

# Local Community Network

## Dowsborough LCN AGM meeting notes

At Wembdon Village Hall, The Green, Homberg Way, Bridgwater

On Wednesday 18 July 2025

Meeting Started at 6:30pm

### Attendees:

#### Core Members Representing

Cllr Mike Caswell, Somerset Council  
Cllr Hugh Davies, Somerset Council  
Cllr Rosemary Woods, Somerset Council  
Cllr Peter Felton, Chilton Trinity Parish Council  
Cllr Paul Crosland, Fiddington Parish Council  
Cllr John Roberts, Nether Stowey Parish Council  
Cllr Tina Gardener, Otterhampton Parish Council  
Cllr Patrick Tully, Over Stowey Parish Council  
Cllr Simon Stretton, Spaxton Parish Council  
Cllr Chris Morgan, Stogursey Parish Council  
Cllr Paul King, Wembdon Parish Council

#### Other Attendees

Amelia Thompson, Somerset Community Foundation  
Caro Slaymaker, (clerk) Nether Stowey Parish Council  
C H Sanders, Otterhampton Parish Council  
Amanda McMurren, (clerk) Over Stowey Parish Council  
Cllr Sue Goss, Stogursey Parish Council  
D P Gliddon, Wembdon Parish Council  
A N other, Wembdon Parish Council  
L Edwards, Wembdon Parish Council  
Mark Weston, Rep for Ashley Fox MP

#### Somerset Council Officer Team

Sam Murrell (LCN Link Officer), Emma Plummer (Senior Parish and Community Development Officer)

### Apologies:

Cllr Brian Bolt (Somerset Council), Cllr John McVerry (Stockland Bristol PC), Steve Skinner (Kilve PC), Anne Shilton, Link Officer

## **1. Hinkley Point C Funding; current situation and the future by Amelia Thompson, Senior Programmes Manager, Somerset Community Foundation.**

Amelia was welcomed to the meeting and presented a series of slides outlining the Hinkley Point C Community Fund. The slides are attached to these minutes. She highlighted various projects that had recently received funding, the funds that were available and how to apply.

- **Stockland Bristol Church:** Funding was provided to Stockland Bristol Church for creating a community hub. The project includes an accessible kitchenette and a learning base, aimed at improving facilities for local residents and supporting educational activities by the Wildlife and Wetlands Trust (WWT).
- **Holford Cricket Club:** Received £5,000 for cricket equipment and storage, enhancing the club's facilities and supporting local sports activities.
- **Fiddington Village Hall:** Funding of £4,500 awarded to Fiddington Village Hall for a new safety surface for the playground, ensuring a safe environment for children to play.
- **St. Margaret's Hospice:** St. Margaret's Hospice received a grant of £130,000 over three years to fund a specialist nurse dedicated to providing end-of-life care in the community, allowing patients to stay at home during their final days.

Questions were raised by Stogursey Parish Council about projects that had not been eligible for the funding despite being the host parish. (Some of these queries were addressed in the meeting and others were noted for following up).

**Ongoing Consultations:** Amelia discussed the ongoing consultations aimed at evaluating the impact of the community fund. These consultations involve gathering feedback from communities to ensure the fund reaches the right areas and addresses the most pressing needs.

**Long-Term Benefits:** Amelia emphasised the importance of focusing on long-term benefits and ensuring that the community fund creates lasting positive impacts. She highlighted the need to address any gaps in funding to support sustainable community development.

Amelia advised that communities who wanted more information can email [amelia.thompson@somersetcf.org.uk](mailto:amelia.thompson@somersetcf.org.uk) or could direct dial 01749 597135. Amelia was thanked for her attendance and then left the meeting.

## 2. Elect the Chair

The meeting was quorate with at least 25% of the core members in attendance.

Nominations for the position of Chair were requested:

**Nominated:** Cllr Chris Morgan

**Proposed by:** Cllr Hugh Davies (Somerset Council)

**Seconded:** Cllr Sue Goss (Stogursey Parish Council)

There were no other nominations so Cllr Chris Morgan was duly elected.

## 3. Elect the Vice-Chair

**Nominated:** Cllr Mike Caswell (Somerset Council)

**Proposed:** Cllr Hugh Davies (Somerset Council)

**Seconded:** Cllr Paul King (Wembdon Parish Council)

There were no other nominations so Cllr Mike Caswell was re-elected to the position of Vice-Chair.

Following his appointment, the Chair requested that he meet with all the current chairs of the Dowsborough parish councils, to discuss a way forward for the LCN.

## 4. Presentation of report on the LCN's work in the last 12 months

Sam presented a series of slides outlining the achievements of the Dowsborough LCN in the last 12 months. She also agreed to circulate the yearly report which provided an update on the work of all of the LCNs. These are attached to these notes.

## 5. Consider the priorities and areas of focus for the LCN for the next 12 months and working groups.

- **Highways Working Group:** The meeting discussed the continuation of the highways working group, which has been successful in addressing local issues. Participants agreed to continue with the group and schedule future meetings to address traffic management and parking enforcement.

- **Police and Community Engagement:** Participants expressed concerns about the lack of police presence and engagement in their communities. They suggested inviting local police representatives to future meetings to discuss issues and improve communication.

- **Future meeting topics:** Participants suggested various topics for future meetings, including broadband connectivity, planning enforcement, and housing. Following the meeting, it was requested that the subject of the public bus service to the villages was considered as a discussion item.

## **6. Any other business**

The parish clerk for Over Stowey is leaving at the end of August, and the council is looking to recruit a new clerk. More information can be found on this link: [Parish Clerk Vacancy – Over Stowey Parish Council](#)

## **7. Date and venues of future meetings (Venues to be confirmed)**

- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025,
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025,
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026,
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026 (AGM).

**The Action Log is attached.**