

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on
Thursday 14th January 2021 at 19.30
On the Zoom Video Communication System

Councillors Present:

Ian Wariner (IW) In the Chair
Paul Cox (PC)

Richard Barber (RB)

Zoe Bartlett (ZB)

In attendance:

Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO

District Councillors Wendy Griggs,
Steve Bridger

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Councillors Sewell & Cole. Councillor Malton was unable to join because of technical difficulties. The Police Team had also sent their apologies.
Councillors present agreed that Councillor Wariner would chair the meeting.

2. To record declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

3. Members of the public are invited to address the council

There were no members of the public who wished to address the Council.

4. To confirm the minutes of the following meeting:

Meeting – 14th November 2020

Confirmed as a true record. Proposed by RB, seconded by PC and supported unanimously.

5. Police and Neighbourhood Watch

The Clerk advised that the local Police Team was now formed of PC Jenny Clark, with support from PCSOs Rachel Sellars, Elle French and Gary Knox.

Their submitted notes advised that in the last month there had been two thefts and one instance of criminal damage in their beat area. They also noted that there was a current spate of night time thefts from cars in both Portishead and Clevedon and that parishioners should take appropriate care of the contents left in their vehicles.

District Councillor Bridger added that there was an increasing trend of email scams regarding the Covid vaccine – sometimes requesting bank details to validate eligibility. These are fraudulent as the NHS will never request such information to get a vaccination or test.

There had been no incidents reported separately by the Neighbourhood Watch team.

6. Infrastructure. To receive updates and to agree the next actions.

6.1 Tutshill Sluice Access Route

The Clerk had spoken to the Project Manager and had been advised that there was an expectation that a start would now be made on site in the summer of 2021 and that work would continue with a view to achieving a “Winter 2021/22” opening. The necessary works on the lanes north of the sluice would also be completed before the route opens.

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

6.2 Coastal Footpath

There was no progress to report. Whilst an Inspector has been appointed, they have not yet undertaken any visits or announced the dates for any hearings because of COVID restrictions.

6.3 Roads and Footpaths

The Clerk had approached NSC after standing water had been noted on Lampley Road after heavy rains. NSC had confirmed that they would send the gulley cleaner to clear the drains and also noted that one particular property had a blocked open gully. As a first step, IW will speak to the householder.

7. Services, Resilience & Community

7.1 Village Maintenance & Environment

Following the last meeting, SD had approached the contractor about adding the Back Lane section to their work and they will do so at an additional £50 per cut. It was proposed by RB, seconded by PC and supported unanimously that this was acceptable.

The clerk advised that the arrangements/commitments had been put in place for 2021 only and that Council could decide to revisit for future years.

Action: Clerk to confirm the 2021 arrangements to the contractors

These new arrangements do not replace the now annual "Hedge and Verge" work which will be discussed at a future meeting.

RB and SD had been working with NSC regarding the village railings and, at present, it was looking likely that NSC will undertake the work at their expense. RB will return to Council when we have a detailed proposal on what will be done for us.

Action: RB to advise Council when NSC have formulated their proposals

In discussion, NSC had suggested that the railings at the Broadstone Lane/Middle Lane junction (which are currently in a parlous state) be replaced by stand alone edge markers. After discussion, it was agreed that, as this corner will be on the future cycle route, that we should push for proper railings to be installed to enhance public safety at that corner.

Action: Clerk to communicate with NSC.

7.2 Active Travel Consultation

The Clerk had issued a draft response and letter to Councillors and asked whether Councillors wanted to submit a response to this public consultation "as a Council". After discussion, it was proposed by RB, seconded by ZB and supported unanimously that we would.

Action: Clerk to reissue draft to Councillors for final comments by Monday 18th January

8. Administration

8.1 Equality & Diversity Policy Review

The current policy had been adopted in January last year and the clerk advised that no new elements had been suggested by governing bodies. It was proposed by ZB, seconded by RB and supported unanimously that the current policy be readopted for another year.

Action: Clerk to place the re-adopted policy on the website

8.2 KSPC and Facebook Announcements

A recent Facebook post by the clerk on the subject of fireworks at New Year had been criticised by a parishioner who felt that it was insufficiently balanced. The parishioner had hoped to attend but this had not proven possible.

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

After discussion, it was agreed that the specific matter would be deferred to the next meeting and the clerk advised that the Council's Social Media and Electronic Communications Policy was due for review then so Councillors could decide how best to go forward.

Action: Clerk to provide a copy of the current policy for review by Councillors.

9. Finance

9.1 To receive the current Financial Report.

The Clerk advised that despite signed instructions being given to its bankers to transfer £2.5k into a specific reserve account to support future work on the War Memorial this had not been enacted by the bank. The clerk is pursuing the matter with them.

The clerk reported that overall, the Council had financial assets totalling £15.1k after settlement of due items and forecast this at £14.5k at the end of March.

The clerk had received a letter from the CPRE asking for a donation of £100. It was confirmed that the Council's policy of not supporting charities applied.

Action; Clerk to politely decline the request.

9.2 To discuss the draft budget for 2021/22 and to agree the level of precept required.

The Clerk had issued a draft budget for 2021/22 – which was noted - and had provided examples of how certain precept increases would impact parishioners.

Councillors were aware of the additional expenses we had recently incurred in support of local needs and, after discussion, it was proposed by IW, seconded by PC and supported by a majority that we should ask for a 1% increase on last year's figure.

Action: Clerk to notify NSC before the required date

10. Reports from External Meetings

There had not been a Village Hall or PCAA meeting.

11. To consider attendance at forthcoming meetings

RB will attend a PCAA meeting scheduled for the 28th January and advised the meeting that the Public Enquiry into Bristol Airport's appeal against planning refusal will start on 20th July 2021.

12. To receive information about recent correspondence

The clerk had received information about the 2021 Census which will take place on Sunday 21st March 2021 and asked Council how much weight should be given to it on our website and Facebook.

Councillors will consider the material and advise after email based exchanges had taken place.

Action: Clerk to issue received material for consideration

13. To agree any items to be placed on the next regular meeting Agenda (11th March 2021)

It is likely that the next meeting will also have to take place on Zoom.

Facebook posts and the Social Media Policy will be discussed, next year's budget agreed and progress on items noted above will be reviewed.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20.25

Steve Dixon

Steve Dixon,

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, 16th January 2021