KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on
Monday 21st September 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	Paul Cox (PC)
Andy Gillam (AG)	Susie Humphries (SH)	

In attendance:

Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO	Wendy Griggs, District Councillor

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies had been received from Councillor Malton.

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 – 13th July 2026
It was proposed by RB, seconded by PC and supported unanimously by those that were present,that these were a true record.

Action: Clerk to post the approved minutes on the website

5. Police & Neighbourhood Watch
The clerk had prepared a summary report from the information available on the Avon & Somerset Police website and had submitted this to councillors. The data had shown that one crime had been reported in KS in July (the latest month available) but it was not possible to understand the nature of this incident from the published – high level – data. Our Police officers work during the day so it is most unlikely that they would normally be available to attend our meetings. It was noted that the next Beat Surgery is to be held at Sainsbury's, Yatton on the 9th October between 1pm and 3pm.

After discussion, councillors agreed that the high-level summary would be sufficient for future meetings unless a known incident had occurred when we would formally request attendance.

Action: Clerk to have the latest data available at future meetings.

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

6.1 Roads in the Area
The concrete barriers at New Cut Bow had been reinstated once again. NSC had asked the parish to suggest alternative approaches and, after discussion, it was recommended that should any of these barriers be destroyed again, that they all be removed and that edge of carriageway markers – perhaps "springy" ones – should be used instead.

Action: Clerk to write to NSC to convey this position.

Councillors are concerned about the decaying surface along the entire length of Back Lane, caused, it was suspected, by the heavy traffic to the treatment works and around local farms, and also by the extreme weather that we have experienced this year.

To progress this, RB and the clerk will arrange to meet the current highways officer for our area.

Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting and RB and the clerk to host the highways officer

A discussion took place about the extent of roadworks in the area – caused by carriageway repair, National Highways (M5), utility companies and the Bus Service Improvement Plan funding. There are no signs of early relief to this and it was noted that the transport infrastructure in the area is simply inadequate.

6.2 Footpaths

A rotted gatepost has been reported to NSC for replacement and the bridge behind the village hall is still in plan for local repair. The nascent Coastal Footpath has seen little progress since it's approval in May 2024. NSC are to be funded to develop it with funds from natural England, but have only just been given a grant to allow them to engage a contractor to specify the infrastructure that will be needed.

6.3 Village Maintenance

The village had received universal praise on social media for acting to restore the fingerpost at the Triangle. The clerk acknowledged the work done by Somerset Forge to complete the job in the timescale and at the price they promised.

In accordance with the discussion at the last meeting, the clerk had referred the condition of our war memorial to the expert body – the War Memorials Trust. The Trust no loner visit memorials and received a number of photographs sent by the clerk.

Their analysis from these pictures is that the memorial is in good condition. After discussion, councillors agreed that we would continue to maintain a watching brief on its condition but that there was no need to engage professional stonemasons at this time.

6.4 Bus Shelter

Due in part to the extreme weather we have experienced this summer, plans to replace the bus shelter have been delayed. AG will continue to pursue.

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

7.1 Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel

The clerk noted that the X10 bus – which passes at Kingston Bridge – has been extended to Wrington and now has a higher frequency – broadly every two hours M-F

8. Administration and Communication

8.1 To review and discuss renewal of the Standing Orders

The clerk reported that the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had commenced a review of Standing Orders for parishes and suggested that until this was complete, there was no need to change our own. It was proposed by AG and seconded by PC that the existing Standing Orders would remain in place for another year or until the new structure is released by NALC.

Action: Clerk to place the readopted Standing Orders on the website.

8.2 To review and discuss renewal of the Social Media Policy

The clerk stated that much work had been invested in this policy before it was first implemented last year and recommended that it remained in place. It was proposed by SH and seconded by RB that this policy remains in place for another year.

Action: Clerk to place the readopted Social Media policy on the website.

8.3 Discuss prospective dates for council meetings in 2027

The clerk had submitted a list of dates for next year to enable him to book the Hall. He accepted that things might change and that the members of the council might also change next May , but it was agreed that the dates proposed should be diarised as the "defender" set.

Action: Clerk to book the hall for the agreed dates.

8.4 Clerk Remuneration 2026-27

The clerk advised that a national scale pay rise of 3.3% had been agreed by council employers and had prepared a paper in advance for councillors to show the implications for KS. It was proposed by AG and seconded by RB that the clerk should be awarded the national increase.

9. Finance. To receive the lates Financial Report

The clerk reported that the second part of the precept income had been received which meant the council now had £12.9k in general funds with a further £7.2k earmarked for War Memorial repairs. Receipts and payments were tracking very closely to the budget with some extra VAT paid (fingerpost) and to be reclaimed before the financial year end.

The clerk said that whilst councillors usually agreed to the annual grants at the November meeting, it was appropriate that the grant to the Village Hall for the Christmas tree was confirmed now so that it could be purchased in good time. It was proposed by RB and seconded by SH and supported by MS that the £200 grant be awarded to the Village Hall. PC and AG did not vote because of their roles on the Village Hall committee.

Action: Clerk to arrange payment to the Village Hall.

10. External Meetings

MS expects to attend an EDF update next week and RB will attend a PCAA meting in October. The clerk may be able to attend a "Meet the Regulator" meeting with the EA and there is a Town and Parish workshop in November.

11. To receive information about very recent correspondence

The clerk advised that he had received notice of sessions to be run by NSC for those interested in standing for a DISTRICT councillor role next May. He will publish the details on the website.

12. To note items for the meeting on Monday 9th November

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

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20.40

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Steve Dixon
Steve Dixon,
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, 23rd September 2026