

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

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

**In attendance:**

Mrs Carol Parsons  
District / County Cllr                      John Edney  
Parish Clerk                                      Ainslie Ensor  
5 County Farm Tenants  
3 Parishioners

**Public Session**

Representatives of tenants of Somerset County Council farms in the Quantocks raised their concerns about plans for the review and disposal of County Farms.

**3857 Apologies**

Apologies were also received from District Cllrs Dyer and Joslin.

**3858 Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 June 2010 were **approved** and signed by the Chairman.

**3859 Parish Council Policy Priorities**

A statement of Parish Council Policy Priorities (a copy of which is appended to these minutes), which was prepared following the Strategy Workshop held on 3 June 2010, was **approved**. It was **agreed** that the statement be published in the next Parish Council newsletter and reviewed early in 2011.

**3860 District / County Council Liaison**

Cllr Edney commented that the Hinkley Point C Stage 2 Consultation indicated that EDF had listened to public concerns and amended their plans accordingly. The problems of the A39 remained and the District Council and others would continue to fight for a Northern By-Pass for Bridgwater.

**3861 Suspension of Standing Orders**

It was **agreed** that in accordance with Standing Order 77, standing orders be suspended in order to deal with a matter of urgent business not on the agenda.

### **3862 County Farms**

The Council considered the proposed review and possible disposal of local County Farms, raised in the public session. The Council considered that the County Farm estate was an important entry point for young people entering the agricultural industry and that the Quantock Farms played an important part in maintaining the visual character of the area. The Clerk was authorised, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, to write to the appropriate persons requesting that the County Council give a 12 month extension to those tenants who had received a Notice to Quit and opposing the breakup of the County Farm Estate.

### **3863 Parish Council Committees**

The establishment and terms of reference (a copy of which is appended to these minutes) of three new committees were **agreed**. Membership was **agreed** as follows:

#### Finance & Audit Committee

Cllr Corbett, Cllr Malcolm Hogg, vacancy, plus (ex officio) Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council

#### Major Projects (Hinkley) Committee

Cllr Malcolm Hogg, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Youe, plus (ex officio) Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council

#### Planning Committee

Cllr Corbett, Cllr Malcolm Hogg, Cllr Margaret Hogg, Cllr Pardoe, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Youe, vacancy, plus (ex officio) Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council

The timetable for meetings for the period from September 2010 was **agreed**.

### **3864 Joint Funding of Local Services**

Cllr Youe stated that she had requested that this item be placed on the agenda so that the Council could discuss how Sedgemoor District Councils proposals may impact the village. The Clerk reported that following the Town and Parish Council Workshops, the results of which were circulated to councillors last month, Sedgemoor's Executive discussed the matter on 9<sup>th</sup> June and identified the following services as candidates for removal of District Council funding from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011: Christmas Lighting; Installation, servicing and emptying of dog bins; Halls, including Bridgwater Arts Centre; Floral Decoration; Public Conveniences. It was noted that Nether Stowey did not receive any funding for Christmas lighting, halls, or floral decoration. In the current year the Parish Council received £500 from Sedgemoor towards the public conveniences and there were a number of dog bins in the village. It was noted that these changes would not affect the dog bins on the playing field as these were paid for by the playing field. The Clerk commented that in view of the projected figures given at the workshops and the government's public statements regarding public expenditure cuts he felt it was likely that further services such as grass cutting would come under pressure in subsequent financial years.

### **3865 Planning**

- |     |                  |  |
|-----|------------------|--|
| (i) | Application Ref: | 36/10/00011/RM   |
|     | Address:         | 8 Mill Lane  |
|     | Proposal:        | Erection of single storey extension to SW elevation to include garage, on site of existing (to be demolished) and extension to NW elevation on site of existing (to be demolished) |
|     | Applicant:       | Mr & Mrs P Stokes  |
|     | Response:        | Supported – the proposed extension is considered to be appropriate to the site and area.   |

The above response was **approved**.

**3866 Finance**(i) Monthly Financial Report

The monthly financial report for June 2010 was noted.

(ii) Expenditure incurred since the Parish Council meeting of 14 June 2010

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Details</b>
Mrs B Rich	7.96	Refreshments for meeting
Aon Ltd	1144.02	Insurance Premium
R Jeans	100.00	Allotment Rental 2010
S Youe	141.40	Replacement of chq 102744 (07/06/2010) – lost in transit
National Trust	10.00	Active Living Speaker Fee
National Trust	10.00	Active Living Speaker Fee
Chanin & Thomas	333.32	Office Rent July & August
EDF Energy 1 Ltd	73.61	Clock Tower Electricity
Buller Taxis	15.00	Active Living Transport
Susan Sherry	250.00	Internal Audit 2009/10
EDF Energy Customers plc	13.64	Clock Tower Electricity
Society of Local Council Clerks	56.00	Office Stationery (Local Council Administration 8 <sup>th</sup> Edition)
A Ensor	106.00	Internet £59.98, Postage £17.52, Office £2.50 Mileage (NALC) £26
Payroll	3007.16	Salaries / PAYE/NI July & August
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,268.11</b>	

The above expenditure was **approved**.

(iii) Parish Council Banking

It was **agreed** that the Parish Council changes its banking to Bank of Ireland. Bank account signatories to remain as at present. It was further **agreed** that the Parish Council would indemnify the signatories from any claims arising from the operation of the Parish Council's bank accounts.

(iv) Internal Audit Report Year Ending 31 March 2010

The Clerk stated that he agreed with the comments of the Internal Auditor. The report was noted for appropriate actions during the current year. The Council recorded its appreciation of the work undertaken by the Clerk.

**3867 Highways**

Matters raised:

- Ongoing concerns about parking in Mill Lane area associated with the new Children's centre
- Meeting re A39 on 16 July for all parish councils between Bridgwater and Williton

**3868 Reports**

Hinkley Site Stakeholder Group – Cllr Malcolm Hogg reported that the SSG met two weeks previous – there was nothing new to report – all on track regarding decommissioning of the 'A' site.

Hinkley C Community Forum – Cllr Malcolm Hogg reported on Stage 2 Consultation that had just commenced

Western Somerset LARC – Cllr Greig reported that there was a wider LAG meeting on 14 July when it was hoped there may be an update from SWERDA. There was concern that future funding may not be as originally budgeted and it was important to get projects in during 2010/11. There was to be a new streamlined single stage application process for grants between £5,000 and £20,000.

Coleridge Cottage Garden – Cllr Greig reported that following a visit to Dyrham Park there was a revised plan for the garden. The Trust were progressing the plans for the Cottage.

SLCC Conference – The Clerk report on the Regional Conference at Plymouth

NALC Conference – Cllr Greig and the Clerk reported on the recent NALC conference they attended in Bristol.

It was noted that the Clerk would circulate briefing notes on the two conferences to councillors in due course.

### **3869 Correspondence**

Correspondence received included:

- EDF Energy newsletter – Stage 2 consultation running from 9 July to 4 October
- EDF Hinkley Point Stage 2 Consultation papers
- Request from SDC re DVD about Hinkley C
- Minutes of Quantock Cluster Meeting held on 8 June 2010
- Somerset County Council – Chairman’s Award nomination papers
- Somerset Waste Partnership – bulletin
- SDC planning training 28 September Bridgwater House
- Campaign leaflet re County Farms
- Community Volunteers Forum – Tuesday 13 July 10.30am
- Sedgemoor Affordable Housing Open Day – Thursday 15 July 4pm to 7pm
- Berrow Parish Council New Play Area (& muga) 3.30pm Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July
- Opening of Children’s Centre – 3pm Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July
- Sedgemoor Furniture Store AGM – Wednesday 28 July at 2pm

### **3870 Forthcoming Meetings and Events**

Wednesday	14 July	LARC LAG Update	Wheddon Cross	6.30pm to 8.30pm
Thursday	15 July	Sedgemoor Affordable Housing Open Day	Junction 24	4.00pm to 7.30pm
Friday	16 July	Meeting re A39	Village Hall	7.00pm
Thursday	22 July	Active Living	Church Centre	2.00pm
Monday	20 September	Presentation by EDF	Village Hall	7.00pm

### **3871 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be in the Village Hall on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm



## **NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Statement of Policy Priorities - July 2010**

The Parish Council is the first tier of local government. It delivers a range of services for the community. Its role is to represent the local community, provide services to meet local needs and improve quality of life and community well being.

In view of the ever widening range of activities undertaken by the Council, and the prospect of more demands on the Parish Precept in the coming few years due to budget cuts at the District and County Councils, in June 2010 the Council reviewed its activities with a view to setting policy priorities for the year ahead. It is intended that this process will be ongoing with the Council reviewing its priorities at regular intervals, taking into account changes, achievements and local developments.

The following policy / service areas are divided into three classifications.

- Class 1 Priorities are areas which are felt to be very important for the future of Nether Stowey and where action by the Parish Council is a prerequisite to achievement of the policy goal.
- Class 2 Priorities are areas which are felt to be important for the village and where Parish Council action may be of assistance.
- Class 3 Priorities are areas which are desirable and where some Parish Council input may be helpful.

The Parish Council has limited financial and other resources and will not necessarily be able to address all perceived needs. This statement of policy priorities indicates how the Parish Council will prioritise the use of available resources.

This document was approved by the Parish Council on 12 July 2010.

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### **CLASS 1 PRIORITIES**

#### **Nether Stowey Parish Plan**

The Parish Plan will set out the framework for the future of Nether Stowey and will reflect the desires and aspirations of local residents. Where it exists principal authorities and public agencies have to give it consideration when looking at service delivery for the parish. In 2007 the Parish Council obtained a £1000 grant from DEFRA to part fund the preparation of a Nether Stowey Parish Plan. In the last three years considerable background work has been undertaken and some public consultation has been held. The objective is to have a draft parish plan for public consultation during the financial year 2010/11 with the Parish Plan being formally adopted by the Parish Council in the summer of 2011.

The Parish Plan will address a number of issues that residents have expressed concerns about including issues such as parking in the village and road safety on the A39.

### **Proposed Hinkley C Power Station**

The new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point proposed by EDF Energy will be the largest development project ever in this area and as such is bound to have a significant impact on the surrounding area, including Nether Stowey. The village has historically had a positive relationship with the Hinkley Point power stations and the Parish Council will work to ensure that measures are in place to mitigate any negative impacts of the new development on the village and to maximise the positive impacts.

### **Affordable Housing**

In order to remain a vibrant community, young people must be able to stay in the village. Following the development of seven affordable houses for rent in Highbeer Close, the Parish Council's Affordable Housing Working Group has been working for the last year with the Community Council for Somerset and Sedgemoor District Council to assess the need for further affordable housing for local people. It is expected that, in the course of the next few months, this work will lead to a detailed proposal for further such housing in Nether Stowey.

### **Parish Communications**

In order to keep residents informed of developments and to encourage wider involvement in village affairs and as a means of gauging public opinion about local issues the Parish Council will publish regular newsletters which will be distributed to every house in the village.

### **Youth**

The Parish Council will continue to support initiatives designed to provide services and activities for local young people. The Parish Council, through **CANS** (*Community Action for Nether Stowey*), supported the formation of the Nether Stowey Youth Council which is open to all young people between the ages of 9 and 19 years, who are resident in or educated in the village. In recent months the Youth Council has been dormant and the parish Council will seek to revitalise it and expand its membership.

### **Environment**

The Parish Council will work with the District Council to deal with environmental nuisances such as dog fouling and litter. It will also work with the Western Somerset Local Action for Rural Communities project to promote a low carbon future for the parish.

### **Local Services**

Central Government is proposing major cuts in public expenditure at a national level and this is expected to have a major impact on the budgets of both the Sedgemoor District and Somerset County Council budgets. It is likely, therefore, that proposals will be made to cut local services provided by those authorities. As far as its resources allow, working with the principal authorities and any other appropriate organisations the Parish Council will seek to protect services provided for the benefit of Nether Stowey.

### **A39**

The A39 is a vital link for Nether Stowey providing access to Bridgwater and the M5 corridor. The road is a designated Red Route and there have been a number of occasions when road traffic accidents have led to the closure of the road and substantial congestion in the by roads surrounding the village. The growth in traffic associated with new developments such as Hinkley C will only exacerbate the situation. The Parish Council will continue to work with neighbouring Parish Councils, the County Highway authority and the emergency services to establish an emergency traffic management plan for the A39 between Williton and Bridgwater. The Parish Council will also continue to work to improve safety for traffic entering and leaving the village via the A39 and pedestrians crossing the road to use the facilities on the north side of the parish.

### **Clock Tower**

The Clock Tower is an important icon for the village and the acknowledged centre of the village. The tower and clock are now over 110 years old and require careful management. The Parish Council will continue to maintain the clock and tower.

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## **CLASS 2 PRIORITIES**

### **Playing Field**

The playing field is the responsibility of an independent charity (Nether Stowey Recreation Ground). The Parish Council recognises that it is an important facility for the village and will continue to assist the Charity's Management Committee in their aim to renew and enhance the facilities on the playing field.

### **Village Hall**

The Village Hall is the responsibility of an independent charity (Nether Stowey Village Hall). The Parish Council looks to the Village Hall Management Committee to prepare an ongoing business plan for the Hall and will continue to support the Village Hall.

### **Elderly Residents**

The Parish Council will continue to provide administrative support and limited financial support for Quantock Active Living which organises activities for the over 50's. The Parish Council will also continue to support the provision of transport for shopping trips for the elderly and infirm by Community Transport.

### **Nether Stowey May Fair**

The Parish Council will continue to provide administrative support for the organisation of the Nether Stowey May Fair by **CANS**.

### **Heritage & Culture**

Nether Stowey is an historic village with an important conservation area at its centre, many listed buildings and a National Trust property (Coleridge Cottage). It is also an important gateway to the Quantock Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. As such it attracts many visitors who provide income for local businesses. The Parish Council will work with National Trust and other appropriate local organisations businesses to support the provision of visitor information leaflets and facilities, including the enhancement of Coleridge Cottage Garden.

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## **CLASS 3 PRIORITIES**

### **Nether Stowey Oral History Project**

The Parish Council supported the establishment of the Oral History project which has been funded by a grant from the County Councillor representing the parish. It is hoped that in due course the project will become a free standing charitable organisation. In the meantime the Parish Council will hold funds and provide some administrative support.

### **Christmas Tree and Decorations on The Cross**

The Christmas tree and decorations on The Cross are funded by public donation and erected by Nether Stowey Fire Station. The Parish Council provides support by sourcing the tree and holding funds raised.

**COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

(i) Terms of Reference All Committees

1. All Parish Councillors to receive the agenda papers of all committees.
2. All Parish Councillors may attend and observe meetings of committees of which they are not a member.
3. Draft Committee Minutes to be circulated to all Parish Councillors with two weeks of the meeting.
4. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council are members ex officio of all committees.
5. All committee meetings are open to the public (other than for items deemed confidential in accordance with Standing Orders).
6. Minutes of committees to be reported to the next possible meeting of the full Parish Council.
7. All matters of Parish Council policy to be determined by the full Parish Council. The Parish Council precept and annual budget to be set by the full Parish Council. (i.e. committees only deal with matters delegated to them within approved policies and budgets.
8. All committees are subject to the Parish Council's Standing Orders.
9. Quorum for all Committees is three Councillors.

(ii) Committee Terms of Reference

Committee	<b>Finance &amp; Audit Committee</b>
Membership	Three Councillors Ex Officio Chairman & Vice Chairman
Delegated Powers	(i) Preparation of detailed forward budgets and proposals for the parish precept for consideration by the full Parish Council (ii) Dealing with all payments within approved budgets (iii) Risk Assessment and Management (iv) Internal Financial Controls and Internal Audit (v) Annual Report to External Auditors (vi) Banking and cash handling arrangements (vii)
Meetings	(i) To meet monthly (ii) Additional meetings to be held at the discretion of the Committee Chairman



Committee	<b>Major Projects (Hinkley Point) Committee</b>
Membership	Three Councillors Ex Officio Chairman & Vice Chairman
Delegated Powers	To deal with matters relating to liaison with (i) Hinkley Point A site (ii) Hinkley Point B Power Station (iii) The proposed Hinkley Point C Power Station. Including attendance at Site Stakeholder meetings and any other Community forums or liaison meetings relating to the above.  Subject to any formal responses to other statutory bodies being approved by the full Parish Council.
Meetings	(i) To meet every other month (ii) Additional meetings to be held at the discretion of the Committee Chairman

Committee	<b>Planning Committee</b>
Membership	All Parish Councillors
Delegated Powers	(i) To consider and comment on behalf of the Parish Council on planning applications submitted to Sedgemoor District Council, Somerset County Council and West Somerset District Council. (ii) To attend and present the Parish Council view at meetings of the relevant committees of the above authorities.
Meetings	As and when required.

(iii) Meetings Timetable September 2010 – May 2011

Day	Date	Time	Meeting	Venue	Notes
Monday	13-Sep-10	3.00pm	Finance & Audit Committee	Parish Office	
Monday	20-Sep-10	7.00pm	Major Projects (Hinkley) Committee	Village Hall	<i>Presentation by EDF Energy on Hinkley C Stage 2 Consultation</i>
Friday	24-Sep-10	7.00pm	Parish Council	Village Hall	<i>Special meeting to approve response to Hinkley C Stage 2 Consultation</i>
Monday	04-Oct-10	3.00pm	Finance & Audit Committee	Parish Office	
Wednesday	06-Oct-10	TBA	Village Maintenance Committee	Parish Office	
Monday	25-Oct-10	7.00pm	Community Action for Nether Stowey	Village Hall	
Monday	01-Nov-10	3.00pm	Finance & Audit Committee	Parish Office	
Monday	08-Nov-10	7.00pm	Parish Council	Village Hall	
Monday	15-Nov-10	7.00pm	Major Projects (Hinkley) Committee	Village Hall	
Monday	06-Dec-10	3.00pm	Finance & Audit Committee	Parish Office	
Wednesday	08-Dec-10	TBA	Village Maintenance Committee	Parish Office	
Monday	13-Dec-10	7.00pm	Parish Council	Village Hall	<i>Special meeting to approve Budget &amp; Precept for 2011/2012</i>
Monday	20-Dec-10	7.00pm	Community Action for Nether Stowey	Village Hall	
Tuesday	04-Jan-11	3.00pm	Finance & Audit Committee	Parish Office	
Monday	10-Jan-11	7.00pm	Parish Council	Village Hall	
Monday	17-Jan-11	7.00pm	Major Projects (Hinkley) Committee	Village Hall	
Monday	07-Feb-11	3.00pm	Finance & Audit Committee	Parish Office	
Wednesday	09-Feb-11	TBA	Village Maintenance Committee	Parish Office	
Monday	21-Feb-11	7.00pm	Community Action for Nether Stowey	Village Hall	
Monday	07-Mar-11	3.00pm	Finance & Audit Committee	Parish Office	
Monday	14-Mar-11	7.00pm	Parish Council	Village Hall	
Monday	21-Mar-11	7.00pm	Major Projects (Hinkley) Committee	Village Hall	
Tuesday	05-Apr-11	3.00pm	Finance & Audit Committee	Parish Office	
Monday	11-Apr-11	7.00pm	Annual Parish Meeting	Village Hall	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>05-May-11</b>	<b>Parish Council Elections</b>			
Monday	16-May-11	7.00pm	Parish Council	Village Hall	<i>First meeting of new Parish Council</i>