

# KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on  
**Thursday 12th September 2019 at 19.30**  
In the Main Hall of the Kingston Seymour Village Hall

## Councillors Present:

Fred Malton (FM) Vice Chairman	Richard Barber (RB)	Zoe Bartlett (ZB)
Bryony Cole (BC)	Paul Cox (PC)	Ian Wariner (IW)
Mike Sewell (MS) Chairman (Part)		

## In attendance:

Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO	Wendy Griggs (WG) – District Councillor
Chris Harrison (CH) – NSC CCTV Manager (Part)	PCSO – Rebecca Budd (Part)

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Steve Bridger (District Councillor), Carolyn Hills (NSC) and PC Adam Clarke. FM advised that the Chairman had been delayed on business and would join the meeting later. FM would chair the entire meeting.

### **2. To record declarations of interest in items on the agenda**

None

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

Twelve parishioners were present and many wanted to express their views about the Natural England Coastal Footpath proposal. FM agreed to amend the agenda so that that item was dealt with before the CCTV item.

A parishioner stated that the proposals appeared to prevent parishioners from accessing the shoreline which had been their right that they had enjoyed for hundreds of years and requested the Parish Council to object to the proposals. Other parishioners agreed with this.

Another parishioner questioned the assertion in the documents that routing the footpath along the shoreline would disturb migratory and nesting birds. They stated that in 20 years of visiting the shoreline, they had not seen any birds being disturbed. Others stated that the birds and people could easily co-exist.

Bio-security is cited as a reason to route the path as proposed but this seemed to some to take people closer to these herds than would be necessary.

Informal use of the route from Middle Lane should be crystallised through the formal processes by NSC.

The summary of the comments made about the Coastal Path documents is: right of access to the shoreline must be assured for villagers; disturbance of birds was felt to be unlikely: the rare breeds at Wharf Farm would be better protected by having the footpath on the sea wall.

### **5. To discuss and agree the Council's formal response to the Coast Path proposals**

Councillors then discussed the proposals and comments made and it was proposed by IW, seconded by PC and supported unanimously that the Parish Council should make two representations:

1. That regarding Map ABD 6B, the route should be set on the seaward side of the existing sea wall from point S013 to S017.
2. That regarding Map ABD 6C, and in view of the single blood line rare breeds present at Wharf Farm, that the route should be set to the seaward side of the existing sea wall from point S018 and S031.

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And that rights of access that had been enjoyed by parishioners for decades should be respected and protected.

*Action: Clerk to draft the Parish Council's Representation for online review by Councillors and despatch by the Chairman to Natural England by the due date.*

It was discussed how it was important for the village to create a volume of representations and to send individual responses. The clerk had made the representation form available on the website at the end of July.

*Action: Clerk to create a Facebook note and link to the documents required so that as many villagers as possible would have the opportunity to submit a representation in the required timescale.*

It was agreed that the Parish Council would discuss at the next meeting the formalisation of the right of access to the coastline. This would normally be undertaken by Elaine Bowman at NSC.

*Action: Clerk to put on the Agenda for the November meeting.*

#### **4. To receive a presentation about the practicalities of installing CCTV in the village**

Chris Harrison (CH), Manager of the CCTV operation for North Somerset Council briefed the Council in response to enquiries about the practicalities of installing a "public" CCTV system.

CH explained how such "Public Space Surveillance" systems were governed by many statutes including the Human Rights Act, Protection of Freedoms Bill and GDPR and that a case needs to be built that demonstrates that investigations have taken place into every other possible way to remove the issue (e.g. burglary, anti social behaviour etc.). The system then needs to be closely managed by a limited number of named and responsible individuals.

CH pointed out that cameras need electrical installations and that they tended not to be as useful in dark environments. He estimated that a very basic, two camera system might be possible for around £20k.

PCSO Rebecca Budd (RB) offered the Police' view on CCTV. The Police' experience is that images shot at night tend not to be useful, that an offence needs to be captured on the camera if it is to be prosecutable and that whilst cameras might capture the registration number of a vehicle, this would not necessarily be enough to link it to a specific crime. It was suggested that the Parish Council needs to think carefully about the cost-effectiveness of such a system for Kingston Seymour.

After discussion and in view of the time, it was agreed that Councillors will discuss the subject at its next meeting.

*Action: Clerk to add to the Agenda for November's meeting.*

#### **6. Planning**

**Application 19/P/1801/FUH – Single storey side/rear extension, including conservatory at Elm Cottage, Ham Lane, BS21 6XE**

Councillors had reviewed the plans and had viewed the property from the road. It was proposed by RB, seconded by BC and supported by all present that the Parish Council would support the application

*Action: Clerk to convey the Council's view to the planning officer at NSC.*

#### **7. To confirm the minutes of the following meeting:**

**Meeting – 8th July 2019**

Confirmed as a true record. Proposed by BC , seconded by RB and supported by those present at the meeting.

#### **8. To receive a Police Report and Neighbourhood Watch update**

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PCSO Rebecca Budd reported that since 1st July, the Police had logged one report of criminal damage, five burglaries, one theft and an assault against the person in the Parish.

Councillors thanked PCSO Budd for the work she had done to visit parishioners who had suffered in the recent spate of criminal activity and for the bike marking and beat surgeries that had been set up for the village.

## **9. To receive a briefing on information regarding the CAP1616 aircraft departure initiative**

RB reported that the Government was sponsoring a nationwide project to enhance the management of UK airspace. As a result of a prescriptive process that would be introduced, aircraft would be expected to fly in more restricted routes in and out of airports. The obvious implication is that if you are under one of these corridors, the likelihood is that more flights will come overhead.

RB will remain engaged with this and will take part in future discussions about these corridors.

## **10. Infrastructure. To discuss updates and to agree the next actions.**

### **10.1 Road Safety Strategy**

The clerk noted that some patching work had been undertaken and that the first elements of the work we had commissioned had been completed. Enquiries of NSC suggested that the remainder of the works would be done during September.

A concern was expressed that should NSC return at some point in the future to maintain a road surface, that some of the work we have funded could be erased. Assurance from NSC is required.

*Action: Clerk to seek written assurance from NSC*

### **10.2 Cycle Route**

The clerk had been in contact with the NSC Project Manager. Funding has been agreed in principle but with a current overspend in Highways England, there is some doubt that funds will be made available. NSC are funding the project initially so it is continuing for the time being with its preparatory work – still with the aim of being able to start in March 2020.

*MS arrived.*

### **10.3 Energy Initiatives**

The Clerk noted that both Bleadon and Clevedon councils had now joined us and declared themselves “frack Free”. Whilst there was no news of activity in our area, it was noted that the activity in Lancashire was still apparently causing local earthquakes. The issued licence for exploration in our area does not expire until July 2021.

The clerk noted that Hinkley Point construction was continuing at some pace but that the first of the new T pylons – which will cross Lampley Road – are not scheduled to be built until 2020 and the connection past Kingston was loosely scheduled between 2021 and 2024. Western Power Distribution have yet to do the work they need to do in advance of the main pylons arriving. Some works had been observed in the area and this is in order to ascertain ground conditions for the erection of the pylons.

### **10.4 Village Maintenance**

#### **- 10.4.1 Hedge and Verge Cutting 2019**

The work has been undertaken – in the timescale promised – and to a reasonable standard.

*Action: Clerk to settle the contractor's invoice*

#### **- 10.4.2 War Memorial Insurance**

The Clerk thanked RB for taking a set of “record” photographs of the memorial.

The Clerk reported that our insurance brokers had provided figures for the increase in premium should Council wish to increase cover on the memorial from the current level of

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£17k. To raise the level of cover to £50k would cost an additional £170 p.a. and to raise the Level of cover to £100k would cost an additional £435 p.a.

After discussion, it was proposed by MS, seconded by PC and supported by all that we should increase the sum assured for the memorial to £50k.

*Action: Clerk to instruct our insurance brokers*

A quantity of cleaning/maintenance items had been donated by NSC to the village and this Was currently in the care of RB. A discussion would be held at the next meeting to agree how best to use this equipment and to offer the recycle bin nets to parishioners via collection at the Tuesday Post Office.

Action: Clerk to put item on agenda for November meeting.

RB to make the nets available for collection from the Post Office and to publicise on village Facebook.

## **11. Services, Resilience and Community**

There were no updates and no known immediate issues in this area.

## **12. Administration**

### **12.1 To review the council's Standing Orders**

The clerk had circulated the existing version and, having not received any notification of suggested changes from NALC or SLCC, he proposed re-adoption of the same Standing Orders.

This was proposed by IW, seconded by ZB and agreed unanimously.

*Action: Clerk to refresh the document, issue to all Councillors and load onto the website.*

## **13. Finance**

### **13.1 To receive the current Financial Report.**

The clerk provided an update and advised that the second half of the precept had been received.

After settlement of outstanding items, the current account would have £12.7k and the reserve account £7.1k. The clerk reported that we were tracking under budget due to savings on the anticipated costs of the elections, the hedge and verge budget and some savings in administration costs.

The only cheques for over £100 issued since the last meeting had been for the clerk's monthly salary (£318 twice), £180 for new Councillor training and £672 for Hedge and Verge cutting (includes VAT that will be reclaimed).

The clerk advised that he had not received any requests to review the accounts during the statutory period of examination which ended on 25th July but was happy to deal with any parishioner questions at any time. Councillors would receive the usual quarterly update at the end of September.

## **14. To receive reports from external meetings attended**

### **14.1 Kingston Seymour Trust**

PC reported that the finances of the Village Hall were now secure and that plans for further improvements were being discussed.

### **14.2 PCAA**

RB reported that the PCAA are supporting a crowd justice initiative to fund legal representation to fight the current planning application. A request to KS for support was declined.

## **15. Attendance at Forthcoming Meetings**

RB will attend the PCAA meeting on September 26th and will attend future meetings on CAP1616.

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The Chairman plans to attend the NALC AGM on 5th October.

The clerk is attending courses about the forthcoming Website Accessibility Requirements. He will be visiting the airport on Friday 11th October for a formal visit with other local parish clerks.

## **16. Recent correspondence**

The clerk had received a request for a donation from the Disability Information Line but was aware that the Council's policy is not to agree to such requests.

*Action: Clerk to tender a polite decline.*

## **17. To agree any items that should be on the Agenda for the 11th November**

Items as described in the minutes. The clerk would propose a set of dates for 2020 meetings and will be putting forward the Financial Regulations for review. He would also report on strengthened requirements regarding GDPR.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.30.

*Steve Dixon*

Steve Dixon,  
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer,  
23rd September 2019