

MINUTES OF NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2008 AT 7.00pm
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Parish Councillors Tony Rich (Chairman)
Rita Corbett
Peter Greig
Malcolm Hogg
Pat Pardoe

In attendance:
District Councillor Ken Dyer
District / County Councillor John Edney
Parish Council Clerk Ainslie Ensor
Assistant Parish Council Clerk Jean Falla
7 Parishioners

3615 Apologies

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Margaret Hogg (unwell), John Roberts (abroad), Carol Parsons (family commitment) and Teresa Youe (family commitment). The absences were **approved**.

Apologies were also received from District Councillor Joslin.

3616 Additional Item

The Chairman proposed, in accordance with Standing Order 77, to suspend Standing Orders to allow the addition of an additional item of urgent business under agenda item 3 (Planning). The proposal was **agreed**.

3617 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 13 October 2008 were **approved** and signed by the Chairman.

3618 Liaison

Cllr Edney referred to the recent meeting of the Quantock Cluster Parishes which he considered to have been very successful. He hoped the proposal by the Chairman for closer working by the Cluster Parishes was successful. He reported that the District Council were holding discussions regarding the proposals for the possible new development at Hinkley Point Power Station, which he saw as an opportunity not a threat.

Cllr Dyer reported that the District Council budget for next year had a £1.2 million deficit meaning that savings would have to be made to balance the budget.

3619 The Cross

Cllr Greig reported that he was concerned about the lack of progress, in that the Parish Council had not received the written proposals from the County Council, which had been promised at the meeting in August. The delay now meant that if the Parish Council was to have the opportunity to consider the proposals and consult with the public it would not be possible to commence the proposed in January 2009 as had been previously indicated by the

Highways. It was **agreed** that the Clerk write to the County Conservation Officer and Highways asking for the written proposals (copy to Cllr Edney).

3620 Pioneer Somerset – Devolution of Services Survey

Further to Minute 3606 the Clerk outlined a suggested response. The key point was that it was difficult to complete the form as it did not include sufficient information to make informed comment on many of the items listed. When considering devolution of services from Principal authorities to town and parish councils there was one overriding principle that must be followed; the funding follows the function, i.e. if services are to be devolved then the relevant budget must also be devolved. Without this it could not and would not happen. That was not to say that for some services the local (town / parish) council may well be able to provide the service at lower cost due to lower overheads. It was **agreed** that the Clerk respond to the survey on the lines outlined.

3621 Reports

Quantock Cluster Group – Cllr Rich reported that he had sent a personal invitation to each of the 13 parishes in the cluster to attend the meeting held in Nether Stowey on 4th November. 9 parishes attended, 2 sent apologies and 2 did not respond. The aim was to try and encourage the 13 parishes to work together and to prioritise issues of common interest.

3622 Planning

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|------|------------------|---|
| (i) | Application Ref: | 36/08/00020 |
| | Address: | Challons, 88 Castle Hill |
| | Proposal: | Erection of two storey side extension to form artist's studio |
| | Response: | No Objections |
| (ii) | Application Ref: | 36/08/00019 |
| | Address: | Castle Hill House, Castle Hill |
| | Proposal: | Paint External rendered walls with cream coloured paint. |
| | Response: | No Objections |

The above responses were **approved**.

3623 Code of Conduct Consultation

The Clerk reported on the consultation document issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Councillors felt that they did not have the expertise necessary to comment on the document and requested that the Clerk investigate if SALC could produce any briefing documents.

3624 District Council Standards Committee – Election of Parish Representative

The Clerk reported that the District Council was increasing the parish council representation on the District Standards Committee from two to three. There had been three nominations for the resulting vacancy and Parish Councils were invited to cast a vote for one candidate. The details of the candidates had been previously circulated to councillors. It was **agreed** that, as none of the candidates were known to councillors, the Parish Council abstained from voting.

3625 Cultural Strategy for Somerset – Consultation

The Clerk reported that the County Council had issued a draft Cultural Strategy for Somerset, a copy of which had been circulated to councillors. Councillors suggested that this was something that could be looked at by the Quantock Cluster rather than individual parishes.

3626 Registration of Land

The Clerk reported that the Land Registry was running a campaign to encourage parish and town councils to voluntarily register their land holdings. It was **agreed** that the Clerk be authorised to review the records and ensure that all property held by the Parish Council that could be registered was so registered.

3627 Finance

Approval of expenditure incurred since the Parish Council meeting of 13 October 2008

Payee	Amount	Details
Chanin & Thomas	166.66	Office Rent November
St Mary's PCC Nether Stowey	15.00	Church Centre Hire 3/11 (CANS)
J Greig	25.00	Re May Fair 2009
Information Commissioner	35.00	Data Protection Act Registration
TalkTalk Business Ltd	34.11	Telephone
Sedgemoor Community Transport	217.00	Bus hire October
A Ensor	73.39	Postage £30.48 Internet £29.99 Stationery £5.49 Office Key £5.50 Cemetery Mtce £1.93
G Bickers	628.00	Village Mtce £270 Cemetery Mtce £96 Playing Field Mtce £96 Toilets Cleaning £166
HM Revenue & Customs	235.28	PAYE/NI
A Ensor	840.85	Salary November
Total	£2,270.29	

The above expenditure was **approved**.

3628 Highways

The following items were noted:

- Road closure A39 East Quantoxhead 2 nights from 24 November
- Lack of street light steps rear of Coleridge Road
- Drainage / flooding - water at Mill Lane / Jacksons Lane junction

3629 Correspondence

Correspondence received included:

- Letter from Sedgemoor DC re the role & function of rural settlements –the Clerk was replying in Consultation with Chairman, Vice Chairman and Cllr Greig (as Chair of Parish Plan Group).
- Housing Needs Survey papers which will be distributed with the parish newsletter

- Partner Satisfaction Survey for AONB service – this had been completed by the Vice Chairman
- Regeneration update from SDC about Bridgwater and Burnham / Highbridge

3630 Forthcoming Meetings and Events

Date	Day	Meeting	Time	Location
13 Nov	Thursday	Western Somerset LARC (Cllr Greig & Clerk to attend)	7.00pm to 8.30pm	Wiveliscombe
19 Nov	Wednesday	SDC – RLT 3 workshop (Chairman & Clerk to attend)	7.00pm	Fiddington
20 Nov	Thursday	Active Living – Willow Weaving	2.00pm	Church Centre
24 Nov	Monday	EDF Hinkley Point Stakeholder Workshop	6.30pm to 8.30pm	Cannington
5 Dec	Friday	SLCC Branch Meeting (Clerk to attend)	10.00am to 1.00pm	Wells
11 Dec	Thursday	SALC – North Area Meeting	7.30pm	North Petherton

3631 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in the Village Hall on Monday 8 December 2008 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.