

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on
Wednesday 11th July 2018 at 19.45 (opened & adjourned) and

Tuesday 24th July 2018 at 19.45

In the Foyer of the Kingston Seymour Village Hall

Councillors Present:

Mike Sewell (MS) Chairman

Paul Cox (PC)

Ian Wariner (IW)

Peter Harris (PH) Vice Chairman

Fred Malton (FM)

Mike Wallis (MW)

In attendance:

Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO

25 Parishioners

1. Apologies for absence

District Councillors, Judith Hadley, Jill Iles: PC Adam Clarke: Parish Liaison Officer Carolyn Hills; Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Kate Gillam.

2. Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

Councillor Wallis declared an interest in the Coastal Footpath.

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

There were no parishioners present.

4. To confirm the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

The meeting took place on the 16th May and it was proposed by PH, seconded by MW and carried unanimously that the Minutes were a true record.

5. To receive a Police Report and Neighbourhood Watch update

Due to the change of date for this meeting, no members of the Police were able to attend but it had been suggested that there were no Police events to report. Councillors noted however that to their knowledge, there had been three burglaries, a caravan had been broken into and a tent had been damaged.

Councillors reiterated that they wanted to see our local Police representative at these meetings but there is concern that crime in rural areas is simply not being followed up.

Action: Clerk to write of behalf of the Council to the Chief Constable to express our concern. Proposed by PH, seconded by PC and carried unanimously.

6. Infrastructure

6.1 Coastal Footpath

Councillor Wallis and the Clerk had attended a briefing on 19 July, hosted by NSC and with presentations from Natural England.

The current position is that a route has been planned through the Parish and this forms part of the proposals that are being readied for submission to the Secretary of State. When these proposals are formally published, the Parish will have a set period of eight weeks to make its representations. Only landowners and tenants affected can object.

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We were advised that Natural England are aware of the NSC project with the Cycle Route (see below) and are in close contact. It was also noted that should the project be approved by the Secretary of State; Natural England will fund NSC to carry out the work to create the path and NSC will have to apply annually to Natural England for funds to maintain the path.

6.2 Cycle Route

The clerk advised that he had been approached by the Project Manager at NSC and advised that matters were progressing with a likely solution of a new bridge at Tutshill Sluice to ensure that cyclists and farm animals could be kept apart.

It is likely that a planning application will be submitted in early September and the Project Manager would like to brief the Council before that happens.

Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting between the Project Manager and the Parish at a time of mutual convenience.

6.3 Cyclists in the Village

Following several occurrences in the Village – and covered by an article from a resident that was posted on the website and in the Village Magazine - it was noted that some factions of the cycling community were not respecting other road users and sometimes became abusive. Evidently, there is an app called “*Strava*” which allows cyclists to log their quickest times around particular routes – KS featuring in some of these routes.

The matter was referred to the Police who advise that they are unable to act unless they have physical evidence of wrong doing, perhaps from an action camera/dash cam or CCTV.

It was agreed that education was part of the nascent village Road Safety strategy and as a first step, FM volunteered to join the North Somerset Cyclists Forum to understand their position and gather more information.

Action: FM to engage with the forum and report back at the next meeting.

6.4 Energy Initiatives

The National Grid programme to replace the large pylons at the parish boundary is moving forward slowly and a recently issued “*timeline*” suggested construction in our section could be anywhere between late 2020 and early 2025.

With regard to Fracking, it had been suggested to the Council that the licence owner was about to secure funding for more work and perhaps of more immediate concern is that the Government is minded to allow exploration to be undertaken as “*permitted development*” and the Government has allowed Cuadrilla to commence work in Lancashire.

It is unclear whether there are any resources under Kingston Seymour, but Councillors are concerned and want to understand more about declaring the Parish as “*frack free*”. Proposed by PC, seconded by PH and supported unanimously.

Action: Clerk to investigate the implications and practicalities of declaring the Parish “frack free”.

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7. Services, Resilience & Community

7.1 Bristol Airport – Aircraft Departure Guidance

A parishioner had been in dialogue with Bristol Airport about departure routes and from the correspondence, the airport appears to be denying that aircraft are obliged to be over the channel before they turn. This was understood to be a long standing agreement under a previously agreed planning permission.

To progress the matter, Councillors want to understand from NSC Planning, what obligations the airport are under.

Action: Clerk to write to NSC Planning Enforcement for more clarity over the obligations under which the airport is operating.

7.2 Waste & recycling collections

The majority of the village is scheduled for Monday under the new regime, but Back Lane and its tributaries is scheduled for Friday and this has led to missed collections. The Council wrote to NSC on the matter on the 20th June but has had no response.

Action: Clerk to chase NSC for a proper response and actions taken following the earlier note.

8. Administration

8.1 Complaints Policy

As part of a rolling review of Council policies, the Complaints Policy was reviewed and it was proposed by MW, seconded by FM and supported unanimously that this policy should be re-adopted.

Action: Clerk to annotate the policy accordingly and update the version on the web site.

8.2 To agree a new schedule for review of other Council policies

It was agreed that the following pattern would now be followed for reviews at regular meetings: Standing Orders – September 2018: Financial Regulations – November 2018: Equal Opportunities – January 2019.

Action: Clerk to ensure that prospective new versions of policies are available to Councillors to consider at least two weeks in advance of the meeting at which they will be discussed.

9. Finance

The clerk reported that the Council had received the first half of the annual precept and that whilst it was still early in the FY, assuming that planned budgeted items were spent during the year, that the Council would be within its budget at year end.

Apart from the Clerk's salary which is net £303 pm, other cheques over £100 had been issued this FY for: Web support & maintenance £316.80: Tree Condition Survey £200: Bench base £200: Lawnmower grant £150: Annual Insurance Premium £374.

The Clerk reported that a new charge was being requested from the Company (AED Locator) that monitor the condition of the defibrillator. This had been a free service but was now to be charged at £49 + VAT starting on 1st August and, if the fee wasn't paid, the Company would be forced to advise the Ambulance Service that our machine was not necessarily "fit for purpose".

It was proposed by MW and seconded by PH that the fee should be paid. PC did not agree, but other Councillors voted in favour. However, Councillors were angry that we were being "held to ransom" and wanted answers from the company.

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Action: Clerk to write to AED Locator expressing our feelings and requesting clarification that there will be no annual increases.

10. Consider attendance at forthcoming meetings

Because of the adjournment of this meeting, MW and the Clerk had attended the Coastal Footpath meeting as is reported above.

There is a PCSS meeting at the end of September which PH will attend. The Clerk mentioned that the Airport is trying to organise a date for a "summer function" in late August/early September.

11. To receive reports from external meetings

11.1 Village Hall

PC reported that members of the committee were now able to operate the bar which gives more flexibility, that following vandalism attacks, increased security had been put in place and that the committee is investigating the possibility of installing a meeting room in the current (extensive) loft area.

11.2 PCAA

PH noted that the airport's consultation on growth was moving into its next stage and that they were also now consulting on a noise strategy.

11.3 Battle's Over

MS reported that all was progressing well and with great cooperation from other groups and individuals in the village. The forthcoming Village Magazine would carry a centre spread on the planned events.

The wording of the plaque – crafted to be inclusive for all of those who had made a sacrifice for their country – to be affixed to the new village bench was agreed and it was proposed by IW, seconded by PH and supported unanimously that this plaque be ordered at the PC's expense.

Action: Clerk to order plaque with the agreed wording.

12. Recent Correspondence

The clerk reported that following a Council meeting earlier in the year, he had been asked to write to the Master of the Foot Beagles with a view to publicising when the group were out in the village. A reply has been received expressing concern over wider publicity of their activity and politely declining the request

Action: Clerk to acknowledge and convey the Council's understanding of their position

In relation to the Road Safety Strategy for the village, MS had briefed MP Dr Liam Fox about what we were intending to do and had received a note from Dr Fox expressing his understanding and support for the work we are doing.

A letter had been received from a parishioner who had taken down a barn on his property with a view to reconstructing it in a safe manner in due course.

Action: Clerk to acknowledge the parishioner's letter and confirm that the PC looked forward to considering his forthcoming planning application to NSC.

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13. Items for the September meeting

The meeting should be based around the Road Safety Strategy work which should be back from NSC. Other road works – such as the position at New Cut Bow, should be considered. The PC's Standing Orders should be reviewed. A section of this meeting – or an additional meeting – may be necessary if the Cycle Route plans become available.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.35

Steve Dixon

Steve Dixon,
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer,
7th August 2018