

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a special meeting of Kingston Seymour Parish Council on Thursday 21st January 2016 at 7.30pm in the meeting room, Village Hall

Present:

Councillors Mike Sewell (MS, chairman), Caroline Harris (CH), Pete Harris (PH), Fred Malton (FM), Mike Wallis (MW) and Ian Wariner (IW). Leonie Allday, Clerk

In attendance:

John Painter (JP), Principal Engineer, NSC.

Declarations of Interest: None

Public Participation Time: None

1. Apologies for absence

Councillor Paul Cox (PC).

2. Business held over from meeting on 11th January: Consideration of options and costings pursuant to traffic surveys previously undertaken

MS welcomed JP and thanked him for providing councillors with a briefing paper in advance of the meeting; this had been most helpful. JP summarized the various options and the potential advantages and disadvantages of each were discussed. He stressed that it was unlikely that NSC would be willing to commit major funding to road safety measures in Kingston Seymour as road safety budgets were targeted at reducing casualties and there had been very few of these in Kingston over a period of many years. Any road safety measure was therefore likely to require a significant contribution from the Parish Council. It was put to JP that the Government had recommended that all villages should have a 30mph speed limit and that this alone should justify the expenditure, since Kingston was the only village in North Somerset without a speed limit lower than the national speed limit. JP understood the argument but pointed out that the Government recommendation was advisory not mandatory, and that the financial constraints under which NSC was operating were very challenging.

After a lengthy discussion it was decided that, in collaboration with PC, MS would prepare a presentation with accompanying handout for the Annual Parish Meeting, setting out the options with their various pros and cons. Some councillors thought that this should contain a recommendation from the Council but a resolution to this effect (proposed PH, seconded MW) failed. After further discussion it was proposed (MS, seconded FM) and unanimously agreed that a draft handout should be prepared for councillors to review at the next meeting and that this would set out the options with a view to seeking input from villagers before a decision was made by the Council.

In parallel with this process, JP was asked to investigate and report on possible funding by NSC for the financial year beginning 1 April 2016, taking into account all the points discussed.

FM raised a further matter which could have some bearing on the outcome. A proposal to reduce the speed limit on the B3133 in the vicinity of the Arnolds Way roundabout from 40mph to 30mph was under consideration. There appeared to be some suggestion that this might take effect from the junction with Lampley Road or even extend over the bridge. If so, this might have an indirect bearing on discussions in both Kingston and Yatton. JP said that he was not aware of this but undertook to find out what was being considered. MS commented that the need for clarity was another reason not to rush a decision. He would speak to Jill Iles, with whom FM was also in contact in this regard.

JP reminded councillors that he would be retiring in early April; his manager Rob Thomson would be responsible for ensuring the continuity of negotiations.

Action: JP, MS, PC, FM

3. Finalisation of Budget allocations 2016-17

It was proposed (PH, seconded IW) and unanimously agreed that a minor modification would be made to the line in the Budget referring to spending on Parish Plan actions.

Action: Clerk

4. NSC Sites & Policies Plan Part 1 – Development Management Policies – Proposed Main Modifications – consultation 14 January – 26 February 2016

It was agreed that the Clerk would look at this and circulate a draft response if appropriate.

Action: Clerk, all

5. NALC briefing - The Queen's 90th birthday celebrations

It was noted that local councils were being encouraged to participate in the lighting of beacons to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday on 21st April. It was further noted that this was the date on which the Annual Parish Meeting would be held and it was decided that a modest form of beacon would be lit in the Hall car park following the meeting. IW agreed to take responsibility for this; the Clerk would arrange to have the bar open.

Action: IW, Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

These minutes approved and signed 15 March 2016