

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on
Monday 10th March 2025 at 19.45
At the Kingston Seymour Village Hall, Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour

Councillors Present:

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

Paul Cox (PC)

Susie Humphries (SH)

In attendance:

Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Councillors Sewell, Bartlett and Gillam and from District Councillors Bridger and Griggs

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

There were no declarations of interest.

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

No members of the public were present.

4. To confirm the minutes of the following meeting

Full Council Meeting – 13th January 2025

It was proposed by PC, seconded by RB and supported by those who had been present, that these were a true record.

Action: Clerk to post the approved minutes on the website

5. Police and Neighbourhood Watch

The Police team were unable to attend and there were no reported issues from the Neighbourhood Watch coordinator.

6. EDF Saltmarsh Proposals. Status & Known Next Steps

EDF have given formal notice that they are no longer pursuing saltmarsh creation in Kingston Seymour (and the other parishes) whilst they study the effectiveness of a new Acoustic Fish Deterrent system. This testing should complete by September, and they have declared that even if this testing is NOT successful, they are now very unlikely to seek any environmental mitigation that they become obliged to deliver through saltmarsh creation. The news and documents are available on the village website.

MS has asked whether EDF are prepared to give some recompense to the village for the trauma caused over the last six months and this request has been acknowledged by EDF who are seeking an internal budget.

Councillors agreed that we now need to concentrate on the Shoreline Management Plan and working with the EA to agree what a new version should set out for the defences around our parish.

Action: To be discussed fully at the July meeting

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

7.1 Tutshill Route and the Duck Lane Link

The parish council has received a copy of the RSA3 for the Duck Lane link but it is disappointing in its limited commentary which does not include the impacts of users on the Lampley Road.

We are awaiting sight of the engineer drawings for a package of signage and improvements – but these have been delayed in NSC and are now unlikely to emerge before April at the earliest. The incorrect “Quiet Lanes” signs will not be removed as a separate job.

Action: Clerk to continue to pursue for sight of the future plans.

7.2 Roads

A post had been struck near the entrance to Middle Lane and, whilst NSC have accepted it onto their list for repairs for the 25/26 financial year, they do not consider it a risk and it has only been judged as low priority. Since the incident, the post has been straightened, and no further action is required.

Following Openreach work around Rookery Close, the verge has been badly damaged and the clerk had asked for remediation to be undertaken. This has not happened so the request is to be reiterated.

Action: Clerk to pursue proper remediation by Openreach.

7.3 Footpaths

AG is pursuing the issue of cuttings in the rhyne alongside LA 11/2/10 and is researching the options for replacing the bridge on footpath LA 11/5/10.

The clerk has referred the northern end of this footpath to NSC and they have agreed to try and look at it before they lose a member of their team at the end of March.

Action: Clerk to refer to NSC by the end of March for an update.

7.4 Village Maintenance

Quotations have been received for the machine and hand cutting work in 2025.

Councillors agreed that we would withdraw the element in Workpackage A which requires the cutting of hedgerow in April and July. After discussion, it was proposed by FM and seconded by PC that we would pay for two machine cuts at £130+VAT and it was proposed by PC and seconded by FM that we would fund the three manual cuts (totalling £965). Unanimously agreed by those present.

Action: Clerk to confirm to requirements to contractors

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

8.1 Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel

The clerk had contacted Smart Systems about the light pollution that was crossing to the village and they had agreed to review their lighting and take some measures to control this. Parishioners have remarked that there has been no improvement.

*Action: Clerk to write to the company to encourage the completion of their review and to take action.
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8.2 VE Day 80 – 8th May 2025

After discussion it was decided that the parish council would not lead any activities to commemorate this occasion but would consider supporting activities led by other groups in the parish.

8.3 Community Governance Review

NSC has launched a review as they are required to do periodically. A piece has already been placed on our website and NSC have asked that all councillors complete their survey.

After discussion, it was agreed that councillors and the clerk would complete the survey as individuals and that the clerk would heighten the publicity for the review through Facebook and in the Village Magazine.

Action: Clerk to issue a Facebook update and to place a piece in the Village Magazine

8.4 Local Plan – Additional Housing Sites consultation

An additional sites consultation has been issued to help NSC analyse how they can meet new government targets for new homes. The identified site in the parish is dismissed as non-viable because of its flooding likelihood. After discussion, it was agreed that no further action would be taken at this time, but that a close eye would be maintained on the local plan as it developed.

8.5 WERN Community Survey

The West of England Rural Network have asked for information about our community to help them prepare for projects going forward and have asked for completion by the 27th March

After discussion it was agreed that RB and the clerk would agree a submission which would be lodged on behalf of the parish.

Action: RB and clerk to complete and submit the survey.

9. Administration and Communication

9.1 May Meeting Structures

The clerk advised councillors that on the 7th May, the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will take place. This meeting will follow a standard agenda and will elect a chairman for the coming year, sign off audit materials and allocate councillor responsibilities for the coming year. The clerk stressed that legislation to allow voting to occur remotely is not yet in place so councillors must be present in order for their vote to count.

This meeting will be followed by a regular council meeting on the same evening.

The Annual Village Meetings will take place two weeks later on the 21st May and will feature presentations from the parish council, the Friends of All Saints and the Village Hall.

Action: Clerk to prepare audit materials and liaise with the auditor to have these completed. Clerk to work with the other participants of the annual meetings to create a single – overall – presentation.

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9.2 Retention Policy

The clerk thanked AG for creating the basis for a retention policy and he is now going through the advice from his professional body to ensure that the Appendix to the policy is complete and meets our legal obligations.

Action: Clerk to complete this work and refer it back to councillors at a future meeting.

10. Finance

10.1 Receive the current Financial Report

The clerk had forecast the council's financial position to the end of our financial year (31st March).

At that time, the council will have £0.9k net in its current account and £9.5k in its reserves. The clerk advised that we had held back from significant investments this year as there had been uncertainty over whether funds would be needed to tackle EDF. These funds can now be invested during the next financial year as councillors see fit.

11. External Meetings

MS has attended meetings with EDF and with NSC about the Community Governance Review with the clerk. The next Town and Parish forum in April is "in person" at Castlewood and the clerk will attend. Councillors have been asked whether they would also like to attend.

RB attended a PCAA meeting where the mood seemed to be resigned to the forthcoming expansion. PC had attended a Village Hall meeting and was pleased to report that the floor in the main hall is set to be replaced in May. The Gents and Disabled toilet facilities will also be refurbished.

12. Very Recent Correspondence

There had been no recent correspondence requiring action.

13. To Agree items for the meeting on the 7th May 2025

This date will feature the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and a regular full council meeting.

To follow up on outstanding actions from this meeting. The draft agenda will be sent to councillors in advance of issue and for any additional items to be added.

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

Steve Dixon

Steve Dixon,
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer,
12th March 2025