

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th January 2013 at 7.30pm in the meeting room, Village Hall

Present:

Councillors John Harris (chairman), Paul Cox, Pete Harris, Mike Sewell (from 8.15pm), Bryan Thomas and Mike Wallis.

In attendance:

Tim Harris and Anthony Harris, parishioners.

Declarations of Interest:

*All Councillors present: disclosable pecuniary interest in Item 5(iii)
JH – personal interest in Item 8(i) – related to landowner affected by proposals
PC – personal interest in Item 8(ii) – related to owner of property*

Public Participation Time

None.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

District Councillor Tony Moulin (attending Extraordinary Meeting of NSC); PC Paul Morris. MS had informed the Clerk that he would be late as he was travelling back from London.

2. Community Safety and Police Report:

(i) Recent crimes in parish

PC Morris had sent a written report. He noted that on 24th December there had been a number of break-ins to cars and outbuildings, not all of which had been reported to the police. One parishioner had suffered significant losses. It was thought unlikely that the perpetrators were local as no similar incidents had occurred elsewhere in the district; they had left no fingerprints or DNA and had probably targeted a village close to the motorway for ease of getaway.

(ii) Police & Crime Commissioner's Consultation on priorities for 2013-14

It was agreed that the Clerk would complete the survey on the Council's behalf.

(iii) Extension of Bristol Senior Citizens Liaison team initiatives to NS

This would be publicized in the Village Magazine and on the website.

Action: Clerk

3. Minutes of meetings:

(i) Planning meeting of 13 October 2012

BT commented that he had attended the meeting and the minutes were amended accordingly.

- (ii) Bi-monthly meeting of 19 November 2012
- (iii) Planning meeting of 15 December 2012

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

4. Matters Arising (not elsewhere on agenda):

- (i) **Item 4(i) – Defibrillator** – The Clerk had obtained details of the Bristol Airport Community fund and it was agreed that she should apply for funding.

Action: Clerk

- (ii) **Item 4(ii) – Works to War Memorial** – this was deferred until MS's arrival; he then reported that the work had been satisfactorily completed. The grant from the War Memorials Trust was awaited. The Trust had said that it would not grant aid the re-carving of the inscription, so this work had been omitted, but brushing it out had made it more legible. It was noted that a copy of the inscription had been made for future reference.
- (iii) **Item 7 – Proposed Tutshill Sluice Crossing and Cycleway** – North Somerset Council's response to Council's letter was less than satisfactory but it was decided that there was no point in pursuing the correspondence. Although no agreements with landowners had been signed, there was no indication as to how the project would be funded, and (contrary to what was stated in the letter) the EA was known to wish to defer the project until its own scheme to improve the sea defences had been undertaken, it was agreed that it was probable that it would go ahead. The priority for the Council, therefore, was to attempt to ensure maximum public benefit and minimum public harm, whilst allowing due consideration for the residents and businesses of the village.

5. Financial / Administrative Matters:

- (i) Routine payments

The Clerk reported that the balance on the current account and per cash book was £2725.61. A cheque for £200 had been received from Wessex Water towards the cost of a public access defibrillator. Cheques had been issued since last meeting to Nimbus Conservation (£2640 - repairs to war memorial) and KN Office Supplies (£58.18 - toner cartridge).

Payments were due as follows: SLCC £100 (membership 2013); C Walton £48 (internal audit fee); KSA £66.25 (PO grant 1 quarter to 31 Dec 2012); KSA £168.38 (Hall Hire 1.9.11 – 31.8.12, includes 2 x Parish Plan meetings); Sylvia Stokes £150 (grant to Village Magazine) Clerk £643.50 (net salary Nov / Dec); HMRC £83.20 (PAYE); Clerk £21.50 (expenses); Clerk £150 (PC depreciation allowance, 3 quarters); Rebecca Stockwell £108 (web manager remuneration, 9 weeks 18 Nov – 19 Jan at £8 / hr x 1.5 hrs / week). It was proposed (PH, seconded BT) and unanimously agreed that all these payments should be made.

The balance on the Business Reserve Account was £3621.53

- (ii) Dispensation under Localism Act to enable councillors to conduct discussion on Budget and precept- setting

The Clerk tabled a paper setting out a draft procedure for the granting of dispensations pursuant to Sns 31-33 of the Localism Act 2012, and a draft format for applications for such dispensations. It was proposed (BT, seconded MW) and unanimously agreed that both the procedure and the form should be adopted for councillors' use as required. All councillors present then completed a form in respect of Item 5(iii) Budget and precept, and the Clerk granted a dispensation for the lifetime of the Council to enable it to operate for this purpose.

At this point JH commented that he wished to take item 8(i), the planning application, in order not to delay the parishioners present any further. This had been agreed at the site meeting the previous weekend. One councillor felt that it was important to wait a little longer, in case FM should arrive, as he had expressed strong and detailed views at the site meeting.

It was proposed (BT, seconded PC) and agreed by 3 votes to 1 with 1 abstention that the planning application should be considered at this point. MS joined the meeting in the course of this item.

Planning Application No. 12/P/2256/F: Construction of a 190m long field side path together with a small roadside car park and hardstanding for 6 cars as part of the proposed Tutshill link for pedestrians and cyclists across the River Yeo, on land adjacent to Mud Lane (North Somerset Council)

The Chairman reported that three councillors as well as the landowner Steve Sawkins had been present at the site meeting; most councillors were in any case familiar with the application site. He invited comments from councillors.

In a lengthy discussion the following points were made:

- The application was inaccurate in at least two key respects and was also incomplete.
- The application was part of a much larger project and it was not clear either why it was being progressed in advance of the remainder or whether an application for change of use of the main track would be forthcoming
- The case for a car park had not been made and undermined all previous assurances by the project officer and consultant that no such facility would be required as the cycle track was designed to be accessed from either end and not from a midpoint. To create a car park was to introduce an essentially urban feature into a remote rural location. Although a car park might prevent cars from parking in and blocking the lane, it was likely to become a focal point, attract more cars than could be accommodated and also be subject to abuse
- The arrangements for ensuring that members of the public did not use Mud Lane were inadequate
- Matters such as screening, rubbish disposal and dog waste needed to be included in the application, and the hours of operation and gating of the car park specified

Councillors were equally divided between those totally opposed to the principle of a car park and those who felt that it was the lesser of two evils but were unhappy with the proposal as it stood.

It was agreed that the Clerk should attempt to encapsulate these views in a draft response which would be circulated for comment.

Action: Clerk

(iii) BUDGET 2013-14

The Clerk had circulated the Budget, supporting papers and recommendation for precept in advance. The new system of support for local council finances (part precept, part Council Tax Support grant) was noted. After a brief discussion, it was proposed (MS, seconded MW) and unanimously agreed that the Budget be adopted and a precept of £8600 should be set. Together with the Council Tax Support grant of approximately £300, this would equate to the precept of £8900 set the previous year. The Clerk

commented that the impact on Council tax would be very slightly greater than in 2012-13; this reflected a small increase in the number of properties in the parish that were exempt from Council Tax.

The Clerk would submit the precept request to North Somerset Council accordingly.

Action: Clerk

(iv) Website Report

The Web Manager (RS) had circulated a brief analysis of recent usage, which was welcomed. She had enquired whether PC had sought the views of village businesses as to an appropriate level of contribution for advertising on the website (if any); he had not, but would put this in hand.

Action: PC

6. NHS NS Consultation documents: “Voices for Health: Communication, Engagement and Experience Strategy for NS NHS Commissioning Group” and associated Implementation Plan

Former Council chairman Cathy Cooke had looked at this on the Council’s behalf. She did not feel that any particular comments were required. The Clerk would write accordingly.

Action: Clerk

7. NSC Community Resilience Project

It was noted that, following the pilot in Congresbury, the scheme was to be rolled out across North Somerset. The Clerk reported that an invitation to participate was imminent and it was agreed that it would be desirable for Kingston Seymour to be amongst the early adopters of this scheme, despite perhaps having more natural resilience than some other communities. The Clerk would respond accordingly.

Action: Clerk

8. Planning

(i) Planning Application No. 12/P/2256/E: see 5(ii) above

(ii) Update on planning applications previously considered:

- Erection of additional twin unit park home at Lodge Holding – It was noted that this application had been withdrawn
- Yew Tree Farm – decision awaited, but it was known that the windows were shortly to be replaced

(iii) Decision on request for a screening opinion as to whether an EIA is required to be submitted with a planning application for the erection of a single wind turbine on land at Yeo Bank Farm

It was noted that it had been decided that no EIA was required. PH, drawing on his professional experience of such matters, expressed surprise at this.

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

- Pool Farm – The Clerk had been advised that the works constituted a breach of planning regulations, planning permission was required and an application had been requested

(v) NS Local Plan

It was noted that consultation on the draft Sites & Policies DPD and a suite of draft Supplementary Planning Documents was due to begin shortly.

9. Roads:

(i) Routine maintenance

PC reported that he had recently inspected the lanes with Gregg Brake (Area Officer) and that temporary repairs of flood-damaged potholes would be effected. Subsidence had been noted at 12 locations and an engineer was coming out to inspect these the following week. The Chairman reported that he had discussed the condition of Lampley Road near Mr Fortune's field access with Mr Fortune; some sweeping had been done but the road was becoming degraded by the frequent passage of heavy vehicles. The Chairman had raised the possibility of using the alternative access point – it was under consideration but no commitments had been made.

(ii) NSC response to Council's letter re condition of far end of Ham Lane

The Clerk had received a holding response – the condition of the roads across the district was being assessed in the light of recent severe weather conditions; the Government had made additional funds available to councils to cover emergency repairs. The Council would be advised in due course whether it would be possible for any repairs to Ham Lane to be carried out.

(iii) Overgrowth of vegetation on motorway bridge shoulders

PC had obtained a quotation from Anthony Harris but had discussed the matter with Gregg Brake and was hopeful that the NSC "Green Team" would do the work.

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

JH and the Clerk had attended the NSC planning seminar on 6 December and the Clerk had circulated a written report.

11. Forthcoming meetings and events:

- Connecting Devon & Somerset Superfast Broadband – briefing meeting Friday 18 January, 10.30-12.30, Nailsea - BT and the Clerk to attend
- SLCC free training session on PAYE Real Time information requirements – Friday 25th January, 2pm, Yatton - Clerk to attend
- Workshop on NSC' s Sites and Policies DPD Thursday 28 February, 2pm, Weston – The Chairman, Clerk, BT and PH would attend.

12. Correspondence & Information

Some 60 items had been listed and those of interest and relevance would be circulated. The Clerk drew councillors' attention to two items received since the agenda had been prepared:

- Royal Garden party nomination forms – she would complete these as in previous years

- Boundary commission - Electoral Review of North Somerset – she would contact district councillors to see if they had strong views about this

Action: Clerk

13. Members' Concerns

(i)MS reported that several parishioners had commented on the increase in HGV traffic in Back Lane, especially early in the morning. Drivers were not always treating other road users with courtesy, and this was a particular concern at times of the day when young children were walking to or from the bus stop.

(ii) MW commented on the pressing need for more accurate flood maps: the Chairman noted that work on these had been completed but they had not yet been uploaded to the EA website.

(iii)PH raised an item of a sensitive nature, which for Data Protection reasons is not recorded in these minutes.

(iv)PC commented that he had been made aware of a caravan stationed in a field adjacent to "Failand" (Middle Lane); it didn't appear to be inhabited but the situation would be monitored.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th March 2013, 7.30pm