

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on Tuesday 7th July 2015 at 7.30pm in the meeting room, Village Hall

Declarations of Interest: None

Public Participation Time: None

Present:

Councillors Mike Sewell (Chairman), Paul Cox, Caroline Harris, Pete Harris, Fred Malton, Mike Wallis and Ian Wariner.
Leonie Allday, Clerk

In attendance:

District Councillor Jill Iles

1. Apologies for absence

District Councillor Judith Hadley; Carolyn Hills, Parish Council Liaison Officer; PC Adam Clarke, PCSO Jasmine Chadwick.

2. Minutes of meetings:

- Monday 11th May 2015 (annual and bi-monthly)
- Monday 8th June (special)

These were agreed to be true records of the meetings and were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Police Report

PC Adams had sent a written report which had been circulated to councillors. There had been two incidents in the village, one being an instance of fly-tipping which had been observed and the number of the vehicle recorded. Nothing had been heard since and the Clerk was asked to follow this up.

Action: Clerk

4. Infrastructure

- (i) Roads and footpaths, including update on timing of forthcoming speed and turning surveys

The Clerk reported that despite repeated attempts she had not been able to get in touch with John Painter. JI had also found him difficult to contact and suggested trying his line manager Colin Meadus. The Chairman commented that he was conscious that parishioners were becoming disillusioned with the process. The Clerk would explain the difficulties in her next report and would emphasise that the Council remained committed to the agreed course of action.

Action: Clerk

(ii) Registration of land at Triangle as Commons

FM again apologized for the lack of progress but reported that pursuant to the 2014 Commons Act a simpler registration was about to be introduced, which did not require signed affidavits. It was agreed to defer any further action until the new scheme was fully in place; FM would find out when this would be.

Action: FM

(iii) Phone box

MS and PH apologized for the lack of action: the painting was still to be done.

Action: Chairman, PH

(iv) Village verges

MS commented on the placing of large floral containers on verges; he was particularly concerned about “creeping urbanization”. He had received several complaints about the large wooden planters on the wide verge opposite Cherry Tree Farm, both on these grounds and because they prevented the parking of vehicles. He drew councillors’ attention to the letter recently received from the Drainage Board, indicating that the planters in question were hindering access to the rhyne and requesting the Parish Council to arrange their removal. It was pointed out by a councillor that the verges should not be used for overflow parking or planters. It was proposed that since the verge was the responsibility of NSC, the IDB’s letter should be passed on to them. This was agreed.

Action: Clerk

(v) Broadband – recent Connecting Devon & Somerset briefing

This had been passed on by Ione Douglas, PA to Liam Fox MP. BT had not been awarded the contract for the second phase of the roll-out of Superfast Broadband as they had been unable to guarantee to meet the Government’s 95% target. The tender is being re-issued as an open procurement exercise. In the meantime technology is advancing and the number and variety of alternative options is growing. It was noted that fibre had now been installed in the green cabinet at Kingston Bridge, giving rise to hope that the local service might soon improve. However it was also noted that in the short term many villagers were experiencing a deterioration in service, with frequent “drop-outs”. The official line remained that residents should see an improvement (unquantified) by October 2015.

5. Services

(i) Website report

The web manager had provided a useful report, which indicated that usage of the website was continuing to increase. Many people did not explore beyond the Home Page, which was probably the result of the fact that most current and future events were listed there as well as in the various sections elsewhere.

(ii) Community Resilience – Briefing on the stage reached in formulating a Community Emergency Response Plan; next steps

PH (CR lead) indicated that his preferred approach would be to oversee the formulation of a simple plan, tailored to the needs of the village, within a short period of time, preferably within weeks, not months. After a brief discussion it agreed that a meeting should be organized with two objectives: firstly, to put in hand the revision of the emergency

manual; secondly, to draw up a preliminary action plan that could be implemented in the case of an emergency. The Clerk would circulate some possible dates for a meeting involving PH, Richard Simmons, Angus Norrish, CH and herself.

Action: Clerk

6. Finance & Administration

(i) Routine payments

The Clerk reported that the balance on current account stood at £5346.83 and the balance per cash book at £5347.03. The difference of 20 pence was accounted for by a bank error, which the bank had acknowledged but which would be written off. Monies had been received and cheques issued / funds transferred since last meeting as per a spreadsheet tabled (to be filed with the minutes).

Payments were due as follows: Grant Thornton £120.00 (external audit fee); Clerk £368.05 (salary ex PAYE June); Clerk £26.33 (expenses as below); Sylvia Stokes £41.60 (web manager remuneration ex PAYE June); HMRC £17.40 (PAYE due). It was proposed (FM, seconded PH) and agreed unanimously that these payments should be made. The balance on the Business Reserve Account stood at £5346.83.

Action: Clerk

(ii) Smaller Authorities Transparency Fund – NALC briefing

The Clerk drew the attention of councillors to this briefing, which had been circulated. It indicated that funds would be made available to small councils experiencing difficulties or extra costs in implementing the new Transparency Code alongside the existing audit arrangements, which still had several years to run. Details of which councils would qualify for this fund, and how it would be accessed, were not yet available. The Clerk would pass these on to councillors in due course.

Action: Clerk

(iii) Councillors' duties and special responsibilities

These were discussed and finalized. A list would be posted on the village website.

Action: Clerk

(iv) Nomination of councillor to be available to sit on NSC Standards Sub-committee if required

It was proposed (PH, seconded PC) and agreed unanimously that FM, the existing post-holder, would retain this role. It was further agreed that PH would deputise in the event of it being inconvenient or inappropriate for FM to fulfil this obligation.

(v) New Model Standing Orders

The Clerk had circulated a draft based on the NALC Model, but it became apparent that only district councillors and CH had received them and not parish councillors. The Clerk apologized for this and the item was deferred until September.

Action: Clerk

(vi) Possible additional e-mail account specifically for Parish Council

The Chairman suggested that it would be a good idea to have a dedicated e-mail address for the Parish Council, that could be accessed by the Chairman in the absence of the Clerk. This was agreed and would be set up over the summer.

Action: Chairman, Clerk

7. Planning

(i) Date of planning meeting

A meeting was arranged for 13th or 15th July (subsequently confirmed for 15th); the Clerk would make the necessary arrangements.

Action: Clerk

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

- *Outline application for housing development (Hallam Homes) at North End – decision awaited*
- *Mobile home at Acorn Carp Fishery – consent with conditions*
- *PDA application for agricultural storage building, Mendip View Farm – prior approval not required*

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

- None

8. Consultations

NSC Consultation on Education Provision 2015-18 – the Chairman had made some comments on this and the Clerk had responded accordingly, stating the importance to the community of the historic and current links between the village and the schools in Yatton and Backwell. An acknowledgement had been received.

9. Reports of meetings attended

- NSC planning workshop, 17th June – MS / FM – a written report had been circulated
- ALCA North Somerset AGM, 25th June – MS – a written report had been circulated

10. Correspondence & Information

Items of interest and importance would be circulated.

11. Members' Concerns

Several councillors were concerned that the works to the sea defences were, temporarily, leaving the village dangerously exposed to flooding at high tides, as it appeared that the old banks were being demolished prior to the new ones being completed. It was agreed that the forthcoming site visit would provide an opportunity for questions to be asked of the contractors.

KSPC / 7.7.15

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 9th September

(Note re item 11, added subsequently: Although in the end the site visit had to be postponed, the contractors have given a categorical assurance that this is not in fact what is happening and there is no increase in risk).

Minutes approved by full Council:

Signed:

Date: