

## KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm in the meeting room, Village Hall

### Present:

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

### In attendance:

Local Members Councillor Judith Hadley(JH) and Councillor Jill Iles (JI). PCSO Jasmine Chadwick and PCSO Rachel Sellars (for item 3). Imogen Rogers, parishioner (part). John Painter (JP), Principal Engineer, NSC (for item 4i)

*Declarations of Interest: None*

### **Public Participation Time**

*Ms Imogen Rogers (IR) addressed the Council on her concerns about the recent series of firework events. There had been four, on different days, in sufficiently close proximity to her stables for the horses to be distressed and on each occasion for her to have to pick up debris from the field the following day. She had not been advised of any of these events in advance. She was aware that other local owners of horses or livestock had also experienced problems. She asked if the Council would consider reminding residents of their duty of care and printing the recently-published Government guidelines in the Village Magazine. With the agreement of councillors, the chairman brought forward agenda item 4(iv) which had been requested by CH to whom similar representations had been made. After a brief discussion it was proposed (PH, seconded IW) and unanimously agreed that the Clerk should prepare an item for the magazine and website based on the published guidelines.*

*IR thanked the Council for listening to her concern.*

#### 1. Apologies for absence

Ms Carolyn Hills, Parish Council Liaison Officer; PC Adam Clarke

#### 2. Minutes of meetings:

- (i) Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September – bi-monthly
- (ii) Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October – planning

It was agreed that these were true records of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

#### 3. Police Report

PCSO Chadwick introduced PCSO Sellars who would be taking over from her when she moved on to a new job in Bristol in a month's time.

She reported that since the last meeting she had dealt with just two calls, one relating to an equestrian incident and the other to children's behavior. The abandoned car incident had been resolved but it had taken time to track down the owner.

She also flagged up the new Community Response Officer service, which had been introduced in partnership with the local authority to deal with matters such as antisocial behavior and fly-tipping. The CRO for our area was Carol Pyke

and she had similar powers to a PCSO. This was a day-time service only, to supplement not replace the police service. JC would provide the Clerk with CP's contact details.

Action: JC

#### 4. Infrastructure

##### (i) Roads & Footpaths

###### **a. Outcome of traffic volume, speed and turning surveys – Discuss and agree next steps**

The Chairman welcomed JP to the meeting and asked him to summarise the findings of the survey. JP stated that the surveys had taken place during the week commencing 7 September. The turning movement survey had been conducted on one day only; the vast majority of movements were between Lampley Road and Ham Lane and vice versa and he could see no reason to change the existing priorities at the Triangle. However it might be possible to make them clearer. It was remarked that the white lines were very faint and JP undertook to look at them, although he warned that re-marking was difficult in the winter and might have to wait until the spring.

The speed survey had been conducted over a whole week and the results indicated that speeds were mostly what would be appropriate were there a 30mph limit, except entering and existing the village via Lampley Road, where they were significantly higher. Whilst most people drove into the village at speeds below 40mph, the detailed results did show that a few came down into the village at speeds higher than this. JP stated that Kingston Seymour was unique in North Somerset in not having a speed restriction (i.e. the national limit of 60mph applies) – most villages had a 30mph limit, with 2 larger villages on main roads having a 40mph limit - but he understood that in the past the Parish Council had been reluctant to request one at least partly because of the visual clutter that would result from the required signage. The Clerk responded that whilst that had been an issue, in the past NSC had maintained that a speed restriction could not be justified because of the absence of reported accidents.

The Chairman invited comments from councillors and opinions were varied. Some councillors were in favour of introducing a 30 mph limit although all acknowledged that it would be difficult to enforce, and one councillor noted that research indicated that speeds had to be reduced to 20mph in order to make an appreciable difference to the outcome of a collision between a vehicle and a pedestrian. Some felt that driver education was key, but it was noted that it would be difficult to reach visitors to the village in this way. JP said that a speed "advisory" was sometimes possible, but he was unsure whether Kingston would meet the criteria. A range of possible approaches was discussed and JP agreed to investigate these more fully and come back to the Council in January with options and costings. PC agreed to look at the preferred locations for speed limit signs and what this would mean with regards to repeater signs in the village.

The Clerk was asked to include this item in her report for the magazine and website but it was agreed that it would be premature to give any indication of the likely outcome in terms of traffic management. Overall it was agreed that a recommendation would be made to parishioners by the Parish Council and discussed at the Annual Parish Meeting in April 2016.

Action: JP,PC, Clerk

###### **b. General update on issues**

PC reported that he had expressed concern about the risk of skids in Lampley Road where the surface was very worn; he had been advised that resurfacing could not be justified at present but that it was hoped that all the lanes could be surface-dressed next year. There were a number of locations where sheet-piling was required to support the rhyne banks adjacent to verges, but a critical minimum width of verge had to be reached before that would be done. His fear was that long stretches of bank would require this very expensive treatment in the not-too-distant future.

IW reported that PC had supplied him with maps of all the footpaths and he had inspected them for signage. All signs except one were missing, and that one was broken. PC would report to Elaine Bowman at NSC accordingly.

Action: PC

(ii) First Registration of land at Triangle as Common

FM reported that he had now been advised that due to lack of the necessary evidence, the Council did not have an interest to create an estate in the land. There were alternative arrangements, such as setting up a trust, or seeking an “adverse possession” order, under which the Council could act for the village, but either course of action would be expensive. After a brief discussion it was agreed that it was not expedient to take any further action and the item was discharged.

(iii) Phone box

This would be painting in 2016.

Action: PH / MS

(iv) Fireworks & Agriculture

See report above (Public Participation Time)

## 5. Services

(i) Website

- **Report** – the Clerk had circulated a brief report prepared by the web manager.
- **Business Advertising Recommendation** – A meeting had been held between MS, PC, SS and Alice Cox (AC); AC had offered to take on the task of encouraging more businesses to advertise on the website. Two styles of advertising would be offered at £30 and £10 per year respectively and AC would also deal with renewals. The money would be paid to the Parish Council to help defray the costs of running the website.

(ii) Community Resilience

LA had updated the risk assessment and had produced a first draft of a Community Emergency Response Plan, using a template from the Government website which was simpler than the one provided by NSC. Copies had been circulated to all councillors, who were asked to look through it and send any comments or amendments to the Clerk by the end of the month.

Action: all

(iii) Possible changes to green garden waste collections

Recent reports in the local press had suggested that when the contract came up for renewal in 2017, the green garden waste bags were to be phased out in favour of large green wheeled bins, and that households would normally be allowed a maximum of two of these on payment of a registration charge of £20. It was noted that there had been many letters to the press, none of which appeared to be in favour of the proposal, but JI said that no-one except the Clerk had contacted her direct. She stressed that no decisions had as yet been made and that there was still plenty of time for consultation. She would keep the Council informed.

Action: JI

(iv) Transition Portishead / Low Carbon Gordano - Community Benefit Fund Committee

MS reported that the Clerk had been approached by the Directors of Low Carbon Gordano inviting the Parish Council to nominate a representative to sit on a committee which would oversee the disbursement of the Community Benefit Fund arising from the operation of the Solarsense solar parks, including that in Ham Lane. He was willing to do this but would like to know that he had the support of the Council. This was agreed. MS would attend a meeting on 30 November.

Action: MS

6. Finance & Administration - Clerk

(i) Financial report and payments for approval

The Clerk reported that the balance on the current account and per cash book was £8496.12. No monies had been received since the last meeting, and no cheques issued or funds transferred.

Payments were due as follows: KN Office Supplies £64.83 (toner cartridge); Clerk £736.10 (salary Sept, Oct ex PAYE); Sylvia Stokes £83.20 (web manager remuneration Sept, Oct ex PAYE); HMRC £34.80 (PAYE due, Sept, Oct); KSA £131.25 (hire of hall 1.10.14 – 31.8.15), Clerk £14.48 (expenses). MS also tabled an account from the Flower Guild in respect of the Remembrance wreath; a token amount of £10 had been charged and it was agreed that £25 would be more realistic. It was proposed (FM, seconded IW) and unanimously agreed that these payments should be made.

The Clerk further reported that the balance on the Business Reserve Account stood at £5627.19.

Action: Clerk

(ii) New Model Standing Orders – revised version

With one exception the revisions were approved. The Clerk would make the necessary amendment (reinstatement of original Model wording to clause 24) and then arrange for the Standing Orders to be posted on the website.

Action: Clerk

(iii) Parish Council e-mail account

Action continues.

Action: MS / IW

7. Planning

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

- Single storey rear extension, Yew Tree Farm – consent with conditions
- Rural worker's dwelling, Acorn Carp Fishery – decision awaited

(ii) Update on alleged breaches of planning regulations, enforcement issues etc

- Memo from NSC - Procedure for reporting alleged breaches – noted

## 8. Consultations

- **Fracking – Oil and Gas Authority’s consultation on the Habitats Regulations Assessment of grid blocks under consideration for the award of Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences in the 14<sup>th</sup> Onshore Oil and Gas Licensing Round.**

This had come to the Clerk’s attention via a parishioner in August and she had written to both NSC and to Liam Fox MP to enquire as to the likely outcome, if any, as one of the grid blocks included Kingston Seymour. She had received replies from Phil Anelay (NSC Planning Policy) and, via Liam Fox, from Amber Rudd, Secretary of State for the Environment. Both had stressed that at this stage the licences do not confer permission for operations, but only exclusivity to licensees. The Chairman advised that in his view it was unlikely that fracking would take place in the parish, but that if it was ever envisaged, the planning process would ensure full consultation. The Council would however keep the situation under review.

Action: MS, Clerk

- **Emerging Joint Strategic Plan for the West of England Area – deadline for comments 29 January 2016**

It was noted that this draft Plan identifies sites deemed suitable for significant amounts of additional housing in the period to 2036; some options could include Yatton. It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a draft response for circulation to councillors.

Action: Clerk, councillors

- **North Somerset Core Strategy consultation on consequential changes to remitted policies CS6, CS14, CS19, CS28, CS30, CS31, CS32, CS33 – deadline for comments 18 December.**

It was noted that this consultation concerns the changes which would have to be made to these policies in order to accommodate the higher number of homes (20,985, increased from 14,000) which following legal challenge and subsequent review the Secretary of State now requires NSC to deliver by 2026. It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a draft response for circulation to councillors.

Action: Clerk, councillors

- **Joint Strategic Transport Plan for the West of England Area – deadline for comments 29 January 2016**

It was noted that this consultation would run parallel with the Joint Strategic Plan (above). It was agreed that PH would prepare a draft response for circulation to councillors.

Action: PH, Clerk, councillors

## 9. Forthcoming Meetings:

- Invitation for Chairman to attend Carnival Reception, 13 November
- Low Carbon Gordano Community Benefit Fund Committee, 30 November (MS)
- Bristol Airport Annual Community Review, 9 December (MS)

#### 10. Reports of meetings attended

- NSC Parish Forum, 7 October – No report as MS could not attend
- NSC Housing update meeting, 12 November - The Clerk and FM had attended. The process of putting the Core Strategy in place was continuing as quickly as possible but there was a serious danger that the return to plan-led decision-making would come too late for the communities outside the Green Belt currently most threatened by development pressure

#### 11. Correspondence & Information

Noted, and some items would be circulated

Action: Clerk

#### 12. Members' Concerns

- Agree a future review of Parish Plan Outputs for continued relevance / action (MS) – provisionally scheduled for March 2016
- Overgrown vegetation obscuring crash barriers on motorway bridge (Clerk) – PC was asked to see whether this could be cut back

*The meeting closed at 10.03pm*

*Date of next meeting: Monday 11 January 2016*