,028.00	184.4%
4605 The Cross, Gaol and WM	209.41	670.00	4,653.99					4,653.99	694.6%

Budget Report 2025/2026
as at 10 July 2025

Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2025	Budget 2025/26	First quarter	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Second quarter	Total expend to date	% of budget
<i>Village Maintenance (continued)</i>									**
4606 Palmers Path	384.00	550.00	81.00	27.00	27.00		54.00	135.00	24.5%
4607 Public Seating	740.48	2,230.00							0.0%
4608 Public Footpaths	192.00	270.00	54.00	108.00	140.00		248.00	302.00	111.9%
4609 Waste services	892.32	2,028.00	81.93	22.00	546.00	55.00	623.00	704.93	34.8%
4610 Coleridge Road	240.00	320.00	162.00	27.00			27.00	189.00	59.1%
4611 Millennium Wood	48.00	166.00							0.0%
4612 Plot 173	960.00	1,150.00	216.00	81.00	81.00		162.00	378.00	32.9%
4613 Mill Lane/Lime Street maint	811.55	1,350.00	35.03	81.00			81.00	116.03	8.6%
4614 New grass cutting areas	1,512.00	1,700.00	661.50	202.50	27.00	27.00	256.50	918.00	54.0%
4616 Clock Tower major works		1,000.00							0.0%
4617 Parson Cl play area	456.00	850.00	81.00		135.00		135.00	216.00	25.4%
TOTAL Village Maintenance	9,061.42	15,244.00	7,774.61	571.21	1,338.54	413.83	2,323.58	10,098.19	66.2%
Castle St Toilets + Car Park									
4701 Castle St Toilets Cleaning	451.93	400.00	80.30	56.90			56.90	137.20	34.3%
4702 Castle St Toilets Electricity	681.00	560.00	177.49	63.34	63.27	65.94	192.55	370.04	66.1%
4703 Castle Street Rates	922.15	977.00	1,135.23					1,135.23	116.2%
4704 Castle St Toilets Repairs	558.46	350.00	80.00					80.00	22.9%
4705 Castle St Toilets Water	504.82	700.00	312.51					312.51	44.6%
4706 Castle St Car Park maint	700.55	750.00	70.07	54.00	81.00		135.00	205.07	27.3%
4707 Castle St Toilets major works	1,910.42								**
TOTAL Castle St Toilets + Car Park	5,729.33	3,737.00	1,855.60	174.24	144.27	65.94	384.45	2,240.05	59.9%
Grants									
4801 Grants Pool	6,497.18	5,300.00	530.00					530.00	10.0%
4811 Payments - Other Orgs	1,135.03	2,208.00	346.50	176.00	176.00	192.50	544.50	891.00	40.4%
TOTAL Grants	7,632.21	7,508.00	876.50	176.00	176.00	192.50	544.50	1,421.00	18.9%
Total Budget Expenditure	72,611.22	83,830.00	26,155.96	4,725.52	7,786.19	1,838.27	14,349.98	40,505.94	48.3%
Total Budget Income	80,331.64	83,313.00	79,092.75	2,112.00	733.35	56.00	2,901.35	81,994.10	98.4%

Budget Report 2025/2026
as at 10 July 2025

Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2025	Budget 2025/26	First quarter	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Second quarter	Total expend to date	% of budget
Non Budget									
515 VAT Paid	4,092.69		2,544.11	241.57	630.20	170.50	1,042.27	3,586.38	
4901 Comm Infrastructure Levy	2,500.00		2,323.09					2,323.09	
TOTAL Non-Budget Expenditure	6,592.69		4,867.20	241.57	630.20	170.50	1,042.27	5,909.47	
TOTAL Non-Budget Income	12,011.97		676.40	2,544.11			2,544.11	3,220.51	
TOTAL ALL Expenditure	85,796.60	83,830.00	31,023.16	4,967.09	8,416.39	2,008.77	15,392.25	46,415.41	
TOTAL ALL Income	92,343.61	83,313.00	79,769.15	4,656.11	733.35	56.00	5,445.46	85,214.61	
Reserve contribution to Budget	6,547.01	- 517.00							
Balance expenditure-income			- 48,745.99	552.55	8,313.24	2,123.27	10,989.06	- 38,799.20	

Balances

Bank	UT Current acc	481.49		Balance:	as at 1 Apr	92,512.97	
	UT Deposit acc	4,339.12			Plus: income	85,214.61	
	Santander a/c3	126,491.56	131,312.17		Less: payments	46,415.41	131,312.17

Reserves as at 4 Sept

Account		Balance at 1 Apr 2025	Debit	Credit	Current Balance
321	Elections Reserve	1,082.00			1,082.00
322	Payroll Reserve	8,804.99			8,804.99
325	CANS Reserve	3,560.98			3,560.98
328	Lucy Hobbs Trust (capital fund)	2,335.65			2,335.65
329	Community Infrastructure Levy	18,952.43	2,323.09	840.00	17,469.34
330	Service Devolution Reserve	22,585.50	4,620.00	2,300.00	20,265.50
336	War Memorial Maintenance	2,000.00			2,000.00
337	Village Maintenance	13,571.79	2,921.93		11,325.86
338	Lime St/Mill Lane	746.66			746.66
		73,640.00	9,865.02	2,840.00	66,914.98
Current Year Fund (balance of expenditure/income)					38,799.20
310	General Reserve**	18,872.97	nett: +£6,725.02		25,597.99
			= Bank Balance at 4 Sept		£ 131,312.17