

## KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 8.20pm in the meeting room, Village Hall

**\*\* This meeting immediately followed the Council's Annual Meeting \*\***

*Declarations of Interest under the Code of Local Government Conduct*

*None.*

*Public Participation Time*

*None.*

Present:

Councillors Paul Cox, Fred Malton, Mike Sewell (vice-chairman, in the chair), Claire Stuckey, Bryan Thomas and Mike Wallis. Leonie Allday, Clerk

In attendance:

District Councillor and Local Member Jill Iles.

1. Apologies for absence

Councillor John Harris (on holiday). District Councillor and Local Member Annabel Tall. Parish Council Liaison Officer Carolyn Hills. PC Paul Morris, Beat Manager and PCSOs Elle French and Kate Turner.

2. Community Safety and Police Report

The Clerk reported that PC Morris had advised that there had only been 1 crime in the last 2 months; this was the theft of a motor vehicle which had been left unattended with the keys by a non-local resident.

MS mentioned the vandalism which had occurred on two successive nights on weekend of the Royal Wedding. A number of the scarecrows made by villagers had been damaged; one had been thrown into the rhyne and another dumped in Kenn. This had been distressing, especially as in some instances the vandals had entered peoples' gardens, and had created a lot of additional work for those who had made the scarecrows.

3. Minutes of meetings:

- (i) Bi-monthly 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011
- (ii) Planning 6<sup>th</sup> April 2011
- (iii) Planning 7<sup>th</sup> May 2011

These were agreed to be true records of the meetings and were duly signed by the vice-chairman.

4. Matters Arising from meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> March:

**(a) Item 5(c) - War Memorial** – No report

**(b) Item 5(d) – Odours from sewage works** – The Clerk had requested an update but this had not been received (*see note below*)

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**(c) Item 5(e) – Winter waste and recycling** – It was noted that the “lessons learned” report was now on the website.

**(d) Item 5(f) – National Grid ongoing consultations** – MS reported that the issues concerning representation of town and parish council views on the Hinkley Point C Connection group had been resolved, and it was now clear exactly which towns and parishes were being represented by Dr Gregory.

**(e) Item 6(ii) – Repairs to war memorial railings** - The Clerk reported that this was in hand; repairs to, and replacement of, the bollards had been completed.

**(f) Item 7 – Core Strategy consultation** – It was noted that a response had been agreed and submitted; Residential Design Guide consultation – it was noted that no response had been submitted.

#### 5. Matters Arising from Annual Parish Meeting

##### (i) Village Website – update and feedback

The Clerk reported on behalf of Rebecca Stockwell that feedback was encouraging. To 12 May, there had been 210 “hits” resulting in over 1500 pageviews. 60% of these were new visits. All sections of the site needed further development and RS would welcome much more input from event organizers for the “What’s On” section. Business sponsorship was limited as yet, but the businesses which had signed up so far had given good feedback. The next village magazine would include more information and the password for the “villagers only” page.

Recognizing the critical importance of keeping the website up-to-date and the work this would involve, it was acknowledged that the role of web manager now needed to be formalized. It was proposed (FM, seconded PC) and unanimously agreed that RS should be asked to take on the role of web manager. The Clerk would check that she was still willing and if so would draw up a simple contract.

Action: Clerk

##### (ii) Parish Plan – update and feedback; next steps

The Clerk reported that the Plans had been distributed and a number of positive comments had been received. However parishioners were now anxious to see some progress on other items as well as the website. MS suggested that the steering committee should be reconvened in order to manage and monitor the implementation phase; Cathy Cooke had expressed a willingness to continue to chair this. It was agreed that this offer should be accepted.

Action: Clerk to liaise with CC

##### (iii) Village of the Year Competition

It was agreed that the village would submit an entry. The Clerk would liaise with Sarah Harris (map) and Sherry Hulbert, and would appreciate comments on a draft response to the “Community Life” questionnaire.

Action: Clerk

##### (iv) Use for telephone box as additional noticeboard / small ads space

It was noted that if the phonebox was to be used in this way, a volunteer would be needed to monitor and manage the display. It was suggested that Mary Culmstock might be willing to do this; the Clerk would enquire. If not, a volunteer would be sought through the magazine / website.

Action: Clerk

#### 6. Financial / Administrative Report:

minutes meeting 12.5.11

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(i) Routine payments

The Clerk reported that the balance on the current account was £6009.17 (of which, £569.31 was earmarked for the Parish Plan and £50 was income against website). The balance per cash book was £5959.17, the difference of £50 being due to an unrepresented cheque. Monies received since the last meeting were as follows: NSC £4150.00 (first half precept); P Kingcott £50 (business advertising on website). Cheques issued since last meeting were as follows: Somerset Web Services £677.40 (second half website set-up cost); A Harris £108 (hedge cutting motorway bridge); Paceprint £14.40 (photocopying).

Payments were due as follows: AON £555.02 (insurance premium); ALCA £77.44 (annual subscription); Paceprint £27.73 (photocopying – annual report); North Somerset Council £960.00 (artwork and printing Parish Plan); Clerk £726.70 (salary January / February); Clerk £84.75 (expenses / IT allowance).

The Clerk asked if the Council would be willing to purchase the revised edition of “Standing Orders for Local Councils” at £25; she also asked if a contribution could be made to George Lumkin for setting up the PA system for the public meeting with Liam Fox. She proposed a sum of £20, which was agreed.

The balance on the Business Reserve Account was £3618.35 (£1000 of this being the remainder of the Parish Plan grant).

It was proposed (FM, seconded PC) and unanimously agreed that these payments should be made.

Action: Clerk

(ii) New HMRC regulations re mechanism of payment of salaries to clerks

The Clerk reported that CC, as outgoing chairman, had this in hand; she expected that the process would be completed within the next week or two. She commented that payment to the web manager would also have to be made using this system.

7. Sea defences proposals – review of public meeting and subsequent media coverage: next steps

Councillors agreed that both the public meeting and the subsequent press and television coverage had been useful. The Clerk said that she was hoping to hear from Liam Fox shortly; she had been pressing his secretary for the promised draft report to ministers. In the meantime she was aware that JH was planning to set up the small working group as soon as possible; CS was preparing a legal brief for the NFU. It was agreed that there was much to be done but there was a need for clarity as to who would be doing what in order to avoid duplication of effort. Nothing had been heard from the Environment Agency. JI commented that she had been surprised and disappointed that NSC had not responded to the consultation; they had seemed to take the view that the proposals had been anticipated in the Review of the Shoreline Management Plan, which was only partly the case. JI would pursue this further with NSC.

The Clerk would keep councillors informed of any developments.

Action: JH, JI, Clerk

8. Consultation: defra – Consultation on proposed regulations for appeals against works notices, exclusions or restrictions of access and dedication of land – deadline for comments 24 June

It was noted that this consultation related to the procedural framework for establishing a new continuous right of access (walking route plus “spreading room”) along the English coast. Since the route would in due course pass through the parish, it was important that both the Council and those local landowners likely to be affected understand the proposed regulations for facilitating implementation of the new access right, and take the opportunity – if they so wish – to make any comments they feel necessary at this stage. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask JH to look at this and to liaise with landowners as appropriate.

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Action: Clerk, JH

## 9. Planning

The Clerk reported as follows:

- (i) Update on planning applications previously considered:
  - Bramble Farm – new dwelling (outline) – referred to full Planning Committee (June) by officers with unanimous recommendation from CAC for approval
  - Yew Tree Farm – replacement windows – refused, enforcement action to follow
  - New House Farm – part replacement barn – decision awaited
  - Elmscott Farm – conversions and extension – decision awaited
  - Land behind 1 Bullocks Cotts – conversion part agricultural building to equestrian – decision awaited
  - The Penns, Middle Lane – stable block, arena and access – decision awaited
- (ii) Update on alleged breaches of regulations / compliance / enforcement / appeals
  - Briar Cottage – Inspector’s site visit believed to be due the following week
- (iii) Other
  - Seawall Farm – agricultural unit – new PDA application received
  - NSC’s proposed changes to town / parish consultation arrangements for planning applications – this had been discussed at the recent planning workshop. Many small councils had raised concerns and it had been agreed that the new system would be phased in over a longer period to give them more time to acquire equipment, receive training and adapt their procedures.
  - DCLG consultation: Relaxation of planning rules for change of use from commercial to residential – deadline for comments 30 June – the Clerk had just become aware of this; it could have significant implications for rural areas. She would look at it and advise councillors of any possible implications. CS and FM also expressed an interest in looking at it.

Action: FM, CS, Clerk

## 10. Roads

- (i) Routine maintenance

PC advised that there was nothing to report.

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

- (i) Public meeting re Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy – see item 7 above
- (ii) NS Local Access Forum meeting in Kingston Seymour, 19 April – the Clerk reported that the intended walk of the possible route of the coastal path had not taken place. Due to the recent EA consultation on flood risk management, considerable uncertainty now surrounded the proposals.
- (iii) NSC Planning Seminar 11 May - the Clerk reported that she and BH had attended. As always, it had been a useful session.

## 12. Forthcoming meetings and events:

- (i) Western Power Distribution stakeholder workshop on future investment plans, 18 May, 10am-1pm, Bristol – no-one wished to attend

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- (ii) ALCA NSG – Tuesday 7 June, 7.30, Banwell – the Clerk said that she would be on holiday. It was hoped that JH would attend in his Executive Committee capacity as no-one else was available.
- (iii) PCAA AGM Tuesday 21 June, 7.30pm, Felton – MS would attend
- (iv) NALC Communities in Action Conference and Exhibition, 15 June (Bristol) / 22 September (London) – it was noted that this focused heavily on the Localism Bill. It was agreed that it might be very useful, but it was expensive and probably not the best use of the Council's limited training budget. It was decided to review the possibility of sending a delegate if and when the Localism Bill was enacted.

### 13. Correspondence and Information

Some 50 items had been listed for councillors and those of interest or relevance would be circulated.

### 14. Members' concerns

None.

*The meeting closed at 9.51pm*

*Note:*

Date of next regular meeting: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July, 7.30pm  
NB also special meeting Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 7.30pm