

STOGURSEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 13 October 2026 at 7.00 pm

Lord St Audries Room, Victory Hall, Stogursey

Present: Cllr Michael Brooks (Chair), Cllr Chris Morgan, Cllr Chris Ford, Cllr Jen Ody, Cllr Ian Corrigan and Cllr Allan Searle.

In attendance: Ann Corrigan (Clerk), Somerset County Councillor Hugh Davies and two members of the public.

Public Forum — 7.00 pm

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Richard Ayres, Sue Goss, Sue Jones and Stuart Lake and approved. Cllr Jones intends to return to meetings; in the meantime, she will continue to work from home on parish matters. The Council resolved to grant her compassionate leave.

2. Approval of the minutes of the September meeting

Approval of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting, held on 8 September 2026, was proposed by Cllr Ford and seconded by Cllr Ody. The Council resolved unanimously that the Chair should sign them as a true and accurate record.

3. Declarations of interest and dispensations - None declared.

4. Update from Somerset County Councillor Hugh Davies

a) Urgent road closure — Lime Street, Nether Stowey

An urgent temporary road closure will be in place from 26 to 27 October 2026, between 8.30 am and 4.00 pm each day, to enable Arboricare Ltd to undertake tree-maintenance work on behalf of Somerset Council. Emergency-service access through the site will be permitted.

b) Roadworks between Williton and Minehead

Works scheduled to begin in November have been delayed until January 2027.

c) Dementia technology drop-in event

A free event will be held at Taunton Library on 29 October 2026, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Visitors can explore dementia-friendly technology designed to support safety and everyday living, including robotic pets, sensory projectors, tracking and locating technology, and sensors.

d) Appointment of Deputy Lieutenants

Four new Deputy Lieutenants have been appointed to support Somerset's Lord-Lieutenant, Mohammed Saddiq, the King's representative in the county. Their role includes recognising achievement, promoting voluntary service and strengthening links between communities across Somerset.

5. Paddons Farm

The contracts are with the solicitors and are ready for exchange. The Council is awaiting confirmation from Strongvox of the proposed timescale for restoration work to begin.

6. Planning applications and decisions — Cllr Ody

There were no planning applications for consideration.

7. Finance and administration — Clerk/RFO

a) and b) Bank balances on 30 September 2026 and authorisation of invoice payments and noting of receipts

Members raised no questions regarding the financial statement or the schedules of invoices and receipts circulated before the meeting. Approval of the financial statement and invoices for payment was proposed by

Cllr Ody, seconded by Cllr Searle and carried unanimously. Payments will be made online.

c) External Auditor's report

The Clerk reported that the external auditors had approved the Council's accounts. To comply with Assertion 10 of the AGAR, the auditors require the Council to replace

clerk@stogurseyparishcouncil.org.uk with the government-approved address clerk@stogurseyparishcouncil.gov.uk.

It was resolved that the Clerk to arrange the change of email address.

8. Communications — Cllr Brooks

a) Sir Neville Howse VC

A letter had been received from a relative of Sir Neville Howse VC, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for service during the Boer War and served at Gallipoli. He was born in the village in the 1860s, and his father was the local doctor. His relative would like to meet the Parish Council to explore an appropriate commemoration. The council agreed to this.

b) Proposed councillor surgery

Cllr Brooks proposed holding a councillor surgery to give parishioners a more informal and accessible opportunity to raise Council-related questions. The Council agreed to publicise the proposal on its website, in Stogursey News and on Facebook. If sufficient interest is received, a trial surgery will be arranged.

c) Remembrance Day

Actions:

- Cllr Brooks to have a contact of a local musician who will play the bugle
- The Clerk will arrange a donation to the Royal British Legion.
- Cllr Searle to liaise with J F to arrange for the Gravel to be cleaned or swept before the service.
- Cllr Morgan to liaise with Cllr Brooks regarding the procedure and order of service.

9. Meeting reports — Cllr Morgan

Cllrs Morgan and Goss had attended an EDF-hosted reception for a Swedish delegation at Cannington Court. With nine Swedish power stations nearing the end of their operational lives, the delegation was examining the progress of Hinkley Point C and its effect on local communities to inform future decisions.

10. Forthcoming meetings — Cllrs Morgan and Goss

- **Main Site Forum:** 15 October 2026, Victory Hall.
- **Transport Forum:** 12 November 2026, Cannington.

11. Allotments — Cllr Searle

Cllr Corrigan reported that the allotment tap had been repaired and tested. Cllr Searle reported that all plots were occupied and agreed to send an updated plot plan to the Clerk.

12. Village maintenance — Lengthsman, BRPA and closed churchyard (Cllrs Searle and Corrigan)

a) Weed spraying

A meeting with the Lengthsman was scheduled for Thursday 29 October to discuss spraying the village kerbsides and arrangements to cut the laurel trees at Dawley Farm.

b) Burgage Road Playground

Members agreed that the playground was insecure and had reached the end of its useful life. The Council will consider the action required and consult with the local school, parents, youth club and children about current needs. Cllr Brooks agreed to contact the school. A working party will be established, and the matter will return to the next meeting. The proposal was made by Cllr Brooks and seconded by Cllr Ford.

13. Village enhancements

a) Electrical supply on the Gravel — Cllr Corrigan

The electrical installation has been completed to the latest standards and is fit for purpose.

b) Parish noticeboards — Cllr Corrigan

The noticeboards are due to be delivered on the 14th of October and will be installed at the agreed locations as soon as weather conditions permit.

c) St Andrew's Well

Cllr Brooks reported that he had removed the algae and moss.

d) Speed indicators and proposed Speed Watch — Cllr Brooks

Cllr Brooks had previously circulated the speed indicator report which showed increased traffic through the parish. He has previously proposed recruiting volunteers to form a traffic group and noted that an appeal in Stogursey News had received no responses.

14. Parish road tour: monthly feedback and actions — Cllr Morgan

Cllr Morgan reported issues at Water Lane and Stolford Church. Road signage is required at Farrington Lane, weeds along the C162 require cutting, and the ditch at Shurton lacks protective bollards.

Cllr Morgan left the meeting at 8.25 pm and did not return.

15. Public rights of way — Cllr Brooks

Cllr Brooks reported that the footpath beside the stream at Shurton was overgrown with brambles. It was agreed that Cllr Searle would contact J F to obtain a quotation.

Cllr Searle reported that the footpath behind the school was overgrown and that a newly installed kissing gate could not be opened. The matter is to be reported to Somerset Council.

16. Environment and biodiversity — Cllr Brooks

Cllr Brooks noted that new projects would involve significant work and cost and that grant funding would be required.

Cllr Ford reported that a greenhouse had been donated and would be installed in the Pound, which had been cleared of rubbish. He proposed purchasing a shed, approximately 10 ft by 8 ft, for tool storage and agreed to obtain costings for the next meeting.

Members unanimously agreed that the old water-bowser tank should be removed.

Cllr Ford reported that he had been in discussion with Wessex Water about its Watermark Award, which had already been awarded to Taunton Town Council. The Council agreed to allow Its Community Outreach Co-ordinator to present to the Parish Council soon.

17. Date of next Parish Council meeting:

Tuesday 10 November 2026 at 7.00 pm, Victory Hall, Stogursey.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed by

Michael Brooks

Chair to Stogursey Parish Council