

MINUTES OF NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7.00pm
AT ST MARYS CHURCH CENTRE

Present: Parish Councillors John Roberts (Chairman)
 Lesley Bowditch
 Colin Falla
 Kevin Ferriday
 Becky Hannam
 Andrew Jeanes
 Margaret Hogg

In Attendance: Caro Slaymaker (Parish Clerk)

6418 Apologies

All Councillors were present.

6419 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jeanes declared an interest as the Parish Council's nominated Trustee to the NSVHRG CIO.

6420 Public Session

There were no members of the public present.

6421 Minutes of Previous Meeting

A typing error was noted on Minute no 6411 of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 October. A manuscript correction was made and the amended minutes were **approved** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6422 Somerset Council Liaison

Cllrs Bolt and Caswell had both sent apologies.

6423 Parish Council Governance

It was **agreed** to adopt the update Grants Policy. It was **agreed** to adopt the ICT Policy.

6424 Cemetery Fees

It was agreed to increase the Cemetery fees.

6425 Benches

It was **agreed** to purchase two benches to be sited at the St Mary Street/Oak Road path and on the path between Banneson Road and the Recreation Ground to be funded from CIL receipts. Proposed Cllr Bowditch, seconded Cllr Hogg, all in favour.

6426 A39 Pedestrian Safety

It was **agreed** to request safety signs on the A39. The Clerk to contact Somerset Council Highways.

6427 Nether Stowey Recreation Ground and Village Hall – update

Cllr Jeanes as the Council's CIO reported as follows:

- a) the leased land cannot be used as a car park. The site may need to be arranged to take this into account
- b) Mr Howells had been asked to evaluate the project and had submitted an excellent report to the CIO

- c) There had been very little interest in the Village Hall site with its current planning consent and it had been taken off the market. A single house or a couple of flats might be more attractive but would require different planning permission.

6428 Financial Management

- a) The Budget and Reserves Report for the year to 6 November was noted. A copy of the report is appended to these minutes.
- b) Expenditure incurred since 13 October. 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.
- c) The bank reconciliations were **noted**. Cllr Bowditch had carried out the checks before the meeting and was satisfied that all was in order.
- d) It was **agreed** to purchase a leaf blower and spare battery as quoted by Bridgwater Mowers with the option of buying a further battery if required.
- e) It was **agreed** to buy carpet cleaner solution.

6429 Highways

Cllr Roberts had attended the Remembrance Service on the Cross. People were having some difficulty with the sunken and uneven slabs next to the memorial. These slabs now present a very distinct possibility of someone tripping and being caused an injury. The Clerk had reported this to Highways several times over the last two years, most recently in October, and Highways had confirmed that the repair was on the list to be carried out this financial year. In the meantime it was **agreed** that the Clerk should request warning signs of the uneven surface.

6430 Chairman's Report

There had been much discussion about supposed fly-parking (ie those who park to catch a HPC bus) in the village, including a report in the Bridgwater Mercury. This was discussed with Cllr Caswell at the last Parish Council meeting at which the Chairman had said that fly-parking itself was not a significant problem in Nether Stowey. Parking was a general problem, exacerbated by the number of extra residents (HPC workers living in the village who have the same entitlement to park where they live) and by nuisance parking (dangerous/obstructive parking). Our evidence is that this is by no means limited to HPC workers. He had written to Sir Ashley Fox reiterating this.

HPC Workforce Uplift. He was concerned about the proposed increase in the workforce will impact the area generally. The Clerk had attended a meeting on 5 November to discuss this and reported separately. Somerset Council were arranging a meeting on 17 November with EdF and the five local LCN groups for them to discuss concerns about the impact generally. It was frustrating that Somerset Council and EdF had been working on this for nearly two years, were only now involving Parishes in any meaningful way. It was agreed to send written representations, but the Chairman would try to attend the meeting.

6431 Clerk's Report

The Parish Council still has two vacancies to fill.

The Clerk had circulated a report on the Workforce Uplift meeting, and suggested that this be the basis of their written representations. Councillors should send any other points they wanted to add.

The new cleaner contractor was working out well. The Clerk had heard that Somerset Council would be cutting back further on work such as grass cutting next year.

6432 Members Reports

NS Village Hall and Recreation Ground: Cllr Bowditch reported that planning had started with FONSS for next summer's event. The informal agreement with the Football Club was to be reviewed and put on a more formal basis.

Hinkley Point fora: Cllr Roberts would attend the Transport Forum on 13 November.

Quantock Hills NL: Cllr Falla had been unable to attend the last meeting, but .

Thomas Poole Library: Cllr Ferriday reported that now that the grant had been approved he would join a planning meeting later in the week for the new information hub.

Stowey Green Spaces Group: Cllr Ferriday reported that SGSG were trying to get a licence to take over land on the A39. They hoped to clear it, plant it, fence it and create an educational space.

6433 Forthcoming Events

- Thur 13 Nov – HPC Transport Forum
- Fri 14 Nov – Wales & West Green energy drop-in (public, from 1pm)
- Wed 19 Nov – SC/Clerks forum
- Tues 25 Nov – Stowey Shuttle meeting (public, 3pm)
- Sat 29 Nov – "Meet the Council" drop-in (Library, 10am-12 noon)

6434 Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Meeting would be held on **Monday 8 December** at the Church Centre at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Minute 6428b – Expenditure incurred since 10 October 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
10 Oct	Royal British Legion	card	24.49	Remembrance Day wreath
15 Oct	Screwfix Direct	card	32.08	Christmas lights fittings
16 Oct	Somerset Council	OL 1610	202.80	Bin Service – Cricketer July-Sept
16 Oct	Viking Direct	OL 1610	33.00	Stationery
17 Oct	B&M Retail	card	25.25	Bins (toilets), bins bags, cleaning materials
17 Oct	PestControl 999	OL 1710	286.70	Mole control (Cemetery)
17 Oct	NS Recreation Ground	OL 1710	470.00	Grant for tennis courts (min 6411)
17 Oct	Screwfix Direct	card	6.87	Door handle, toilets
20 Oct	Sams Little Sparkle	OL 2010	65.80	Village cleaning 7 + 14 October
20 Oct	Stowey Green Spaces	OL 2010	232.35	Repairs to cemetery shed
22 Oct	Staff Payroll	OL 2210	2,660.72	Staff Payroll (October)
23 Oct	Purnells Secretarial	OL 2310	18.00	Printing Deed of Grant certificates
27 Oct	BT Business	DD	59.15	Office phone/broadband (bill of 25 Oct)
3 Nov	Sam's Little Sparkle	OL 0311	44.98	Village cleaning 21-28 Oct
3 Nov	EDF Energy	DD	65.94	Public Toilets electricity (Nov)
3 Nov	EDF Energy	DD	248.82	Office electricity (Nov)
3 Nov	EDF Energy	DD	23.83	Clock Tower electricity (Nov)
3 Nov	GWB Services Ltd	OL 0311	2,062.80	Village maintenance (October)
3 Nov	Somerset ALC	OL 0311	50.00	Assertion 10 training JR, KF, CS
4 Nov	AB Memorials	OL 0411	240.00	Memorial treatment/cleaning
4 Nov	Clarity Copiers	OL 0411	19.02	Printing charges (Aug-Oct)
10 Nov	Somerset Council	DD	274.00	Office rates (Nov)
15 Nov	Microsoft	card	4.56	Microsoft OneDrive (Nov)
15 Nov	Risdons Solicitors	SO	350.00	Office rent (15 Nov)
24 Nov	Info Commission	DD	47.00	Data Protection Registration renewal
30 Nov	Unity Trust Bank	CHG	6.00	Account 4 service fee (Oct transactions)
Total Expenditure			£ 7,554.16	
Transfer of funds	BT 1610	£ 225.00	From Current a/c to Santander a/c 3	

Budget Report 2025/2026
as at 6 November 2025

Income	Outturn at 31 Mar 2025	Budget 2025/26	First quarter	Second quarter	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 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					1,481.80	59.3%
1006 Cemetery Income	4,713.69	4,400.00	1,166.87	2,479.44	554.00	206.00		760.00	4,406.31	100.1%
1009 Miscellaneous Income	454.58		45.00	468.00					513.00	**
1010 Grants received			840.00	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					67.05	103.2%
Subtotal Budget Income for Year	80,331.64	83,313.00	79,092.75	5,703.41	554.00	206.00		760.00	85,556.16	102.7%
1005 Comm Infrastructure Levy	8,155.09									**
1013 SALC HWB Grant					2,000.00			2,000.00	2,000.00	**
115 VAT Refunds	3,856.88		676.40	2,544.11	1,230.11			1,230.11	4,450.62	**
Subtotal Non-budget income	12,011.97		676.40	2,544.11	3,230.11			3,230.11	6,450.62	**
TOTAL All income	92,343.61	83,313.00	79,769.15	8,247.52	3,784.11	206.00		3,990.11	92,006.78	

Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2025	Budget 2025/26	First quarter	Second quarter	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Third quarter	Total expend to date	% of budget
Parish Office										
4101 Office Rent and supplies	4,301.37	4,580.00	1,051.25	1,050.00	393.63	350.00		743.63	2,844.88	62.1%
4102 Office utilities and rates	3,983.42	4,700.00	1,627.80	1,470.83	490.92	522.82		1,013.74	4,112.37	87.5%
4103 Postage		30.00								0.0%
4104 Stationery + equipment	138.70	125.00	7.00		27.50			27.50	34.50	27.6%
4105 Telephone & Broadband	548.94	600.00	191.80	146.85	49.29			49.29	387.94	64.7%
4106 Website + IT costs	625.56	810.00	254.40	11.40	3.80			3.80	269.60	33.3%
4108 Printing costs	192.96	220.00	37.90	26.35	15.00	15.85		30.85	95.10	43.2%
4109 Office Miscellaneous	778.80		17.62						17.62	**
TOTAL Parish Office	10,569.75	11,065.00	3,187.77	2,705.43	980.14	888.67		1,868.81	7,762.01	70.1%
Staff Costs										
4201 Salaries	29,696.30	33,000.00	7,754.52	8,209.78	2,660.72			2,660.72	18,625.02	56.4%
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	8,209.78	2,660.72			2,660.72	18,625.02	56.2%

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Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2025	Budget 2025/26	First quarter	Second quarter	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Third quarter	Total expend to date	% of budget
Administration & Finance										
4301 Audit Fees	609.50	625.00	304.00	315.00					619.00	99.0%
4302 Bank charges	89.65	103.00	22.80	19.80	8.30	6.00		14.30	56.90	55.2%
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		20.41	50.00		70.41	176.31	53.4%
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					224.00	53.3%
TOTAL Administration & Finance	3,541.58	4,333.00	2,724.96	446.80	28.71	56.00		84.71	3,256.47	75.2%
Cemetery										
4402 Cemetery Rates	364.27	385.00	156.27	156.00	52.00			52.00	364.27	94.6%
4403 Maintenance + bins	5,549.27	6,573.00	1,675.38	1,161.30	789.05	540.00		1,329.05	4,165.73	63.4%
TOTAL Cemetery	5,913.54	6,958.00	1,831.65	1,317.30	841.05	540.00		1,381.05	4,530.00	65.1%
Community Services										
4501 Christmas Tree & Lights	253.99	1,120.00		1,589.00	26.73			26.73	1,615.73	144.3%
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	26.73			26.73	1,766.08	124.4%
Village Maintenance										
4601 A39 Verge	1,176.00	1,195.00	216.00	108.00	108.00	216.00		324.00	648.00	54.2%
4602 Clock Tower Maintenance	699.00	420.00								0.0%
4603 Clock Tower Electricity	221.67	245.00	63.86	68.58	22.96	23.83		46.79	179.23	73.2%
4604 General Maintenance	518.99	1,100.00	1,468.30	559.70	34.91			34.91	2,062.91	187.5%
4605 The Cross, Gaol and WM	209.41	670.00	4,653.99	9.64	8.57	246.43		255.00	4,918.63	734.1%
4606 Palmers Path	384.00	550.00	81.00	54.00	27.00	54.00		81.00	216.00	39.3%
4607 Public Seating	740.48	2,230.00								0.0%
4608 Public Footpaths	192.00	270.00	54.00	248.00					302.00	111.9%
4609 Waste services	892.32	2,028.00	81.93	643.85	240.25	55.00		295.25	1,021.03	50.3%
4610 Coleridge Road	240.00	320.00	162.00	27.00	54.00	54.00		108.00	297.00	92.8%

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Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2025	Budget 2025/26	First quarter	Second quarter	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Third quarter	Total expend to date	% of budget
<i>Village Maintenance (continued)</i>										**
4611 Millennium Wood	48.00	166.00								0.0%
4612 Plot 173	960.00	1,150.00	216.00	162.00	108.00	108.00		216.00	594.00	51.7%
4613 Mill Lane/Lime Street maint	811.55	1,350.00	35.03	81.00	12.85	12.85		25.70	141.73	10.5%
4614 New grass cutting areas	1,512.00	1,700.00	661.50	256.50	229.50	445.50		675.00	1,593.00	93.7%
4616 Clock Tower major works		1,000.00								0.0%
4617 Parson Cl play area	456.00	850.00	81.00	135.00	27.00	54.00		81.00	297.00	34.9%
TOTAL Village Maintenance	9,061.42	15,244.00	7,774.61	2,353.27	873.04	1,269.61		2,142.65	12,270.53	80.5%
Castle St Toilets + Car Park										
4701 Castle St Toilets Cleaning	451.93	400.00	80.30	207.78	10.00			10.00	298.08	74.5%
4702 Castle St Toilets Electricity	681.00	560.00	177.49	189.95	69.23	65.94		135.17	502.61	89.8%
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	5.72			5.72	98.98	28.3%
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	157.49	17.13	25.70		42.83	270.39	36.1%
4707 Castle St Toilets major works	1,910.42									**
TOTAL Castle St Toilets/Car Park	5,729.33	3,737.00	1,855.60	568.48	102.08	91.64		193.72	2,617.80	70.1%
Grants										
4801 Grants Pool	6,497.18	5,300.00	530.00	1,089.34	470.00			470.00	2,089.34	39.4%
4811 Payments - Other Orgs	1,135.03	2,208.00	346.50	544.50	324.24	192.50		516.74	1,407.74	63.8%
TOTAL Grants	7,632.21	7,508.00	876.50	1,633.84	794.24	192.50		986.74	3,497.08	46.6%
Total Budget Expenditure	72,611.22	83,830.00	26,155.96	18,823.90	6,306.71	3,038.42		9,345.13	54,324.99	64.8%
Total Budget Income	80,331.64	83,313.00	79,092.75	5,703.41	554.00	206.00		760.00	85,556.16	102.7%
Non Budget										
515 VAT Paid	4,092.69		2,544.11	1,230.11	286.17	346.97		633.14	4,407.36	
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	1,230.11	286.17	346.97		633.14	6,730.45	
TOTAL Non-Budget Income	12,011.97		676.40	2,544.11	3,230.11			3,230.11	6,450.62	

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as at 6 November 2025

Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2025	Budget 2025/26	First quarter	Second quarter	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Third quarter	Total expend to date	% of budget
TOTAL ALL Expenditure	85,796.60	83,830.00	31,023.16	21,284.12	6,879.05	3,732.36		10,611.41	61,055.44	
TOTAL ALL Income	92,343.61	83,313.00	79,769.15	8,247.52	3,784.11	206.00		3,990.11	92,006.78	
Reserve contribution to Budget	6,547.01	- 517.00								
Balance expenditure-income			- 48,745.99	13,036.60	3,094.94	3,526.36		6,621.30	- 30,951.34	

Balances

Bank	UT Current acc	3,009.83	Balance:	as at 1 Apr	92,512.97	
	UT Deposit acc	120,226.18		Plus: income	92,006.78	
	Santander a/c3	228.30	123,464.31	Less: payments	61,055.44	123,464.31

Reserves as at 9 Oct

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	3,140.00	66,914.98
Current Year Fund (balance of expenditure/income)					30,914.98
310	General Reserve**	18,872.97	nett: +£6,725.02		25,597.99
			= Bank Balance at 9 Oct		£ 123,464.31