

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on
Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 19.30
At the Kingston Seymour Village Hall, Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour

Councillors Present:

Mike Sewell (MS), Chair	Richard Barber (RB), Vice Chair	Andy Gillam (AG)
Susie Humphries (SH)	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 and Cox and from District Councillor Bridger.

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

None

3. To discuss and agree the Parish Council's position on the following planning applications.

Planning Application No 26/P/0082/FUH Retrospective application for the erection of a single storey side extension and replacement of roofing including the formation of a front gable. Installation of a wood-burner flue and cladding at Wharf House, Back Lane, Kingston Seymour BS21 6UY

Councillors had studied the application and, after discussion it was unanimously agreed to support the application.

Action: Clerk to note the approval on the NSC website

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

A member of the public addressed the council on items 7.2 and 8.1 (see below).

5. To confirm the minutes of the following meeting

Full Council Meeting – 12th January 2026

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

Action: Clerk to post the approved minutes on the website

6. Police and Neighbourhood Watch

The village had suffered some minor vandalism at the Triangle over the previous weekend, but this had been quickly resolved by the Chairman.

The Police team continue to make themselves available at the coffee morning and at a forthcoming “chat to us” session at Sainsbury’s. Crime in the area was displaying a consistent trend with nothing specific to be aware of.

...continued.

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

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

7.1 Roads in the Area

The complete closure of the B3133 recently had caused a lot of discomfort for residents as through traffic sought to find a way past the closure - often through the village. This had included HGVs and these had caused issues, particularly in New Cut Bow.

There had been a number of closures and other roadworks in the area, and the NSC roads planning manager had been invited to address the parish council to explain why so many roads were being affected at the same time. Whilst they were unable to attend, a written submission had been received earlier in the day and the clerk would now share this with councillors.

Action: Councillors to consider next steps at the next meeting and after consideration of the NSC explanation.

7.2 Passing places

A small number of passing places had been installed in Yeo Bank Lane as part of the Pier to Pier way route and a member of the public suggested to the parish council that the installation of these elsewhere in the village would benefit both residents and visitors.

After discussion, and appreciating that it was unlikely that money from the public purse would be prioritised for this, it was agreed that the council would insist on passing places to support any future planning applications of any volume and, that Wessex Water would be approached for funding of passing places in Back Lane where their lorries often conflict with local traffic.

Action: All to note re future planning applications. Clerk to write to Wessex Water to commence the process

7.3 Footpaths

Now that the weather was improving, the bridge behind the Village Hall will be repaired shortly.

NSC had asked to be put in touch with a "local footpath group" to be their eyes and ears on issues with the footpath network. Councillors are confident that residents will advise the council if anything is not right and we will notify and seek action from NSC

7.4 Village Maintenance

The clerk had received quotations from our two contractors for machine cutting and hand cutting in the specific areas through the spring and summer. Quotations received were at the same price as last year and it was proposed by FM, seconded by RB and supported unanimously that these quotes be accepted.

Action: Clerk to notify contractors

.....continued

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

A note had been received from a resident concerning the state of a tree on their verge which appears to have been planted in the 90s to commemorate the village having won a Best Kept Village award.

Action: AG to visit the resident to discuss and report back.

The clerk and RB outlined that the fingerpost sign at the Triangle had lost a finger when the Back Lane sign had been knocked off by a passing HGV in 2025. The clerk had been making some enquiries about a replacement finger and had received an initial quote from a respected local specialist for the complete refurbishment of the sign and installation of a new finger.

Because this sign is such an important part of the village vernacular, councillors are minded to consider the complete refurbishment of the sign and the moving of it slightly within the War Memorial compound to ensure that the “fingers” did not overlap the highway. It was also suggested that the topic be highlighted to residents at the Annual Meetings night before a decision is made.

Action: Clerk to clarify the quote received and the cost of adding its relocation. Item to be included in the Annual Meetings night presentation.

7.5 Bus Shelter

The weather had not been conducive to starting work on the project but resources are being marshalled to enable progress to be made shortly.

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

8.1 Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel

Smart Systems in Yatton continue to cause light pollution across the village - despite assurances that the issue would be fixed following the clerk's last contact with them.

Action: Clerk to write to Smart Systems again to reinforce our concerns. This will be escalated to our District Councillor (WG) if necessary.

The Environment Agency had issued a consultation on their proposal to stop maintenance on main rivers – a step which they claim is through lack of funding. A member of the public, who is also on the local IDB, expressed concern that this was inappropriate as we have the Kenn to the north of our parish and the Yeo to the south – either of which could significantly affect the village if they were to overflow through lack of maintenance.

Action: Clerk to draft a response to the consultation and circulate it for approval by councillors and submission by 30th April deadline.

8.2 Voluntary Action North Somerset

Councillors noted the papers that had been submitted by this group.

.....continued

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

9. Administration and Communication

9.1 Assertion 10 progress

The clerk provided an update on progress towards Assertion 10. He also issued a Publication Scheme for the parish council as this is required by the Information Commissioner's Office. After discussion, it was proposed by FM, seconded by RB and supported unanimously that the publication scheme be published but with a minimum charge for paper copies to be set at £1.

Action: Clerk to publish the scheme and fees and to continue to deliver Assertion 10 requirements in advance of the May meeting..

9.2 Discuss and agree the dates for the 2026 meetings.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council is to be moved to Monday 11th May to maximise attendance. The other parish council meetings in the year are to remain as planned on Mondays: 13th July, 21st September and 9th November. The Annual Parish Meetings night will take place on Wednesday 20th May and will feature the parish council, the Friends of All Saints and the Village Hall.

9.3 May meeting structure.

The clerk outlined how the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (now 11th May) and the regular meeting that will follow will be conducted.

10. Finance

10.1 Current Financial Report

The clerk described the current position and forecast to the end of the financial year on March 31st. At that time, the council will have general funds of £5.5k and a further £7.2k specifically retained for future works on the War Memorial.

10.2 To confirm the initial budget for 2026-27

The draft budget agreed at the last meeting was confirmed and the precept will generate £15k to support rising costs and this draft will be the basis for the forthcoming financial year. It includes an allocation of funds for the bus shelter and, potentially, the signpost project.

Action: Clerk to publish the budget on the website in accordance with the publication scheme.

11. External Meetings

The clerk had attended a Town and Parish workshop with NSC where the main points were the forthcoming increase in NSC precept and on the consultation over joining WECA. The details of this WECA consultation are already on the website for parishioners to take part in if they so wish. The clerk had also attended a meeting on NSC's Highways Together initiative but where nothing new emerged which would alter the decision council made at the last meeting.

There is a meeting of the PCAA shortly. RB will attend if available.

12. Receive information about very recent correspondence

There was no new information that wasn't already covered in the meeting.

.....continued

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

13. To note items for the meetings on Monday 11th May

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will follow the prescribed agenda and the following full meeting will include updates on items covered here. 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 May.

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

Steve Dixon

Steve Dixon,

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, 23rd March 2026