

# KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on  
**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at 20.00**  
In the Kingston Seymour Village Hall

## Councillors Present:

|                           |                                 |                  |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Mike Sewell (MS) Chairman | Peter Harris (PH) Vice Chairman |                  |
| Paul Cox (PC)             | Caroline Harris (CH)            | Mike Wallis (MW) |
| Ian Wariner (IW)          |                                 |                  |

## In attendance:

|                              |                                     |                |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO | Jill Iles (JI), District Councillor | PC Adam Clarke |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|

25 Parishioners

## **1. Apologies for absence**

Councillor Fred Malton. District Councillor, Judith Hadley.

## **2. Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda**

Councillors Sewell, Cox, C Harris and Wallis declared an interest in the hedge maintenance item.

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

Because of the large attendance and the desire by many to state their position on the traffic speed issue, the Chairman merged items 3 & 4 on this occasion and relaxed the rules regarding the amount of time for public participation. Notes of the comments are shown in the attached Appendix.

## **4. To discuss the inputs of the Annual Parish Meeting and to agree the next steps**

### **4.1 Traffic Speed**

MS provided the context for this session by narrating how the Parish Council had – since September 2014 – pursued this issue and what had been achieved. He requested that parishioners should comment clearly on their own positions. The comments are not attributed to individuals and provide the inputs for Councillors to consider. The comments from Parishioners are an Appendix to these minutes.

After a full discussion, MS stated that the Parish Council continues to try and do the best for all of the village. From the discussions, there were clearly many different views about whether a speed limit in the village was the best way forward to help manage vehicle speed but that there was a general consensus that further traffic calming should be considered.

MS thanked everyone for attending and welcomed them to stay for the rest of the meeting if they wished to.

Councillors then discussed the inputs they had received. IW commented that he initially wanted a 30mph limit but now feels we should continue with additional traffic calming measures and would like to see “rumble strips” on the village entrances as the next step. PH said he would support rumble strips at all four entrances to the village.

PC said we should put signs on the gates and extend the gates out towards the kerb edges. PC felt that the education of all road users was important and that we need a plan of action at each of the four entry points to the village.

PH suggested that the parish council call an extra meeting that would purely focus on this issue and that we should invite a NSC highways officer who should be briefed as to the traffic calming that the parish council would like to be considered, so that clear guidance and costings can be provided at the

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next meeting to allow decisions to be made and instructions issued by the parish council. In addition that person should remain dedicated to the project until the parish council is satisfied.

It was agreed that an extra meeting would be called for Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June – proposed by PH, seconded by PC and agreed unanimously.

*Action: Clerk to approach NSC, outline the ideas above (summarised as appropriate signage on gates, extensions to the gates, removal of central white lines, repainting hatchings, rumble strips, slow markings and other visual restrictions) and seek an officer to attend on the 14<sup>th</sup> with the necessary inputs for the parish council for all access points. Village Hall foyer to be booked.*

## **4.2 Fracking**

The Clerk stated that because the issue had not yet been publicised through the minutes of the APM or the Village Magazine, that it was not yet appropriate to discuss the limited inputs he had so far received. It was agreed to pick this up at the next meeting.

*Action: Clerk to post the APM minutes and presentation used and to draw attention to this issue in the next Village Magazine edition.*

## **4.3 Other**

There were not considered to be any other topics that needed discussion.

## **5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

It was proposed by PH and seconded by PC that they were a true record. Supported unanimously

## **6. Infrastructure Update**

### **6.1 Water Supply to Kingston Seymour**

It was noted that there had been piecemeal work going on along Lampley Road which had seen supply interruptions in the village.

## **7. Services, Resilience & Community**

### **7.1 – Planning enforcement**

This was declared a confidential item and discussion took place after all members of the public had left. An action was agreed upon.

### **7.2 – GDPR Update**

The Clerk advised that he was progressing with GDPR matters and asked that a key item – the Council's Privacy Policy – was agreed. Proposed by PH and seconded by IW and carried unanimously. The Clerk also advised that the only circumstance under which it was appropriate to retain information from Planning Applications for longer than one year was if the application was still subject to appeal. The Clerk asked Councillors to securely destroy any material that they may have retained.

*Action: Clerk to post the Privacy Policy and continue with GDPR preparations.*

*Councillors to destroy any planning application data older than one year.*

## **8. Finance**

### **8.1 – Financial Report**

The Clerk reported that the Council has £8,569.99 in its Current Account and £7,132.41 in its Reserve Account after projecting forward from current balances less due payments. We had received the first instalment of the precept funding (£5,350)

In accordance with the Transparency Code, cheques over £100 issued in this Financial Year to date are as follows:

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£316.80 Web Annual Charge and Support: £200 Tree Survey; £200 Village Green Bench Base; £150 Grant for new lawnmower: £374.44 Insurance Premium. The Clerk's net salary cheque has been £297.13 for the previous two months.

## **8.2 – 2018/19 Budget**

In considering all new information, the Clerk advised that since agreement was reached at the last meeting to award him the annual performance increment, the responsible national body had agreed a rate increase for all Council employees. This meant his hourly rate would increase by 21p to £10.67 meaning an annual increase worth £89.46. It was proposed by PC and seconded by MW and carried unanimously that this was acceptable.

The Clerk advised that the War Memorials Trust had declined our request for a grant and Councillors agreed that we carry on with the proposed work – it all being funded from Council resources.

*Action: Clerk to advise the contractor and seek a timescale for the work to be done – also to ask if they are aware of any other sources of supplementary funding.*

The Clerk advised that he had received two quotations for the proposed Hedge and Verge Trimming work. With four Councillors declaring an interest it was left for PH to propose and IW to second that the cheaper quote would be adopted.

*Action: Clerk to advise the contractors of the Council's decision*

The Clerk presented the proposed budget which was planned to give an overspend over in-year income of £3,000. This was a mirror to the in-year underspend last financial year.

*Action: Clerk to embed the agreed position in the ongoing financial statements.*

## **9. Items for the July meeting**

The meeting should include a review of the Complaints and the Council's Standing Orders. It had previously been agreed that an additional meeting would take place in June.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 22.10

*Steve Dixon*

Steve Dixon,  
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer,  
22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

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## Appendix to the Minutes of the Meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018:

Parishioner Comments – These are provided a summary of statements made and are deliberately not grouped, in a particular order or attributed to an individual

- The Police would support a speed limit in the core of the village and could look to help set up Community Speed watch if that was implemented.
- KS has a unique character as a rural village, not an urban one
- Village has no pavements
- There are concerns over children’s welfare, particularly during the winter months
- People are frightened by the perceived speeds of vehicles.
- Government recommends that the speed limit in villages should be 30mph but this is not mandatory.
- Nearly an incident at the Triangle recently.
- If there was a limit, drivers would think about it more.
- It’s not always speeding that is the issue – often it is simply careless driving
- There is more traffic coming into the village
- Understand issues regarding the look of the village if signs were erected
- Rumble strips at entrances to make drivers think about the environment they are entering could be considered
- Appropriately worded signs attached to the white gates might help
- The statistics suggest that over 29% of drivers are doing more than 30mph and in Lampley Road this rises to 40%.
- Could the data presented have been reviewed in another way?
- It would be useful to get a view from RoSPA
- The gates in their current state do not mean anything to some people and do to others
- Could we add extended sides onto the gates towards the kerbs – in order to make them more effective?
- Not in favour of 30mph because at the end of such a zone, there has to be a “derestricted” sign leading to drivers speeding up. Encourage and educate drivers rather than forbid.
- Appalled at recent Facebook exchanges – danger of breaking up the community
- What is the cost of applying a 30mph limit in the built up areas in the centre of the village? (MS - £15k. NSC estimated figure)
- If Community Speed watch was in place, repeat offenders would get a visit from the Police. Can only be implemented with a speed limit, concerns by some as to whether this would pit villager v villager
- NSC take a risk management approach to traffic and as there have been no incidents in KS, we are not a priority
- Measures should also be looked at from a Cost:Benefit perspective to optimise the benefit of money spent
- Don’t think a 30mph limit would be useful because it won’t be effective.
- We could police ourselves and the Parish Council could send letters to repeat offenders
- There’s a very dangerous section out towards Clevedon from New Cut Bow
- What can members of the community do to improve the situation?
- Education would be a good thing but we can’t rely on this as there are a lot of visitors and they would not have received it
- Traffic doesn’t adhere to the Give Way position at the foot of Middle Lane
- There have been increased numbers of visitors since the traffic survey was done in 2015
- We should all share the desire to keep the village and its residents safe.