

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on
Wednesday 13th March 2024 at 19.30
At the Kingston Seymour Village Hall, Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour

Councillors Present:

Mike Sewell (MS), Chairman
Paul Cox (PC)

Richard Barber (RB)
Andy Gillam (AG)

Zoe Bartlett (ZB)
Susie Humphries (SH)

In attendance:

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

Item 3 Only Jonathan Gall (JG), Project
Manager, NSC Highways

4 Members of the Public

1. Apologies for absence

No apologies had been received.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Multi-User Ways & Cycle Routes

3.1 Pier to Pier Route Update (Multi-User Way)

JG attended to update the meeting on progress with the Pier-to-Pier route.

He said that whilst he accepted that there had been many delays, he felt that the end was in sight with the essential farm track nearing completion which would allow the main multi-user way surfacing to be completed and the fencing to be finished. A completion date "in the spring" is still being sought.

JG said that whilst there was no immediate funding to establish the "passing places" that had been agreed with the residents of Yeo Bank Lane, he was optimistic that funding would be found from elsewhere in the project and that this work would be taken forward. The point was also made that it would be difficult to prevent these being used for parking without a formal no parking order (which would require double yellow lines etc) but that signage would be installed which clearly confirmed these are passing places only and their depth should preclude parking.

Poles for the route signage have been installed. The signs themselves will be installed before opening but will not be covered because of their height and size. A lower-level sign will be attached to the posts that will state that the route is not yet open. These smaller signs will be removed at opening.

Road markings in certain locations are still to be completed. JG agreed to share these latest plans with the Parish Council and to check the planning consent conditions to ensure that NSC would be fully compliant. A traffic survey had been completed recently and the data will be enumerated in the next few weeks,

When questioned about the specific points raised in RSA2 on safety issues – inter-alia; heavy goods vehicles, parking at Dowlais Corner and issues at New Cut Bow – JG advised that NSC officers had determined that the risks posed would be "accepted" and that nothing further was going to be done. JG agreed to share the signed off position from the NSC officers. Parish Councillors expressed their very real disappointment and concern that none of the issues picked up in the RSA2 report are being addressed.

Questions from members of the public were accepted and dealt with in this session.

...continued

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Action: JG to supply the Parish Council with the agreed information and to progress the funding and installation of the passing places in Yew Bank Lane.

3.2 Duck Lane Link Update (Cycle Path)

JG is also responsible for the Duck Lane link works and advised that the construction work tender will go out shortly and the physical works are expected to be completed within three months. Councillors expressed their concerns about family cyclists using Lampley Road and signage to warn users was suggested and all publicity about the piece between Duck Lane and Kingston Seymour must be clear on the risks involved.

This route has also had an RSA1 audit completed which had specific safety recommendations as well as clear concerns for families using the route from Yatton to emerge from a protected route onto Lampley Road. Councillors asked that with the slowness of any extension of the Strawberry line to Clevedon, was it appropriate at this point to spend public money on this project which has little gain for cycle path users and if anything adds to the risks involved in people using the Strawberry Line.

Action: JG to consider and respond.

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

There were no additional issues raised.

5. To discuss and agree the Parish Council's position on the following applications:

Planning Application No 24/P/0367/FUH and 24/P/0368/LBC

Proposed installation of twelve solar panels to west elevation and one air source heat pump to the east elevation at **Trap House, Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour BS21 6XQ**

Councillors had studied the papers and were aware of the property's location. The Parish Council would always seek to support such applications but suggested that a note be added to ensure that the location chosen for the heat pump was most appropriate to minimise impact to neighbours. This course was proposed by PC, seconded by SH, and supported unanimously.

Action: Clerk to notify NSC of our support and to note the pump location suggestion.

6. To confirm the minutes of the following meeting

Regular Council Meeting – 10th January 2024

The minutes were confirmed as a true record. Proposed by RB, seconded by PC and supported Unanimously.

7. Police and Neighbourhood Watch Reports

Operational issues prevented the Police representative from attending but a briefing note had been provided.

Regarding cyclists, the Police advise that when the P2P route opens, they will patrol the route – by car and by cycle - and will be holding bike register events championing good, safe, and considerate cycling.

We were also advised that there had been an increased number of attacks on sheep by dogs and they had leafleted the new houses on the Yatton border to warn new residents of the need to control their pets when around livestock. Warning signs which could be used by farmers are available if required.

Other issues at present were attacks on parked vans where villains are drilling through lock mechanisms to be able to open sliding doors and an increased volume of "rogue traders" who are offering to take away rubbish

..... continued

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

from householders. If these people do not have a waste carriers licence it is likely that the rubbish will be tipped – illegally – somewhere in the countryside and if the original owner of the waste can be identified, they could be prosecuted.

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

8.1 Roads

The clerk reported that District Councillor Bridger had promised to speak with NSC Highways about finding a way forward with Yew Tree Lane. Update awaited.

A request was submitted to National Highways about painting the railings on the motorway bridge, but we have been advised that they have no plans to do so within the next five years.

PC said that the surface of the bridge was deteriorating and should be notified to NSC or National Highways as appropriate.

Action: Clerk to photograph the affected areas and submit a report.

8.2 Village Maintenance

Quotations from contractors for our annual village maintenance had been received at £130 +VAT for the machine cuts and £365/£265 for the hand cuts. It was proposed by PC, seconded by AG, and supported by all that these quotes be accepted.

Action: Clerk to confirm requirements and agreement to the contractors.

PC left the meeting.

AG had received a quotation of £550 +VAT for the pruning and management of the overgrown trees on the Triangle. Acceptance was proposed by AG, seconded by SH, and supported unanimously.

Action: Clerk to confirm acceptance to the contractor.

RB reported that a small Christmas Tree was to be planted on the Triangle for seasonal use. A suitable tree needs to be sourced.

9. Services, Resilience & Community

9.1 Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel

The clerk had circulated details of the Bus Service Improvement Programme for North Somerset.

There are to be slight changes to the WestLink service, but this will still be accessible for residents of our parish. The X5 will continue to run from Portishead to Worle and pass Kingston Bridge.

9.2 Defibrillator Access Tokens

(Note: this was included in the agenda at the request of two councillors in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders and to review a decision made in the last 6 months)

The chairman had advised councillors that certain issues had been encountered as the clerk had prepared to purchase the tokens agreed at the November 2023 meeting.

Concerns have now been raised about the validity of our proposed way forward and whether any liability would fall on the Parish Council if the recommended procedures for management of the defibrillator were not followed, particularly around the replacement and recharging of a defibrillator if it is used without ambulance service knowledge. It was agreed to hold the purchase of the tokens until these issues have been investigated further via the 'Operating Authority' for the operation of defibrillators to ensure that inadvertently the PC does not create a situation where we could have an unusable system when it critically needed.

..... continued

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Given the fixed radius of use for a defibrillator, councillors also discussed whether a further unit/s should be obtained for the village and for which latest purchase and operating costs are needed.

Action: Clerk to review our current plans with the Ambulance Service and with The Circuit (BHF) being the Operating Authority for Defibrillators and report back to councillors for review so the planned circulation of tokens can be reviewed further. In addition, establish the viability of acquiring an additional defibrillator for elsewhere in the parish and that the current one is still considered fit for purpose in the unit as it is controlled.

10. Administration and Communication

10.1 To review the Council's social media and Electronic Communication Policy.

Councillors had been asked whether they wished to include new clauses about Civility and Respect but had indicated that this wasn't necessary at this time, so a readoption of the existing policy was suggested.

AG felt that the existing wording was too complicated and proposed writing a new version for consideration by Councillors.

Action: AG to draft and propose a refreshed version for consideration.

Clerk to ensure that any new version covers legal requirements.

10.2 Adoption of a gov.uk identity

The clerk had advised that there was a direction emerging in professional circles that Parish Councils should adopt a gov.uk identity for their websites and email correspondence and a paper had been submitted in advance to Councillors.

After discussion, Councillors unanimously agreed that there was no current need or appetite to go down this route.

11. Finance.

11.1 To receive the current Financial Report

The clerk advised that the council would end the financial year (31 March 2024) with cash assets of £10.2k across all three accounts and that it was not considered necessary to transfer from the current account into the War Memorial account at this time.

The Parish accounts will enter the annual audit process once the financial year ends.

12. External Meetings

The clerk reported that he had attended a meeting with NSC which covered the Earthlight mapping service (which is available to our parish) and rights of way. The rights of way material had been shared with AG.

13. Very recent correspondence

There had been no very recent correspondence that needed to be noted.

14. To agree any items that are to be placed on the next regular meeting Agenda, scheduled for Wednesday 8th May 2024 in the Village Hall.

The first meeting would be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council which covers the required - formal - actions. The following main meeting would update on all actions and standing agenda items. The draft agenda will be circulated nearer the time for Councillors to consider and add any additional items before formal issue.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.50.

Steve Dixon

Steve Dixon,

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, 16th March 2024

Minutes Regular Meeting 13 March 2024 20240508 Signed ...MS.....

Chairman