

**KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Kingston Seymour Parish Council on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 8.15 pm  
in the meeting room, Village Hall

Present:

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

In attendance:

District Councillor and Local Member Tony Moulin (AM); Anthony Harris (AH), applicant, Item 7(i)

*Declarations of Interest: Item 7(i) - JH, related to applicant; Item 7(iii) - PC, applicant*

Public Participation Time

AM spoke concerning two matters:

(i) He wished the Parish Council to know that he was very aware of the problems the rural communities experienced as a result of economic disadvantage, poor public transport and slow Broadband speeds. He was doing everything possible to ensure that these problems were addressed at sub-regional level via the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). In answer to a question from JH, he confirmed that rural communities had no specific representation on the LEP.

(ii) He was concerned that local councils had neither been informed nor consulted concerning North Somerset Council's plans to abolish Area Planning Committees. He had raised this matter with the appropriate Scrutiny Panel and asked for it to be deferred pending consultations with town and parish councils. If it went ahead, Parish Voice (the half hour period before each Area Committee when local councils can, with due notice, raise any matter not on the agenda) would disappear. Although not extensively used in recent years, he felt that it would be missed if the opportunity was no longer available. It was agreed that JH and BT would raise this matter at the Planning Workshop later in the week.

Action: BT, JH

1. Apologies for absence

District Councillor and Local Member Jill Iles; Carolyn Hills, Parish Council Liaison Officer.

*Councillors resolved to take Item 7(i) at this point*

Planning Applications Nos 14/P/0727/F: Erection of general purpose farm building with roof mounted solar panels; creation of new access track and 14/P/0728/O: Outline planning permission for the erection of a permanent rural workers dwelling with garage for biomass boiler, treatment plant drainage: with access for approval and appearance, landscaping, layout and scale reserved for subsequent approval - land at Yeo Wood Farm, Yeo Bank Lane (A&J Harris, Caravan, Tutshill Farm)

A site visit had been held prior to the meeting.

The Chairman invited AH to explain the proposal. He then invited questions and comments from councillors. No-one had any issues with the application for the agricultural building. FM felt that the agent could have made a stronger case for the justification for the dwelling and did not find the flood risk assessment persuasive. He was supportive of the principle of a dwelling on the landholding, but considered that it should be sited further away from the flood banks. JH explained how the banks were designed to work, and that the proposed dwelling would be protected by both the primary (shortly to be raised and strengthened) and secondary banks. The flood risk was no greater in this location than in the rest of the parish, although any overtopping or breach would naturally be more immediate. The important considerations would be the finished floor height and the existence of a first floor refuge; these would presumably be features of a reserved matters application. Most councillors felt that the technical considerations were best left to the EA and the planning authority; the role of the Council was to support the principle on the basis of genuine and proven agricultural need. After further discussion it was proposed (FM, seconded PH) and unanimously agreed by those entitled to vote that both applications should be supported. The Clerk would make the Council's comments accordingly.

Action: Clerk

2. Community Safety and Police Report

None.

3. Minutes of meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014

These were agreed to be a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

(a) **12.3 item 5(a) First Registration of land at Triangle** - FM reported that there were two options: full land registration with title or registering the land as a piece of village green under Section 15 of the Commons Act. The latter was a simpler process involving the completion of a form and a statutory declaration. North Somerset Council as the Highways authority would have to be consulted as to the extent of verge for which it would take responsibility. It was agreed that this second option was preferred. It would be taken forward jointly by FM and the Clerk.

Action: FM, Clerk

- (b) **12.3 item 5(b) - refurbishment of telephone box** - PH reported that the paint had been obtained. He had been advised that care should be taken when stripping the existing paint, which was probably lead-based. He and MS had thoroughly inspected the box and would undertake some repairs and alterations to facilitate the organization of the book swap, which was now going well.

Action: PH / MS

- (c) **12.3 item 5(c) - Broadband questionnaire response and next steps** - The Clerk reported that almost 70 responses had been returned; she had begun the analysis and would complete it as soon as possible. She and the Chairman would agree on a date (*provisionally 11 July*) to see Dr Liam Fox MP in surgery.

Action: Clerk

- (d) **12.3. item 4(f) - Community Resilience** - The Clerk reported that there had been no progress since March. The next step remained the completion of the documentation for the Community Emergency Response Plan.

- (e) **12.3. item 11 - Feedback on the defibrillator training sessions** - This had been very positive; it was hoped to run similar events at least once a year. It was noted that it might be possible to obtain a second defibrillator free of charge from the SW Ambulance Trust - this could be sited at the other end of the village. The Clerk would enquire about this, and also as to the cost of an upgrade to the existing defibrillator cabinet to allow it to be opened automatically in the case of an emergency rather than having to key in a code.

Action: Clerk

- (f) **12.3. item 11 - The Rogation “Beating the Bounds” walk** was planned for the last Sunday in August. JH was making arrangements for the route.

Action: JH

- (g) **12.3. item 13 - Provision of free trees** - FM had a number of native saplings available for planting; he was asked to put an item in the village magazine inviting landowners to express an interest.

Action: FM

5. Matters Arising from Annual Parish Meeting - Churchyard Maintenance Grant

BT, in his capacity as churchwarden, reported that the grass in the churchyard had only been cut once since before Easter and was very long. A team of volunteers had been assembled but it had been found that the task took much longer than had been anticipated. However the cost of contracting it out had been estimated at around £4000 a year which was not affordable. It was proposed (JH, seconded PC) and unanimously agreed that the grant from the Parish Council should be raised to £400.

6. Financial / Administrative Matters:

(i) Routine payments

The Clerk reported that the balance on the current account was £5632.97 and per cash book £5596.97.

The difference of £36 was accounted for by an unpresented cheque. Monies received since the last meeting were as follows: NSC £197.69 (Council Tax Support Grant); HMRC £541.13 (VAT refund); NSC £4600 (first half precept). Cheques had been issued as follows: Clerk £293.85 (salary net of PAYE Mar); HMRC £73.40 (PAYE due); Rebecca Stockwell £36 (web manager remuneration 3 weeks); Information commissioner £35.00 (Data Protection Registration); KN Office Supplies £64.83 (toner cartridge).

Payments were no due as follows: Broker Network £278.95 (insurance premium); NALC £17.00 (LCR subscription); ALCA £69.93 (annual subscription); Clerk £367.25 (salary April net of PAYE); HMRC £0.00 (PAYE nil return); Rebecca Stockwell £72 (web manager remuneration 6 weeks to 11 May); Clerk £52.92 (expenses). It was proposed (PH, seconded FM) and unanimously agreed that these payments should be made.

The balance on the Business Reserve Account stood at £3623.80.

Action: Clerk

(ii) Website Report

RS had submitted a detailed report to the Annual Parish Meeting, which covered the entire three years the website had been in existence. Two people had expressed an interest in taking on the role of web manager. The Clerk would ask RS what discussions had taken place and would report back to the Chairman.

Action: Clerk

7. Planning

(i) Update on planning applications previously considered:

- *Car park and field track Mud Lane - There had been no developments. JH reported that, in his capacity as Chairman of the North Somerset Local Access Forum, he had written to the relevant Executive Member to bring to his attention the significant expenses being borne by landowners as a result of this delay.*

- *Garden room, The Court House - consent*
- *Planning / Listed Building applications The Dairy House and Long Croft, Yew Tree Lane - decisions awaited*

(ii) Proposed new signage Cranmoor Caravan Park

It was noted that the proposed signage, to be mounted in two locations (Triangle and top of Bullocks Lane) would be similar in size and style to the brown fishing lake signs.

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

None.

8. Roads and Footpaths

(i) Routine matters

PC reported that potholes at the Triangle had been filled. A repair to the edge of the road in Lampley Road was awaited, and the work to the far end of Ham Lane, which had been promised for “early in the new financial year”, had not been done. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a formal letter expressing the Council’s view that the condition of the lane presented a safety hazard and requesting a road closure.

(ii) Speeding traffic and pots on verges

JH reported that he had received 5 verbal responses and 2 written ones following his article in the last magazine. He had also been contacted by a parishioner complaining about the placing of pots on the verge opposite Cherry Tree Farm / Close. It was agreed that these were both unsightly and dangerous. The Chairman would take a look and follow this up as he felt appropriate.

Action: MS

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

None.

10. Forthcoming meetings and events:

- NSC Development Management - Parish Workshop Wed 14 May, 9.30 - 12, Town Hall, WSM - BT & JH
- ALCA North Somerset Group AGM, Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June, 7.30pm, Locking VH - Chairman and Clerk

- SLCC National conference, October - It was agreed that since this was being held in Bristol this year, the Clerk could attend.

#### 11. Correspondence & Information

Some 60 items had been notified and those of interest and relevance would be circulated.

#### 12. Members' Concerns

None.

*The meeting closed at 9.40pm*

*Date of next meeting: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014*