

MINUTES OF NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7.00pm
AT ST MARYS CHURCH CENTRE

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

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

6462 Apologies

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

6463 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations.

6464 Public Session

A representative of Stowey Green Spaces Group thanked the Parish Council for funding brushcutter/trimmer training for six volunteers. The Group are currently working on ponds in Stowey Wood. They are clearing the ponds of organic debris with help from the trained volunteers as well as donations, a volunteer photographer and an ecologist offering their skills, the loan of some investigative equipment and an offer to remove the debris from site eventually

6465 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 12 January were **approved** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6466 Somerset Council Liaison

No ward Councillors were present. Cllr Caswell had sent apologies.

6467 Grant Applications

- a) Nether Stowey Football Club: it was **agreed** to adjourn this application until the next meeting for further information (unanimous).
- b) Wednesday Club: it was **agreed** to award a grant to replace a damaged insulated food container. The Club to be advised that the Parish Council would not fund this again in similar circumstances. Proposed Cllr Ferriday, seconded Cllr Hogg, unanimous.
- c) West Somerset Citizens Advice: It was **agreed** to make a donation of £100 recognising the assistance provided to parishioners. Proposed Cllr Falla, seconded Cllr Hogg, unanimous.

6468 Financial Management

- a) The Budget and Reserves Report for the year to 5 February was noted. A copy of the report is appended to these minutes.
- b) Expenditure incurred since 13 January. 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 Higg). The expenditure list is appended to these minutes.

- c) The bank reconciliations were **noted**. Cllr Roberts had checked the accounts on 9 February and was satisfied that all was in order.

6469 Highways

The Clerk had now received a proposal concerning the requested pedestrian warning signs on the A39. Cllr Ferriday had commented and the Clerk had passed this on.

Regarding the proposed parking restrictions at the junction outside the Post Office the officer promised further material to assist with the consultation. This had still not yet arrived.

6470 Chairmans Report

The Chairman had attended the HPC Community Forum. The site was now entering the Mechanical/Engineering/HVAC phase of construction. The workforce uplift continued, and he would attend a further meeting with LCN colleagues and Somerset Council representatives to discuss this further.

6471 Clerk's Report

The Parish Council still has two vacancies to fill.

The Clerk had attended the Highways Working Group meeting, however owing to the flooded roads and pot holes there were no Highways Service officers available to attend. The meeting focussed on the situation regarding the situation with the pot holes, blocked drains and flooding in the area. There would be a further meeting in March to discuss outstanding items on the agenda.

6472 Members Reports

NSVHRG Committee: Cllr Bowditch had no report except to say that Party in the Park would be held on Saturday 4 July.

NSVHRG CIO: In the absence of Cllr Jeanes, a representative of the organisation reported that the trustees had met with key stakeholders to discuss how and new design that would meet their needs, how the building would operate and the associated costs. The new design had a smaller footprint and would be relocated. They hoped that the current application could be extended since a new application would have to comply with new ecology regulations.

Hinkley Point fora: Cllr Roberts had reported in his Chairman's Report. He would attend the Main Site Forum meeting on 12 February

Quantock Hills NL: Cllr Falla had been unable to attend the last meeting, but most of the agenda was to discuss draft reports and the Annual Report including the end of the Lottery funding.

Thomas Poole Library: Cllr Ferriday reported that the new kiosk equipment had arrived and he had been setting it up. He and the Chairman would be meeting Library representatives to hand over the Council's oral history equipment on loan for this part of the project.

Stowey Green Spaces Group: Cllr Ferriday reported that the next meeting was 10 February.

6473 Forthcoming Events

- Thurs 12 Feb – Website Assertion 10 training (CS)
- HP Main Site Forum (JR)
- Wed 18 Feb – SC/Clerks forum (CS)

- Mon 2 March – LCN/SC HP Workforce uplift meeting (JR)
- Wed 10 Mar – Highways Working Group (CS)
- Sat 14 Mar – Constituency Parish Meeting with Sir Ashley Fox MP (JR, KF)
- Tues 17 Mar – HPA/B SSG meeting (JR)

6474 Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Meeting would be held on **Monday 9 March** at the Church Centre at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Minute 6468b – Expenditure incurred since 13 January 2026

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	Amount	Transaction Details
9 Jan	B&M Retail Ltd	12.21	Cleaning products – public toilets
13 Jan	Argos	30.00	Carpet detergent (auth Nov)
13 Jan	Amazon EU	294.50	Oral History equipment + 1 mem card
15 Jan	Microsoft	4.56	Microsoft OneDrive (Jan)
15 Jan	Amazon EU	5.95	Year Planner 2026
15 Jan	Amazon EU	12.98	Oral History second memory card
15 Jan	Santander Bank	1.20	A/c 3 charges (Dec transactions)
17 Jan	Argos	24.99	Charger/batteries for Oral history equipment
19 Jan	Microsoft	104.99	MS 365 Office renewal 2026
19 Jan	HSD online	71.37	Bulk loo rolls/soap – public toilets
20 Jan	Staff Payroll	2,660.72	Staff Payroll (January)
20 Jan	Somerset Council	202.80	Bin service Cricketer Oct-Dec
25 Jan	BT Business	58.74	Office phone/broadband (bill of 25 Jan)
2 Feb	Sam's Little Sparkle	97.83	Village cleaning (Jan)
3 Feb	EDF Energy	19.90	Public Toilets electricity (Feb)
3 Feb	EDF Energy	200.18	Office electricity (Feb)
3 Feb	EDF Energy	23.83	Clock Tower electricity (Feb)
3 Feb	St Mary's PCC	84.00	Church Centre hire PC meetings Jan-March
5 Feb	Clarity Copiers	28.69	Printing charges Nov 2025-Jan 2025
15 Feb	Risdons Solicitors	350.00	Office rent (15 Feb)
28 Feb	Unity Trust Bank	6.00	Account 4 service fee (Jan transactions)

Budget Report 2025/2026
as at 5 February 2026

Income	Outturn at 31 Mar 2025	Budget 2025/26	First half- year	Third quarter	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Fourth quarter	Total income	% of budget	EMR receipts	Balance to date
1002 Allotment Rental	100.00	100.00			100.00		100.00	100.00	100.0%		100.00
1004 Bank Interest	2,937.39	2,500.00	1,481.80	652.49				2,134.29	85.4%		2,134.29
1006 Cemetery Income	4,713.69	4,400.00	3,646.31	1,015.00				4,661.31	105.9%		4,661.31
1009 Miscellaneous Income	454.58		213.00					213.00	**	7,173.83	7,386.83
1010 Grants received									**	3,440.00	3,440.00
1011 Precept	71,995.00	76,248.00	76,248.00					76,248.00	100.0%		76,248.00
1012 Printing receipts	130.98	65.00	67.05	23.30				90.35	139.0%		90.35
Subtotal Budget Income	80,331.64	83,313.00	81,656.16	1,690.79	100.00		100.00	83,446.95	100.2%	10,613.83	94,060.78
1005 Comm Infrastructure Levy	8,155.09								**		0.00
1013 SALC HWB Grant									**	2,000.00	2,000.00
115 VAT Refunds	3,856.88		3,220.51	1,465.92	1,748.66		1,748.66	6,435.09	**		6,435.09
Subtotal Non-budget income	12,011.97			1,465.92	1,748.66		1,748.66	6,435.09	**		8,435.09
TOTAL All income	92,343.61	83,313.00	84,876.67	3,156.71	1,848.66		1,848.66	89,882.04	107.9%	12,613.83	102,495.87

Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2025	Budget 2025/26	First half-year	Third quarter	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Fourth quarter	Total expend to date	% of budget	EMR spend	Balance to date
Parish Office											
4101 Office Rent and supplies	4,301.37	4,580.00	2,101.25	1,100.48	380.00	350.00	730.00	3,931.73	85.8%		3,931.73
4102 Office utilities and rates	3,983.42	4,700.00	3,098.63	1,067.88	243.11	200.18	443.29	4,609.80	98.1%		4,609.80
4103 Postage		30.00							0.0%		0.00
4104 Stationery + equipment	138.70	125.00	7.00	30.80	14.54		14.54	52.34	41.9%		52.34
4105 Telephone & Broadband	548.94	600.00	338.65	147.19	48.95		48.95	534.79	89.1%		534.79
4106 Website + IT costs	625.56	810.00	265.80	239.40	91.29		91.29	596.49	73.6%		596.49
4108 Printing costs	192.96	220.00	64.25	30.85		23.91	23.91	119.01	54.1%		119.01
4109 Office Miscellaneous	778.80		17.62					17.62	**	2,693.54	2,711.16
TOTAL Parish Office	10,569.75	11,065.00	5,893.20	2,616.60	777.89	574.09	1,351.98	9,861.78	89.1%	2,693.54	12,555.32
Staff Costs											
4201 Salaries	29,696.30	33,000.00	15,964.30	7,982.16	2,660.72		2,660.72	26,607.18	80.6%		26,607.18
4202 Staff travel and expenses	14.40	60.00							0.0%		0.00
4203 Staff Training	98.70	80.00							0.0%		0.00
TOTAL Staff Costs	29,809.40	33,140.00	15,964.30	7,982.16	2,660.72		2,660.72	26,607.18	80.3%	0.00	26,607.18

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Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2025	Budget 2025/26	First half-year	Third quarter	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Fourth quarter	Total expend to date	% of budget	EMR spend	Balance to date
Administration & Finance											
4301 Audit Fees	609.50	625.00	619.00					619.00	99.0%		619.00
4302 Bank charges	89.65	103.00	42.60	24.60	7.20		7.20	74.40	72.2%		74.40
4303 Chairman's Honorarium	250.00	250.00	250.00					250.00	100.0%		250.00
4304 C/llrs' Expenses/training	320.66	330.00	105.90	120.41				226.31	68.6%		226.31
4306 Elections		235.00							0.0%		0.00
4307 Insurance	1,185.26	1,370.00	1,224.79					1,224.79	89.4%		1,224.79
4308 Statutory Fees	35.00	35.00		47.00				47.00	134.3%		47.00
4309 Subscriptions	700.51	965.00	705.47		253.00		253.00	958.47	99.3%		958.47
4310 Meeting room hire	351.00	420.00	224.00			84.00	84.00	308.00	73.3%		308.00
TOTAL Administration & Finance	3,541.58	4,333.00	3,171.76	192.01	260.20	84.00	344.20	3,707.97	85.6%	0.00	3,707.97
Cemetery											
4402 Cemetery Rates	364.27	385.00	312.27	52.00				364.27	94.6%		364.27
4403 Maintenance + bins	5,549.27	6,573.00	1,777.00	1,923.05				3,700.05	56.3%	2,139.68	5,839.73
TOTAL Cemetery	5,913.54	6,958.00	2,089.27	1,975.05				4,064.32	58.4%	2,139.68	6,204.00
Community Services											
4501 Christmas Tree & Lights	253.99	1,120.00	1,489.00	222.46				1,711.46	152.8%	100.00	1,811.46
4502 Allotment	100.00	100.00		100.00				100.00	100.0%		100.00
4504 Support for tourism		200.00							0.0%		0.00
4505 Defibrillator		425.00	150.35					150.35	35.4%		150.35
TOTAL Community Services	353.99	1,420.00	1,639.35	322.46				1,961.81	138.2%	100.00	2,061.81
Village Maintenance											
4601 A39 Verge	1,176.00	1,195.00	324.00	432.00				756.00	63.3%		756.00
4602 Clock Tower Maintenance	699.00	420.00							0.0%		0.00
4603 Clock Tower Electricity	221.67	245.00	132.44	68.72	22.90	23.83	46.73	247.89	101.2%		247.89
4604 General Maintenance	518.99	1,100.00	265.75	454.29	36.63	12.84	49.47	769.51	70.0%	1,762.25	2,531.76
4605 The Cross, Gaol and WM	209.41	670.00	43.63	24.64	9.64	6.43	16.07	84.34	12.6%	4,860.00	4,944.34
4606 Palmers Path	384.00	550.00	135.00	108.00				243.00	44.2%		243.00
4607 Public Seating	740.48	2,230.00							0.0%		0.00
4608 Public Footpaths	192.00	270.00	302.00					302.00	111.9%		302.00
4609 Waste services	892.32	2,028.00	725.78	379.25	258.50	40.00	298.50	1,403.53	69.2%		1,403.53
4610 Coleridge Road	240.00	320.00	189.00	162.00				351.00	109.7%		351.00

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Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2025	Budget 2025/26	First half-year	Third quarter	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Fourth quarter	Total expend to date	% of budget	EMR spend	Balance to date
<i>Village Maintenance (continued)</i>											
4611 Millennium Wood	48.00	166.00							0.0%		0.00
4612 Plot 173	960.00	1,150.00	378.00	324.00				702.00	61.0%		702.00
4613 Mill Lane/Lime Street maint	811.55	1,350.00	116.03	464.13	6.43	16.07	22.50	602.66	44.6%		602.66
4614 New grass cutting areas	1,512.00	1,700.00	918.00	958.50				1,876.50	110.4%		1,876.50
4616 Clock Tower major works		1,000.00							0.0%		0.00
4617 Parson Cl play area	456.00	850.00	216.00	108.00				324.00	38.1%		324.00
TOTAL Village Maintenance	9,061.42	15,244.00	3,745.63	3,483.53	334.10	99.17	433.27	7,662.43	50.3%	6,622.25	14,284.68
Castle St Toilets + Car Park											
4701 Castle St Toilets Cleaning	451.93	400.00	288.08	39.20	69.64		69.64	396.92	99.2%		396.92
4702 Castle St Toilets Electricity	681.00	560.00	367.44	197.52	17.92	19.90	37.82	602.78	107.6%		602.78
4703 Castle Street Rates	922.15	977.00	1,135.23					1,135.23	116.2%		1,135.23
4704 Castle St Toilets Repairs	558.46	350.00	93.26	177.98	81.00		81.00	352.24	100.6%		352.24
4705 Castle St Toilets Water	504.82	700.00	312.51	434.03				746.54	106.6%		746.54
4706 Castle St Car Park maint	700.55	750.00	227.56	87.80	19.28	22.49	41.77	357.13	47.6%		357.13
4707 Castle St Toilets major	1,910.42								**		0.00
TOTAL Public Toilets + Car Park	5,729.33	3,737.00	2,424.08	936.53	187.84	42.39	230.23	3,590.84	96.1%	0.00	3,590.84
Grants											
4801 Grants Pool	6,497.18	5,300.00	1,619.34	470.00				2,089.34	39.4%		2,089.34
4811 Payments - Other Orgs	1,135.03	2,208.00	891.00	670.74	154.00		154.00	1,715.74	77.7%		1,715.74
TOTAL Grants	7,632.21	7,508.00	2,510.34	1,140.74	154.00		154.00	3,805.08	50.7%	0.00	3,805.08
Total Budget Expenditure	72,611.22	83,830.00	37,437.93	18,649.08	4,374.75	799.65	5,174.40	61,261.41	73.1%	11,555.47	72,816.88
Total Budget Income	80,331.64	83,313.00	81,656.16	1,690.79	100.00		100.00	83,446.95	100.2%	10,613.83	94,060.78
Reserve contribution to Budget		- 517.00									
Non-budget											
515 VAT Paid	4,092.69		3,774.22	1,748.66	205.03	4.78	209.81	5,732.69			5,727.91
4404 Lucy Hobbs Trust											0.00
4503 CANS					277.06		277.06	277.06			277.06
4901 Comm Infrastructure Levy	2,500.00									2,323.09	2,323.09
4902 Non Budget expenditure											0.00
TOTAL Non-Budget Expenditure	6,592.69		3,774.22	1,748.66	482.09	4.78	486.87	6,009.75		2,323.09	8,328.06
TOTAL Non-Budget Income	12,011.97		3,220.51	1,465.92	1,748.66		1,748.66	6,435.09		3,264.73	

Budget Report 2025/2026
as at 5 February 2026

Expenditure	Outturn at 31 Mar 2025	Budget 2025/26	First half-year	Third quarter	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Fourth quarter	Total expend to date	% of budget	EMR spend	Balance to date
TOTAL ALL Expenditure	85,796.60	83,830.00	41,212.15	20,397.74	4,856.84	804.43	5,661.27	67,271.16		13,878.56	81,149.72
TOTAL ALL Income	92,343.61	83,313.00	84,876.67	3,156.71	1,848.66		1,848.66	89,882.04		12,613.83	102,495.87
Reserve contribution to Budget	6,547.01	- 517.00								1,264.73	
Balance expenditure-income			- 43,664.52	17,241.03	3,008.18	804.43	3,812.61	- 22,610.88			21,346.15

Balances

Bank	UT Current acc	5,891.90	Balance:	as at 1 Apr	92,512.97	
	UT Deposit acc	107,878.67		Plus: income	102,495.87	
	Santander a/c3	88.55	113,859.12	Less: payments	81,149.72	113,859.12

Reserves as at 5 February

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
324 Miscellaneous	0.00	2,693.54	6,873.83	4,180.29
325 CANS Reserve	3,560.98	0	328.46	3,612.38
326 SALC HWB Library grant	0.00	0	2,000.00	2,000.00
328 Lucy Hobbs Trust (capital fund)	2,335.65	0	0	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	240.00	0	1,760.00
337 Village Maintenance	13,571.79	3,401.93	746.66	10,916.52
338 Lime St/Mill Lane	746.66	746.66	0	0.00
	73,640.00	14,025.22	13,088.95	72,426.67
			*CYF	21,346.15
310 General Reserve	18,872.97	Nett:	+£1,213.33	20,086.30
		Bank Balance	at 5 Feb	£ 113,859.12

*Current Year Fund (balance of expenditure/income)