

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on

Thursday 10th November 2022 at 19.30

At All Saints Church, Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour

Councillors Present:

Mike Sewell, Chairman

Fred Malton (FM)

Richard Barber (RB)

Ian Wariner (IW)

Paul Cox (PC)

In attendance:

Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO

Wendy Griggs, District Councillor

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Councillors Bartlett and Cole and from the Police team.

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

None

3. National Grid Presentation – The Construction of T Pylons in our area

A number of members of the public joined the meeting.

National Grid's Project Communications Manager, Gillian Burnell, gave a presentation about the Hinkley Connection project and how it was progressing in our area. The path of the route crosses Lampley Road at the edge of the village and construction has started on the T pylons near us.

The present line of cables and old style pylons will be de-energised (the power taking an alternative route between sub stations) and removed from March 2023. The metal will be recycled. The new pylons will be wired in the spring of 2023 and this will involve some traffic control to allow scaffolding to be erected across Lampley Road whilst cables are being strung. Energising these cables will take place later – when the whole route has been completed.

The slides from the presentation will be posted on the Village Website where there is already a dedicated page for this project.

Following questions on this project, the Chairman thanked Gillian for the presentation and noted the village's thanks for the Planting Schemes which were underway and for the hamper which had been donated and – once raffled at the Jubilee Celebrations – had raised £437 for church funds.

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

There were no questions on other topics.

The members of the public chose to leave the meeting.

5. To confirm the minutes of the following meeting

- Meeting of the Parish Council – 7th September 2022

The minutes were confirmed as a true record. Proposed by RB, seconded by FM and supported by those who were present.

...continued

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

6.1 Village Railings

The clerk had not had a response from NSC and he believed that we are now a low priority. There was little appetite amongst councillors to fund complete replacement of the railings – particularly those around the church – and an approach of repairing the worst areas was suggested.

Action: Clerk to approach the NSC contractor (Milestone Infrastructure) for a quote for the repair of the worst sections (to be specified).

6.2 Bus shelter refurbishment

A parishioner has stained the entire bus shelter as part of the agreed refurbishment activity. A new noticeboard is under construction by another parishioner.

Whilst these steps would suffice for now, the bus shelter will not last forever and it was agreed that the topic will be put on the Agenda for the village meeting next May. This will inform Councillors whether villagers consider what would be a significant investment in a replacement shelter is required.

Action: Clerk to include on the village meeting agenda

6.3 Roads

The clerk reported that he had chased NSC re Yew Tree Lane, Back Lane and the New Cut Bow railings but had received no commitment to action. It was agreed that Yew Tree Lane was the priority and it was agreed that the Clerk should invite the NSC officer to meet with him and RB on site to discuss.

Action: Clerk to invite the NSC officer to a site visit

RB raised a concern over the sight lines at the Kingston Bridge junction and had observed that he had cut some of the excess back. It was suggested that, with the landowners' permission, the Parish Council offer to pay a contractor to keep this area clear. As a first step, FM will ask the landowner for permission to do so.

Action: FM to discuss with landowner. Once permission received, clerk to discuss with our contractor.

6.4 Sea Wall

IW reported that the service road along the top of the sea wall was beginning to erode and that water ingress was beginning to affect the structure below. It was agreed that the PC should alert the Environment Agency to this.

Action: Clerk to write to the EA.

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

7.1 NSC Physical Activity Strategy Questionnaire

IW reported that he had not yet had a chance to review the document for the PC but would do so before the closing date.

Action: IW to complete and send a response for the PC.

8. Administration and Communication.

8.1 To review and adopt the Parish Councils' Financial Regulations

The clerk had reviewed the current Financial Regulations with sources of professional advice and confirmed that there was no need to change. The proposal had been circulated to Councillors in

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advance of the meeting and after discussion it was proposed by FM, seconded by RB and supported unanimously that the regulations be re-adopted.

Action: Clerk to post the re-adopted version on the website

9. Finance.

9.1 To receive the current Financial Report

The clerk reported that the Parish finances continued to be sound and all of the precept had now been received and £19.5k is available overall.

The clerk said that he hoped to invest in Defibrillator Training for parishioners and would approach the supplier for refreshed costings. There had been issues of access to the defibrillator and the clerk will investigate further and report to council.

Action: Clerk to investigate the costs for training and the issues of access and to report to council

9.2 To confirm the recipients and amounts of financial support

The clerk reported that the Council had agreed certain sums for support in its draft budget and sought confirmation that these amounts were correct: Graveyard maintenance £550; Village Magazine £350; Christmas Tree £150. These are in addition to the ongoing support for the Post Office of £265 p.a. It was proposed by FM, seconded by IW and carried unanimously that these amounts should be granted.

Action: Clerk to issue cheques to the agreed recipients

9.3 To discuss and ratify the nationally agreed increase to clerk remuneration

The clerk reported that a national agreement had been reached which meant that his hourly rate had increased by £1. It had been agreed by council in the March 2022 meeting that the council will adhere to the national agreements and pay the agreed salary and back pay. The clerk will now implement this agreement.

10. External Meetings. Reports and nominations

PC reported that there had been some management changes at the Village Hall and that matters were settling down and on a solid trajectory. The clerk reported that there is a Town & Parish Workshop with NSC on 1st December and which he will attend.

11. To receive information about very recent correspondence and to agree any further action

The clerk reported that he had received a note from PC Rochford advising that residents should check the security of their outbuildings following thefts in the village. He had also mentioned catalytic converter thefts in Yatton.

The clerk had contacted Natural England to ask about progress with the Coastal Footpath but had been advised that the Planning Inspector's report had yet to be signed off ...and therefore there was no progress. He also mentioned the final opportunity to comment on the parliamentary boundary changes which would potentially see KS added to the Mendip and Wells constituency.

Action: Clerk to post boundary information on the village website

12. Confidential Item

A confidential item was discussed.

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13. Forthcoming Meetings

On the **7th December 2022**, the NSC Project Manager for the Pier to Pier route will attend and brief the parish on the safety and signage actions which are proposed for the route through the village lanes.

The next regular Parish Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday 11th January 2023**. The draft agenda will be circulated nearer the time for Councillors to review before formal issue.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.45

Steve Dixon

Steve Dixon,
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer,
11th November 2022