MINUTES OF NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13 OCTOBER 2025 AT 7.00pm AT ST MARYS CHURCH CENTRE

Present: Parish Councillors Kevin Ferriday (Chairman)

Lesley Bowditch Colin Falla

Becky Hannam (from minute no 6404)

Margaret Hogg

In Attendance: Caro Slaymaker (Parish Clerk)

Cllr Mike Caswell (Somerset Council

Two members of the public

6402 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Bowditch. Her absence, for reasons given, were approved.

6403 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jeanes declared an interest in item 10 (NSRG Grant application) as the Parish Council's nominated Trustee to the NSVHRG CIO.

6404 Co-option of New Member

Mrs Becky Hannam was duly co-opted to the Parish Council (unanimous). She signed the Declaration of Acceptance and joined the meeting. The Chairman thanked her for standing and welcomed her to the Council.

6405 Public Session

A member of the public suggested that the Parish Council approach EDF with a proposal for them to fund the purchase of the Village Hall site, to demolish the hall and create a public car park to leave as a legacy. The Chairman thought this was unlikely, as there would be no benefit to EDF. The cost of purchase, demolition and meeting the planning requirements for a publicly-accessible car park would be beyond the reach of the Parish Council alone.

Cllr Caswell added that on fly-parking, he would be meeting the EDF team who considered it was no longer a problem, but they took it seriously and had recruited two additional enforcement officers. The Chairman said that in general the Parish Council had received few complaints about fly parking. Parking was a problem in the village generally. Nevertheless, when contacted, the EDF fly-parking team responded quickly (often sending enforcement officers in a couple of hours), and would also help in cases where there was inconsiderate or dangerous parking.

6406 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 September were **approved** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6407 Somerset Council Liaison

Cllr Caswell asked if the EDF bus service was being curtailed as he had received complaints. The Chairman replied that there had been some diversions and cancellations due to roadworks, but the Council had received no notification of any other change.

Cllr Caswell commented on a demonstration at County Hall in connection with Somerset Council's handling of SEND applications, which Somerset Council ascribed to higher

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numbers of applications and a shortage of staff. He said that only 6% were dealt with last year. The demonstration was part of a national protest.

He said that major planning applications were now taking up to two years. The poor level of staffing was given as the reason. The recent emergency measures had not helped.

There was still a £100 million "black hole" in Somerset Council's finances.

6408 Planning

Planning Ref: 36/25/00007 – Oakford House, St Mary's Street

Proposal: Rejoin No's 8 & 6 which had been previously divided and turned into

separate dwellings.

Response: No comment/objection

6409 <u>Telephone Box</u>

It was **agreed** to adjourn this item to seek further quotes.

6410 GovAssist Subscription

It was **agreed** to purchase credits up to £50 on a trial basis (proposed Cllr Ferriday, seconded Cllr Jeanes).

Cllr Jeanes declared an interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion or vote.

6411 Grant Application

Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground: it was agreed to award a grant of £470 for the cleaning and relining of the tennis court (proposed Cllr Hogg, seconded Cllr Ferriday).

6412 Financial Management

The Budget and Reserves Report for the year to 9 October was noted. A copy of the report is appended to these minutes.

Expenditure incurred since 8 September. The expenditure was approved and any two of the authorised signatories were instructed to sign the relevant cheques/authorise online payments (proposed Cllr Ferriday, seconded Cllr Hogg). The expenditure list is appended to these minutes.

The bank reconciliations were **noted**. Cllr Ferriday would carry out the reconciliation and voucher check when the last statement had arrived.

Afternote: Cllr Ferriday carried out the check on Wednesday 15 October and was satisfied that all was in order.

6413 Highways

No matters reported.

6414 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had attended a working dinner with colleagues from Stogursey and Cannington and fourteen Dutch officials from national regional and municipal government in southwest Netherlands who were preparing for the possible construction of a nuclear power station in their area. The aim was to discuss how the construction of Hinkley Point C had impacted the villages and how the problems were (or could have been mitigated).

He and the Clerk attended the Somerset Association of Local Councils' conference/AGM on 3 October. There were panel discussions, including a briefing on the Community Governance Review which might include the changing, merging or abolishing parishes

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and SC divisions. There were various workshops. Somerset Council was less heavily represented than in the previous year, although the CEO was there. Little was said about the current Community Engagement consultation. There was also time to network and talk to suppliers for the sector.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman planned to hold a drop-in session at the Library "Meet your Parish Councillors" on Saturday 29 November.

He reminded Councillors of the need to attend training courses to keep up with changes in legislation and procedures, such as the revisions to the Annual Governance Return, the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill and the Government's "Pride in Place" strategy. Some training was mandatory for Councillors, including those on Code of Conduct.

6415 Clerk's Report

The Parish Council still has two vacancies to fill.

The Library have been awarded a grant from SALC grant. This will require more management by the Parish Council than anticipated and the Clerk suggested proposed an early meeting with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Library representative and Chairman (Finance & Audit) to agree a plan to meet audit and SALC's requirements. Cllr Falla asked if the Oral History part of the project had been added to the original project, which Cllr Ferriday

A new contractor to keep various areas of the village centre tidy had now been identified.

Cllr Caswell left the meeting at 7.50pm

6416 Members Reports

NS Village Hall and Recreation Ground: Cllr Bowditch was absent, but Mrs Mayell said that they had received a commendation for the Playing Field at the Somerset Playing Field Association awards. They had also put a porch on the portakabin.

<u>Hinkley Point fora</u>: Cllr Roberts had attended the SSG meeting. HP B station would be fuel-free in early 2026, and at that point the police would be withdrawn from the site, which will be managed by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). The police would return when HPC starts fuelling.

<u>Quantock Hills NL:</u> Cllr Falla had reported on the Two Moors pine marten project. As an update he said that there had been a sighting at Cheddar. Asian water buffalo were being introduced at Exford to restore biodiversity and reshape the landscape. The next JAC meeting was scheduled for later in October.

<u>Thomas Poole Library:</u> Cllr Ferriday said the main focus of their recent activities was making display boards for the information centre.

<u>Stowey Green Spaces Group:</u> Cllr Ferriday reported that the group were trying to get a licence to rehabilitate and fence part of the A39 verge.

6417 Forthcoming Events

Wed 15 Oct - SC/Clerks forum

Thur 16 Oct – HPC Main site forum

Fri 17 Oct - SGS/Ashley Fox MP meeting

Tues 21 Oct – LCN Area Highways

Thu 23 Oct – SALC Assertion 10 training
Mon 27 Oct – SALC Assertion 10 training
Sun 9 Nov – Remembrance Sunday

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Thur 13 Nov – HPC Transport Forum

6418 Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Meeting would be held on **Monday 10 November** at the Church Centre at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

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Minute 6412b - Expenditure incurred since 8 September 2025

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

Date	Payee Name Cheque		Amount	Transaction Details
8 Sept	PKF Littlejohn	OL 0809	378.00	External Audit 2024/25 accounts
8 Sept	Sams Little Sparkle	OL 0809	102.20	Toilet cleaning leave cover 20-31 July
11 Sept	Whitehead Bowls	card	319.60	Bowls – grant donation to NS SMBC
15 Sept	Santander	chg	.40	A/c 3 charges August transactions
16 Sept	DRB Training	OL 1609	620.00	SGS volunteers brush cutter training
16 Sept	ScJ Training Ltd	OL 1609	243.60	Lantra certificates SGS brush cutter trainees
18 Sept	Clarity Copiers	OL 1809	31.62	Printing charges May-August
22 Sept	Staff Payroll	OL 2209	2,726.96	Staff Payroll (September)
22 Sept	HSD Online	card	56.38	Bulk toilet rolls (public toilets)
23 Sept	St Mary's PCC	OL 2309	112.00	Church Centre hire PC meetings Sept-Dec
23 Sept	Sainsburys	Card	1.70	Cleaning sprays, public toilets
26 Sept	BT Business	DD	58.74	Office phone/broadband (bill of 25 Sept)
30 Sept	Unity Bank	CHG	6.00	Acc 4 charges (August transactions)
1 Oct	Zurich Municipal	OL 0110	170.24	SGSG PL Insurance
3 Oct	EDF Energy	DD	65.94	Public Toilets electricity (Oct)
3 Oct	EDF Energy	DD	220.00	Office electricity (Oct)
3 Oct	EDF Energy	DD	23.83	Clock Tower electricity (Oct)
7 Oct	GWB Services Ltd	OL 0710	1,258.20	Village maintenance (September)
8 Oct	Santander Bank	CHG	2.30	A/c 3 charges (September transactions)
8 Oct	Ball Fire Protection	OL 0810	48.60	Fire extinguishers service 2025
10 Oct	Somerset Council	DD	52.00	Cemetery rates (Oct)
10 Oct	Somerset Council	DD	274.00	Office rates (Oct)
15 Oct	Microsoft	card	4.56	Microsoft OneDrive (Oct)
15 Oct	Risdons Solicitors	SO	350.00	Office rent (15 Oct)
31 Oct	Unity Trust Bank	CHG	6.00	Account 4 service fee (Sept transactions)
	Total	Expenditure	£ 7,132.87	
	Transfer of funds	BT 2209	£ 7,000.00	From Deposit a/c to Current a/c

Transfer of funds BT 2209 £ 7,000.00 From Deposit a/c to Current a/c

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Income	Outturn at 31 Mar 25	Budget 2025/26	First quarter	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Second quarter	Oct 2025	Third 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			734.62	734.62			1,481.80	59.3%
1006 Cemetery Income	4,713.69	4,400.00	1,166.87		412.00	2,067.44	2,479.44	184.00	184.00	3,830.31	87.1%
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	2,858.06	5,703.41	184.00	184.00	84,980.16	102.0%
1005 Comm Infrastructure Levy	8,155.09										**
115 VAT Refunds	3,856.88		676.40	2,544.11			2,544.11	1,230.11	1,230.11	4,450.62	**
Subtotal Non-budget income	12,011.97		676.40	2,544.11			2,544.11	1,230.11	1,230.11	4,450.62	**
TOTAL All income	92,343.61	83,313.00	79,769.15	4,656.11	733.35	2,858.06	8,247.52	1,414.11	1,414.11	89,430.78	

Expenditure	Outturn at	Budget	First	July	Aug	Sept	Second	Oct	Third	Total expend	% of
	31 Mar 2025	2025/26	quarter	2025	2025	2025	quarter	2025	quarter	to date	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	390.50	390.50	2,491.75	54.4%
4102 Office utilities and rates	3,983.42	4,700.00	1,627.80	487.78	491.41	491.64	1,470.83	490.92	490.92	3,589.55	76.4%
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	48.95	146.85			338.65	56.4%
4106 Website + IT costs	625.56	810.00	254.40	3.80	3.80	3.80	11.40			265.80	32.8%
4108 Printing costs	192.96	220.00	37.90			26.35	26.35			64.25	29.2%
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	920.74	2,705.43	881.42	881.42	6,774.62	61.2%
Staff Costs											
4201 Salaries	29,696.30	33,000.00	7,754.52	2,584.84	2,964.22	2,660.72	8,209.78			15,964.30	48.4%
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	2,660.72	8,209.78			15,964.30	48.2%

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Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2025	Budget 2025/26	First quarter	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Second quarter	Oct 2025	Third quarter	Total expend to date	% of budget
Administration & Finance			•	•	•	•					•
4301 Audit Fees	609.50	625.00	304.00			315.00	315.00			619.00	99.0%
4302 Bank charges	89.65	103.00	22.80	6.70	6.70	6.40	19.80	8.30	8.30	50.90	49.4%
4303 Chairman's Honorarium	250.00	250.00	250.00							250.00	100.0%
4304 C/Ilrs' 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	112.00			224.00	53.3%
TOTAL Administration & Finance	3,541.58	4,333.00	2,724.96	6.70	6.70	433.40	446.80	8.30	8.30	3,180.06	73.4%
Cemetery			<u>.</u>								
4402 Cemetery Rates	364.27	385.00	156.27	52.00	52.00	52.00	156.00	52.00	52.00	364.27	94.6%
4403 Maintenance + bins	5,549.27	6,573.00	1,675.38	270.00	621.30	270.00	1,161.30	270.00	270.00	3,106.68	47.3%
TOTAL Cemetery	5,913.54	6,958.00	1,831.65	322.00	673.30	322.00	1,317.30	322.00	322.00	3,470.95	49.9%
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			<u>.</u>				<u>.</u>				
4601 A39 Verge	1,176.00	1,195.00	216.00			108.00	108.00	108.00	108.00	432.00	36.2%
4602 Clock Tower Maintenance	699.00	420.00									0.0%
4603 Clock Tower Electricity	221.67	245.00	63.86	22.71	22.84	23.03	68.58	22.96	22.96	155.40	63.4%
4604 General Maintenance	518.99	1,100.00	1,468.30		359.70	200.00	559.70	27.00	27.00	2,055.00	186.8%
4605 The Cross, Gaol and WM	209.41	670.00	4,653.99			9.64	9.64			4,663.63	696.1%
4606 Palmers Path	384.00	550.00	81.00	27.00	27.00		54.00	27.00	27.00	162.00	29.5%
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	75.85	643.85	44.00	44.00	769.78	38.0%
4610 Coleridge Road	240.00	320.00	162.00	27.00			27.00	54.00	54.00	243.00	75.9%

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Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2025	Budget 2025/26	First quarter	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Second quarter	Oct 2025	Third quarter	Total expend to date	% of budget
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	108.00	108.00	486.00	42.3%
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	229.50	229.50	1,147.50	67.5%
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	27.00	27.00	243.00	28.6%
TOTAL Village Maintenance	9,061.42	15,244.00	7,774.61	571.21	1,338.54	443.52	2,353.27	647.46	647.46	10,775.34	70.7%
Castle St Toilets + Car Park					'		1				
4701 Castle St Toilets Cleaning	451.93	400.00	80.30	56.90		150.88	207.78			288.08	72.0%
4702 Castle St Toilets Electricity	681.00	560.00	177.49	63.34	63.27	63.34	189.95	65.94	65.94	433.38	77.4%
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			13.26	13.26			93.26	26.6%
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	22.49	157.49			227.56	30.3%
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	249.97	568.48	65.94	65.94	2,490.02	66.6%
Grants											
4801 Grants Pool	6,497.18	5,300.00	530.00			1,089.34	1,089.34			1,619.34	30.6%
4811 Payments - Other Orgs	1,135.03	2,208.00	346.50	176.00	176.00	192.50	544.50	324.24	324.24	1,215.24	55.0%
TOTAL Grants	7,632.21	7,508.00	876.50	176.00	176.00	1,281.84	1,633.84	324.24	324.24	2,834.58	37.8%
Total Budget Expenditure	72,611.22	83,830.00	26,155.96	4,725.52	7,786.19	6,312.19	18,823.90	2,249.36	2,249.36	47,229.22	56.3%
Total Budget Income	80,331.64	83,313.00	79,092.75	2,112.00	733.35	2,858.06	5,703.41	184.00	184.00	84,980.16	102.0%
Reserve contribution to Budget		- 517.00									
Non Budget											
515 VAT Paid	4,092.69		2,544.11	241.57	630.20	358.34	1,230.11	221.75	221.75	3,995.97	1
4901 Comm Infrastructure Levy	2,500.00		2,323.09							2,323.09	
4902 Non Budget expenditure											
TOTAL Non-Budget Expenditure	6,592.69		4,867.20	241.57	630.20	358.34	1,230.11	221.75	221.75	6,319.06	
TOTAL Non-Budget Income	12,011.97		676.40	2,544.11			2,544.11	1,230.11	1,230.11	4,450.62	1

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Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2025	Budget 2025/26	First quarter	July 2025	Aug 2025	Sept 2025	Second quarter	Oct 2025	Third quarter	Total expend to date	% of budget
TOTAL ALL Expenditure	85,796.60	83,830.00	31,023.16	5,208.66	9,046.59	7,028.87	21,284.12	2,692.86	2,692.86	53,548.28	
TOTAL ALL Income	92,343.61	83,313.00	79,769.15	4,656.11	733.35	2,858.06	8,247.52	1,414.11	1,414.11	89,430.78	
Reserve contribution to Budget	6,547.01	- 517.00									
Balance expenditure-income			- 48,745.99	552.55	8,313.24	4,170.81	13,036.60	1,278.75	1,278.75	- 35,882.50	

Balances

Bank	UT Current acc	8,072.74		Balance:	as at 1 Apr	92,512.97	
	UT Deposit acc	120,226.18			Plus: income	89,430.78	
	Santander a/c3	96.55	128,395.47		Less: payments	53,548.28	128,395.47

Reserves as at 9 Oct

		Balance at			Current
Account	:	1 Apr 2025	Debit	Credit	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	3,140.00	66,914.98
	Current Year Fund (balance of expe		35,882.50		
310	General Reserve**	18,872.97	nett: +£6,7	725.02	25,597.99
	= Bank Balance at 9 Oct				£ 128,395.47

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