

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on
Monday 11th May 2026 at 20.15
At the Kingston Seymour Village Hall, Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour

Councillors Present:

Mike Sewell (MS), Chair
Paul Cox (PC)
Fred Malton (FM)

Richard Barber (RB), Vice Chair
Andy Gillam (AG)

Zoe Bartlett (ZB)
Susie Humphries (SH)

In attendance:

Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from District Councillors Bridger and Griggs.

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 address the council

4. To confirm the minutes of the following meeting

Full Council Meeting – 18th March 2026

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

Action: Clerk to post the approved minutes on the website

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

5.1 Roads in the Area

The complete closure of the B3133 in March 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. The Highways planning department at NSC had been asked to explain the situation and a written report had been received and which had been circulated to councillors shortly after the March meeting. RB advised that NSC had stated that there would be regular meetings between parishes and their Area Officers but these had not been initiated yet.

Within the last two weeks, there had been two closures of Ham Lane for emergency utility work and “Road Closed” signs had been erected back at the Triangle, despite the actual closures being some distance down Ham Lane. This had caused concern for residents and loss of custom to leisure businesses. Furthermore, it appeared that NSC did not advise their own recycling crews of the exact location of the roadworks, causing many properties – not actually affected by the works – to have their waste collections missed.

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Councillors expressed their concerns that the “Road Closed” notices were not positioned appropriately and that there was no “*joined up thinking*” in NSC regarding notice of the facts to the environmental teams. These matters should be taken up by our District Councillors.

Action: Clerk to create a note to the District Councillors to ask for their intervention with NSC over these matters. Note to be approved by AG and MS before issue.

5.2 Footpaths

NSC had been advised that we will contact them should issues with a footpath be identified and this process has been used once so far. The bridge behind the Village Hall will be repaired shortly and work is necessary to clear the underpass at Phipps Bridge..

NSC have advised that they are still waiting for Natural England to allocate funding to them to start the establishment of the approved Coastal Footpath.

5.3 Bus Shelter

Resources are being organised with a view to undertaking the work during the school summer holidays when the shelter sees less usage.

5.4 Fingerpost

The clerk reminded councillors that the fingerpost sign at the Triangle had lost its Back Lane “finger” when the Back Lane sign had been knocked off by a passing HGV in 2025. The clerk had been making enquiries about a replacement finger and had received a quote from a respected local specialist for the complete refurbishment of the sign and creation of a new finger.

After discussion, it was proposed by FM, seconded by AG and supported by a majority of councillors to accept the quote (£1165 +VAT) and proceed with the refurbishment. PC did not support the proposal.

Action: Clerk to accept the quotation and initiate the project.

It was also discussed that we should consider moving the base of the sign further inside the War Memorial compound and that it would be best to do that when the sign is away for refurbishment if equipment and resources are available at that time. This is not something that the contractor will do.

Action: Clerk to notify councillors as soon as he is aware when the sign will be removed for the work.

5.5 Church Gates

The clerk had received a request from one of the church wardens for assistance with the replacement of the gate posts at either end of the footpath that crosses the churchyard and at the supplementary “kissing gate” ..

The clerk noted that this path is an official Public Right of Way (PROW) and its usable surface is therefore the ultimate responsibility of Highways at NSC. However, the Highways Act – under which these matters are governed – clearly states that any stile or gate that is on (or over) a PROW is the responsibility of the landowner and not the highways authority. The clerk had advised the church warden of this.

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Councillors discussed whether they should make a donation to the work but, in view of the grant we already give to maintain the churchyard, questions were raised about the criticality and timescale for this additional work and also what funding had been requested from other sources. Given receipt of this information, a decision could be made at the meeting in July.

Action: Clerk to prepare a note of questions for the church wardens and which is to be approved by MS before dispatch.

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

6.1 Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel

The clerk advised that the WestLink bus service – known to be used by some residents – had been cut back and it now only operates between 09.00 and 14.00, that the maximum distance is now 5 miles and a minimum, fare of £3 applies.

6.2 Bristol Airport Expansion

After a formal decline by NSC in 2020, but following a successful appeal to the Planning Inspectorate in 2021, the airport has planning permission to move 12 million passenger per annum (ppa). This could mean 97k flights a year with an additional 4k night flights (between 23.30 and 06.00)

The airport has now submitted an application to increase this number to 15m ppa leading to 100k flights plus 5k night flights. Comments on the planning application are requested by 28th June.

Councillors discussed the possible impacts on the village and agreed that it was a subject that should be raised at the Annual Village Meeting on the 20th May.

Action: Clerk to enhance the section of the presentation that covers this to prompt views.

7. Administration and Communication

7.1 To review the draft Village Meeting presentation

MS and the clerk had created a draft presentation that had been circulated to councillors. It was felt that the sections about roads and the airport should be strengthened in view of the evening's discussions.

Action: MS and the clerk to enhance the presentation and recirculate to councillors.

8. Finance

8.1 Current Financial Report

The clerk advised that the first half of the precept had been received and that the council has £11.4k in general funds and a further £7.2k ready for War memorial work. The budget was tracking as expected and funds for investment in the bus shelter and the fingerpost are available.

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9. External Meetings

The clerk advised that the next NSC Planning meeting would be on the 10th June (at the Town Hall or on Zoom) but that he was on leave. No councillors were available but we would receive the slide pack after the event and this will be circulated.

10. Receive information about very recent correspondence

The clerk advised that he had been notified of a request for prior approval to build an agricultural building at a working farm in the parish. We were not being formally consulted and no action is required.

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

A number of matters from this Agenda will be covered for updates and councillors will be asked to add other items when the draft agenda is issued in early July.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.25.

Steve Dixon

Steve Dixon,

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, 12th May 2026