

**KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at 8.30pm in the meeting room, Village Hall

Declarations of Interest: PC – Item 8(ii) – related by marriage to appellants, Long Croft and the Dairy House.

Public Participation Time: None

Present:

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

1. Apologies for absence

District Councillors Jill Iles and Tony Moulin. Carolyn Hills, Parish Council Liaison Officer. PC Paul Morris, PCSOs Cathryn Turner and Eleanor Hicks.

2. Community Safety and Police Report\*

MS reported that earlier in the week a large vehicle coming from the direction of New Cut Bow had brought down a power cable and damaged the corner of the house at Elmleigh Farm. The vehicle had not stopped and a live cable had been left dangling in the road. This had resulted in a power cut, a road closure and a police investigation.

3. Minutes of meetings:

- (i) Bi-monthly meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013
- (ii) Planning meeting Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013
- (iii) Special meeting Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013

It was agreed that these were true records of the meetings and they were duly signed by the Chairman (and in the case of (ii) by MW, who had chaired the meeting)

4. Matters Arising (not elsewhere on agenda):

**(a)13.3. Item 4(a) – Defibrillator** – It was noted that the grant application to the Airport Community Fund had been unsuccessful; after discussion it was proposed (MS, seconded PH) and unanimously agreed that in order to expedite the purchase the defibrillator should be bought under Section 137 powers out of the Council’s reserves; these would be replenished in the following financial year by an increase in the precept. A defibrillator was clearly a potential benefit to the whole community and it was reasonable for the whole community to contribute through the Council Tax. PC commented that his business would like to make a contribution and it was agreed that both parishioners and businesses should be given the opportunity to do so if they wished. The Clerk would explain this in her next magazine / website report.

The Clerk was asked to do some research on different defibrillators and cabinets to establish whether one of the packages offered by AED Locator was the most appropriate and the best value for money. PH would pass on some information concerning the equipment installed at his golf club. The Clerk would report back to the Council within two weeks. Councillors would then be given the opportunity to comment by e-mail and the final decision would be made by the Clerk in consultation with the chairman.

Action: Clerk, PH, Chairman

**(b) 13.3. Item 4(c) – Poor quality / inaccurate planning applications and Item 4(d) other procedural planning issues** – The Clerk reported that, following an exchange of e-mails and a telephone conversation, Jason Beale had accepted an invitation to attend the July Parish Council meeting, when these matters would be discussed.

**(c) 13.3. Item 5(i) – Clerk’s PC depreciation allowance** – JH reported that he had looked into this matter. The payment was in order and in line with NALC recommendations. It would continue for one more year. After that it would be the Clerk’s choice as to whether she used her own equipment or the equipment recently provided by North Somerset Council.

**(d) 13.3. Item 6 – Concerns re NSC’s performance in its role of Lead Local Flood Authority** – In the absence of AM, there was no report.

**(e) 13.3. Item 13 – Freedom of Information request** – cost of translation services in NS – The Clerk reported that she had now received a response; the cost in 2012/13 was £12467.69. This was treble the amount in 2009/10.

5. Matters Arising from Annual Parish Meeting:

(i) “No cold callers” stickers

It was agreed that the Clerk should request a supply of these for any parishioners who would like them.

Action: Clerk

(ii) Churchyard maintenance grant

It was agreed to maintain this at the existing rate of £350.

Action: Clerk

(iii) Village of the Year competition

It was noted that the feeling of the Annual Parish Meeting had been that the village should not enter this year and councillors agreed to confirm that decision. The Clerk would include an item to this effect in her report.

Action: Clerk

6. Financial / Administrative Matters:

(i) Routine payments

The Clerk reported that the balance on current account was £6375.35 and per cash book £6213.70. The difference was represented by un-presented cheques 763, 765, 766 and 767 totalling £161.75. Monies received since the last meeting were as follows: War Memorials Trust £1100.00 (grant); NSC £294.45 (PC grant 2013/14); HMRC £696.28 (VAT refund); NSC £4300.00 (first half precept). Cheques issued since the last meeting were as follows: ALCA £69.72 (annual subscription 2013/14); Paceprint £44.40 (photocopying); KN Office supplies £58.18 (toner cartridge); KSA £66.25 (grant for Post Office 1.1.13 – 31.3.13); NALC £16.00 (LCR subscription); Information Commissioner £35.00 (Data Protection Registration renewal). It was agreed that the clerk should write to the War Memorials Trust to thank them for making the grant.

Action: Clerk

Payments were due as follows: Broker Network Ltd £355.13 (insurance premium); Clerk £664.10 (net salary Mar / Apr 2013 calculated as below, minus £10 overpaid last July); HMRC £52.60 (PAYE); Clerk £17.90 (expenses, as below); Clerk £50 (PC depreciation allowance, 1 quarter); Rebecca Stockwell £96 (web manager remuneration, 8 weeks 17 Mar – 5 May at £8 / hr x 1.5 hrs / week). It was proposed (PH, seconded MS) and unanimously agreed that these should be made.

Action: Clerk

The balance on the Business Reserve Account stood at £3621.96.

(ii) Website – report and decision as to how to post planning information on website

The Clerk had circulated the Web Manager's report for which the Council was grateful. After discussion, it was decided not to post planning agendas or minutes as parishioners interested in particular applications could find all the relevant documents, including the Parish Council's comments, on the North Somerset Council website. The Clerk pointed out that this would create some anomalies, as when applications were discussed within a bi-monthly or special meeting the details would be on the village website, but when they were discussed within a specially convened planning meeting they would not be.

Councillors were in favour of trying a new web page as proposed by RS, viz to support local businesses by means of a "Villagers Recommend..." feature.

(iii) Electoral Review of North Somerset – proposals for warding

It was noted that having decided to reduce the number of councillors in North Somerset from 61 to 51, the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) was now soliciting proposals for changes to Ward boundaries. One proposal suggested grouping Kingston Seymour together with a number of other small parishes which were not contiguous; Ward Members favoured retaining the existing Ward boundaries even though it would mean a reduction in the number of councillors for the Ward from 3 to 2. Parish councillors agreed with the latter

proposal on the basis of historic associations, geography and community cohesion and the Clerk was asked to write to the LGBC accordingly.

Action: Clerk

(iv) NALC call for information re good practice in partnership working (clustering) between councils

The Clerk suggested that the most relevant example in this area was the formation of the North Somerset Flood Risk Action Group and it was agreed that she should write to NALC outlining how this had come about and what it had achieved.

Action: Clerk

7. NSC Community Resilience Project – progress report

The Clerk reported that the project was gathering momentum; it was a “one-size-fits-all” model and very structured, but there was no reason why it could not be simplified for a small parish such as Kingston Seymour. Once the workshops had been completed and all the information obtained, the task of setting up drawing up a Plan appropriate for Kingston Seymour could begin.

8. Planning

(i) Update on planning applications previously considered:

- First floor extension, Elmscott Farm – consent with conditions
- Refurbishment of dilapidated outbuilding, Gout House Farm, to form accommodation ancillary to existing dwelling – consent with conditions
- Car park and field track Mud Lane – decision awaited.

The Clerk had now heard from the case officer Mike Cole who had indicated that there would be some changes to the plans; she had written to David Fish to ask for more information. She had just received a response which she read; this listed some, but not (he stated) all, of the changes and also asked for feedback on other matters such as signage. Councillors asked her to request full details, revised plans and the proposed programme for implementation so that they would be in full possession of the facts before discussing the matter further. It might be necessary to arrange a special meeting for this purpose. It was noted that the question relating to the need for planning permission for the entire project had still not been answered.

Action: Clerk.

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

- Long Croft and the Dairy House, Yew Tree Lane – to note that appeals have been lodged against the Listed Building enforcement notices issued
- Pastures New (the Penns) – to note that the applicant has appealed the refusal of planning permission

- Pool Farm – to note planning application awaited – it was understood to have been submitted but returned for amendments

(iii) National Grid – request to Secretary of State for scoping opinion as to environmental information to be provided in an environmental statement relating to the Hinkley C Connection project – views of local councils affected sought

PH advised that he had looked at the documents in detail; he noted that there were no details on the design of the pylons. It was agreed that the Council would ask for this information to be included, along with some reference to possible health concerns and a method statement as to how the installation / removal of pylons would be carried out, with particular reference to access arrangements. The Clerk was asked to write accordingly.

Action: Clerk

9. Roads and Footpaths:

(i) Routine maintenance

PC reported that the repairs to potholes and areas affected by subsidence (including recently-reported locations in Broadstone Lane) were in hand. Several footpath problems were also under investigation.

(ii) Lampley Road

It was noted that the problems related to the field access on the north side were ongoing and that the road surface on that corner was becoming very worn and potholed. The ditch running alongside Rust Rhyne had been filled in without permission from the Drainage Board and the drove incorporated into the field. There were concerns about the materials used, which appeared to include inappropriate waste, and the Clerk was asked to raise these matters with the planning officer. Any subsequent correspondence should be copied to the IDB and the Environment Agency.

The flytipped waste at the entrance to the farm track off the south side of the motorway bridge was not only an eyesore but a health hazard, as the second load tipped appeared to include asbestos sheeting. The Clerk had spoken to Gregg Brake (Streets & Open Spaces) and also to an officer in Environmental Health but both had insisted that the removal of the waste was not the responsibility of North Somerset Council but of the landowner. The Clerk had pointed out that the track, which was a green lane, did not have an “owner”, but this had made no difference. She was asked to seek the intervention of district councillors and of the Parish Liaison Officer.

Action: Clerk

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

- Community Resilience planning meeting 14 March, 7pm, Old Council Chamber, Town Hall, Weston – a copy of the presentation and related FAQs was available

- SLCC Somerset Branch Spring Meeting Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 10am –12.30pm, Compton Martin – the Clerk had found this meeting, which had focused on training, useful. She advised councillors of the sudden and untimely death, shortly afterwards, of the much-respected SALC Secretary and CiLCA trainer Peter Lacey; he would be greatly missed and his shoes would be very difficult to fill.
- PCAA meeting 26<sup>th</sup> March – JH had attended; there was nothing of significance to report

#### 11.Forthcoming meetings and events:

- Community Resilience Workshop, Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May – introduction to training resources – the clerk would attend
- NSC Development Planning & Development Management Workshop, Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 9.30am–12.30pm, Town Hall – BT would attend

#### 12.Correspondence & Information

Some 65 items had been listed and those of interest and relevance would be circulated.

#### 13.Members' Concerns

FM noted that the number vehicle movements associated with Prospect (Back Lane) appeared to be increasing and that there were a number of large vehicles on site. It was agreed that PC would make an informal approach to try to establish exactly what operations were being conducted there.

Action: PC

The meeting closed at 10.15pm

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013

\*A police report received by e-mail was overlooked and is appended below:

Unfortunately this time we are all on a day shift or Rest Day.

Stats for April are: no crimes, 1 count of fly tipping which the council are dealing with.

On 24<sup>th</sup> April a warrant was carried out in Bristol where a Quad bike and trailer were recovered having been stolen in February from KS. Our Serious Crime Group are dealing with the offenders who are clearly part of an organised crime ring. The Quad has been reunited with the owner. The only reason why we were able to identify the owner is for 2 factors :

- 1- They reported the crime in the first place.
- 2- We had a record of the identification numbers.

The above is not always the case and highlights the importance of recording such information. Regards, Paul