

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Kingston Seymour Parish Council on Wednesday 11th March 2015 at 7.30pm in the meeting room, Village Hall

Declarations of Interest: Cllr John Harris declared a personal interest in item 8, first bullet point – related to applicant

Present:

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

In attendance:

NSC District Councillors Jill Iles and Tony Moulin; Carolyn Hills, Parish Council Liaison Officer; Mike Peterson, Yatton Parish Councillor; PC Adam Clarke, Beat Manager.

Public Participation Time

Cllr Tony Moulin commented that this would be the last meeting of the Parish Council that he would attend, as he would not be seeking re-election as a district councillor in May. He gave his apologies for the Annual Parish Meeting. He said that he had enjoyed working for and with the Council; he would continue to be active in the community, especially with YACWAG. The Chairman thanked him for his help and support over the years.

AM introduced Mike Petersen, who would be standing as an Independent candidate in the forthcoming election.

1. Apologies for absence

Councillors Paul Cox, Pete Harris, Bryan Thomas

2. Minutes of meeting of 13th January 2015

These were approved as a true record of the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Police Report

PC Clarke introduced himself as the Beat Manager now responsible for the parish. He had visited the Post Office and he or his PCSO would try to do so on a fairly regular basis. He also hoped to come to the Village Market occasionally and to attend the Annual Parish Meeting if duties allowed.

He reported that there had been three recorded incidents since January, a theft of oil from a private property, an instance of damage to two car tyres and an attempt to break into a storage container.

In answer to a question, he explained that a log number and crime reference number (needed if an insurance claim was to be lodged) would only be given if there was a "request for service"; a report of a suspicious person or vehicle (for instance), although it should always be passed through to the Beat Team, would not normally generate a log number or CRN.

PC Clarke left the meeting

4. Infrastructure

(i) Roads and footpaths:

- Condition of lanes – JH asked for the far end of Ham Lane to be reported as in a dangerous condition once again. MW commented on the bad subsidence at various location in Back Lane between the Sewage Works and Channel View. It was noted that some potholes had been filled but there were others needing attention.
- Motorway bridge – the resurfacing of the road where the new expansion joints had been put in had been poorly done and on the Kingston Bridge side there was a considerable ridge. NSC would be asked to take this up with the contractors.

Action: PC

- Speed and turning surveys – It was noted that John Painter, NSC, had indicated that the surveys could be done at the end of March; the total cost appeared to be in the region of £780. The Clerk was asked to confirm the arrangements and the 50/50 split of the cost as previously agreed with JP.
- Verge-cutting - It was agreed that the quality of the first cut (May) would need to be assessed to ensure that the work had been done to a high standard than in 2014. Any sections of verge either cut poorly or missed completely should be reported to PC or the Clerk.

Action: PC

- Footpath repairs – It was reported that the repairs to two bridges on the footpath between Plantations and Rose Cottage had been done

(ii) Lessons learned from recent road closure:

- The Clerk was asked to contact the Highways Agency concerning the poor communications – letters detailing the works had been delivered very late and only to a small number of residents.
- There were a number of places where the verges had been damaged by vehicles trying to pass each other where there was too little road width. The damage was mostly superficial, but JH suggested that in due course a sign should be put up at the entrance to the village warning motorists that long stretches of the lanes were single track.
- No warning signs had been erected advising that the alternative route was unsuitable for HGVs. The sewage and milk tankers had managed to negotiate the narrow lanes and sharp bends but several vehicles had got stuck, causing a build-up of traffic and long delays.
- The sharp bend just north of Sea Wall Farm, where the verge had collapsed and there was a deep drop, needed urgent attention. It was just outside the parish boundary; the Clerk was asked to contact the Town Clerk of Clevedon about it.

Action: Clerk

(iii) Registration of land at Triangle as Commons

FM reported that he had sent the information to the Clerk by e-mail; however she had not received it. She asked FM to re-send it.

Action: FM

(iv) Phone box

It would be painted when the weather improved.

Action: MS, PH

(v) Gates at entrance of Rust Lane

The Chairman reported that the gates were open and the lane had now reverted to its previous use. The design and positioning of the gates was being pursued by Yatton PC with landowners and NSC.

5. Community Resilience

(i) Report on recent workshop

The Chairman, PH and JH had attended a NSC workshop designed for those councils which were having trouble making progress with their resilience schemes. They had not found it very helpful as there did not seem to be sufficient flexibility in the approach or design of the scheme, which seemed unduly complex and bureaucratic for a small community.

(ii) Discussion and decision on whether / how to take this forward

It was generally agreed that some work needed to be done to update the Council's existing resource manual in the light of the risk assessment (which had been a useful exercise) and changes in personnel. A simpler model could be developed which would reflect the particular needs of the parish. It was agreed to defer any further action until after the election.

6. Services

(i) Website report

The web manager had produced a brief report; the increase in usage was encouraging and there had been good feedback on the improved currency of the information.

7. Finance & Administration

(i) Routine payments

The Clerk reported that the balance on the current account was £3685.31 and that per cash book was £3646.91. The difference of £38.40 was explained by an un-presented cheque. No monies had been received since the last meeting. Cheques had been as follows: Clerk £13.40 (expenses Dec / Jan – payment authorised at last meeting but payment overlooked); Clerk £352.85 (salary Jan ex PAYE); HMRC £14.40 (PAYE due LA); Sylvia Stokes £38.40 (web manager remuneration); HMRC £9.60 (PAYE due SS). A transfer of £500 from the Current Account to the Business Reserve Account had been made as per budget.

Payments were now due as follows: Somerset Web Services £105.60 (annual website hosting charge); Clerk £358.85 (salary Feb calculated as below, ex PAYE); HMRC £16.20 (PAYE due Clerk); Sylvia Stokes £38.40 (web

manager remuneration 4 weeks); HMRC £9.60 (PAYE due SS). It was proposed (JH, seconded FM) and unanimously agreed that these payments should be made.

The balance on the Business Reserve Account was £4125.45.

Action: Clerk

(ii) Clerk's annual appraisal

MS reported that this has been carried out.

(iii) Election timetable

The Clerk drew attention to the information she had posted on the website. This gave all the deadlines and explained the procedures for nomination.

Existing councillors would remain in post until 11th May, and new / re-elected councillors would take up office the same day. The chairman would remain in office until the election of new chairman. JI reported that she would be standing for election again.

(iv) Annual Parish Meeting (23rd April)

It was agreed that now that Solarsense had been granted planning permission for the solar farm in Ham Lane, the Clerk would invite them to address the Annual Parish Meeting.

Action: Clerk

8. Planning

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

- Application for agricultural worker's dwelling, Mud Lane – JI reported that permission had been granted at the February Planning & Regulatory Committee and ratified at the subsequent meeting that afternoon, when a number of conditions had also been agreed. The EA had opposed the application on flood risk grounds but its objections had been overridden in this exceptional case.
- Application for construction of holiday accommodation, Bullock Farm fishing lakes – Consent had been granted. It was noted that the plans had been altered quite significantly and that occupancy conditions had been imposed.
- Outline application for housing development (Hallam Homes) at North End – decision awaited. JI reported that there had been some difficulty in agreeing the Section 106 for the Bloor Homes development as the developer had refused to provide a site for a 450-pupil school; a smaller 150-pupil site had been agreed.
- Application for works to sea defences – Consent had been granted and the work would begin in April, with setting up commencing in March. Affected landowners had been notified. JH suggested that the Clerk write to the EA to advise that a photographic record would be made prior to the commencement of works, in order to monitor the condition of the lanes and verges for any damage.

- Application for solar park, Ham Lane – Consent had been granted, with conditions. It was noted that some details of the layout of the site had been revised in line with the Council's suggestions. This was welcome; however the issue of a developer contribution remained to be resolved.

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

None.

Jl, AM and MP left the meeting

9. Consultations

NSC – Sites and Policies Plan Part 1: Development Management Policies - the Clerk was in the process of looking at this and would circulate a draft response in due course. The deadline for comments was 30 March.

Action: Clerk

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

- Hinkley C Connection Examination Preliminary Session 19 January – PH had circulated a written report
- Local Councils / NSC Liaison Meeting 3 March – The Chairman and LA had attended this meeting, which had been interesting and informative. The meeting had been updated on the Core Strategy Review and the Budget. Details of the presentations would be made available and would be circulated.

11. Forthcoming meetings and events:

- Hinkley C Connection Open Floor Hearings, various locations, Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th March – the information had been forwarded to the chairman, PH and FM
- Community Resilience NS – next workshop 15th April – this would not be attended

12. Correspondence & Information

This had been advised to councillors and items of interest or importance would be circulated.

13. Members' Concerns

JH commented that this would be his last meeting, apart from the Annual Parish Meeting. The Chairman thanked him for his many years of service. It was noted that BT had also expressed his intention to stand down and not seek re-election .

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Date of next meeting: Monday 11th May (annual and bi-monthly meetings)

Annual Parish Meeting: Thursday 23rd April