

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on
Wednesday 15th November 2017 at 19.45
In the Kingston Seymour Village Hall

Councillors Present:

Mike Sewell (MS) Chairman
Peter Harris (PH)
Ian Wariner (IW)

Paul Cox (PC)
Fred Malton (FM)

Caroline Harris (CH)
Mike Wallis (MW)

In attendance:

Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO
Ruth Seymour, Parishioner

Jill Iles (JI), District Councillor

PC Adam Clarke

1. Apologies for absence

Parish Liaison Officer, Carolyn Hills. Neighbourhood Watch Representative, Kate Gillam

2. Declarations of Interest on items on the Agenda

None.

MS explained that the reasoning behind the very full agenda today was to ensure that all of the items currently being progressed by the Council were given appropriate attention.

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

MS welcomed Ruth Seymour, parishioner, who wished to address the Council about Fracking. Ruth was aware that the Parish Council had issued some information and that it was undertaking a watching brief on the situation. She explained how areas that had declared their areas “frack free” before any planning applications were submitted – tended to be in a better position to protect their area from fracking if matters progressed. Ruth suggested that we declare Kingston Seymour a “frack free” area.

As the possibility of fracking exists across wide areas of North Somerset, JI suggested that Ruth approaches Sue Efford at North Somerset Council – to secure a slot to address the full council.

MS thanked Ruth for her valuable input and assured her that more discussion would take place later in the meeting under item 6.3.

4. To confirm the minutes of recent meetings

5.1 Meeting of the Parish Council – 4th September 2017. Proposed by PH, seconded by MW and supported unanimously.

5.2 Planning Application Meeting – 25th September 2017. Proposed by MW, seconded by IW and supported unanimously.

5.3 Planning Application Meeting – 6th November 2017. Proposed by IW, seconded by MW and supported unanimously

5. To receive a police report and neighbourhood watch update

PC Adam Clarke reported that a property in Lampley Road had been burgled and that there had been two break ins to a shed off Ham Lane.

PC Clarke also advised Councillors that there had been a number of burglaries in Clevedon – where the perpetrators had gained access through unlocked doors and windows, and that there had been some vehicle crime in Yatton where laptops and tools had been stolen from vehicles.

In Kate Gillam’s written update, she mentioned people from outside the village acting suspiciously and how she was trying to ensure she had as many email addresses as possible for villagers so that she could alert

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parishioners in a timely manner when some suspicious behaviour had been observed. To that end, there would be flyers in this month's Village Magazine, PC Clarke urged parishioners to report suspicious activity to the Police on 101 or 999 if a crime was being committed.

6. Infrastructure Update

6.1 Roads & Footpaths

6.1.1 – Village Gates. FM reported that the materials to be laid in front of the gates had been sourced and would be installed imminently. The orientation of the gates would not be changed because of the service running under the area nearer the road.

6.1.2 – Roads Issues. A list of issues identified with Kingston Seymour's roads had been compiled by SD and FM. FM had submitted the list to North Somerset Council (NSC) and since then, some work had been done – notably at New Cut Bow and in Yew Tree Lane.

Action: FM and SD to maintain the list.

6.1.3 - Condition of the Railings at Middle Lane and by the Church and the Middle Lane Road Sign. There was discussion about whether NSC would accept any responsibility for these items which are in poor condition and did need to be repaired

Action: FM to establish with NSC whether responsibility for the repair of these railings – which had been on the list we submitted – has been accepted by NSC and will be scheduled.

6.2 - Cycle Route.

Following the September meeting, the Council submitted a list of questions to NSC and initial responses had been received. These responses have been published on the website.

Discussion ensued and the Council's concerns about significantly increased traffic levels into and through the village as members of the public sought to access the cycle route (and coastal walkway) were restated. We need to make sure that NSC are quite clear that we don't want this cycle route through the Parish and, whilst we will continue to work with the Project Manager – David Fish – it would also be useful if full council at NSC was aware of the views of this parish.

Councillors want to see the results of the traffic survey recently carried out by NSC for Natural England and the clerk is to obtain. Proposed by PH, seconded by IW and supported unanimously.

Action: JI to make it clear in her discussions with NSC that our position is against progression of this project.

Action: SD to obtain the information from Natural England or NSC and if necessary, to submit a Freedom of Information Act request to obtain it.

6.3 – Energy Initiatives.

SD reported that the current thinking at National Grid is that Western Power Distribution will be undertaking their preparatory work in 2018 and that the main National Grid work would be in 2019.

Regarding Fracking. The Clerk advised that the Scottish parliament had recently agreed to ban fracking. It had been just over a year since the Parish exchanged emails with Gerwyn Williams – the owner of the license to explore the area – and just under a year since he had featured on Radio Somerset. With the possible area for fracking including many local parishes, councillors want to understand what the position of other parishes is at the moment.

Considering the comments from Ruth Seymour, councillors wish to have a fuller debate over whether the position of KS should move from "watching brief" to a different state.

Action: SD to write to Gerwyn Williams to secure an update on progress

Action: SD to write to local parishes to establish what their current position is

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Action: SD to place an item on the Agenda for January's meeting to debate Kingston Seymour's position on fracking.

6.4 – Village Christmas Tree.

It had been suggested by parishioners that the Council should sponsor a village Christmas tree. After discussion, it was agreed that there was insufficient time to achieve this for 2017 but it was proposed by PH and seconded by IW that we look into this for 2018. PC, FM and MS supported the motion, MW abstained.

6.5 – Village Bench

Whilst not "owned" by the Parish Council, the existing bench on the green behind the bus shelter is in very poor condition and, after discussion, it was proposed by MS and seconded by FM that the Parish Council should source and install a replacement.

Action: SD to obtain quotations for a hardwood, heavy duty, bench and refer these to Councillors. The favoured option may be decided by email agreement between Councillors before the next meeting

6.6 – Phone Box

MS had not yet been able to organise the painting of the phone box.

Action: MS to talk to James Roachford – who has volunteered to paint the box – and to obtain the necessary paint.

6.7 – Village Broadband

A summary was put on our website in August and Andy Gillam also commented on the situation in last month's Village Magazine. Surveyors had recently been seen in the village – believed to have been working for BT. The Council will continue to maintain a watching brief and advise residents as facts become available.

6.8 – CCTV

Councillors had become aware that CCTV schemes were being made to smaller villages. After discussion and in consideration of PC Clarke's view that such a system was unlikely to prove valuable, insufficient councillors were in support, so no additional information would be sought at this time.

6.9 – Two trees for the village

The Council undertook to plant two new trees in the village and suitable sites are being considered.

Action: FM to actively identify sites for these trees

6.10 – Village works/orderly

Councillors recognised some outstanding voluntary efforts by parishioners – particularly Judith Barber - to maintain the quality of the village. However, it was considered that there may be sufficient work to justify employment of a part time village orderly. SD reported that both Portishead and Nailsea have such a position.

Action: All councillors to feed into SD their ideas for tasks that could be completed by a village orderly so that this can be discussed at the next meeting

Action: MS to purchase and deliver a small gift to mark the special efforts of a parishioner

7. Services & Resilience

7.1 - Waste Service Provision

The Clerk continues to chase Colin Russell, the Waste & Recycling Manager at NSC, for a response to whether parishioners could have the opportunity to secure more than 2 garden bins – perhaps even

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at an additional fee. JI confirmed that there is currently no such provision. There had been some collection issues in Bullocks Lane that seem to have been resolved with the intervention of NSC.

7.2 - Heartstart Training Courses

Sessions took place at the end of September and beginning of November, but these had been relatively poorly attended. SD advised that he would organise one or two courses in 2018

7.3 – Community Resilience

After discussion, it was proposed by PH and universally supported that SD should replace Leonie Allday as the Secretary of the Community Resilience team.

Action: SD to advise LA and acquire any relevant papers.

7.4 – School Transport

MS advised that he was leading negotiations to allow older students from Kingston to be allowed to purchase a place on the bus to Backwell. Despite initial rebuffs, some progress is now being made.

7.5 – Health

Reported progress on the new Doctor's surgery at Smallway is slow. Concerns were expressed about the distance the new surgery would be from Kingston

8. Finance

SD reported that the Council has £7,601.98 in its Current Account and £7,130.52 in its Reserve Account after projecting forward from current balances less due payments. At present, the Council has some £3,000 available for projects in the current financial year.

In accordance with the Transparency Code, cheques over £100 issued in this Financial Year are as follows:
£316.80 Web Annual Charge and Support: £311.96 Insurance Premium: £106.79 Village Hall Wifi Set up: £120
External Audit Fee: £432 Removal of Trees: £107.25 Hire of Village Hall: £400 Grant for Churchyard
Maintenance: £190 Grant for Village Magazine.

In addition, the Clerk's net monthly salary cheque is for £286.59.

9. Parish Council Procedures

9.1 - Review of Policies

MS proposed that the Parish Council's policies should be reviewed on a rolling basis to ensure that they were appropriately maintained.

Action: SD to propose a schedule for review – typically one policy per meeting.

9.2 – Lessons learned

After discussion, it was agreed that lessons can always be learned and the ongoing review of policies would facilitate these improvements. All agreed that procedures should be complied with to ensure effective decision making and transparency.

10. Planning and Development

10.1 – Joint Spatial Plan

The Joint Spatial Plan was approved by NSC on the previous evening and now enters a consultation period that will run until January. The main development areas proposed are in Nailsea, Backwell and Churchill.

10.2 – Bristol Airport Proposed Expansion

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PH reported that Bristol Airport are seeking an increase in passengers from the current 8m p.a. (from a permitted current limit of 13m p.a.) to 23m p.a. This would involve the creation of new infrastructure within the airport – aircraft stands, car parks, hotels etc. – and significant increases in aircraft traffic.

A consultation document is in the public domain and PH will be attending a PCAA meeting on 25th January. The Council will maintain vigilance on these proposed changes.

11. Correspondence

Correspondence is circulated to Councillors as it is received, and necessary action is discussed as part of an Agenda item.

An email had been received from a parishioner about the recent Firework displays around the village and how these affected horses and other animals. The Council had issued notices about considerate behaviour and requirements under current legislation to protect animals but clearly this advice had not been heeded by some

Action: SD to update the Parish Council summary on behaviour and legal compliance following a review via those agencies responsible to ensure latest guidance is available to Parishioners

Action: Parish council to discuss how to ensure that Firework events in the village are as inclusive as possible with disruption to people and animals minimised, with a focus around New Year & Guy Fawkes night

12. Attendance at Meetings

There is a Settlement Profile meeting at NSC on 27th November and FM and hopefully MS will attend with SD for the Council.

Action: SD to book a meeting time with NSC

There is an annual briefing at Bristol Airport on the 6th December. PH will attend.

Action: Other Councillors to consider whether they can attend with PH and advise SD

The first planning meeting for the “Battles’ Over” celebrations for 11 Nov 18 takes place on 16th Nov 17 chaired by MS

13. Receive Reports from Meetings Attended

None

14. Items for Next Meeting on January 8th 2018

Items as identified above.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 22.45

Steve Dixon

Steve Dixon,

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer,

26th November 2017