

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on
Wednesday 11th September 2024 at 19.30
At the Kingston Seymour Village Hall, Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour

Councillors Present:

Mike Sewell (MS) Chairman
Susie Humphries (SH)

Richard Barber (RB) Vice Chairman
Fred Malton (FM)

Andy Gillam (AG)

In attendance:

Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO

Wendy Griggs (WG) District
Councillor

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Councillor Cox

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

None

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

No members of the public wished to speak.

4. To confirm the minutes of the following meeting

Full Council Meeting – 3rd July 2024

It was proposed by FM, seconded by SH and supported unanimously that these were a true record.

Action: Clerk to post the approved minutes on the website

5. Police and Neighbourhood Watch

An update from our Police team indicated that thefts of property in Yatton and Claverham had occurred recently, and parishioners are urged to remain vigilant. Off road motorcyclists had been causing nuisance around the Strawberry Line and the team are working hard to stop this.

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

6.1 Tutshill Route and Duck Lane Link

The Pier to Pier (Tutshill) route opened in July and has been much praised by users and in the press. Family users have been prevalent in the summer period as had been expected. Parishioners are experiencing some issues and we maintain a watching brief and will raise specifics with NSC as appropriate.

RB attended a meeting about the Duck Lane Link, and contractors are set to be onsite from the end of September through into November. Whilst this piece of infrastructure may be completed this year, the route from Yatton station – where the Strawberry Line currently ends – to Duck Lane is not in place.

6.2 Roads

Following the last meeting, the Clerk had written to NSC to thank them for the partial repair of Yew Tree Lane. Unfortunately, the repairs are already “lifting” and the surface breaking up again.

Action: Clerk to write to NSC to advise them and to ask whether their contractors should be responsible for re-repairing what they did.

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The corner at New Cut Bow remains in a parlous state.

Action: Clerk to enquire of NSC as to their plan for this corner.

6.3 Footpaths

The bridge behind the Village Hall on footpath LA 11/5/10 is unstable and NSC have advised they have no money to replace it this year. AG has studied the bridge and believes a local solution may be possible. Further investigation to be carried out.

It had been highlighted by a resident that a culvert near the M5 on footpath LA 11/4/40 had become full of cuttings that could restrict flow and cause local flooding in the winter.

Action: AG to discuss with the drainage board contractor.

6.4 Village Maintenance

Hedge Cutting - It was noted that the full September cut had been undertaken by our contractor and that this would help road safety in the autumn and winter.

Because of the cycle route, AG suggested that we should ask NSC to cut higher up the hedges when they undertake their cuts – supposedly in the spring and summer. This would help prevent cyclists on the route being forced into the middle of the lanes and thus putting themselves and our parishioners at risk.

Action: Clerk to write to NSC.

Rubbish Bins - The clerk advised that the inner of one of the three rubbish bins – kindly emptied for us by a volunteer – had become dangerous to handle because it had rotted at the base and the metal remaining was jagged. The clerk had been trying to locate a new inner of the correct dimensions for some months but had been unsuccessful. Conscious that we would want a bin that was in keeping with our village environment, he had identified a supplier who could provide a bin similar to the current one at a cost of £236 plus VAT.

After discussion – and in view of identified savings elsewhere in the budget – it was proposed by AG, seconded by RB and supported unanimously that a new bin should be purchased.

Action: Clerk to order the identified bin

6.5 Bus Shelter

The current bus shelter has been in place since 1977 when it was installed by a Parishioners for HM Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee. Some parishioners have suggested that updating the Bus Shelter could be great a commemoration of the late Queen in the centre of the village recognising the current structure is old, requiring further maintenance and well used with the daily school bus runs etc.

After discussion, it was agreed that SH and AG should lead an options appraisal for replacement/refurbishment of the shelter and to bring forward the findings at a future meeting

Action: SH & AG to undertake an options appraisal

7. Services, Resilience & Community. To receive updates and agree any necessary actions:

7.1 Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel

The clerk advised that NSC had been promoting a collaborative solar panel purchasing scheme and this had been widely publicised but had now timed out. NSC are also recommending Home Efficiency Surveys and information will be posted on the website and mentioned in the magazine.

Action: Clerk to post information re the surveys on the website and in the village magazine.

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7.2 Defibrillator and Emergency Citizen Care

The clerk advised that the lock had been taped up so that the defibrillator can be accessed simply by breaking the visible seal. This is the same for the bleed kit. Our guardian continues to check the status of the defibrillator regularly.

8. Administration and Communication

8.1 Social Media Policy

After discussion at the July meeting, a revised version had been circulated to councillors. It was proposed by RB, seconded by SH and supported unanimously that this version be adopted.

Action: Clerk to publish on the website

8.2 Standing Orders

The clerk advised that there had been no changes to the recommended content of Standing Orders from professional bodies so the existing version should suffice. It was proposed by AG, seconded by FM and supported unanimously that the current version should be readopted.

Action: Clerk to publish on the website.

8.3 Proposed meeting dates for 2025

The clerk issued a set of proposed dates for Parish Council meeting in 2025 and requested feedback from councillors before they were committed.

Action: Councillors to feed their views to the clerk who will adapt the proposal as necessary, confirm availability with the village hall and reissue.

9. Finance

The clerk reported that the second half of the precept had been received and that the council now had £6.4k net in its current account and £9.4k in its reserves. The variances to the start of year budget are for tree work and savings from Post Office support and Election fees. Payments to contractors for village maintenance of £265 and £960 had been issued. A new waste bin is to be purchased as noted above.

The remainder of the year's budget has been separated into - committed, expected and unallocated – and this perspective is welcomed by councillors and will be ongoing.

Councillors confirmed that the budgeted grant of £200 to the Village Hall for purchase of a Christmas Tree should proceed. Proposed by FM, seconded by AG and supported unanimously.

Action: Clerk to inform the Village Hall

10. External Meetings

RB had attended a Duck Lane Link meeting, and the outcome is noted in 6.1 above.

11. Receive very recent correspondence

The clerk and chairman had received a notification from the Hinkley Point project relating to the surveying of parts of the west of the parish for the purpose of creating new saltmarsh habitats. Landowners in the area had also received letters.

After contacting the originator, the clerk had been assured that this was very early exploratory work and that nothing had been decided. Councillors require a briefing on these aspirations so that they can keep residents appropriately informed.

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Action: Clerk to fix a date for a Hinkley Representative to give a private briefing to councillors. Public meetings may follow in due course.

12. To Agree items for the meeting on the 13th November 2024

To discuss the council's Financial Regulations and to follow up on outstanding actions from this meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.00.

Steve Dixon

Steve Dixon,
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer,
17th September 2024