

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th September 2013 at 7.30pm in the meeting room, Village Hall

Present:

Councillors John Harris (chairman), Paul Cox, Pete Harris, Fred Malton and Mike Wallis. Leonie Allday, Clerk

In attendance:

NS District Councillor Jill Iles; Rebecca Stockwell, parishioner and website manager

Declarations of Interest

None

Public Participation Time

NS Councillor Jill Iles reported that the Boundary Commission had recommended retaining most of the geographical area of Yatton Ward within its proposed new boundary (losing Cleeve to Wrington); it would become a 2-member ward. She felt this was as good an outcome as was possible given the reduction in the total number of councillors. [see 14 below]

Jl also commented on the eventual removal of the flytipped waste adjacent to Lampley Road. A communications breakdown had resulted in a long delay, for which she apologised. The Chairman reported that Nigel Cole would be erecting a gate across the entrance to the track as agreed with NSC, on his return from holiday. [see 4(iii) below]

1. Apologies for absence

District Councillor Tony Moulin; Councillors Mike Sewell (family illness), Bryan Thomas (unwell); PC Morris, Beat Manager; PCSO Kate Turner.

2. Community Safety and Police Report

The Clerk reported that PC Morris had indicated that no crimes had been reported in August or to date in September. There had been several complaints about speeding motorists in Lampley Road; certain individuals were being “targeted and educated” and he hoped this would resolve the issue.

He had also reported that PCSO Ellie French had left the team to work in Bristol; due to cuts in funding she would not be replaced.

3. Minutes of meetings:

- (i) Bi-monthly meeting of 16th July 2013
- (ii) Planning meeting of 5th August 2013

These were agreed to be true records of the meetings and were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising (not elsewhere on the agenda)

- (i) **16.7. item 5 (ii) - First registration of land at The Triangle** - the Clerk reported that no action had yet been taken

Action: Clerk

- (ii) **16.7. item 5(vii) - letter to HMRC** - the Clerk reported that no response had been received; she suggested that it was now unlikely and proposed that the item be discharged. This was agreed.
- (iii) **16.7. item 5(viii) - flytipped waste Lampley Road** - it was noted that this had now been removed
- (iv) **16.7. item 5(x) - public access defibrillator** - the Clerk report that she was in the process of finalising the order; she was awaiting a telephone call from AED Locator concerning the precise specifications and delivery options. She informed councillors that the price of the package was some £300 higher than had originally (April) been advised; she would check the reason for this.

Action: Clerk

- (v) **16.7. item 13 (iv) - refurbishment of telephone box** - PH reported that this was in hand

Action: PH, MS

5. Financial / Administrative Matters

(i) Routine payments

The Clerk reported that the balance on the current account was £8121.42. The balance per cash book was £8025.42; the difference represented two un-presented cheques. The second half precept of £4300 had been received from North Somerset Council. Cheques had been issued since the last meeting as follows: Clerk £303.15 (salary plus back pay - see (iii) below - net of PAYE); HMRC £75.80 (PAYE); Rebecca Stockwell £36 (web manager remuneration, 3 weeks); Pace £20 (photocopying).

Payments were due as follows: Clerk £388.65 (salary August: more than monthly salary pro rata, calculated as below - assume PAYE overpaid in July); Clerk £66.20 (expenses plus PC allowance, as below); Rebecca Stockwell £60 (web manager remuneration, 5 weeks to 8 September at £8 / hr x 1.5 hrs / week); Grant Thornton £120 (external audit fee); KN Office Supplies £58.18 (toner cartridge). It was proposed (PH, seconded MW) and unanimously agreed that these payments should be made.

The balance on the Business Reserve Account was £3622.42.

Action: Clerk

(ii) Conclusion of Audit - to report

The Clerk reported that the external auditor had returned the Annual Return without qualification; she was thanked for her work on this.

(iii) Local Government pay settlement 2013/14

The Clerk reported that the National Salary Awards of 1%, the first increase for four years, would have the effect of raising her salary by £47 / year. As the Council had always paid in line with the national pay scales, she had with the Chairman's knowledge taken this into account in making her Real Time PAYE submission the previous month. It was proposed (FM, seconded PH) and unanimously agreed that the Council approved rise in salary.

(iv) Membership of West of England Rural Network

The Chairman reported that he had registered the Parish Council as a member of this new body, the successor organisation to Community Action. Membership was currently free of charge.

(v) Website

RS tabled a report giving figures for traffic on the website and highlighting sections which had experienced particularly high usage in the last few months. The Village Show in particular had generated a good deal of traffic. She commented that at this time of the year she received programme information from most of the village organisations, and that the new Wildlife Interest Group was slowly attracting more attention. A discussion ensued as to how to expand the Business Directory to make it more useful to villagers and it was agreed that any business which wanted a listing could have a brief one free of charge, with the option of paying for more space if the additional business justified it. RS would contact businesses to this effect.

Action: RS

(vi) Clerk's reports in Village Magazine

This item, placed on the agenda at the request of MS, was in his absence deferred.

(vii) Proposed meeting dates 2014

These would be checked with Carol Chappell and circulated.

6. National Grid - Hinkley Point C Connection - consultation

PH reported that he had looked at the information in some detail. The route was as expected, along almost the same line as that existing. The National Grid was proposing to use the new T pylons in this locality; in his view these would be far less offensive than the lattice type; they would also be smaller than originally feared. The existing line would be removed, the new one appeared to be one field closer to the village but this would have very little if any impact on residents (with the exception of those at Windwhistle). It was noted that it looked as if there would be a construction compound at the site of the pylon adjacent to Lampley Road; this would inevitably result in some disruption and possibly damage to the road surface caused by very heavy vehicles. It was agreed that the Council's comments would include a note to the effect that if there was indeed to be a works compound here, it would be looking for a Section 106 agreement in respect of any necessary restitution work. The Clerk would make the Council's comments accordingly.

Action: Clerk

7. Community Resilience

The Chairman reported that the Local Action Meeting due to have been held on the previous Monday had been postponed. It had been decided to invite the Community Resilience officer Ian Wilson to attend so that Local Action Team members could understand exactly what would be required in order to set up a Community Resilience scheme that would comply with the necessary protocols yet be as small and simple as was consistent with efficiency and effectiveness. It was hoped that something could be in place well before the end of the year.

Action: Chairman, Clerk, LAT members

8. Changes to Home to School Transport Arrangements

It was noted that MS had been corresponding with the local authority concerning the proposed changes, which were not acceptable to parents locally. It appeared that the situation had now been satisfactorily resolved.

9. Broadband - update on options for the future

The Clerk reported that recent discussions with a BT Openreach engineer had prompted some concern as to whether the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) initiative would ever be of any help to Kingston Seymour, as the Yatton exchange was classed as an urban not a rural exchange. She was pursuing this with her contact at CDS.

Action: Clerk

10. Planning

(i) Update on applications previously considered:

- Dog training arena, Pool Farm - decision awaited
- Car park and field track, Mud Lane - revised plans and details awaited
- Rear extension 3 Hope Cottages - decision awaited; understood to have been approved
- Garage, The Coach House - consent with conditions
- Rear extension The Coach House - Sn 192 (proposed lawful development) application withdrawn, HHPA application now submitted

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact NALC to see if she could obtain a legal view on NSC's contention that no planning application was required for the full length of the proposed cycle-track; PH would also consult his planning contacts.

Action: Clerk, PH

(ii) Update on breaches of regulation / compliance/ enforcement / appeals

- Long Croft and The Dairy House, Yew Tree Lane - The Inspector had ruled that NSC's enforcement notices were nullified on the basis that they provided insufficient information as to how the owners could comply; it was noted that it remains open to the LPA to recommence the enforcement process.
- Compliance check on approved development on land to N of Lampley Road - The Clerk read the officer report, which councillors deemed unsatisfactory in that some concerns had not been addressed. She was asked to follow up on her contact with the EA and request a site visit at the earliest opportunity.

Action: Clerk

11. Roads and Footpaths

(i) Routine report

PC reported that plans for the proposed footpath diversion at Riverside Farm were proceeding. The new gate for the footpath adjacent to Lampley Road had been delivered and would be fitted by Angus Norrish. Some potholes had been filled and the works to the railings at New Cut Bow completed. The collapsed road edge, verge and ditch bank in Bullocks Lane had been reinstated. Approaches to the contractor working on the refurbishment of Lampley Cottage had resulted in the ditch being cleared and the bank supported, retaining this feature at the heart of the village. The Clerk was asked to write to the owner of the property to thank him.

Action: Clerk

(ii) Hedge cutting

PC indicated that he would be in contact with landowners in Middle Lane where hedges were very overgrown. He had spoken informally to Anthony Harris about the possible cost of cutting all the hedges and verges in the village; the price quoted was thought to be very reasonable and the Clerk would try to find out whether it was feasible for this to be taken on from North Somerset Council.

Action: PC, Clerk

12. Reports of meetings and in-service events attended by councillors / clerk

(i) First AGM, West of England Rural Network, 13 August

The Chairman had attended and a written report would be circulated.

(ii) Flood Resilience Seminar, Tuesday 10 September (Clerk)

The Clerk had attended and a written report plus extracts from the presentations would be circulated. Attendees had been informed that the Local flood Risk Management Strategy would shortly be published for consultation. Recent changes to the EA's Flood Warning system would be included in the next report to the village.

Action: Clerk

13. Forthcoming meetings / events

- (i) Community Resilience Workshops - 15 Oct, 12 Nov - these were for Team Leaders and would be relevant if by that stage any had been formally identified
- (ii) National Grid C Connection Project - Community Forum, Tuesday 24 September, 7-9pm, Best Western Webbington Hotel and Spa - no-one was able to attend, but councillors were encouraged to visit the local information point in Yatton Library
- (iii) Electrical Waste Amnesty, Wednesday 9th October, 4-6.30pm - advertising materials would be supplied by NSC
- (iv) North Somerset Council / ALCA Liaison meeting - Wednesday 9th October, 7-9pm, Castlewood, Clevedon - the Chairman would attend
- (v) ALCA AGM, 2 November, 10.30 for 11am, Guildhall, Bath - the Chairman would attend

14. Correspondence and Information

The Clerk brought the following matters to the attention of councillors:

- (i) **The Oil Club** - A group buying scheme operating in the area - information would be passed on to parishioners
- (ii) **Rural Fair Share Campaign** - Both the Rural Services Network had NSC had contacted parish councils to ask them to collect signatures for this national petition, aimed at persuading the government to redress or at least reduce the inequity in funding between urban and rural areas. Some 50 signatures had already been collected via the village Post Office. The Clerk would send these to the campaign office.

Action: Clerk

- (iii) **Electoral Review of North Somerset** - The Clerk would respond on behalf of the Council, welcoming the proposals.
- (iv) **North Somerset Core Strategy update** - An Inspector had been appointed to re-examine the housing numbers and associated policies. Further consultation would take place in due course.
- (v) **Industrial Action by the Fire Brigade Union** - This was planned for Wednesday 25 September from 12 noon to 4pm
- (vi) **Cycle Ride** - A party of Scouts and their Leaders would be cycling through the village on Sunday 6th October. Temporary signs would be erected and removed by the organisation.
- (vii) **Foul odours from Sewage Works** - Paul Adams (Pear Tree Farm) had been in correspondence with Wessex Water concerning an increase in odours over the summer; PC and the Clerk had been copied in to some of this. It was agreed that, Wessex Water having been given many opportunities to resolve this matter over a period of 2 years but having failed to do so, the Clerk should write to the Consumer Council for Water, forwarding any available records. She would contact Mr Adams.

Action : Clerk

- (viii) **NHS Care.Data initiative** - The Clerk, who had become aware of this matter in her capacity as a member of the Yeo Vale Medical Practice (YVMP) Patient Participation Group, briefly described this national initiative to (a) extract identifiable data from patient records and (b) make it available to third parties for the purposes of health planning and research. Unlike two other initiatives, about which everyone had recently received individual letters from the North Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group, no information was being provided to individuals although it would be available at GP surgeries. It was possible to opt out of (a) and/ or (b), but the timescale before the commencement of data extraction was very short (approx. 8 weeks) and it was feared that many people would not hear about this initiative within that period. YVMP was producing information for patients which would also be posted on its website, but lacked the time, funds or staff resources to contact all patients individually. It was therefore approaching parish councils, schools and other organisations to ask for assistance in communicating the information as widely as possible.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact Dr Liz Hale to see if she would agree to the inclusion of generic information in the next magazine in order for parishioners to be alerted to this matter.

Action: Clerk

15. Members' Concerns

PH reported that the last green waste collection had been very untidy; the operators had left a lot of waste in the road. JH commented that the recycling lorry always drove down Yeo Bank Lane with the hoppers open, so that a quantity of rubbish flew out. Presumably this happened elsewhere in the parish. Each week he collected a bag full. The Clerk would make a complaint accordingly.

Action: Clerk

The meeting closed at 10pm

Date of next meeting: Thursday 14th November 2013