

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Kingston Seymour Parish Council on Monday 24th November 2014 at 7.30pm in the meeting room, Village Hall

Present:

Councillors Mike Sewell (Chairman), Paul Cox, John Harris, Pete Harris, Fred Malton, Bryan Thomas and Mike Wallis. Leonie Allday, Clerk.

In attendance:

John Painter, Principal Highways Engineer, NSC; NS Councillor Jill Iles; Carolyn Hills, Parish Council Liaison Officer; Ed Brooks, Nigel Cole and Ian Wariner, parishioners.

Declarations of Interest:

Item 7(i) – John Harris owns land adjacent

Item 12 – Mike Wallis is related to Roy Wallis, from whom a letter had been received for the Council's consideration

Public Participation Time

None.

1. Apologies for absence

NS Councillor Tony Moulin

2. Minutes of meeting of 10th September 2014

With one minor correction these were agreed to be a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Community Resilience and Police Report

None. It was known that there had been a spate of crime in Yatton recently, but no incidents had been recorded in Kingston Seymour. Reference was made to the poor rating of the Avon & Somerset police force and to the fact that one of the indicators on which it had scored badly was "unrecorded crime". Councillors felt that from their own experience this was a fair criticism.

4. Infrastructure

(i) Roads and footpaths

The Chairman welcomed John Painter, Principal Engineer, North Somerset Highways and Transport, to the meeting. JP explained that he had been briefed by the Clerk; he had looked at maps of the area and examined the intersections at the Triangle. He had also looked at the data on road traffic accidents involving injury and noted that no incidents had been reported in the last 3 years. He had been advised that there had been several unreported incidents and that there was a considerable amount of anecdotal evidence of "near misses", but this on its own did not make a case for a speed limit or any other calming action. However, that did not mean that no action was possible.

JP then referred to the Department of Transport guidelines on speed limits; many villages had 30mph limits in the built-up areas and some had 20mph limits. There would be no objection in principle to imposing a speed limit in the centre of the village (it should not extend beyond the continuously built-up area) but as it was not a high priority location funding would be an issue. He made two suggestions:

- firstly, that speed and turning surveys should be carried out in several locations in the centre of the village; the results would inform the case for action, if any;
- secondly, that a contribution to the cost of the surveys (say 50%) from the Parish Council would be well received

After discussion, and in line with advice from the Clerk, it was proposed (PH, seconded FM) and unanimously agreed that the Council would contribute up to £500 towards the cost of conducting the speed and turning surveys. JP would contact the Clerk as to feasibility and timing when he had discussed the matter with his line manager.

It was generally agreed that this was a constructive outcome and the Chairman thanked JP for attending the meeting.

JP, EB and IW left the meeting.

Item 7(i) was taken at this juncture.

Planning Application No. 14/P/2188/F: Proposed works for the improvement and raising of tidal embankments from Tutshill Sluice to Congresbury Yeo estuary to provide increased flood protection. Lengthening of parapets at Sampsons Sluice to accommodate all raised and widened banks, north and south banks of Congresbury Yeo on boundary between Kingston Seymour and Wick St Lawrence (Environment Agency)

After a brief discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Council should express wholehearted support for this scheme. NC commented that he had expressed concern about possible damage to lanes and verges and councillors agreed that it would be important to let the EA know that it would monitor the condition of the lanes, verges and ditch / rhyme banks for the duration of the project. It was impossible to know how much HGV traffic would be generated as it depended to some extent on the weather and on engineering considerations during the build.

The Clerk would submit the Council's comments, including those concerning the potential damage to the lanes, indicating that it would be monitoring this during the works period.

Action: Clerk

Item 4 ctd

- (ii) Registration of land at Triangle as Commons

FM reported that there had been no progress.

- (iii) Phone box

MS reported that the painting had still to be carried out and that as a book, toy and music swap it was working very well.

(iv) Broadband

The Clerk had submitted evidence to a Defra inquiry into rural broadband coverage. She commented that the "Connecting Devon & Somerset" website now indicated that there would be an upgrade of the service to the parish in October 2015; this was good news.

(v) Aspen trees in Lampley Road

FM reported that NSC believes that they own the land up to the middle of the treeline. Mr Fortune's land ownership starts at the ditch; the ownership of the intervening strip of land is unclear. An officer had been out to look at the trees; she did not think that they were diseased but had yet to carry out a detailed survey. FM would report further at the next meeting.

Action: FM

5. Services

(i) Website report

Sylvia Stokes had prepared a report which would be circulated to all councillors; the Clerk summarized the key points. It was noted with approval that the Home Page was now much more current and thus more useful. An additional calendar, identifying times when the Village Hall was booked, had been posted.

Action: Clerk

6. Finance & Administration

(i) Routine payments

The Clerk reported that the balance on current account: £6381.12 and that per cash book: £6266.38. The difference of £114.74 was due to an unrepresented cheque.

£100 (the Village Orderly Grant) had been received since the last meeting. Cheques had been issued as follows: KSA £114.74 (hire of Hall 2013-14); Cardiff University £50 (Severn Estuary Forum fee); Clerk £352.05 (salary Sept ex PAYE); HMRC £15.20 (PAYE due LA); Sylvia Stokes £57.60 (web manager remuneration 6 weeks to 11 Oct); HMRC £14.40 (PAYE due SS).

Payments were due as follows: PCAA £50 (annual subscription); KN Office Supplies £64.83 (laser toner cartridge); Clerk £357.45 (salary Oct calculated as below, ex PAYE); HMRC £9.80 (PAYE due Clerk); Clerk £63.39 (expenses); Sylvia Stokes £28.80 (web manager remuneration 3 weeks to 1 Nov); HMRC £7.20 (PAYE due SS). It was proposed (FM, seconded MW) and unanimously agreed that these payments should be made.

The Clerk further reported that the balance on the Business Reserve Account stood at £3624.86.

Action: Clerk

(ii) Details of national local government pay award 2015-16

The Clerk reported that agreement had finally been reached and she had just received details of the new NJC pay scales. The increase in salary, which would not take effect until 1st January 2015, would be £97.00, plus a non-

consolidated (one-off) payment of £20 (pro-rated from £100) to be made in December 2014. It was agreed that the Council would pay the new rate in line with its longstanding commitment to pay the Clerk according to the nationally-agreed scales.

(iii) New Model Financial Regulations

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

7. Planning

(i) Update on planning applications previously considered or advised:

- *LB Application for replacement of upvc windows with timber – consent granted*
- *Application for agricultural worker's dwelling, Mud Lane – decision awaited*
- *Application for construction of holiday accommodation, Bullock Farm fishing lakes – decision awaited*
- *Outline application for housing development (Hallam Homes) at North End – decision awaited. JI reported that further plans had been required in respect of the proposed fifth arm to be added to the roundabout*

(ii) Update on alleged breaches of regulations / compliance / enforcement / appeals

None.

(iii) Other

The Clerk drew councillors' attention to information about grants for Neighbourhood planning, the joint letter sent to NSC by a group of local councils concerning development pressures in the absence of an approved Core Strategy, and the update circulated by NSC on progress towards approval (inquiry in the New Year). It was agreed that FM and the Clerk would jointly prepare a briefing for the Council on Neighbourhood Plans.

Action: FM, Clerk

8. Consultations

None.

9. Reports of other meetings and in-service events attended by councillors / clerk:

- Severn Estuary Forum 16 September, Cardiff – JH had not been able to attend as his wife had been unwell
- Joint meeting of parishes affected by recent development proposals 18 September – MS had attended one meeting and was monitoring the situation
- Flood Resilience Partnership Working Seminar 25 September – MS had attended
- ALCA AGM – Sat 4 Oct, 1030am, Bradley Stoke – the Clerk had attended and had circulated a report. The new ALCA Constitution had been approved by a large majority.

10. Forthcoming meetings and events:

- Bristol Airport – end of year get-together, 6 December, 6pm – JH would attend
- Parish planning workshop 10 December – JH, BT and the Clerk would attend

11. Dates of meetings 2015

These had been booked and the dates would be circulated to all relevant parties.

12. Correspondence & Information

- The Clerk asked for feedback on the new format of the Correspondence and Information list.
- The Clerk asked the Council's permission to attend an ALCA training session on 11th December on the changes to Local Government Pensions for town and parish councils. The cost would be £20. It was agreed that she should attend.
- The Clerk had very recently received a letter from former resident Roy Wallis, who has land in the centre of the village. He would be willing to gift some plots for affordable or retirement housing and land for a playing area in return for the Council's support for a proposal to build a number (unspecified) of houses. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the Council could not discuss such a proposal, which was not in any case on the agenda, without more details. It was agreed that the Clerk should reply to RW's letter, suggesting that if he wished to proceed he should supply more specific details. The Home Field precedent was noted.

Action: Clerk

13. Members' Concerns

None.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 13th January 2015