

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on
Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 19.30
At the Kingston Seymour Village Hall, Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour

Councillors Present:

Mike Sewell (MS) Chairman
Paul Cox (PC)
Fred Malton (FM)

Richard Barber (RB) Vice Chairman
Andy Gillam (AG)

Zoe Bartlett (ZB)
Susie Humphries (SH)

In attendance:

Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO

Wendy Griggs (WG) District
Councillor

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from District Councillor Bridger and the Police Team

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 discuss and agree the Parish Council's position on the following application

Planning Application No 24/P/2102/FUH

Demolition of existing conservatory and proposed erection of a single storey rear extension, new glazed gable and vertical timber cladding to the front porch and other associated external and internal alterations. New roller shutter door to the existing garage together with new crème painted render to the garage walls at **Willowdown, Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour BS21 6XE**

There had been no objections lodged by other parties and councillors had studied the plans, felt they were in keeping with the area and were unanimous in their support for them.

Action; Clerk to convey decision to NSC and mark on their planning file.

5. To confirm the minutes of the following meeting

Full Council Meeting – 11th September 2024

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

Full Council Meeting – 21st October 2024

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

Action: Clerk to post the approved minutes on the website

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6. Police and Neighbourhood Watch

Although unable to attend in person, an update from our Police team indicated that the recent focus of their activity – in the wider District area that they look after - has been on public order offences and they continue to pursue nuisance motorcyclists on and around the Strawberry Line. The Police urged residents to report situations of anti-social behaviour – or any other observed offence – through 101 (or 999 as applicable) so that these are recorded properly and a picture built as to where focus and resources need to be applied.

Instances of “rogue traders” knocking on doors in the village to promote their services (e.g. tree cutting) had been noted by our Neighbourhood Watch and residents are reminded to remain very vigilant if approached by someone they have not invited to their property.

7. EDF Saltmarsh Proposal

MS reported that the full executive of NSC had voted on a motion calling for EDF to withdraw from this area and that an Internal Drainage Board meeting with EDF had conveyed much the same message. There is a landowners walk on Friday and members of the action group and the parish council will attend with our MP, Tessa Munt and our District Councillors.

The action group (now named the North Somerset Levels Action Group) is maintaining a high profile on local social media and has secured very favourable press coverage over the last few days. The group has reached into the Strode Road area of Clevedon and their residents are now aware of the potential threat and are gathering volunteers to assist their work in many areas of publicity, information verification and lobbying. A joint steering group has been formed and two members of the parish council (RB & SH) are on that group, reinforcing the joint approach with the parish council that is being developed.

There will be Village Magazine articles in the coming edition.

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

8.1 Duck Lane Link

The link between the Bloor Homes site and Lampley Road (the Duck Lane Link) was completed last week and – despite assurances to the contrary – NSC has publicised it as a way of linking the Strawberry Line to the Pier to Pier route. Furthermore, two signs had been erected on the Lampley Road stating that this was a “Quiet Lane”.

RB attended the working group earlier today and advised that NSC now knew that they made an error with these signs and had not signposted the route at all well. They promised to walk the route in the next few days and bring forward proposals to correct the situation. They also promised another Road Safety Audit.

Action: Clerk and AG to compose a note to NSC expressing our concerns over signage and the ongoing safety aspects of Lampley Road.

8.2 Roads

The clerk had written again to NSC about the quality of the repairs carried out to Yew Tree lane but without response. Equally, he had enquired about the plans for the New Cut Bow junction – again without response.

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It had been noted that some of our road markings were becoming eroded but following discussion, it was decided not to pursue this at this time.

8.3 Footpaths

AG is researching the options for replacing the bridge on footpath LA 11/5/10.

8.4 Village Maintenance

The clerk had asked NSC whether they intended to undertake extra cuts of the cycle route to enhance the safety of users and residents. They have declined to do so. The parish council will consider, in the spring, whether intervention is necessary.

A new bin for the Triangle had been delivered and will shortly be installed.

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

9.1 Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel

The clerk had posted information about discounted Home Energy Surveys onto the website.

9.2 Defibrillator and Emergency Citizen Care

ZB advised that there would shortly be a public access defibrillator at Acorn Lakes and this was welcomed by councillors.

The clerk advised that he was seeking economical training for use of the defibrillator and it was suggested that we enquire in the Village Magazine whether residents would be interested in awareness of the defibrillator and the bleed kit, and then to proceed as appropriate.

Action: Clerk to include a piece in this month's village magazine.

10. Administration and Communication

10.1 Review the council's Financial Regulations

The clerk had given notice that ALCA had redrafted these regulations and that there had been some changes which needed scrutiny. RB volunteered to work with the clerk to refine a suitable version.

Action: RB and Clerk to refine the Financial Regulations to make them suitable to our needs and proceed to approval by councillors in January.

10.2 Government Remote Meetings' Consultation

Councillors welcomed this Government led consultation on allowing remote and hybrid meetings and asked the clerk to submit a positive response on behalf of the council.

Action: Clerk to respond to the consultation for the council.

11. Finance

11.1 Receive the current Financial Report

The clerk reported that the council had £3.5k net (after payments due) in its current account and £9.4k in its reserves. Income and expenditure were in line with budgeted figures and opportunities still existed should councillors identify an opportunity to invest in the village.

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11.2 Agree the remainder of this year's grants.

The clerk noted that councillors had already approved the grant to the village hall for the Christmas tree and asked for confirmation that the budgeted grants of £600 to Yatton Moor PCC for graveyard maintenance and of £400 to the Village Magazine should go ahead.

This was proposed by SH, seconded by RB and supported unanimously.

Action: Clerk to issue cheques for these grants

11.3 Nationally agreed scale increase to the clerk's salary

Councillors had been briefed on this and its implications and were content to proceed.

11.4 Adoption of Online Banking

The clerk explained how he had been offered the opportunity for free online banking by our bankers Nat West and he was keen to proceed. Councillors had been briefed on the service and implications and it was proposed by ZB, seconded by AG and supported unanimously that we should proceed.

Action: Clerk to work with the three councillors who are signatories to the accounts to complete the registration processes and implement the system.

11.5 Response to the NSC Budget Consultation

The clerk advised that he had advertised this to residents on our website and asked whether the parish council would like to offer a formal response. After discussion it was decided that the nature of the questions appeared to be more suited to an individual's opinion so it would be left to councillors to respond personally if they so wished.

12. External Meetings

MS advised that he was due to attend a saltmarsh meeting at one of the other target areas on Friday and RB would attend the MP farm visit and briefing on Friday. RB had attended the WERN AGM and said that there was a PCAA meeting next week to discuss the airport's apparent desire to move to 15mppa and then ultimately 20mppa.

13. Very Recent Correspondence

The clerk advised that the Marine Management organisation had asked us to complete an online monitoring survey and that he would do so.

Action: Clerk to complete the MMO online survey.

14. To Agree items for the meeting on the 13th January 2025

To finalise the council's Financial Regulations and discuss other policies as may be available. To follow up on outstanding actions from this meeting. To report on the position regarding the very bright lights on the Smart Systems building on Arnold's Way in Yatton which cause disturbance to residents in KS.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.30.

Steve Dixon

Steve Dixon,
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer,
15th November 2024