MINUTES OF NETHER STOWEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 14th July 2003 AT 7.00pm
IN THE PLAYING FIELD PORTACABIN

Present: Parish Councillors
Joyce Standring (Chairman)
Mark Fitzmaurice (Vice Chairman)
Lorraine Clark
Alan Corkett
Liz Dean
Christina Ingram
Carol Parsons
Teresa Youe
Gill Bennett (arrived 8.05pm)

In attendance:
District Councillor David Joslin
District Councillor Lillian Cartwright
County Councillor John Edney
Parish Council Clerk Ainslie Ensor
Somerset Community Council Jonathan Lazell
Somerset Community Council Joe Cox
3 parishioners

Apologies:
District Councillor Ken Dyer

2760 Housing Needs Survey
The Chairman welcomed Jonathan Lazell and Joe Cox of the Community Council and invited them to outline the results of the recent Housing Needs Survey. Mr Lazell explained that the Community Council was approached by Sedgemoor DC and the Parish Council in April 2003 to undertake a Housing Needs survey. A survey form, with a reply paid envelop, was distributed to every home in the village with additional forms available in the Post Office and Parish Council office. Only people who considered themselves in housing need were required to complete and return the form. 45 replies were received, 84% of respondents stated they needed to move within 3 years. The majority (71%) of those seeking rented accommodation wished to do so at below £100 per week. Where respondents could afford higher levels of rent there was a clear aspiration to some form of home ownership. However, only 11% of households said that they could afford to purchase a property worth more than £100,000. This indicates that a significant number of people would not be able to access the open property market. In this context people in this area were badly affected by the increase in property prices which for Sedgemoor rose by 28% in the year to December 2002. Respondents were overwhelmingly single people or couples looking for their first independent home. The majority would, therefore, only qualify for 1 bedroom accommodation (by the District Council assessment system) but experience had shown it was more sensible to provide 2 or even 3 bedroom accommodation in rural areas. Mr Lazell said that whilst it was important to remember that the survey only provided a snapshot at one point in time it indicated that circa 40 homes were needed in the
village, split approximately 50/50 between social rented accommodation and some form of shared home ownership. This was a very positive result and the Community Council would be happy to work with the District and Parish Councils to promote the needed homes.

Mr Lazell answered questions from Councillors and members of the public. He stated that as a result of the survey, a significant number of people had recently been added to the Sedgemoor DC Housing Waiting List. The majority of respondents were under 30 years old.

The Chairman thanked the Community Council for their work.

The meeting was closed and opened to the public.

Matters raised by the attending public:
- There are no fish in the stream
- Suggested that a 5mph speed limit is requested for St Mary Street from Gulliford’s Garage to the Cross.
- Problem of speeding traffic in Mill Lane
- Problems with school children throwing stones (at one another) and hitting cars parked in the old road adjacent to the allotments
- There is a lot of ragwort growing on road verges etc

The Parish Council meeting was reconvened.

2761 Approval of Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th June 2003
It was pointed out that there was a typographical error in the third line of the report on the public session. This should read “Residents reported that they had received “.

Proposed by Cllr Dean, Seconded by Cllr Fitzmaurice - the Minutes were approved subject to the above correction.

2762 Matters Arising

Minute 2751 (i) – Cllr Standring reported that as Mr Cadman had been unable to make progress with the plaques she was arranging to visit the company in Bridgwater that may be able to produce the plaques. There was need for design ideas. It had been suggested that an item be included in the next Parish Council Newsletter inviting ideas and also approach David Worthy for a design idea relating to the Women’s Walk.

The Chairman declared a prejudicial interest in the following item.
Minute 2751 (iv) – The Clerk reported that neither of the companies recommended by the County Conservation officer had provided a quotation. It was suggested that Mark Allcock at Sedgemoor Dc be contacted as he may be able to suggest a suitable company.

2763 Cemetery
Nothing to report.
**2764 Highways**

Items needing attention included:
- Road Repairs required at corner of St Michael’s Close and outside 74 Castle Hill
- Still awaiting cut back of overgrown vegetation
- Road and path inside entrance to the car park needs cleaning, falling seeds from the cherry trees are making it dangerous

The Chairman reported that she was still awaiting details of the A39 crossing at Stogursey Lane. The Clerk reported that he had recently been in contact with the Officer dealing with the Planning application for the new housing development and understood that the Planning Certificate had not yet been issued as the District Council were still awaiting information from the applicant. It seemed unlikely, therefore, that there would be an early commencement of work on the junction improvements.

The Clerk reported that during the last week he had met with Jamie Roberts, Operations Manger for Sedgemoor Commercial Services with regard to the many complaints about street cleansing. He was hopeful this would lead to an improved service.

**2765 The Quality Parish & Town Council Scheme**

The Chairman reported that the details of the Quality Council Scheme had been received and that she would be providing a digest of the main points for Councillors to consider. Councillors were provided with a copy of the Scheme Application form.

**2766 Reports**

(i) **Playing Field** – Cllr Youe reported that following the meeting on 30 June a new Committee had been formed. This would be meeting in the next week to inspect the Playing Field and consider maintenance requirements. The Playing Field Committee had received a request from H Chipperfield & Sons for the field to be used for fair. The Chairman reported that a similar request had been received by the Parish Council. Following a general discussion it was felt that there were too many unanswered questions and that given the short notice it would be best if the Playing Field Committee declined the request for this year and looked at the issues raised in detail for the future. The Clerk reported that he had that afternoon been informed of an accident that occurred at the weekend in the toddlers play area. Prior to the Parish Council meeting he had inspected the equipment in the toddler’s area and several items were broken and in a poor state of repair. Councillors expressed grave concern and recommended that the Playing Field Committee take immediate action to remove or repair the damaged equipment.

(ii) **Village Hall** – Cllr Dean reported that the 100 new chairs purchased by the Hall last year had experienced an unacceptable failure rate. As a result all
were being replaced by the supplier, free of charge, with a higher specification chair.

(iii) Youth Club – Cllr Parsons reported that the Youth Club would be organising an evening when the young people would clean the stream running through the village.

(iv) School Governors – Cllr Standring reported that as a result of changes in the regulations all school governing bodies were being reconstituted. There would no longer be Minor Local Authority nominees, these being replaced by “Community Governors”. Many schools in Somerset had already implemented the changes and the result was smaller governing bodies.

### 2767 Planning

Proposed by Cllr Fitzmaurice, Seconded by Cllr Youe, the following responses were approved.

(a) Address: 25 Castle Street
   Proposal: Display of one projecting non-illuminated sign and one facia non
   illuminated sign to front elevation
   Response: No objections. Please ensure colour of signs is suitable for the conservation area

(b) Address: Stowey Court Farm
   Proposal: Erection of extension to south elevation of cheese manufacturing
dairy
   Response: The Parish Council supports this application which will enhance the future of this important local business.

(c) Address: Stowey Court Farm
   Proposal: Extension to car park
   Response: The Parish Council supports this proposal as the development will enhance this important local business

(d) Address: The Clock House, St Mary Street
   Proposal: Reduce canopy of Yew Tree (T1) by 1.5m
   Response: Parish Council supports proposal

(e) Address: 94 Castle Hill
   Proposal: 20% crown thin 3 Cupressus Macrocarpa (T1-T3)
   Response: No objections

### 2768 Liaison

Cllr Joslin had nothing to report.

Cllr Cartwright commented that Sedgemoor DC would over the next few years spend a considerable amount on Bridgwater House, and the swimming pools. Also they would be looking at the future of the Council’s housing stock, by 2005 they had
to decide whether to retain the houses, or move them to an arm’s length organisation. The final decision would be made by the tenants. Cllr Edney apologised that circumstances had prevented him attending recent Parish Council meetings but hoped to be present in future. The County Council had a new Chief Executive, Mr Alan Jones, who had a brief to act as a new broom. Mr Jones would be touring the area in the coming months and Cllr Edney hoped to bring him to Nether Stowey later in the year.

2769 Village Maintenance
The following items were reported.
- Coleridge Road path needs clearing of overgrown vegetation
- Palmers Path similarly needs clearing
- There was rubbish dumped on the footpath at the rear of the Village Hall
- Brambles need cutting back adjacent to the allotments
- Culvert by allotments still not cleared
The laurel hedge in Mill Lane had been cut back.

2770 Finance
The following were presented for ratification, being payments for the previous month:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payee</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Ensor</td>
<td>£506.65</td>
<td>Salary £484.53 Mileage £14.00 Postage £8.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inland Revenue</td>
<td>£131.44</td>
<td>PAYE/NI Contributions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garden Maids</td>
<td>£212.00</td>
<td>Cemetery Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedgemoor CVS</td>
<td>£24.09</td>
<td>Minibus hire May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J A Standing</td>
<td>£100.00</td>
<td>Chairman’s Honorarium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chanin &amp; Thomas</td>
<td>£150.00</td>
<td>Office Rent July 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWEB</td>
<td>£7.95</td>
<td>Clock tower electricity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedgemoor District Council</td>
<td>£698.45</td>
<td>Parish Council Elections 01.05.03</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shaw &amp; Son Ltd</td>
<td>£110.00</td>
<td>Parish Councillor Guides</td>
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<tr>
<td>PestTech Environmental Services</td>
<td>£105.00</td>
<td>Cemetery Mole Treatment</td>
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Total £2045.58

Proposed by Cllr Corkett, Seconded by Cllr Bennet
The above payments were approved.

2771 Correspondence
Correspondence received included:
The Chairman reported that a training video on the Code of Conduct had been received and she would be arranging a training session for Councillors in early August.

The Chairman reported that she had been approached by David Worthy who had enquired if the Parish Council would be prepared to stage a celebration/street fair in June 2006 to mark the 200th anniversary of the Women’s Walk. There was general agreement that a suitable event be arranged.

Forthcoming Meetings

• 17 July – Planning Seminar for new councillors Bridgwater House – Cllr Ingram requested that she attend
• 24 July – Quantock Deer Forum meeting at Fyne Court
• 1 August – Sedgemoor CAB annual general meeting Bridgwater House

The Clerk would be away from 18 July to 18 August.

2773 August Meeting
It was agreed that the Parish Council would not meet in August.

2774 Date of Next Meeting
This will be held on Monday 8th September 2003 at 7pm in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.38pm.