

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a special meeting of Kingston Seymour Parish Council on Wednesday 12th June 2013 at 7.30pm in the foyer, Village Hall

Present:

Councillors J Harris (chairman), P Harris, F Malton and M Wallis. Leonie Allday, Clerk.

Declarations of Interest: None

1. Apologies for absence

Councillors P Cox (prior engagement), M Sewell (away on business) and B Thomas (prior engagement)

2. National Grid Hinkley C Connection Project – Draft Statement of Community Involvement

It was noted that this document had not been circulated to local councils but had been forwarded by North Somerset Council. It was not on the National Grid website and no paper copies were available. This was considered regrettable. The final version would be circulated to all affected councils.

It was agreed that the draft appeared to comply with all legal requirements. It covered all the topics expected with the exception of possible adverse health impacts, of which there was no mention.

PH felt inclined to be cynical about the extent to which the National Grid would take any notice of the comments of local councils and requested that the Council ask for details of the outcome of the consultation.* He drew councillors' attention to an article by Liam Fox MP in a recent edition of the Sunday Telegraph and suggested that the Council write to him, sending a copy of its response.

The chairman asked PH if he would be willing to act as the Council's representative during the next round of consultations, due to begin in September and close on 15 October, as it was likely that his professional expertise would be very valuable. It was hoped that BT would also continue to be involved. As PH was about to go on holiday, the Clerk was asked to obtain details of the various "anti-pylons" campaigning groups; PH felt that they would be more effective if they worked together.

Action: Clerk

3. Proposal to change the frequency of payment of the Clerk's salary from a bi-monthly to a monthly basis.

The Chairman read a letter he had received from Chris Walton, the Council's Internal Auditor, outlining the problems which had arisen as a result of the introduction of new PAYE reporting requirements which now apply to all parish councils. Bi-monthly PAYE entries, with nil returns in the intervening months, had resulted in the Parish Council being assessed as liable to pay employers' NIC. In reality there was no such liability as the monthly pay was below the threshold. He suggested that the best way of resolving the problem was to pay the Clerk monthly in future. It was proposed (PH, seconded FM) and unanimously agreed that this should be implemented with immediate effect. A letter would be sent to HMRC explaining why no payment was due in respect of the financial year 2012/13 and none would be made.

Action: Clerk with CW

4. Information items

The Chairman reported that Jill Iles had met with John Carson and Simon Banbury. He understood that an agreement had been reached between Nigel Cole and North Somerset Council in respect of the removal of the flytipped waste at the entrance to the farm track off the south side of the motorway bridge. The waste would be removed on a "one-off basis" and NC would install a gate at the entrance to the track.

The Clerk reported the following for information:

(i) The planning application relating to works at Sampson's Sluice, associated with the proposed cycletrack, had only been sent to Wick St Lawrence PC. Wick St Lawrence PC had commented to the effect that they had no objection to the proposed works in principle but wanted to see an application for the entire scheme.

(ii) The appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the proposed development at Pastures New, Middle Lane had been withdrawn.

(iii) An application had been received for the dog training arena at Pool Farm; the Clerk would arrange a meeting.

(iv) The Clerk would be attending a meeting of the SPED Scrutiny Panel on 17th June, together with Pete Kingcott, deputizing for JH in his capacity as chairman of the Flood Risk Action Group. Vicky Durston of the EA would be making a presentation to the Panel on the revised Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy and NSFRAG had been invited to send representatives. The Parish Council would be discussing the revised Strategy at its next meeting ** and NSFRAG on 4th July.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

*Already a commitment in the document – para 8.1.2

** now probably at the planning meeting arranged for 27 June