

KINGSTON SEYMOUR 122nd ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Approved Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21st April 2016 at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall

Present:

Approximately 50 residents (name details held). North Somerset Councillor Jill Iles, Local Member.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Mike Sewell, Chairman of the Parish Council. Leonie Allday, Clerk, took the minutes.

1. Chairman's welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that it was the occasion of Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday and, on behalf of the meeting, expressed his congratulations and good wishes.

2. Apologies for absence

Carolyn Hills, Parish council Liaison Officer, PC Adam Clarke and PCSO Kathryn Turner. Hugh and Chris Simpson, Chris and Sylvia Stokes, residents.

3. Minutes of 121st Annual Parish Meeting, 23rd April 2015

These were agreed to be a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the chairman.

4. Matters arising

The chairman commented that several projects mentioned at the 2015 meeting had now been completed: these included the construction of the solar park, the strengthening of the sea defences (costing £5 million) and the speed and turning surveys conducted last September.

5. Chairman's Annual Report

Copies were available for everyone; the chairman highlighted the following:

- He thanked all councillors for their work; the Election of 2015 had been uncontested with only 5 candidates standing for 7 places, but the remaining 2 places had been filled by co-option and the membership of the Council had been stable throughout the rest of the period.
- The Clerk would be retiring in August after 25 years in post; the vacancy had been widely advertised and there were 7 applicants. Shortlisting was in progress and interviews would be conducted in mid-May. Thanks were due to the Clerk for her long

period of service.

- The village website was increasingly well used, although the magazine remained important. Thanks were due to Sylvia Stokes who managed both channels of communication very effectively.
- Most villagers were now receiving a faster Broadband service, but some were still without any service at all. The Parish Council had responded positively to the Government's recent consultation on making Broadband speeds of at least 10Mbps a universal service obligation.
- Community Resilience Plans were being finalised and all parishioners would shortly receive a "key information" leaflet.
- Thanks were due to Paul Cox for keeping up the pressure on NSC in respect of problems with roads and footpaths. Also to the Friends, especially Mark Humphries, for keeping the churchyard tidy, and to Cheryl Sewell for organising the telephone box book and toy exchange.
- The solar park would be formally opened on the morning of 16 July.
- There was now a Village Agent, Emma Edwards, whose remit was to advise on services available to the over 50s. Her contact details had been advertised.
- The Parish Council had expressed concern about the volume of new housing proposed for Yatton, as it would put additional pressure on already fully stretched local infrastructure. MS had been assured, however, that there was no proposal in the short to medium term to change the existing school allocation arrangements.
- The recommendations and actions of the Parish Plan were due for review and this would commence shortly.

There were no questions to the chairman. The Clerk advised that she had just received details of grants of £500 available from "Connecting Devon and Somerset" to those with Broadband speeds of 2Mbps or lower; this sum would cover the cost of installing satellite links to affected premises. She would put the details in the magazine and on the website.

6. Accounts for year ended 31st March 2015

The Clerk referred to the Accounts published in the annual Report and to the spreadsheet listing receipts and payments over the four year period 2012-16. The only question concerned materials for the repainting of the telephone box; the chairman indicated that these were being donated.

7. Website report

No report was given as the web manager was on holiday.

8. Churchyard grant

It was indicated that the Parish Council would continue to make an annual grant.

9. Presentation and discussion – Road Safety – should there be a speed limit in Kingston Seymour?

The chairman presented the results of the speed survey conducted over one week in the previous September (attached). He stressed that no decisions had been made, and none would be made that evening, although a show of hands would be helpful to councillors.

A long and lively discussion then ensued, during which the following points were made:

- The majority of road users were actually driving at reasonable speeds, but a minority (significant in Lampley Road and Back Lane, smaller in Ham Lane and Middle Lane) were driving at speeds of up to (and very occasionally in excess of) 60mph – opinion was divided as to whether this justified a speed limit or not. The chairman advised that the NSC Highways Engineer had indicated that the data supported a 30mph limit but not a 20mph limit.
- The survey period did not cover times when the village was especially busy with farm traffic (silage-making, maize harvest), so the results could be said to represent a “best case” scenario.
- The perceived speed of farm traffic and other HGVs was probably greater than the actual speed – but large vehicles at close quarters could be alarming to other road users.
- Even if speed limits were imposed, they would be ineffective unless enforced; however this was not a reason for doing nothing and no enforcement was possible without a speed limit.

Drawing the discussion to a close, the chairman asked for a show of hands to help the Parish Council in reaching a decision on whether or not to request a speed limit. The results were as follows:

Option 1 – Do nothing – 9

Option 2 – Gateway feature only – 5

Option 3 – Gateway feature plus 30mph (small footprint) – 0

Option 4 – Gateway feature plus 40mph (large footprint) – 31

There was also support for a speed limit higher than 30mph but below the national speed limit along Lampley Road (29), but it was noted that this was a matter for Yatton PC.

10. Any other business

None.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

These minutes were approved at the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 4th May 2017