

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the 123rd Annual Meeting of the Parishioners of Kingston Seymour held on
Thursday 4th May 2017 at 19.30
In the Kingston Seymour Village Hall

Councillors Present:

Mike Sewell (MS) - Chairman
Peter Harris (PH)

Paul Cox (PC)
Mike Wallis (MW)

Caroline Harris (CH)
Ian Wariner (IW)

In attendance:

Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO

Jill Iles (JI), District Councillor

Judith Hadley (JH), District
Councillor

14 Parishioners

Later: PC Adam Clarke

PCSO Rachel Sellars

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the parishioners and guest speakers and hoped that everyone who find the meeting interesting and informative.

2. Minutes of the 122nd Annual Meeting

It was proposed by JI and seconded by PC that the Minutes were a true record of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st April 2016.

3. Matters Arising from the 122nd Annual Meeting

MS stated that any relevant areas would be picked up during the course of this meeting.

MS introduced the first of four speakers who had been invited to talk to the meeting about their areas – all of which were particularly relevant to the Kingston Seymour community.

4. Richard Simmons – Farming in Kingston Seymour

Key Points

- More pressure on farmers to produce more food for less cost
- Consequential increase in the size of machinery used and increased use of specialist contractors
- Rightly, increased Health & Safety requirements and to protect bio-security
- Farmers make a significant contribution to the beauty of the countryside around us
- Countryside users and farmers should always respect each other's interests and livelihoods

5. Andy Gillam – Village Hall

Key points

- New management structure implemented
- The land and buildings are still vested in a charity but a new Management Committee now run all of the day to day activities of the hall
- Seeking to re-establish itself as the "hub" for village life
- Wish to secure new business to help sustainability
- Installation of Wi-Fi should attract new business users during the day and will also be available to parishioners
- Have installed new lighting and are planning to obtain new furniture

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

6. Parish Report

Summarising the activity of the Parish Council over the preceding year, the Chairman noted:

- That the Councillor team of seven had remained in place throughout and that they had worked and supported each other well across the period.
- That the transition of Clerk responsibilities from Leonie Allday to Steve Dixon had been managed well. The Chairman thanked Leonie Allday for her service and welcomed Steve to his new role.
- There had been no increase in the Parish precept for 2017/18.
- That the village website had received a complete refresh and that users were commenting favourably. The Chairman thanked Mrs Stokes and her predecessor Mrs Stockwell for their work in supporting the "old" website since 2013.
- That a new Village Agent – Sarah Friend – had been appointed to support our older residents
- That the Parish Council had supported the maintenance of the churchyard, the Village magazine and were going to fund the Village Hall broadband
- The first stage of traffic calming measures – discussed at last year's meeting – had been put into place – albeit with some "teething troubles" which the Parish Council was working to resolve.

Delivering the Financial update, SD reported:

- That the figures were currently "unaudited" but that process was underway. There would be a statutory period (26TH June to 4th August) when the accounts could be formally examined and notice of this would be posted in due course.
- That the Council's financial assets had reduced by £966.22 over the year and stood at £9,504.53 at the end of March 2017. The year had seen one exceptional item with the retirement of Mrs Allday after 25 years of service to the village and where the Council's contractual obligation saw a one-off gross cost of £4,305 being incurred and absorbed.
- A grant of £925 had been received to support delivery of the statutory Transparency Code whereby Council information is publicly available through the website. These funds had already been used to fund training on the new web site and, in the new financial year, would support the costs of running the web site and would pay for the Wi Fi service which is being installed in the Village Hall and which will be free to parishioners and other users of the hall.
- Apart from the extraordinary items mentioned above, other areas of expenditure were in line with expectations

Looking to the 2017/18 financial year, SD reported:

- The Council had not increased the Parish precept
- The agreed budget would allow for up to £3,300 to be invested in village projects and the refurbishment of village assets this year. There would also be funding to support the Post Office, churchyard maintenance and the village magazine.
- Other items were broadly as in previous years

In closing this section, the Chairman reflected on the Parish Plan drawn up in 2011 and commented – under the headings used in the plan - that many things had been achieved or were underway:

- The Natural Environment; Coastal Footpath plans were progressing and discussions with landowners were nearly concluded, recycling facilities were now being provided by North Somerset and that there were now covers over the tanks at the treatment works
- Communications: broadband availability in most of the village was now much better and the village website had become a reality and was now into its second iteration
- Flood Risk & Development; the coastal defences for the village were much improved and there was a new community resilience plan in place
- Traffic & Road safety: much work had been done around the Triangle and the Lampley Road traffic calming steps had been installed. These were always the first steps and their impacts will be closely monitored.
- The Council would maintain a watching brief over the existing Plan

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Returning to the Community presentations, the Chairman introduced Leonie and John Allday, speaking on behalf of All Saints Church.

7. Leonie and John Allday – All Saints Church

Key points

- Tim Scott oversees 5 local churches – centred on Yatton - with Warren Williams as our “house for duty” priest and currently due to stay until 2019
- Plans are in place to add a toilet facility to help with the overall usability of the church. However, funds throughout the Church of England are tight.
- The weekend services rotate through a varied timetable and all are welcome to join the current congregations which typically numbers around 30
- Our Church needs to make a contribution of some £20k towards overall running costs so parishioners are urged to support fund raising efforts.
- There are many church based activities such as the Flower Guild, bell ringers, Sunday school and the church is now open for viewing on a Saturday

8. Mark Humphries – Friends of All Saints Church

Key points

- the Friends group was set up in 1996 to support the fabric of this historic building and its grounds
- parishioners are urged to support Friends events so that investment in the fabric of this beautiful building can continue
- this 14th century building is sound but needs constant attention

9. Open Forum

The following comments were made:

- safety at the Triangle remains a concern with some drivers ignoring the painted priorities and “near misses” being reported
- roadside railings at New Cut Bow and elsewhere in the village were the responsibility of the Highways Department of North Somerset Council and the state of these has been reported
- parishioners are urged to put forward entries – in all classes - for the Village Show to help make this a valuable community event
- There is to be an exhibition covering 120 years since the opening of the WC&P railway in Portishead in October. Details are on our website.
- The Clerk is looking to organise some training on use of the defibrillator and on other emergency procedures and those interested were asked to put their names down or contact the Clerk via the website.

The Chairman thanked the speakers and everyone for their participation and, there being no other business, the meeting formally closed at 9.10pm.

S C Dixon

Steve Dixon,
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer,
5th May 2017