**Nether Stowey Village Hall and Recreation Ground CIO Reg. 1176413**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2024

Thursday 6th June 2024 7.30pm

Portacabin, Recreation Ground, Nether Stowey

**Attendees**

**Trustees**: Simon Freeman, Jane Erskine, Mark Howells, Sharon Mayell, Eleanor Jones, Mark Cooke, Jo Davison

**Parish Council rep & Chair of Playing Field committee**: Barbara Rich

**Members/village residents**: Judith Greig, Chris Wright, Sandra Sidaway, Kai Baker, Steve Easden, Marie Easden, Roger Farmiloe, Janet Phillips, Nigel Phillips, Pat Stacey, Roger Stacey

**Apologies**

**Trustees**: Andrew Jeanes

**Members:** Wendy Hobbs, Lucy Mayhew, Gerry Wright

To consider and, if thought fit, approve the following resolutions that will be proposed as ordinary resolutions:

1. Members and Trustees received and unanimously adopted the annual statement of accounts and Trustees’ annual report of the C.I.O for the financial year ended 31 March 2023.

Accounts for year ended March 2024 are being prepared and show approx. £22,000 income for the year against £25,000 expenses, leaving us with a small deficit as we have to pay for water, electric and insurance for the old village hall but with no income from it.

Bank account balances as at 6/6/24:

Current account £8,379.05

50:50 Lottery £1,42.50

Stowey Centre fundraising £5,994.22

Savings account £52,835.63

**Total £68,251.40**

A copy of the annual statement of accounts is available on the C.I.O’s website -

<https://stowey.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/NSVHRG-Accounts-2223.pdf>

1. Members and Trustees approved the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2023 A copy of the minutes are available on the C.I.O’s website

<https://stowey.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/CIO-AGM-Minutes-27-03-23-Public.docx.pdf>

1. Trustees and members voted to reappoint Jane Erskine who is retiring by rotation in accordance with the C.I.O’s constitution as an Elected Charity Trustee.
2. Trustees and members voted to reappoint to re-appoint Jo Davison who is retiring by rotation in accordance with the C.I.O’s constitution as an Elected Charity Trustee

**Other Business**

**1. Stowey Centre Update**

1. 50-year lease has been agreed with Somerset Council for the amenity land to be used for a car park for the new centre. The legal costs of the lease have been covered by benefit in kind from Clark Willmott LLP which would like to extend our gratitude to. These were in addition to £3000 from the CIO Stowey Centre funds. It has taken nearly 4 years to agree due to the local authority being slow to respond to requests.
2. In order to secure funding, the CIO need to legally own or lease the land. This is a milestone in progressing the project.
3. An ecological survey of the site and an appraisal of the plans required replacement bat habitation to be planted by the CIO. The planting done by Stowey Green Spaces in the Platinum and Jubilee woods was not deemed to be acceptable. Therefore, the CIO had to find an additional 0.3ha of land, which has been offered to the charity by the Quantock National Landscape who have adopted the land at New Stowey Farm. **Nigel Phillips** to ask Ian Porter of the Quantock National Landscape  (previously known as the AONB ) to write a supporting letter to confirm their intentions. It will hopefully provide Somerset Ecology Services with reassurance that the CIO are taking all relevant actions to mitigate habitation loss and therefore can grant us permission to build the new village hall.
4. **Steve Easden** - of Nether Stowey Football Club reported that membership stands at 70 men, 20 women, 100 + juniors. The club is growing year on year, but the facilities are not fit for purpose and are deteriorating at increasing rates. He expressed his concerns about the delays in planning approval and the significant negative impact it is having upon the football club. They are unable to host tournaments or grow beyond the current membership. **Simon Freeman** had a meeting with **Brendan Dix** from the Somerset FA who are aware of Nether Stowey football club’s plight, and we are a named project in their local development plans. Therefore, the FA would like to support a funding application from the CIO and have reissued a letter of support.

**2. Old Village Hall Update**

1. For the outline planning application 36/23/0008 for 4 dwellings, the site required an initial bat survey to be performed mid-May. The ecologist report could take up to 3 months and will dictate any mitigating actions and time scales for placing the village on the open market with outline planning permission.
2. Equity released from the sale of the land will be used at match funding for the New Stowey Centre
3. The CIO would like to point out the planning is for outline only, and that any future developer may wish to change the use or the plans altogether.
4. The purpose of gaining planning permission on the land is to increase the value which is in the best interest of the community.
5. It was unanimously agreed that the old village hall is not fit for modern purpose and that a new centre is exactly what the village needs as soon as possible.

3. **General update of current operations / working groups / user groups of the recreation ground:**

1. **Sharon Mayell** stepped down as chair of the Playing field committee and **Barbara Rich** has taken over the role.
2. There continues to be a low level of antisocial behaviour that the local Police Community Support Officers monitor with CCTV footage.
3. **Stowey Green Spaces** continue to support and work with the CIO to help maintain the recreation ground and other areas within the village.

5. **Party in the Park / School fete**

1. To be held on Saturday 6th July. It worked well last year when the Nether Stowey School hosted their fete on the recreation ground with the CIO providing the bar.
2. The school fete will be held 12-4pm
3. Party in the Park 6pm - late.
4. The CIO will run the bar and an open mic night for entertainment.
5. If there are enough volunteers, there will also be a BBQ.
6. Stowey Green Spaces will be litter picking.

**6. A.O.B**

1. Christine Wright of Lime Street and CIO member, feels that there has not been enough clear communication to the wider public about the Stowey Centre and the future of the old village hall, especially to those who are not on-line or have access to the Quantock Messenger. Trustees agree this is a fair comment and will produce a monthly newsletter that will be printed and placed on notice boards at prominent places in the village.
2. The CIO would like to thank all the members, committees, especially Stowey Green Spaces, Nether Stowey Football Club, Nether Stowey School, and Thomas Poole Library for their continued support.
3. The CIO would like to thank Nether Stowey Parish Council for the grant towards safety matting for the slide in the park.