

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on
Monday 10th July 2017 at 19.45
In the Foyer of Kingston Seymour Village Hall

Councillors Present:

Mike Sewell (MS) Chairman	Paul Cox (PC)	Caroline Harris (CH)
Peter Harris (PH)	Mike Wallis (MW)	

In attendance:

Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO	Judith Hadley, District Councillor	Carolyn Hills, Parish Liaison, NSC
PC Adam Clarke (part)		
Jeffrey Hance (resident – part)	Andy Gillam (resident – part)	

1. Apologies for absence

Councillors Fred Malton and Ian Wariner. District Councillor Jill Iles. Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Kate Gillam.

2. Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

Councillors CH & MW declared an interest in Item 9.

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

Parishioner Jeffrey Hance addressed the Council over his concerns over the speed of traffic through the village and the state of some of the village' roads. He advised that North Somerset's local officer – Jeff Shipway – had visited him and they had visited certain areas which were a particular concern including a broken manhole cover near the Church and blocked gullies at the foot of the motorway bridge. Mr Shipway had given Mr Hance assurances that the specified items would be fixed. Concerning the speed of the traffic, Mr Hance understood that there was no speed limit in the village but that this was not right and he felt that speeds had increased since the traffic survey in September 2015 which had formed the basis of the discussions at the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting.

MS thanked Mr Hance for coming to speak to the Council and assured him that the Council was acutely aware of the issues that had been raised and that these were discussed at every Council meeting. MS said that the Council would continue to work with North Somerset Council – who are responsible for the roads through the village – to find ways of improving their condition and, where possible, controlling the speed of traffic.

4. To confirm the minutes of recent meetings

4.1 Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – 11th May 2017. Proposed by PH, seconded by PC and supported unanimously.

4.2 Meeting of the Council – 11th May 2017. Proposed by PH, seconded by MW and supported unanimously.

4.3 Planning Application Meeting – 6th June 2017. Proposed by MS, seconded by CH and supported unanimously.

5. Police & Neighbourhood Watch report

PC Clarke reported that the Police CSI team were not able to recover any additional forensic information from the scene of the Church lead theft. He was unable to state whether the Police had drawn any links between this incident and similar robberies at the Penny Brohn charity in Pill or a church in Backwell. Councillors stated their unhappiness that the CSI team would not access the roof due to access / safety concerns

The person who had run through the village from the M5 had not been apprehended. There had been two domestic incidents and a vehicle had crashed into a ditch and the occupants had abandoned it. Some anti-social behaviour had been reported in Lampley Road.

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In her written report, the Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, Kate Gillam, noted that the village contacts system had worked well with the two significant incidents with many villagers receiving information quickly through the contact system. However, she was working with her area coordinators to strengthen the numbers of email addresses that were available to her to speed up the flow of information to residents.

6. Infrastructure Update

6.1 Roads & Footpaths

6.1.1 – Village Gates. In the absence of FM, the latest position regarding the gates was not known confirmation to be obtained. Action FM

The relocation of the village sign was discussed and it was agreed that that should stay where it currently is. Instead, Councillors agreed that we would purchase two reflective signs – to be mounted on the gate and facing away from the village – which would convey appropriately worded messages such as *“Thank you for driving slowly in our village”*. We would consult with North Somerset Highways to understand the most suitable wording. The Council will pay for these signs and their installation – be that through NS contractors or under our own auspices. Proposed by PH, seconded by MW and agreed unanimously. Action: FM / Clerk to contact North Somerset and agree optimal wording and to agree a price for creation of the signs and their installation. This information to be referred to Councillors by email to achieve consensus quickly and so that the signs could be ordered without undue delay.

6.1.2 – Village Footpaths. In the absence of FM an update on the clearance of the footpaths was not available. Councillors asked for clarification over the responsibilities of the land owner and of North Somerset regarding the maintenance of footpaths. Action: FM to discuss with North Somerset and report at the next meeting.

6.1.3 – Quiet Lanes. Councillor reiterated their declared position that we do not believe that the lanes in our Parish are suitable for this initiative. Action: Clerk to convey this to the lead organiser for the area.

6.1.4 – Roadside Verges. An issue had been raised about the verge at Middle Lane. The position is that the area on the road side of any ditch is the responsibility of North Somerset highways and that the land to the house side of the ditch is the homeowners’ responsibility. It was noted that in many cases, homeowners kindly cut the North Somerset side of the ditches.

6.2 Lime Tree in the War Memorial enclosure

This tree has grown quickly and as such that it is threatening the War Memorial itself and is preventing proper commemorative activity taking place in this enclosure. Professional advice had been received and if the tree was pollarded it was liable to split and cause a danger to residents so it was decided that the tree should be removed completely and replaced by something more suitable for that location. All at the expense of the Council. This was proposed by PC and seconded by CH and carried on the Chairman’s casting vote. PC & MW did not support the motion in this form. Action: Clerk to write this into the next Village Magazine article and for the work to proceed after an appropriate period but before November’s commemoration service.

6.3 Planting of the village flowers

The Chairman recorded the Council’s thanks to the members of the Flower Guild who had, once again, done a terrific job of planting out the 200 plants around the village.

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Action: Clerk to write a note of thanks to the Chairman of the Flower Guild

6.4 Energy Initiatives

There was no new information available about the changes to the power masts from Hinkley Point or about Fracking.

6.5 Coastal Footpath

Meetings have been taking place between Natural England and local landowners to agree a route through the Parish that considers all of the relevant factors. Natural England are hoping to have some proposals to table for consultation before the end of this year.

7. Services & Resilience

7.1 Green Waste Provision

The village was fortunate to have many large gardens and maintenance of these often generated a quantity of waste that was greater than the capacity of the bins. Whilst it was understood that the standard process was to collect two bins every fortnight, Councillors felt that additional capacity was required in some cases.

Action: Clerk to contact North Somerset to see if there are any options to increase green waste capacity for residents.

7.2 Community Resilience Postcard

At the last meeting, it was agreed that we would purchase a supply of standard resilience postcards for distribution to residents and in advance of the creation of a bespoke version just for our village. These postcards had now arrived and will be distributed with the next edition of the Village Magazine. PH is to advise the Clerk of the common pieces of information which all residents will be invited to write in to their cards. This will be described in the Village Magazine article and on the website.

Action: PH to supply information to Clerk. Clerk to include in Village Magazine and on website.

7.3 Defibrillator

The Clerk reported that the Defibrillator was fully maintained and expressed his thanks to Judith Barber for undertaking the regular – and vital - checks. A new battery would be needed later in the year and this would cost the Council @ £150. The light above the unit has had the faulty bulb replaced.

Advice had been taken about proper Governance of Defibrillators and, apart from the regular checks, the advice was that Public Liability Insurance must be in place and that a reasonable number of villagers knew how to use the equipment.

The Clerk has confirmed with our insurers that the Council's policy does indeed cover Public Liability regarding the defibrillator and reported that a training course had recently been undertaken at which 11 residents (including one Councillor) had attended.

It was agreed that a donation of £50 should be given to the not for profit "Heartstart" organisation that the course trainer – Emma Hunt – (a villager herself) represents, for each course and that we should plan to run two more courses in the autumn of this year – and instigate a rolling programme for 2018 and beyond.

Action: Clerk to organise in liaison with Emma Hunt and Village Hall bookings.

8. Finance

8.1 Financial Report

The Clerk reported that the Council had £5,821.53 in its Current Account and £7,130.29 in its Reserve Account as at the end of June. The figures included the first half of the annual precept payments.

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Whilst it was early days in the financial year, a small surplus of £175 was forecast against the annual budget. The Transparency Grant funding has been spent towards the website, training and hours for the Clerk and the remainder would be spent across the year paying for the WiFi facility in the Village Hall.

Cheques above £100 had been to Somerset Web Services for the annual hosting and support fee (£316.80), the Insurance Premium of £311.96 and the first payment to the Village Hall for setup of the WiFi (£106.79). The monthly salary for the clerk is net £286.59.

8.2 Establishing Standing Orders for regular items

The Clerk proposed that standing orders were set up to the Kingston Seymour Trust to settle the Council's quarterly contribution to the Post Office hosting fees (£66.25 – ongoing) and for its monthly contribution for the WiFi (£40.80 – ending in April 2018). This was felt to be appropriate and was proposed by PH, seconded by MW and carried unanimously.

Action: Clerk to ensure that these standing orders are established and that the Kingston Seymour Trust provide receipts for the annual accounts.

8.3 Projects in the Village 2017/18

It was noted that the meeting had already agreed to purchase signs, to proceed with the control of the lime tree and to fund the defibrillator battery and training courses.

The recent painting of the railings by the Church had been undertaken by voluntary labour but it was agreed that the cost of the paint would be funded by the Council (North Somerset having declined to pay for it).

It was also noted that James Roachford, local resident, had volunteered to paint the Telephone Kiosk and it was agreed that the necessary paint would be funded by the Council.

It was further agreed that other railings in the village needed attention and that CH would lead this work with costs being reimbursed by the Council.

This package of measures was proposed by PC and seconded by PH and carried unanimously.

Action: MS to introduce himself to James Roachford to thank him and to ensure that the correct paint shades are used.

9. Planning & Development

Andy Gillam – representing the Kingston Seymour Trust – briefed the Council on the upcoming auction of a field in Middle Lane and some emerging thoughts regarding its possible use. He reported that he would be seeking wider village opinion in due course through written invitation to comment and through a briefing session to be organised in the Village Hall.

10. Correspondence

10.1 "For Information" Trial

The Clerk reported that for the last two months, he had forwarded 29 items of electronic correspondence to Councillors – "For Information" – and asked Councillors whether they were comfortable with this or whether he should judge whether Councillors needed to see these items. After discussion, it was agreed that Councillors could make their own minds up whether to spend time reading these pieces of material and that the Clerk should continue to forward everything he receives.

10.2 "Battle's Over" Commemorations – 11th November 2018

To mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I, nationwide activities would take place in November 2018.

Action: MS to lead the village' engagement with this in liaison with other local groups.

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Action Clerk to invite village group representatives (Friends, Village Hall, Flower Guild, Church) to an informal meeting hosted by MS at his house to discuss

11. Forthcoming External Meetings

There is no one available to attend the WERN AGM on the 17th July and the Clerk will tender our apologies. PH to be fully connected to PCAA.

Action: Clerk to notify PCAA of new Councillor responsible

12. Reports from External Meetings

There were no meetings attended by Councillors.

13. Items for the next Agenda

The Clerk reported that two planning applications had been received and needed to be discussed before the September regular meeting. Dates at the end of July were proposed and the Clerk will organise.

For the next meeting, a specific discussion about the Planning Update provided by North Somerset Council and recently circulated to Councillors would be scheduled.

Councillors agreed that holding full Council Meetings on Tuesdays – when the main hall was occupied by the Bridge Club – was no longer appropriate and the Clerk was asked to change September's meeting to Monday 4th.

Action: Clerk to liaise with the hall bookings clerk and confirm to Councillors.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked the participants and closed the meeting at 21.50

Steve Dixon

Steve Dixon,
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer,
13th July 2017