



MINUTES OF NETHER STOWEY ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 11 MAY 2026 AT 7.15pm

AT ST MARYS CHURCH CENTRE

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

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

6498 Election of Chairman

Cllr Roberts was elected unanimously as Chairman for the forthcoming year (proposed Cllr Hogg, seconded Cllr Ferriday, unanimous). He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman, witnessed by the Clerk.

6499 Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Ferriday was elected unanimously as Chairman for the forthcoming year (proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Hogg, unanimous).

6500 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Falla. His absence, for reasons given, were **approved**.

6501 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Jeanes declared an interest as the Parish Council's nominated Trustee to the NSVHRG CIO. Cllr Bowditch declared a personal interest in item 8b (School Fund grant application) as a teacher the school.

6502 Public Session

A member of the public raised the issue of potholes locally. The Chairman explained that this was a Somerset Council responsibility, but the Parish Council repeatedly report potholes, which Highways inspected, however they would only repair them if the reached a certain depth and/or diameter. The white outlining around some, but not all, of the potholes in St Mary Street suggested that these were now on the list for eventual repair, but the Parish Council had no information as to when this might happen.

6503 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meetings on 9 and 23 March were **approved** as a true record and signed by the Chairman

6504 Somerset Council Liaison

Both Cllr Caswell and Cllr Bolt had sent apologies.

6505 Grant Applications

- a) Nether Stowey Short Mat Bowls Club: it was **agreed** to purchase mats to donate the club at a cost of £128 (proposed Cllr Jeanes, seconded Cllr Hogg, unanimous).

Cllr Bowditch gave a brief introduction to the next item but took no part in the subsequent discussion and did not vote.

- b) Nether Stowey School Fund: it was **agreed** to award a grant to the school to purchase goal posts, wheels and nets amounting to £2,103 (proposed Cllr Ferriday, seconded Cllr Jeanes, unanimous).

6506 Telephone Box

It was **agreed** to award the contract for repainting the telephone box to Mr Steve Page (proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Bowditch, all in favour).

6507 Planning

Although the Parish Council had not been formally consented it was **agreed** to send comments that the Council did not object to the change to the S106 agreement.

It was **agreed** that the street names proposed in 2024 remained the Council's choice, with the addition of Budley Drive which would now be separate from Cricketer Drive. The Clerk would confirm this with Somerset Council who were liaising with the new developer.

6508 Parish Council Meeting Schedule

The proposed schedule was **approved**. A copy of the schedule is appended to these minutes.

6509 Parish Council Governance

It was **agreed** to readopt the current Code of Conduct, Financial Regulation and Standing Orders. There were no changes.

6510 Review of Parish Council Policies

It was **agreed** to readopt the current Graffiti Policy, and to adopt updated Grants Policy and Business Continuity Policy. Policies will be published on the Parish Council's website.

6511 Parish Council Governance

It was **agreed** to readopt the current Code of Conduct, and to adopt the updated Financial Management policies.

6512 Appointment of Committees and Working Groups

It was **noted** that, with two vacancies on the Council, there were still not enough Councillors to cover everything. Membership of Committees and Working Groups were agreed. A list of these is appended to these minutes.

6513 Appointment of Representative to Outside Bodies

Representatives were **agreed**, and a list is appended to these minutes.

6514 Financial Management – end of financial year 2025/26

- a) The Budget and Reserves Report for the year to 5 March was **noted**. A copy of the report is included as a separate appendix to these minutes.
- b) The final Budget Report for the year to 31 March was noted. A copy of the report is appended to these minutes and a more accessible summary is included as a separate appendix to these minutes.

- c) The Clerk's report on the budget outturn was noted.
- d) The bank reconciliations were noted. Cllr Roberts, as Chairman, had carried out the bank and voucher check and was satisfied all was in order.
- e) The timetable for the completion of year-end audit process was noted. The Clerk reported that she had sent the accounts to the Council's Internal Auditor on 24 April.
- f) The updated Fixed Asset register was noted.

6515 Financial Management – new current year 2026/27

- a) Expenditure incurred since 1 April. 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 Bowditch). The expenditure list is appended to these minutes.
- b) The Budget and Reserves Report for the year since 1 April was noted. A copy of the report is included as a separate appendix to these minutes.
- c) The bank reconciliations were noted. Cllr Ferriday would carry out the spot check

Afternote: Cllr Ferriday checked the accounts on 12 May and was satisfied all was in order

- d) The agreed budget for 2026/27, approved in January, was noted.
- e) The updated list of authorised direct debits was approved.
- f) The updated Financial and Management Risk Assessment was reviewed and adopted

6516 Highways

The Clerk had attended the Transport Working Group meeting on 15 April. It is becoming clear that there are too many different needs/demands to make any coherent lobby and little hope of an extension of the current no 14 service to Nether Stowey.

The Clerk had also attended the Highways Working Group meeting on 16 April. The signs for pedestrian safety on the A39 would be installed soon.

Bollards on the Cross – the Clerk had received notification that no planning consent was required, and the plan had already had the support of Highways and the Conservation Officer. The next step would be to finalise details with the contractor.

Double yellow lines were to be painted at the junction of Castle and Lime Street to improve road and pedestrian safety. There would remain two parking spaces at the Post Office away from the junction.

6517 Chairmans Report

The Chairman had attended the Hinkley Point Transport Forum meeting on 12 March. On 3 December permission was given by the Secretary of State to extend the use of the Temporary Jetty to 27 March 2028. The jetty is used to deliver aggregate, reducing HGV movements and rebar cages which are constructed at Avonmouth. Projections are for around 138,000m³ of aggregate to be brought in via the jetty between 2026-2028.

The Chairman had also attended the Hinkley Point SSG meeting on 17 March. The first consignment of HP/A's waste was expected before the end of March, following issues

with cranes. AT HP/B, Des Uminski had been appointed Site Director. B site will be transferred to NRS (Nuclear Restoration Services) on 1 October 2026 for decommissioning.

Staff and contract partners at Hinkley Point B continue to raise money for EDF's charity partner, The Alzheimer's Society. Since EDF launched its four-year partnership with the charity in January 2024, the company has raised £ 522,430 .

LCN HPC Workforce Uplift Feedback meeting had again been postponed with no indication of a new date.

6518 Clerk's Report

No interest/applications from would-be Councillors in response to the vacancy ad for our vacancies.

The April meeting had been inquorate so no business could be transacted. The only item dealt with as urgent business was the Clerk's CiLCA training, which was consulted and is now reported in accordance with Standing Orders. The response unanimous approval. A new edition of "Local Council Administration" is required. Purchase was approved.

The Clerk had circulated details of the latest version of the Parishes Enhanced Highways Maintenance Pilot.

The Clerk received a complaint about cigarette ends on the pavement outside the Ancient Mariner, this was followed by a call the following day to say that they had been swept up.

She had also received a complaint about parking in Lime Street between Merrywood and the Village Hall. The Clerk explained that it was legal to park on the houses side of the road, this included HPC workers lodging in the village.

The printer arrived safely and working fine. The new benches arrived unexpectedly on Friday morning.

6519 Members Reports

NSRG & VH Committee – Cllr Bowditch reported that arrangements for Party in the Park were underway.

NSRG & VH CIO – Cllr Jeanes reported that the CIO had been engaging with NS Football Club and had now agreed a design. They were preparing a Community User Agreement with the Football Club. New drawings had been commissioned for submission and other reports would be ready by the end of June for formal submission in July.

The Chairman said that he had written to the Chairman of the CIO at the end of March requesting a meeting but disappointingly had had no reply still.

Thomas Poole Library – Cllr Ferriday would be moving the kiosk to the Library later in the week, and the Visitor Centre would be opening soon. The Library had been re-registered as an Asset of Community Value. The Library had been given the Kings Award for Voluntary Service and there would be a presentation on 20 May.

Stowey Green Spaces – Cllr Ferriday reported that the biggest focus at present was the zombie ponds project. The Millennium Wood also had Asset of Community Value status as did Stowey Wood.

6520 Forthcoming Events

- Thu 14 May – HPC Community Forum (JR)
- Mon 18 May – Web Accessibility training (CS)
- Wed 20 May – SC Clerks Working Group (CS)
 - Library – Kings Award presentation
- Wed 27 May – CiLCA course session 1 (CS)
- Thu 4 June – HPC Main site forum (JR)
- Thu 25 June – HPC Transport forum (JR)
- Tues 30 June – SC Highways working group (?)

The Parish Office would be closed for the Bank Holiday on Monday 25 May.

6521 Next Parish Council Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Minute 6514a – Expenditure incurred 9-31 March 2026

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

Date	Payee Name	Amount	Transaction Details
9 Feb	GWB Services	426.60	Village maintenance (Jan)
9 Feb	Santander Bank	4.60	A/c 3 charges (Jan transactions)
12 Feb	Viking Direct	65.81	Stationery
12 Feb	WS Citizens Advice	100.00	Donation, min no 6467(c)
15 Feb	Microsoft	4.56	Microsoft OneDrive (Feb)
20 Feb	Staff Payroll	2,660.72	Staff Payroll (February)
24 Feb	BT Business	58.74	Office phone/broadband (bill 25 Feb)
2 Mar	SALC	35.00	Procurement training Clerk
3 Mar	EDF Energy	19.90	Public Toilets electricity (Feb)
3 Mar	EDF Energy	200.18	Office electricity (Feb)
3 Mar	EDF Energy	23.83	Clock Tower electricity (Feb)
4 Mar	BGL Rieber Ltd	223.20	Thermobox, Wed Club grant (Feb min 6467)
4 Mar	H Brooks	185.00	Tree works, Exeter Close
15 Mar	Risdons Solicitors	350.00	Office rent (15 Feb)
31 Mar	Unity Trust Bank	7.00	Account 4 service fee (Feb transactions)
Total Expenditure		£ 4,635.14	

Minute 6515a – Expenditure incurred since 1 April 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 Bowditch).

Date	Payee Name	Amount	Transaction Details
1 Apr	Somerset Council	1,171.30	Car Park rates
1 Apr	Rialtas Business	252.00	Rialtas Alpha Accounts contract
1 Apr	BT Business	58.74	Office phone/broadband (bill 25 Mar)
3 Apr	EdF Energy	19.90	Public toilets electricity (April)
3 Apr	EdF Energy	200.18	Office electricity (April)
3 Apr	EdF Energy	23.83	Clock Tower electricity (April)
10 Apr	Somerset ALC	714.40	SALC/NALC affiliation fees
10 Apr	Somerset Council	26.40	Supply/fit dog bin Church View
15 Apr	Risdons Solicitors	350.00	Office rent 15 April
15 Apr	Somerset Council	80.00	Office rates (April)
15 Apr	Somerset Council	52.48	Cemetery rates (April)
15 Apr	Santander Bank	0.40	Acc 3 Bank charges (Mar transactions)
15 Apr	Microsoft	4.79	Microsoft OneDrive (April)
21 Apr	Somerset ALC	40.00	Planning training (JR)
21 Apr	Staff Payroll	2,592.32	Staff Payroll (April)
22 Apr	Somerset ALC	25.00	Councillor training (BH)
25 Apr	Lidl	5.38	Rubbish bags – street cleaning
27 Apr	Somerset Council	306.00	Pre-app planning fee (bollards)
27 Apr	BWP Creative Ltd	36.00	Domain name renewal (website/e-mail)
27 Apr	BT Business	63.54	Office phone/broadband (bill 25 Apr)

Nether Stowey Parish Council

Date	Payee Name	Amount	Transaction Details
30 Apr	Unity Trust Bank	7.00	Bank charges (Mar transactions)
30 Apr	St Mary's PCC	84.00	Church Centre Hire (Apr-June)
3 May	EdF Energy	19.90	Public toilets electricity (May)
3 May	EdF Energy	200.18	Office electricity (May)
3 May	EdF Energy	23.83	Clock Tower electricity (May)
5 May	GWB Services	2,312.40	Village maintenance (April)
6 May	MD Crawford	1,230.00	Concrete bases for benches
6 May	Sam's Little Sparkle	94.80	Village cleaning (April)
8 May	Clarity Copiers	18.74	Printing charges Feb-April (old printer)
15 May	Somerset Council	80.00	Office rates (May)
15 May	Somerset Council	55.00	Cemetery rates (May)
15 May	Risdons Solicitors	350.00	Office rent 15 May
31 May	Unity Trust Bank	7.00	Bank charges (April transactions)
Total Expenditure		£ 10,505.51	