

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on
Wednesday 14th November 2018 at 19.45
In the Foyer of the Kingston Seymour Village Hall

Councillors Present:

Mike Sewell (MS) Chairman

Paul Cox (PC)

District Councillor Jill Iles (JI)

Peter Harris (PH)

Mike Wallis (MW)

In attendance:

Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO

Nikki Rose (item 4.1)

PC Adam Clarke (item 7)

Chris Langdon (item 4.2)

Paul Kostyla (item 5)

1. Apologies for absence

Councillors Caroline Harris and Ian Wariner: District Councillor, Judith Hadley: NSC Liaison Carolyn Hills: 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

None

4. Planning Applications

4.1 18/P/3749/FUL: Land to the west of Lower Strode Road

It was noted that the application carried the incorrect name of the owner and it was confirmed by Ms Rose that she did own the property and also advised that she had applied for mixed use of the property.

PC proposed and PH seconded that the application should be supported and this was carried unanimously.

4.2 18/P/4340/FUL: Lean to extension at Channel View Farm

Mr Langdon introduced the application on behalf of the applicants and confirmed that it was to enable existing business to expand. It was noted that an enforcement notice does exist on one building within the overall site but not necessarily within the curtilage of this application.

It was proposed by PH and seconded by MW that the application be supported provided that the enforcement breach was not within the boundary of the property being considered. Supported unanimously.

Action: Clerk to register the views of the Council on the NSC Planning site.

7. Police Report

As PC Clarke needed to be elsewhere, the Chairman allowed this item to come forward on the Agenda.

PC Clarke reported that there had been a number of reported incidents in the village since September, including a non-dwelling burglary, a public order offence, sheep loose and an unclothed male who was evidently attempting to escape from a driving offence on the M5.

PC Clarke also reported that there had been 4 burglaries in the area where thieves had specifically broken in to find the keys to high performance cars which they then took. In three of these instances, the owner was on holiday. Residents are advised not to "advertise" their absence from home on social media.

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5. Road Safety Strategy

5.1 To receive an update from the Council's working party and from NSC Highways

The Chairman thanked the members of the Working Group – Councillors Wariner, Cox and Wallis – for the work that they had done and also thanked Rob Thomson and James Dawson of NSC Highways (who couldn't attend this meeting) for their invaluable input.

The working party had drawn up a set of recommendations for each location and NSC Highways had provided drawings for these locations. This material had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Because NSC Highways representatives had not been available, additional information was introduced at the meeting, principally:

- a breakdown of the potential costs per location
- confirmation that Councillor Ap Rees had approved the work to be done but that it could only progress if the Parish Council funded it
- that neither NSC nor their contractor Skanska could achieve any of this work in the 2018-19 financial year and that clarity of requirement should be forthcoming early in order to be able to schedule our work amongst other priorities in 2019-2020
- a contribution from the Cycle Route project may be a possibility in due course but this project is not – itself – currently funded

Resident Paul Kostyla had seen the proposed plans and expressed concern that the roads around the Seawall Farm area must be properly considered. These concerns were noted by Councillors. Mr Kostyla left the meeting.

5.2 To discuss the updates and agree the next actions and associated timetable

The working group proposal was formally submitted to the council. It was recognised that some initiatives had the backing of all members of the working party, others were a majority view only

A comprehensive discussion took place with those measures where the working group was unanimous being voted on together and then every other measure reviewed on its own merits. All TRAFFIC CALMING measures were adopted by the council except for one item. An Appendix has been added to these minutes which describes the location, the proposed changes, the position adopted by the working group and the subsequent voting by the main Council.

The decisions of the Council will be conveyed to NSC Highways for progression and a commitment to fully underwrite the funding of the changes will be given by the Parish Council. The Parish Council will pursue with relevant projects – e.g. the Cycle Route – contributions to the overall costs.

It was recognized that carriageway repairs to Yew Tree Lane need to be pursued as a separate matter. A decision as to whether there should be a sign welcoming travellers to Kingston Seymour at its northern entrance on Lower Strode Road would be deferred.

At this point, Councillor Wallis tendered his resignation from Council to the Chairman and left the meeting. Councillor Cox – who had been committed to an external meeting at this time – kindly agreed to remain at the meeting to ensure that Council remained quorate.

Actions:

- Clerk to write to NSC Highways to convey what changes we are requesting and confirming that the Parish Council will underwrite the full cost of the changes but reserves the right to seek funding contributions from other relevant projects.
- Clerk to write to the Project Manager of the Cycle Route and lodge a bid for a contribution
- Clerk to request NSC Highways to repair Yew Tree Lane as a matter of some urgency
- Decision regarding an entrance sign to the north of the Parish is to be scheduled for the next meeting

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- Clerk to follow the relevant procedures surrounding the resignation of a Councillor.

6. To confirm the minutes of the following meetings

6.1 Meeting of the Parish Council – 10th September 2018

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

Action: Clerk to lodge the minutes of the meeting on the 3rd September for approval in the January meeting

NB: Item 7 – Police Report – was dealt with earlier and appears above.

8. Infrastructure

8.1 Coastal Footpath

A note had been received from Natural England advising that they had finished their negotiations with landowners and were writing their recommendations in a report which they expected to publish early in the new year. The PC will be given the opportunity to make a representation on this report when it is published.

8.2 Cycle Route

NSC have published the planning application (18/P/4758/FUL) and it is now open for comments. It is critical that the Parish Council make a soundly based representation to NSC on behalf of parishioners and, to this end, an extra meeting is to be called for Saturday 24th November where parishioners will be invited to share their views with Councillors.

8.3 Energy Initiatives

Fracking. The clerk reported that he has written to South West Energy Limited advising them that we had declared our Parish “frack free”. This note had been acknowledged.

The Council had also made representations to two Government consultations – Permitted Development and National Infrastructure Projects – and had asked that neither change be implemented. Both responses had been forwarded to our MP, Dr. Liam Fox.

JI reported that NSC had recently declared that regardless of any Government decision on permitted development, the process of bypassing proper planning practice would not be allowed in North Somerset.

The clerk mentioned that another consultation had been launched – this one about “*Compulsory Community pre-application for shale gas development*” – and he and the Chairman would consider and submit a response if appropriate.

Action: Clerk to read consultation and submit a draft response to the Chairman for approval

8.4 Peace Garden

Following the removal of the bush in the War Memorial compound it has been proposed that we should establish a Peace Garden there instead. The estimated cost of three “Peace” roses and the necessary growth enhancers would be a little under £100.

It was proposed by PH and seconded by PC and supported unanimously that the Parish Council would fund this.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Sue Lang and Judith Barber over sourcing and siting these roses.

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9. Services, Resilience and Community

9.1 Bristol Airport – Airport Departure Guidance

The Clerk reported that he had now been in touch with the Civil Aviation Authority about this and they had referred him back to Bristol airport, suggesting that national rules are being adhered to. Investigations continue.

Action: Clerk to continue to investigate and provide an update at the next meeting

9.2 Resilience

PH advised that his mobile number had changed.

Action: Clerk to update Councillor records and the Resilience Briefing on the website.

10. Administration

Financial Regulations

The Clerk had studied the latest advice and had recommended some simplifications of the Financial Regulations and which he had issued to Councillors two weeks ago.

After discussion, it was proposed by PH and seconded by PC that the proposed changes be adopted into a new version of the Financial Regulations.

Action: Clerk to make the amendments he suggested and circulate the new version to Councillors and post it on the website.

11. Finance

The clerk reported that the Council had £7,433 in its current account and a further £7,135 in its reserve and that all expected income (apart from a VAT reclaim) had been received for this year. As it was now unlikely that the budget earmarked for road safety would be spent this year it was now likely that the budgeted overspend would now turn out to be a level spend – expenditure for the year equalling income. This would leave the Council in a good place to invest in the road traffic actions in the next financial year.

Apart from his monthly salary, the clerk reported that the following items had been drawn for over £100 since the last meeting: Hedge and Verge Cutting £672*; War Memorial Restoration £2,700*; Church Grounds Maintenance Grant £400; Village Magazine Grant £200; Hall Hire (April to Nov) £105.

* We will claim back the VAT element of these two investments.

Action: In view of the resignation of one of the bank signatories, the Clerk will draft a new mandate in readiness for agreement at the next meeting.

Clerk to issue the usual £25 to the Flower Guild for the Remembrance Day Wreath that was created for the Parish Council to lay.

12. Attendance at forthcoming external meetings

The Chairman will be attending meetings with NSC on 6th December about school transport availability from the village. The Clerk will be attending a briefing to be given by Bristol Airport on the 3rd December.

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13. Reports from external meetings attended

13.1 Village Hall

There was nothing to report.

13.2 PCAA

The PCAA is preparing to respond to the Bristol Airport expansion plans. The Clerk is attending an evening briefing on the 3rd December.

13.3 Battle's Over Commemorations

MS publicly thanked everyone who was involved in setting up and running the hugely successful commemoration weekend events and particularly those members of the working group which had come together superbly to allow the village to mark such a momentous event in true style..

14. Recent correspondence

The clerk relayed information he had received about "Blackberry Meadow" (near Channel View Farm) after complaints had been lodged with him after a Saturday in October. The owner was very apologetic and has been counselled about the need to properly license events – through NSC - if she wishes to run them.

A Parking Review consultation had been received but there was no appetite for the Parish to send a formal response.

15. Items for Next Meeting – 10th January 2019

The clerk will include an item to agree a 2019-2020 budget and review of the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy. Whilst the timing of the next meeting may not allow review there, the Clerk was asked to look at the North Somerset Core Strategy and agree with the Chairman whether a response should be submitted.

Action: Clerk to review the Core Strategy and agree the way forward with the Chirman..

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.56

Steve Dixon

Steve Dixon,
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer,
20th November 2018

Appendix 1 – Road Safety Strategy Actions and Councillor Voting Record