

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Kingston Seymour Parish Council on Monday 11th January 2016 at 7.30pm in the meeting room, Village Hall

Present:

Councillors Mike Sewell (MS, chairman), Paul Cox (PC), Pete Harris (PH), Fred Malton (FM), Mike Wallis (MW) and Ian Wariner (IW). Leonie Allday, Clerk

In attendance:

Local Member Councillor Judith Hadley(JH).

Declarations of Interest: None

Public Participation Time: None

1. Apologies for absence

Councillor Caroline Harris (CH), whose husband had sustained an accident that afternoon; District Councillor Jill Iles; Carolyn Hills, Parish Council Liaison Officer; PC Adam Clarke and PCSO Rachel Sellars.

2. Minutes of meetings:

- (i) Thursday 12th November – bi-monthly
- (ii) Saturday 28th November 2015 – planning

The minutes of both meetings were agreed to be a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Police Report

The Clerk read a brief report, which mentioned several minor incidents (unsuccessful attempt to burgle a business premises, fly-tipping, false alarm at business premises). There would be police representation at the Annual Parish Meeting.

4. Infrastructure

(i) Roads & Footpaths

a. Outcome of traffic volume, speed and turning surveys

Due to the failure of John Painter (NSC) to attend, this item was deferred. The Clerk was asked to enquire as to why he had not attended, stress the inconvenience caused to the Council and arrange a further meeting. Ideally this would take place before the precept deadline at the end of January.

Action: Clerk

b. General update on issues

PC commented that the white lines at the Triangle and elsewhere in the village had at last been re-painted; it was 19 months since he had first requested that this be done. The "Green Team", contractors for NSC, had been asked to cut back the overgrowth of vegetation on the shoulders of the motorway bridge.

A comment was made about a car which was regularly parked in a dangerous fashion near the Triangle. FM offered to speak to the owner.

Action: FM

(ii) Phone box

It was agreed that this item should be discharged from the agenda; it would only be reinstated if by later in the year the work had still not been done.

5. Services

(i) Website Report – None provided

(ii) Community Resilience – Action continues

Action: PH, Clerk

(iii) Free Annual Flowers Scheme

After discussion it was agreed that the Council should again take advantage of this offer. The Clerk was asked to contact the Flower Guild with regard to the reception, distribution and planting of the plants. FM offered to collect them as he would also be collecting the allocation for Kenn.

Action: Clerk, FM

6. Finance & Administration

(i) Financial report and payments for approval

The Clerk reported that the balance on the current account stood at £6979.41 and the balance per cash book at £6876.41. The difference of £103 was due to an unrepresented cheque. No monies had been received since the last meeting. Cheques had been issued and payments were now due as listed on the spreadsheet tabled and attached to these minutes. It was proposed (PH, seconded IW) and unanimously agreed that the payments listed should be made.

The Clerk further reported that the balance on Business Reserve Account was £5627.67.

Action: Clerk

(ii) Transparency Grant

The Clerk referred to guidelines recently issued by ALCA which encouraged small councils to take advantage of the Government grants available to facilitate compliance with the Transparency Code. She was asked to draft an application.

Action: Clerk

(iii) Parish Council e-mail account

Action continues.

Action: IW

At this point the Chairman indicated that the Clerk wished to make a brief announcement. She said that she had decided to retire as Clerk in the summer, provisionally with effect from 5 August. She wished the Council to have as much notice as possible in the hope that a new Clerk could be in place some two months ahead of this date, to facilitate a smooth handover. The Council thanked her for her consideration, and it was proposed (FM, PC) and unanimously agreed to set up a working party to take forward the recruitment process. This would consist of the chairman, vice-chairman and Clerk.

Action: MS, PH, Clerk

(iv) BUDGET 2016-17

The Chairman introduced the Budget and informed councillors that it had been prepared taking into consideration the fact that the Clerk wished to retire. The Council's finances were in a healthy state and its liabilities could be met without either increasing the precept from 2015-16 levels or compromising its ability to make contributions to other projects in hand, such as possible road safety measures. Reserves need not be depleted below reasonable levels and could be rebuilt within a couple of years.

The difficulty of approving the budget without the anticipated information from John Painter as to road safety options and costings was discussed; the Clerk pointed out that she had included a considerable sum under this heading. It could be argued that no contribution ought to be required of the Parish Council, but this was probably unrealistic in the present economic climate. If the sum allowed for proved to be insufficient, a further sum could be raised the following year. After discussion, it was proposed (MW, seconded PH) and unanimously agreed that the precept be approved, with the detail of the budget allocations deferred for confirmation at the forthcoming special meeting (see item 4a above), but that if that meeting did not take place, the budget as drafted would stand.

The Clerk would advise North Somerset Council of the precept requirement.

Action: Clerk

7. Planning - Update on planning / listed building applications previously considered or advised:

- Rural worker's dwelling, Acorn Carp Fishery – consent with conditions
- Change of use from agricultural land and building to dwelling house under permitted development rights, land opposite Sea Wall Farm, New Cut Bow – permission refused on the grounds of non-compliance with application criteria

8. Consultations

- Emerging Joint Strategic Plan for the West of England Area

The Clerk had circulated a draft response. Councillors were asked to submit any comments or additions by Monday 25 January.

Action: All

- Yatton primary school

MS reported that as a result of recent consultations and decisions, there was now a “first geographical area” for Yatton Primary Scholl and that Kingston Seymour was within it. This would strengthened the position of the village in relation to the allocation of places in future years, and was particularly significant in the context of the new housing developments in Yatton.

9. Forthcoming Meetings:

- MS reported that he had been invited to the annual civic service in Clevedon and would attend
- PCAA meeting, Tuesday 26 January – IW would not be able to attend.

10. Reports of meetings attended

- Low Carbon Gordano Community Benefit Fund Committee 30.11.15 - MS reported that this had proved very positive. He would advise the Council when an application could be submitted; it was possible that the Village Hall could benefit.
- Bristol Airport Annual Community Review 9.12.15 – MS had attended

11. Correspondence & Information

- The Clerk had received the annual ballot papers for a Royal Garden Party on 10 May – it was agreed that John and Gill Harris should again be put forward, if they wished
- It was noted that the most recent issue of “NS Life” had featured an item on the future of green waste collections. It was evident that the decision to replace the popular green bags with green wheeled bins and to charge for the service had been made without consultation and in the face of considerable opposition.

Action: Clerk

12. Members’ Concerns

- MW remarked that there was as yet no evidence of the screening that the developers of the Ham Lane Solar Park were supposed to provide, neither was he certain that the ancillary buildings were in the approved position. FM undertook to check the plans and Decision Notice and report back to the Council.

Action: FM

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 15 March 2016

These minutes approved and signed 15 March 2016