

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on
Monday 10th September 2018 at 19.45
In the Foyer of the Kingston Seymour Village Hall

Councillors Present:

Mike Sewell (MS) Chairman
Paul Cox (PC)
Mike Wallis (MW)
District Councillor Jill Iles (JI)

Caroline Harris (CH)
Ian Wariner (IW)

Fred Malton (FM)

In attendance:

Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO

Rob Thomson, NSC Highways
(Item 4)

Carolyn Hills, NSC Parish Liaison

Jeff Hance, Parishioner (Item 4)

1. Apologies for absence

Vice Chairman, Peter Harris: District Councillor, Judith Hadley: PC Adam Clarke: Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Kate Gillam.

2. Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

Councillor Wallis declared an interest in the Coastal Footpath (7.1).

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

Jeff Hance urged the Council to make swift progress with traffic calming as there is still a significant issue of both high speed - and careless - driving through the village.

4. Road Safety Strategy

4.1 To receive recommendations for traffic calming from North Somerset Highways

The Chairman introduced Rob Thomson, a leading officer from North Somerset Highways Department and thanked him and his team for delivering their proposals to the Council by the end of August, which had allowed Councillors to consider them before this evening's meeting.

RT described each of the proposed changes and answered questions from Councillors and much discussion took place about how the schemes could enhance road safety throughout the village and particularly at the area around Lower Strode Road/Seawall Farm and, in view of the nascent plans for the cycle route along existing lanes. There were also concerns expressed about the possible "virtual footway" near the Triangle.

MW raised concerns about potentially unnecessary white lines in some of the more rural parts of the village and PC asked whether if, after the new measures had been put in place, they would be repainted at no cost to the village if NSC had cause to resurface at any point in the future. RT confirmed that reinstating the road markings would be NSC's responsibility in such circumstances.

FM advised that there appeared to be a strategy in Wiltshire of removing all road markings at junctions – enforcing all drivers to slow and consider priorities. RT stated that this was not the current policy in NS as there were concerns about the safety issues if there was inconsistency across the district.

4.2 To agree the next steps

After further discussion, IW proposed that *"We accept all changes with noted omissions and alterations subject to on site review by a working group of Councillors and an NSC Highways representative"*. This was seconded by PC and carried by a majority. MW was against.

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It was then agreed that the Council's working group members would be FM (Chair), IW and MW. NSC would allocate James Dawson when he returned from leave on 24 September.

Action: On site meetings for the group to be arranged by FM to take place as soon as James Dawson is available.

RT agreed that he would brief the NSC Councillor responsible for highways – Councillor ap Rees – and seek his steer on how best to make these changes in the quickest time. RT stated that as this year's allocation of work (to the end of March 2019) is already full there was no likelihood of implementing any changes before the new financial year. It was important though that Councillor ap Rees accepted the proposals onto the list for 2019/20 delivery. RT also suggested that a financial contribution from the Parish would be required and he would obtain guidance on how much this should be to ensure that the works do progress.

Jl suggested that because of the additional cyclists that NSC would be encouraging onto the lanes, it would be appropriate for NSC to contribute towards the costs of these safety works. MS asked RT to talk to David Fish and seek a financial commitment from that project.

Action: RT to liaise with David Fish and to brief Councillor ap Rees and feedback to this Council on how best to proceed.

Feedback from both the working party and NSC is to be provided at the next Parish Council meeting (November 14) – or earlier if the advice received by RT is that certain steps have to be taken more quickly - to allow the formal plan and financial contribution to be agreed by the council

RT and JH left the meeting

5. To confirm the minutes of the following meetings

5.1 Meeting of the Parish Council – 4th July 2018

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

5.2 Meeting of the Parish Council (11th) and 24th July 2018

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

6. To receive a Police report and Neighbourhood Watch update

The clerk apologised for the confusion caused at the last meeting when he stated that PC Adam Clarke didn't have anything to report. The correct statement would have been that PC Clarke had not had the opportunity to submit a report before that meeting.

PC Clarke had submitted a written report for this meeting and from which the Police records detailed five separate incidents from the end of June to the end of August – including criminal damage, a burglary and unlawful entry – but he expressed concern that other incidents had become known to him which had not been reported. He urged residents to make sure that all criminal activity was reported so that he may be aware of the full picture of improper behaviour within the village. A way forward had been found for the individual who had been causing much of the recent disruption.

In her written+ report, Kate Gillam thanked residents for providing information to her and she noted how important it was for this to continue so that she may provide the best support to residents and to Adam and the wider police force.

7. Infrastructure

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7.1 Coastal Footpath

There had been no new information from Natural England but MW advised that talks are still underway with affected landowners.

7.2 Cycle Route

NSC are progressing the planning application and we expect to see that for formal comment in early October. JI advised that the application would certainly be referred to the NSC Planning Committee if the number of objections to the proposal was at least 10.

7.3 Energy Initiatives

National Grid planting scheme. Apparently, those who have applied for support to install screening have not heard from National Grid.

Action: Clerk to contact National Grid and establish why there has been a delay.

Fracking. The clerk reported back that he had seen the minutes from a number of Councils in which they had resolved not to allow fracking in their areas. These included Gloucestershire, the Forest of Dean and Watchet.

He felt that Watchet was particularly relevant to our situation as they are in the same area of granted licences as we are and he reported that their Councillors – upon receipt of information - had resolved in December 2016 that Watchet would be a frack free area. He had confirmed with the Town Clerk that there had been no financial cost and that it had generated significant community support for the decision.

The clerk noted that Councillors had been keeping a “watching brief” in Kingston Seymour for over two years and that the feedback where received from the community both at the annual village meeting and in correspondence had not been supportive. As noted at the last meeting, the UK Government’s position is to continue to encourage fracking through the potential relaxation of planning rules for exploration – which may be allowed as “permitted development” - and he also reported that a planning inspector had recently granted an appeal against a Derbyshire County Council refusal to allow drilling in a village south of Sheffield.

After discussion where both the risks and potential benefits were touched on, it was proposed by FM and seconded by PC that Kingston Seymour should be declared a frack free zone. MW abstained but the proposal was carried on the votes of all other councillors present.

Action: Clerk to formally advise South West Energy Limited (the licence holder) - and other relevant bodies – of the Council’s decision based on a view that improved energy efficiency and use of renewable energies is how the UK ongoing energy challenges should be addressed rather than risk environmental impacts for the release and use of further fossil fuels.

7.4 Tree Management

MS said that since we received the tree management report for the Triangle in April, that it had not been noted at Council. The clerk reported that the report suggested that the trees on the Triangle were generally in good condition and that they could be left until a check of the condition of an oak in April 2020 and for which he had made a diary note.

The report had also mentioned that the stumps in the War Memorial compound could be removed safely if desired. CH stated that Sam Harris had offered to remove the stumps – free of charge – and that the work would be done on the coming weekend. Council accepted and expressed its gratitude for this kind offer.

Action: Clerk to write to Sam Harris on behalf of the Council to thank him for this kind gesture.

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8. Services, Resilience and Community

8.1 Bristol Airport – Airport Departure Guidance

The Clerk reported that he continued to investigate whether Bristol Airport had given an undertaking that flights would not turn until they were over the Channel and is studying Council records in the 2006 – 2008 period when this seems to have been offered.

Action: Clerk to continue to investigate and report back

8.2 Waste & Recycling Collections

JI reported that there were widespread issues with the new waste collection service across North Somerset and that Biffa was being plagued by staff shortages.

Locally, Back Lane and Bullocks Lane had suffered greatly and NSC had ensured that a Biffa employee was now in direct touch with PC and that since he came onboard, matters seem to have improved slightly. There is a possibility that the day for Back Lane and Bullocks Lane collections – currently Friday – could be changed to be the same as the rest of the village.

9. Administration

9.1 Standing Orders

A new version of Standing Orders had been prepared by NALC in response to legislation changes and had been circulated to Councillors in advance. It was proposed by FM, seconded by PC and supported unanimously that the new version would be adopted by this Council.

Action: Clerk to publish the new version on the website and ensure that any new responsibilities are being addressed.

9.2 Meeting Dates 2019

A provisional set of dates had been put forward by the clerk. Councillors were broadly in support but wished to see some meetings taking place on Thursday evenings.

Action: Clerk to modify the dates and confirm availability with the village hall and then publish to Councillors the chosen dates.

10. Finance

The clerk reported that the Council had £7,157 in its current account and a further £7,133 in its reserve. One half of the annual precept had been received. He expected that provided that funds for the significant items were spent, we would end the year very close to the agreed budget. Apart from his monthly salary, there had been no new items issued for over £100 since the last meeting.

11. Attendance at forthcoming external meetings

The ALCA AGM is on the 6th October but no Councillors are available. The clerk would attend a briefing at Bristol Airport – with fellow clerks from across the area – on 28th September.

12. Reports from external meetings attended

12.1 Village Hall

PC reported that the pub nights continued very successfully and that a new heater had been fitted to the disabled toilet. There will be a survey of the village hall electrics undertaken shortly and the hall will receive some additional funding after a good public response to the Tesco charity initiative.

12.2 PCAA

In the absence of PH there was no news to report

12.3 Battle's Over Commemorations

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MS reported that support from across the village for the forthcoming events was superb and preparations were well advanced on all fronts. It was noted that the commemorative plaque had been fixed to the bench on the village green.

13. Recent correspondence

The clerk reported that following the last meeting, he had written to:

- Chief Constable re policing. As explained earlier in the meeting this a reply will not now be forthcoming or pursued as information has been received.
- Chilmark Foot Beagles. We have acknowledged and fully understand the group's position.
- Parishioner re a future planning application.
- AED Locator re the new annual fee. The Clerk explained that he had spoken to the Director and that he was awaiting their formal response.

14. Items for Next Meeting – 14th November

The clerk will include an item to agree new Financial Regulations. There were no other suggested additions to the standard agenda content.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 22.15

Steve Dixon

Steve Dixon,
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer,
12th September 2018