



MINUTES OF NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 8 JUNE 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

6522 Apologies

All Councillors were present. Somerset Cllrs Bolt and Caswell had sent apologies

6523 Declarations of Interest

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

Cllr Bowditch declared an interest in Item 10 (Grant Application) as the Parish Council's nominated representative to Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground committee.

6524 Public Session

A member of the public raised the issue of a problem with rats in Lime Street. The Chairman suggested contacting Somerset Council, but thought they would direct residents to a pest control company. He noted that there were a couple of areas of the village that seemed to have a similar problem at present.

A member of the public expressed concern at building works at a house in Lime Street.

Afternote, it was subsequently confirmed that a Certificate of Proposed Lawful Use or Development had been issued in November 2025.

6525 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 11 May were **approved** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6526 Somerset Council Liaison

Both Cllr Caswell and Cllr Bolt had sent apologies.

6527 Internal Audit Report (2025/26 Accounts)

The Internal Auditor's report was **noted**.

6528 AGAR - Annual Governance Statement for 2025/2026

The Annual Governance Statement report was **approved** and the Chairman authorised to sign it (proposed Cllr Hogg, seconded Cllr Hannam, unanimous).

6529 AGAR - Accounting Statement for 2025/2026

The Accounting Statement was **approved** and the Chairman authorised to sign it (proposed Cllr Ferriday, seconded Cllr Jeanes, unanimous).

6530 Budget Reporting on Minutes

It was **agreed** that reports would not, in future, be appended to the minutes since they could not be made to conform to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. The Clerk would continue to provide the report to Councillors, and she would make them available to parishioners on request, in an appropriate format to the individual.

6531 Parish Council Meeting Schedule

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

Cllr Bowditch gave a brief introduction to the next item but took no part in the subsequent discussion and did not vote. Standing Orders were suspended to allow the representative of the NSVHRG CIO to present the application.

6532 Grant Application

Standing Orders were reinstated.

It was **agreed** to award a grant of £450 to Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground (in conjunction with Nether Stowey School) to meet the costs of a DJ at Party in the Park (proposed Cllr Falla, seconded Cllr Hogg, unanimous).

6533 Financial Management

- a) The Budget and Reserves Report for the year to 5 June was noted. A copy of the detailed report is available from the Parish Office on request.
- b) Expenditure incurred since 12 May. The expenditure was **approved** and any two of the authorised signatories were instructed to sign the relevant cheques/authorise online payments (proposed Cllr Hannam, seconded Cllr Hogg). The expenditure list is appended to these minutes.
- c) The bank reconciliations were noted. Cllr Hannam had carried out the spot check and was satisfied all was in order.
- d) The purchase of a new vacuum cleaner was **approved**.

6534 Highways

The Chairman said that it was noticeable that many of the potholes/surface damage in St Mary Street had been painted around, and hopefully this indicated that repairs would follow.

Cllr Bowditch had reported a blocked drain at Butchers Lane, which had been repaired the following day.

6535 Chairmans Report

Bollards on the Cross – the Chairman was arranging a site meeting with CJ Lynch on 12 June.

6536 Clerk's Report

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

The new benches have now been installed. No comments so far.

The Clerk had attended the first CiLCA session.

6537 Members Reports

NSRG & VH Committee – Cllr Bowditch had been unable to attend the last meeting reported that arrangements for Party in the Park were well underway.

NSRG & VH CIO – Cllr Jeanes reported that the CIO had now received new drawings from the architect and were being considered.

Hinkley Point – Cllr Roberts had attended the HPC Community form and Main Site forum meetings. The workforce seemed to have topped out at around 13,000. They were applying for 100 additional caravans and additional works at Mill Farm in Fiddington.

Thomas Poole Library – The Library had been presented with the Kings Award for Voluntary Service from the Lord-Lieutenant for Somerset on 20 May, attended by the Chairman. Cllr Ferriday added that the kiosk had now been installed at the Library and was fully operational.

Stowey Green Spaces Group – Cllr Ferriday reported that SGSG were reaching an agreement with Somerset Council for a licence to manage land on the A39 verge behind Lime Street. The agreement would have to be signed by the Parish Council, and he had advised SGSG on this. They were currently awaiting a draft agreement for consideration.

6538 Forthcoming Events

Wed 17 June – Somerset Clerks Forum Teams (CS)

Tues 23 June – NS United Charity meeting (CS)

Wed 24 June – CiLCA, Wells (CS)

Thu 25 June – HPC Transport Forum (JR)

Tues 30 June – SC Highways working group (TBC)

Wed 15 July – Somerset Clerks Forum Teams (CS)

Wed 22 July – CiLCA, Wells (CS)

6539 Next Parish Council Meeting

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

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

Minute 6533b – Expenditure incurred since 12 May

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
12 May	Comm Heartbeat Trust	162.00	Defibrillator support contract 2026/27
14 May	Somerset ALC	300.00	CiLCA training (Clerk)
14 May	Whitehead Bowls	127.58	Bowls mats (NS Short Mat Bowls Club grant)
14 May	Somerset Council	2,103.00	School fund grant for goals equipment
14 May	Society L C Clerks	149.40	Local Council Administration book
15 May	Santander Bank	.80	Account 3 bank charges (April transactions)
15 May	Microsoft	4.79	Microsoft OneDrive (May)
20 May	Staff Payroll	2,592.32	Staff Payroll (May)
25 May	BT Business	63.54	Office phone/broadband (bill 25 May)
28 May	Clear Insurance Ltd	1,237.00	PC Insurance 2026/27
28 May	Sam's Little Sparkle	63.90	Village cleaning (May)
29 May	C Slaymaker	31.03	Travel/parking costs CiLCA 27 May
29 May	Somerset ALC	35.00	EOY Finance training (CS)
2 June	D Hicks	54.64	Payment in lieu of untaken leave 2025/26
2 June	Geosphere Ltd	48.00	Parish Online mapping 2026/27
3 Jun	MJ Dodden & Co	364.80	Internal Audit fee 2025/26 accounts
3 June	Glasdon UK Ltd	3,076.10	Benches – Banneson and Oak Rd paths
3 June	EdF Energy	77.41	Public toilets electricity (May)
3 June	EdF Energy	250.69	Office electricity (May)
3 June	EdF Energy	13.86	Clock Tower electricity (May)
4 June	GWB Services	2,323.20	Village maintenance (May)
15 June	Somerset Council	80.00	Office rates (June)
15 June	Somerset Council	55.00	Cemetery rates (June)
15 June	Risdons Solicitors	350.00	Office rent 15 June
30 June	Unity Trust Bank	7.00	Bank charges (May transactions)
Total Expenditure		£ 13,571.06	

NOTE: A detailed budget report is no longer appended to minutes, but is available from the Parish Office on request. Please contact the Clerk at clerk@netherstowey-pc.gov.uk or telephone 01278 733779 or call at the office.