

MINUTES OF NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 12 APRIL 2010 AT 7.00pm
IN THE VILLAGE HALL

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

In attendance: District Councillor David Joslin
Chairman of CANS Mary Roberts
Parish Clerk Ainslie Ensor

Public Session

The following issues were raised in the public session:

- Condition of A39 to east of the village
- Cobbles outside The George

3818 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Parsons (another meeting) and Cllr Roberts (business).

The absences were **approved**.

Apologies were also received from District Cllr Dyer and District / County Cllr Edney.

3819 Sedgemoor Community Support

The Chairman introduced Sue Quatermass, Sedgemoor Community Support Development Worker, who explained that she was based in the Volunteer Bureau in Bridgwater and that her role was to help local community groups with funding applications, health checks and advice on policies. She was working to establish a Voluntary Organisations Forum and it was hoped to hold a meeting in Nether Stowey.

3820 District Council Liaison

Cllr Joslin reported that the North East Bridgwater development had received approval and that it was hoped that it would create many jobs in the coming years. He commented that the review of the electoral arrangements for Sedgemoor may mean that the existing Cannington and Quantocks ward would be split before the next local council elections in 2011.

3821 Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was noted that on page 3 the report on the Quantock Hills JAC was made by Cllr Rich not Cllr Greig as stated in the draft minutes. Subject to that amendment the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 March 2010 were **approved** as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3822 Parish Council Strategy Workshop

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council should hold a strategy workshop as outlined in the paper circulated by the Clerk. The Clerk would circulate councillors with a list of possible dates to ensure the maximum possible attendance.

3823 Planning

- (i) Application Ref: 36/10/00003/JAB
 Address: Poole Retreat, Tanyard
 Proposal: reduce height by 25% and thin crown by 25% 1 Ash tree (T23), reduce height by 25% 1 Weeping Willow (T24) and reduce by 50% to previous pollard points 1 Crack Willow in (G1)
 Applicant: Mr P Dancy
 Response: No Objections
- (ii) Application Ref: 36/10/00004/RSM
 Address: 4 Clock House, St Mary Street
 Proposal: Replace pantiles on kitchen roof with slates
 Applicant: Mr E Coates
 Response: No Objections
- (iii) Application Ref: 36/10/00005/RSM
 Address: 37 Lime Street
 Proposal: Repairs to roof and chimney, fascia and wall plate and enlarge rainwater hoppers
 Applicant: The National Trust
 Response: The Parish Council supports and welcomes the proposed works.

The above responses were **approved**.

3824 Finance

(i) Monthly Financial Report

The monthly financial report for March 2010 was noted.

(ii) Expenditure incurred since the Parish Council meeting of 8 March 2010

2009 – 2010

Payee	Amount	Details
Mr Watson	30.00	Active Living – speaker fee
Sedgemoor District Council	40.00	Lottery Reg – May Fair 2010
Total	£70.00	

2010 - 2011

Payee	Amount	Details
C Pryer	25.00	Active Living – speaker fee
Chanin & Thomas	166.66	Office Rent April
A J Richards	5.00	May Fair (refund)
Community Council for Somerset	30.00	Annual Subscription
RT Signs (Bridgwater) Ltd	55.23	No Dog Signs
Clarity Copiers (Avon) Ltd	109.98	Toner Charge
Npower Ltd	236.62	Toilets Electricity
EDF Energy Customers plc	11.45	Clock Tower Electricity
EDF Energy 1 Limited	73.61	Clock Tower Electricity

A Ensor	29.99	Internet
Payroll	1,503.58	April Salaries & PAYE/NI
Total	£2,247.12	

The above expenditure was **approved**.

3825 Highways

The following items were noted:

- A39 condition and the need for action regarding traffic management
- Audley Close – overgrown hedge blocking footpath to Pooles Close
- Warning signs by the brook outside 30/32 Castle Street are broken and require replacement

3826 Reports

Police – The Clerk read a report from the Beat Team – “Apologies from both PC Rob Jacobs and PCSO Karen Evans for not attending the Parish Council meeting. Unfortunately this beat is still being targeted by thieves, with more out buildings and sheds being burgled. The last incidents occurred in the Spaxton area but we must all be extra vigilant especially if out and about in the evenings. We are all poised and ready to move into the new police office at the library as soon as we are given the go ahead from the Library service we will be moving in. We had hoped that we would be up and running after Christmas but like everything, it all seems to take longer than first thought. We are hearing rumours in the village about Drugs. If anyone has even the smallest piece of information regarding the use or dealing of drugs in the village please contact us. All information will be treated as confidential. Several lawnmowers and a few other items were stolen last week from the village allotments. Again if anyone has noticed any unknown vehicles or persons hanging around the area please call and let us know. Any information however small is good information and not enough is passed on to us; help us to make this a safe place to live.”

SALC – The Clerk reported on the North Area meeting held on 11 March. The pending changes to the codes of conduct for members and officers were now off agenda for some time due to the general election. A Somerset version of the new model standing orders had now been issued by SALC; external Auditors will be looking for Parishes to adopt during the summer. Electronic banking – changes due to law to enable PC’s to use this due in “next 6 months or so”. Somerset CC has pulled grant for SALC from September 2010 – loss of £8000 income. The Citizens Advice Bureau is very busy – plea for PC’s to continue supporting them. SALC very interested in situation with parishes west of Bridgwater re A39. Power of well being is likely to become more important.

Centre for Sustainable Energy – Community Energy Consultation – The Clerk reported on the meeting held Saturday 10 April. The meeting gave general information and was collecting information on needs of local communities – the point was made very strongly that over the next few years there is likely to be an inexorable rise in the price of oil (energy) and that this will have major impacts on communities – there is support (technical legal and financial) for community groups wishing to promote local sustainable energy projects – (note any direct parish council involvement would probably need to rely on the general power of well being).

Coleridge Cottage – Cllr Greig reported that the new apple trees had been planted. Some 18th century material (clay pipes) had been found in the garden. The Coleridge family had visited the cottage and were taking an interest in developments. The next step is to clear rubble from the garden; this will be taken to Dunster for disposal. Help is needed with the work in the garden, anyone interested to contact Cllr Greig.

Quantock Eco – Cllr Greig reported on the formation of Quantock Eco, which has grown out of an initiative by Bicknoller Parish Council; the aim of the organisation being to promote low carbon initiatives. A group of Nether Stowey residents were involved looking in particular at local power generation ideas (micro generation); the village church had been

identified as having potential for such a scheme. Also looking at the school – some 15 schools in Somerset have photo voltaic generation, why not Nether Stowey. Grants of up to 80% are available for community schemes. It was suggested that this could be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Millennium Wood – it was reported that this is in need of some annual maintenance. Last time it was carried out by a group of volunteers arranged by Terry Abbiss.

Quantock AONB – it is understood that it is proposed to spray rhododendrons on the hills.

Library Car Park – the trees in the car park need height reduction and crown thinning – the Clerk to contact the relevant officers at Sedgemoor DC.

3827 Correspondence

Correspondence received included:

- SDC - note re identification of rough sleepers
- SDC - Invitation to Town and Parish Workshop on joint funding of services
- SDC - Minutes of Quantock Cluster Group meeting held on 16 March 2010
- SDC - Local Development Framework News up date
- Invitation from Cannington Cold stores to visit on 22 April (6.00pm)
- AONB – Events programme 2010 and update leaflet
- EDF – Hinkley C newsletter
- Community Council - re Community Planning Days re Hinkley C
- West Somerset Council – Core Strategy consultation document – response needed by 24th May

3828 Forthcoming Meetings and Events

Date	Meeting	Venue	Time
14 April	Village Hall Accounts	Parish Office	2.00pm
19 April	Annual Parish Meeting	Village Hall	7.00pm
21 April	Playing Field AGM	Village Hall	7.00pm
22 April	Active Living	Church Centre	2.00pm
22 April	Visit to Cannington Cold Stores	Swang Farm	6.00pm
22 April	SALC chairmanship Training	Ruishton Village Hall	7.30pm
30 April	SLCC Branch Meeting	Frome	10am
1 May	Nether Stowey May Fair	Parish Office	all day

3829 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in the Village Hall on Monday 10th May 2010 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm