

MINUTES OF NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7PM

AT ST MARYS CHURCH CENTRE

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

In Attendance: Caro Slaymaker (Parish Clerk), Cllr M Caswell (Somerset Council)
four members of the public

6556 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Falla for reasons given. His absence was **approved**.

6557 Declarations of Interest

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

6558 Public Session

A member of the public raised asked when the toilets would be reopened. The Chairman said that, following the vandalism, repairs were necessary (to be discussed later in the meeting) and the Clerk would be obtaining quotes.

Another member of the public asked about parking in the centre of the village. The Chairman explained the various issues, solutions that had been rejected. He confirmed that double yellow lines would be painted outside the post office round into Lime Street to deter people from parking on the junction. This had been approved by Highways on the grounds of pedestrian and traffic safety reasons and would have only a small impact on parking.

6559 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 13 July were **approved** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6560 Somerset Council Liaison

Cllr Caswell reported that he had received a complaint via Gideon Amos MP concerning the Cricketer Farm development, but did not know any more about it. The Chairman said that he was aware of one recent complaint. It was outside the power of the Parish Council and been passed to Planning Enforcement. As far as he knew there had been an acknowledgement but nothing further.

Cllr Caswell reminded member that there was a briefing on the NPPF on Thursday. The new framework shifts favour to the developer.

Airband broadband supplier had been taken over by another company. He did not know what this would mean for Connecting Devon and Somerset.

6561 Vandalism at the Public Toilets

It was agreed to get quotes for repairs for further consideration. The Clerk to consult by e-mail. The insurance company had been informed, and the Parish Council would be liable for the policy excess of £250.

6562 CCTV at the Car Park

It was agreed to consider quotes for a replacement system, and there was some discussion about options. The Clerk had been attempting to contact the appropriate officer at Somerset Council but there had been no response so far.

6563 Financial Management

- a) The Budget and Reserves Report for the year to 10 September was noted. A copy of the detailed report is available from the Parish Office on request.
- b) Expenditure incurred since 13 July. 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 Hannam). The expenditure list is appended to these minutes.
- c) The bank reconciliations were noted. Cllr Jeanes had carried out the bank reconciliation and voucher check on 14 September and was satisfied all was in order.

6564 Bank Signatories

It was **agreed** that Cllrs Jeanes and Bowditch would become signatories on the Unity Trust accounts.

6565 Grant Applications

- a) It was **agreed** to award a grant of £150 to St Mary's PCC as a contribution to the community Christmas lunch.
- b) It was **agreed** to award a grant of £150 to Mrs Wright, leading the volunteers for Christmas Hampers.
Approval proposed by Cllr Hogg, seconded Cllr Hannam all in favour

6566 Highways

The bollards in St Mary Street had been replaced in August. The work had gone smoothly and there had been little comment.

A bollard in Lime Street had been knocked over. Highways had removed it rather than repair it. Loose kerbstones outside Castle Hill House had been reported.

The pedestrian safety signs on the A39 had been installed. The double yellow lines (Castle Street) are still outstanding.

As reported in July, overgrown bushes on the paths around Coleridge Road had been reported to Somerset Council who have powers of enforcement.

The Clerk would attend the Highways Working Group meeting on 17 September.

Afternote – the meeting was subsequently postponed to a date to be confirmed.

6567 Chairmans Report

The Chairman had no other matters to report.

6568 Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported that the External Audit on the 2025/26 accounts had been completed and no issues had been raised: details had been circulated.

6569 Members Reports

NSRG & VH Committee – Cllr Bowditch had nothing to report.

NSRG & VH CIO – Cllr Jeanes said that new drawings had been agreed. Another bat survey was underway, and they expected to submit the application in late December.

Hinkley Point – Cllr Roberts said that EdF had now passed HP B station to Nuclear Restoration Services Limited (previously known as Magnox Limited) who already manage A Station. He would attend the SSG meeting on 15 September.

Quantock Hills NL JAC – the last meeting was on 22 July, but Cllr Falla was unable to attend.

Thomas Poole Library – Cllr Ferriday had nothing to report.

6570 Forthcoming Events

The Parish Office would be closed from 20-31 July and 7-21 August for staff leave. It would also be closed on 31 August for the public holiday.

- Wed 15 July – Somerset Clerks Forum ((CS))
- Tues 15 Sept – HP SSG meetings (JR)
- Wed 16 Sept – SC / Clerks' forum (CS)
- Thurs 17 Sept – Highways Working Group (CS)
 - Parish Briefing - New National Planning Policy Framework and National Scheme of Delegation (All)
 - HPC Community Forum (JR)
- Wed 23 Sept – CiLCA (CS)
- Thurs 8 Oct – SALC Parishes Conference (JR, CS)
- Thurs 15 Oct – HPC Main Site forum (JR)

6571 Next Parish Council Meeting

The next Parish Meeting would be held on **Monday 12 October** at the Church Centre at 7pm.

6572 Closed Session

It was resolved that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of confidential and exempt information.

6573 Personnel Matter

It was **agreed** to approve a six-month leave of absence as requested by Cllr Falla for reasons given.

Minute 6533b – Expenditure incurred since 13 July

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 July	Santander Bank	0.80	Account 3 bank charges (June transactions)
13 July	HSD Online	32.44	Loo rolls for public toilets
14 July	FONSS for NS Art Group	50.00	Grant – children’s Art competition prize
14 July	Life Education Wessex	99.00	School health & wellbeing workshop
14 July	Somerset Council	296.40	Cricketer estate – dog/litter bins (Apr-Jun)
14 July	The Workplace Depot	82.73	Road cones x 6
15 July	Microsoft	4.79	Microsoft OneDrive (July)
17 July	GWB Services Ltd	1,651.20	Village maintenance (June)
17 July	B&M Retail Ltd	9.80	Public toilets cleaning products
20 July	Staff Payroll	2,592.32	Staff Payroll (July)
25 July	BT Business	63.54	Office phone/broadband (bill 25 July)
28 July	Zurich Municipal	170.24	SGSG Public Liability Insurance 2026/27
30 July	AB Memorials	48.00	Algae treatment, war memorial
3 Aug	EdF Energy	77.41	Public toilets electricity (August)
3 Aug	EdF Energy	250.69	Office electricity (August)
3 Aug	EdF Energy	13.86	Clock Tower electricity (August)
3 Aug	Screwfix Direct	29.98	Algaecide and sprayer
4 Aug	St Mary’s PCC	28.00	Church Centre July-Sept meetings
4 Aug	C Slaymaker	31.03	Travel/parking costs CiLCA 22 July
4 Aug	Wickes	29.00	Weedkiller, street cleaning
10 Aug	Sam’s Little Sparkle	55.55	Village cleaning (July)
15 Aug	Santander Bank	2.30	A/c 3 transaction charges (July)
15 Aug	Somerset Council	80.00	Office rates (July)
15 Aug	Somerset Council	55.00	Cemetery rates (July)
15 Aug	Risdons Solicitors	350.00	Office rent 15 Aug
17 Aug	Staff Payroll	2,592.32	Staff Payroll (August)
17 Aug	Microsoft	4.79	Microsoft OneDrive (Aug)
18 Aug	CJ Lynch	11,310.00	Bollards supply and installation
24 Aug	GWB Services Ltd	1,542.00	Village maintenance (July)
25 Aug	BT Business	63.54	Office phone/broadband (bill 25 August)
31 Aug	Unity Trust Bank	7.00	Bank charges (July transactions)
2 Sep	Sam’s Little Sparkle	55.55	Village cleaning (August)
3 Sept	EdF Energy	54.67	Public toilets electricity (Sept)
3 Sept	EdF Energy	206.00	Office electricity (Sept)
3 Sept	EdF Energy	13.86	Clock Tower electricity (Sept)
4 Sept	Mrs CF Slaymaker	31.03	Travel/parking costs CiLCA 19 August
4 Sept	St Mary’s PCC	28.00	Church Centre hire July-Sept (balance, invoice corrected)
7 Sept	Clarity Copiers	42.46	Printing charges Apr-July
8 Sept	GWB Services Ltd	850.80	Village maintenance (August)
15 Sept	Somerset Council	80.00	Office rates (Sept)
15 Sept	Somerset Council	55.00	Cemetery rates (Sept)
15 Sept	Risdons Solicitors	350.00	Office rent 15 Sept
30 Sept	Unity Trust Bank	7.00	Bank charges (August transactions)
TOTAL		£ 23,398.10	

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.