

# KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on  
**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 19.45**  
At the Kingston Seymour Village Hall, Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour

Councillors Present:

Mike Sewell (MS)

Richard Barber (RB)

Andy Gillam (AG)

Fred Malton (FM)

In attendance:

Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO

Wendy Griggs (WG) District  
Councillor

**1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Councillors Bartlett (ZB), Cox (PC) and Humphries (SH) and from District Councillor Bridger.

**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 – 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025**

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

*Action: Clerk to post the approved minutes on the website*

**5. Police and Neighbourhood Watch**

There had been a few “door knocking” incidents around the village and residents are urged to remain vigilant. The Police incidents report for September – for the entire Yatton area (of which KS is part) - showed 8 reports of anti-social behaviour and 24 of violent crime. This appears typical of previous months and are the current priorities for the force.

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

**6.1 Roads and Footpaths**

RB and the clerk had met with the new area highways officer and had toured him around our lanes. Specific areas in Yeo Bank Lane and on Back Lane were noted but a lack of funding at NSC will probably mean we do not see any immediate action.

The clerk reported that National Grid have a universal power to close footpaths when they are working on or near their equipment and have no obligation to advise anyone when this is happening. The parishioner that raised this issue has been advised of the situation.

The clerk also advised that he had been approached about the footpath through the church yard – which is a public right of way – but may be in too good a condition to attract NSC funding.

The clerk advised that the cycle track from Dowlais Corner to the coast was currently closed to allow lorries to bring in stone for repairs to a section of the sea wall. This would last until December and

# KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

the village had been advised through Facebook and the website. The clerk had checked on progress on the Coastal Footpath and this is moving forward slowly but opening seems unlikely before 2027.

## **6.2 Bus Shelter**

AG reported on the research that he and SH had led into replacing the bus shelter at the Triangle. A number of options had been researched including: do nothing, refurbish existing, purchase a new bus shelter "kit", build a new wooden structure and build a new stone and wooden structure. AG briefed that as part of an options appraisal, local opinions and professional advice had been sought. After discussion and review of options it was agreed that a new stone and wood construction was the favoured way forward (2 options for the wooden part).

AG and SH were thanked for their work. It was agreed that as a form of consultation, that an article should be placed in the village magazine by the PC where the options considered would be identified, the PC's intent confirmed to proceed with a stone and wood build and feedback sought on the preferred of the two options. In addition, views on whether the bus shelter should be dedicated in remembrance to HM Queen Elizabeth II or in celebration of the coronation of HM King Charles III.

Following review of parishioner feedback at our next meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January, the final choices will be made on the design and dedication with the decision then ratified to proceed with the project.

## **Other Infrastructure Matters**

RB advised that a parishioner had raised a complaint with the EA about smells coming from the rhyne that runs through the heart of the village. Tests have been undertaken by the EA, IDB and Wessex Water but to date, accountability has not been identified or accepted. RB will keep the council advised.

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

### **7.1 Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel**

The clerk reported that there were to be some local bus service changes to be made from December but none would benefit the village, and we will continue to rely on the WestLink service whilst it remains funded by NSC.

### **7.2 Defibrillator status**

The clerk reported that the course in October had been very well attended and received by some 25 participants. He suggested that we repeat the event in a year's time.

The clerk reported that he had placed an order for new pads for the defibrillator but that the supplier (a US company) was currently failing to meet the demand. Whilst we await replacement pads, we are advised that the existing ones are fine to carry on with. The unit is checked regularly.

At the training session, it had been suggested by the ambulance representatives that we have a spare set of pads available should the current ones be used. After discussion, it was decided that we would retain the current set as spares when we receive the ordered replacements.

### **7.3 NSC Local Plan Update**

As the next step along the formal process of adopting a Local Plan, NSC had produced the Pre Submission version for consultation.

# KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

The clerk had reviewed the 364 page document and produced a summary note for councillors. It was agreed that there are no immediate threats to Kingston Seymour from the plan and that there was no need for the council to comment.

## **8. Administration and Communication**

### **8.1 To discuss the council's initial position on remote meeting attendance.**

The clerk advised that the Government intends to legislate to allow (but not require) all councils to adopt remote attendance and proxy voting by councillors. This legislation has not yet been tabled, and it will not remove the obligation for all council meetings to be open to the public.

After discussion, it was agreed that the council's initial response is that councillors should attend meetings in person to allow proper debate and visibility to parishioners and only by exception would councillors be allowed to phone/Zoom in to meetings to vote. The legislation is not yet passed and the topic will be revisited when it is closer to becoming law.

## **9. Finance**

### **9.1 Current Financial Report**

The council currently has £9.3k in its general funds and a further £6.2k in its War Memorial Reserve account. The budget was tracking to plan and funds will be available to invest in the village. The Bus Shelter project is the principle focus for the remainder of this financial year.

### **9.2 To agree the annual grants**

The council typically makes a grant for graveyard maintenance and to help fund the village magazine. It was proposed by FM, seconded by RB and supported unanimously that a grant of £650 is made for graveyard maintenance and £450 to support the village magazine.

*Action: Clerk to send the grants to the recipients.*

## **10. External Meetings**

The clerk had received an invite for a planning-based meeting with MP Tessa Munt and representatives of NSC and Somerset councils (her constituency crosses both districts). FM has volunteered to attend.

## **11. Receive information about very recent correspondence**

The clerk had attended a briefing from the Local Government Boundary Commission who are obliged to conduct an Electoral Review every 10 years. This is to the District Councillor level NOT parish councils.

It is their role to ensure that citizens are adequately represented – trying to ensure that each District Councillors is representing largely the same number of citizens. They also look to recognise that wards represent community identities and that there are strong and identifiable boundaries to ward areas.

The first step is that they agree with NSC the overall numbers of councillors, and this decision is to be made on the 18<sup>th</sup> November. A public consultation about where the ward boundaries should be will then be launched on the 25<sup>th</sup> November and run until 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

The council will respond, if necessary, when the consultation is issued.

# KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

## **12. To note items for the meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

The meeting will include a decision about the Bus Shelter replacement. A review of the Electronic Communication and Equality and Diversity policies will be undertaken as part of our rolling programme. Other items of importance that arise will be included, and Councillors will be asked to add other items when the draft agenda is issued in early January.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

*Steve Dixon*

Steve Dixon,

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2025