

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on
Thursday 10th January 2019 at 19.45
In the Foyer of the Kingston Seymour Village Hall

Councillors Present:

Mike Sewell (MS) Chairman
Paul Cox (PC)
Fred Malton (FM)

Caroline Harris (CH)

Peter Harris (PH)

In attendance:

Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO

Michael Wallis (Item 3)

1. Apologies for absence

Councillor Ian Wariner: District Councillor, Jill Iles: NSC Liaison, Carolyn Hills: PC Adam Clarke: Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, Kate Gillam.

2. Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

None

3. Members of the public are invited to address the council

Michael Wallis addressed the Council on the subject of the proposed Road Safety Strategy and was concerned about some of the proposed enhancements and the division of costs.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Wallis for his contribution and further advised the meeting that he had recently received an assurance from NSC regarding partial funding. A short discussion followed and it was agreed that the decisions taken by the Council on the 14th November 2018 did not need to be revisited at this time.

4. To confirm the minutes of the following meetings

4.1 Meeting of the Parish Council – 19th December 2018

The minutes were agreed as a true record. Proposed by PH, seconded by PC and carried unanimously.

5. Police Report

PC Clarke submitted the following written update.

Incidents since 14th November: vehicle in a ditch in Middle Lane. Driver error, all in order: fire in a yard in Lampley Road – fire dealt with, not suspicious: Theft of tools from a rented business unit: Abandoned 999 call – a child was playing on the line.

PC Clarke also advised that there had been a spate of vehicle crimes across the district recently typically where insecure cars had been entered and items stolen and where van doors had been forced and tools stolen. His advice is to ensure vehicle are secure and if possible, take valuable tools into your premises overnight.

6. Infrastructure

6.1 Coastal Footpath

Natural England had been approached by the Clerk to establish progress. They reported that they were awaiting formal guidance from a Government department about what they needed to submit as a Habitats Regulations Assessment. This would delay submitting their formal report to the Secretary of State by some months.

6.2 Cycle Route

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The Clerk reported that the planning permission for the cycle route had been granted in December and that NSC were now finalising their funding submission for 18th January. A separate application will have to be made to Highways England regarding the farm bridge.

We have received an assurance from our District Councillor that if the cycle route proceeds, that project will fund the Road Safety Strategy changes at the sites that will be used for their route.

6.3 Energy Initiatives

Hinkley Point Connection: progress in the screening work is now being seen by landowners who applied.

Fracking. There has been no new information.

6.4 Peace Garden

Three roses have been purchased and are awaiting removal of the poppy display before planting in the war memorial compound.

7. Services, Resilience and Community

There was no specific news to share but with the forecast bad weather, parishioners should ensure that their elderly neighbours are safe.

8. Administration

8.1 To review the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy

As part of the rolling review, The Equal Opportunities Policy – adopted in September 2016 – was due for review. Councillors had received the document in advance and, after discussion, it was proposed by PH, seconded by FM and carried unanimously that the wording of the current policy be re-adopted.

Action: Clerk to update and place the new version on the website

9. Finance

9.1 To receive the current financial report

As part of the quarterly governance procedures, the clerk had issued all Councillors with a full pack detailing all of the transactions during this Financial Year. The Parish Council currently has £6,361 in its current account and £7,137 in a business reserve account, Cheques over £100 issued since the last full meeting had been £106 to the SLCC for the clerk's annual subscription and to the clerk for his salary for November and December

9.2 Councillors to consider a draft budget – including grants – and to agree the precept required.

The Clerk advised that the Council had received a letter from the Church wardens of All Saints Church explaining how the Church finances were currently under some challenge. After discussion, it was agreed that an increase in the grant which we currently provide might be considered if such a request was received, and that individual members of the Parish Council would be happy to work in partnership with others to help find solutions for the current issues.

The precept has not been increased for four years and after considering the figures on the draft budget and that the hedge trimming which we had funded in 2018 was well received and should be repeated - it was decided that a small increase in the precept from £10.7k to £11.2k would be appropriate to cover the new parish council duty of hedge cutting now that NSC has delegated this to KSPC. This would be a 4.2% increase on the Parish precept based on the standard "Band D Equivalent" calculations. Proposed by PH, seconded by PC and supported unanimously.

The clerk was asked to increase the figure allowed for the election to £600 and to return to the next meeting with an updated draft for agreement.

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Action: Clerk to notify NSC of the precept requirement for 2019/20. Clerk to adjust the budget and re-present at the next meeting.

10. To discuss the planning application for Bristol Airport's Expansion to 12mppa, to consider its implications in relation to declared district wide strategies and policies and to agree the next actions.

PH advised that the PCAA were preparing a formal response to the application which would be circulated to member councils and would potentially be "signed off" at the next PCAA meeting which is scheduled for the 24th January. PH hoped to attend.

It was also noted that the PCAA had asked Wrington Parish Council to host two public meetings on Saturday 12th and Tuesday 15th and the clerk should put notice of these on our website.

It was noted that the current application is merely a step on the way to the Airport's strategic aim of 20 million passengers per annum (from the current 8m) pa in "the 2040s" and PH highlighted the impact such growth would have on traffic volumes in and around this area and whilst also considering the extra houses which are to be built to satisfy the needs of the JSP. PH also advised that because the airport would be considered "national infrastructure" above 12 mppa, all future applications would bypass NSC – who would only be "consulted". This, therefore, was the last chance for the public to raise their comments direct to NSC.

Actions: Clerk to put notice of the Wrington meetings on the Kingston Seymour website.

PH to attend the PCAA meeting.

PH to create a draft response to the application for review by other councillors and submission.

11. To consider attendance at forthcoming meetings

Apart from the PCAA meeting mentioned above, there were no other known external meetings.

12. To receive reports from external meetings attended and agree any further action

12.1 Village Hall

Recently scheduled meetings had been cancelled so there was nothing to report.

12.2 PCAA

The PCAA is preparing the response to the Bristol Airport expansion plans and are meeting on the 24th January.

13. To receive information about recent correspondence and to agree any further action.

The clerk had received notice of a Marine Management Organisation consultation which would run from 21st January to 29th March. Councillors want to be briefed on this when it arrives.

Action: Clerk to distil the information when received and inform Councillors about the consultation process.

The clerk had received notice of the annual Royal Garden Party ballot. It was agreed that John Harris would be approached and if he was happy, his name would be put forward.

Action: Clerk to liaise with John Harris and to progress this opportunity.

14. Items for Next Meeting – 11th March 2019

The clerk will include an item to agree a draft 2019-2020 budget and review of the Council's Social Media policy. The strategy for the Annual Parish Meeting (scheduled for the 1st May) will also be discussed.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.25

Steve Dixon

Steve Dixon,

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, 14th January 2019