

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on
Wednesday 7th May 2025 at 20.30
At the All Saints' Church, Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour

Councillors Present:

Mike Sewell (MS) Chairman
Paul Cox (PC)

Richard Barber (RB) Vice Chairman
Andy Gillam (AG)

Zoe Bartlett (ZB)
Susie Humphries (SH)

In attendance:

Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO

Wendy Griggs (WG) District
Councillor

1 Member of the Public

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Councillor Fred Malton and District Councillor Steve Bridger

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 speak.

4. To confirm the minutes of the following meeting

Regular Council Meeting – 10th March 2025

The minutes were confirmed as a true record. Proposed by SH seconded by PC and supported unanimously by those who had been present.

5. Infrastructure

5.1. Tutshill and the Duck Lane Link

A parishioner had commented that there was a danger when exiting Mud Lane onto Yeo Bank Lane and asked that the PC takes this up with NSC.

Action: Clerk to write to NSC

For some months, the PC has been chasing NSC over safety around the end of the Duck Lane link where it joins the Lampley Road. Until the new financial year arrived, NSC had not had resources available to look at this but had now allocated an engineer to address this. A meeting had been set up for Monday 12th with RB and SD.

Action: RB/SD to feed back after the meeting had taken place.

5.2. Roads

The clerk advised that the Department of Transport would be placing measuring equipment on the motorway bridge for the next two days. Councillors reported that sections of Back Lane were suffering from increasing subsidence.

Action: Clerk to refer to NSC Highways for their proposals.

5.3 Footpaths

AG advised that he intended to fix the bridge on LA 11/5/10 this week.

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5.4 Village Assets

A discussion was held about the various village assets and the clerk advised that new pads for the defibrillator would be needed by November this year. The clerk advised that South West Ambulance would be willing to come and give villagers a defibrillator awareness training. Councillors asked whether this could be expanded to include basic first aid and use of the bleed kit.

Action: Clerk to enquire of SWAS and report back.

It was noted that some visitors had been seen picnicking in the War Memorial grounds. This was not felt to be an issue at this time but it would be monitored across the summer, as damage to the memorial itself would be very unwelcome. There was no need to do anything to the railings or bench at present and proposals for a replacement bus shelter are still being developed.

6. Services, Resilience and Community

6.1 Coastal Resilience

The clerk had attended a "Meet the Regulator" meeting with the EA team responsible for Hinkley Point and parties there also awaited the end of EDF's Acoustic Fish Deterrent tests scheduled for September. Concerns were expressed as to what would happen if this AFD technology proved inadequate.

The next formal meeting with EDF is in September and, although a request has been lodged for some financial redress for the parishes badly affected by their actions, this is so far not forthcoming.

The recent experience with EDF has highlighted the need to establish a direct dialogue with the EA over the parish's sea defences and the long term plan for these. This will be taken forward after we know that EDF's "hard pause" has become a "hard stop".

6.2 Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel

Smart Systems had made positive assurances about limiting the light pollution from their site but councillors did not believe that they had done all that they had promised – particularly concerning switching the lights off at a certain time.

Action: Clerk to refer back to the Company to establish when their plans will be fully enacted.

6.3 NSC Service Devolution Plans

The clerk had attended a meeting led by NSC to brief all parish and town councils about the next stage of their plans. Currently, NSC are looking at handing over the management of play areas and at the content of the Glendale contract which comes up for renewal in March 2026.

We enjoy none of the services being discussed in Kingston Seymour but a watching brief will be maintained should this position change.

The clerk mentioned that the planned "three-weekly" black bin collections is going to start on the 9th June.

7. Administration & Communication

7.1 Retention Policy

The new Retention Policy had been circulated to councillors and it was proposed by RB, seconded by ZB and supported unanimously that the policy be adopted.

Action: Clerk to load onto the website and to enact the policy

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8. Finance.

8.1 To receive the current Financial Report

The clerk reported that the Parish finances were sound with a total of £15.6k available overall and following receipt of the first half of this year's precept. PC asked that the War Memorial fund be more clearly identified as being "ring fenced" for that purpose. The War Memorial fund is currently standing at £6.2k meaning that the general funds stand at £9.4k,

Other than the clerk's monthly salary (£449 +Tax £110), cheques more than £100 had been issued for the subscription to ALCA (£118) and for Annual Web Support and service (£403 gross). A cheque for the annual insurance premium of £472 will be issued shortly.

8.2 To confirm the budget for 2025 – 2026.

The draft budget was first discussed in January to decide the level of precept and accepted in March as the framework on which the council will go forward this year. This position was reconfirmed. All significant payments will be referred to council as always and all cheques will be signed by two councillors.

9. Village Meeting

The annual village meeting will take place on Wednesday 21st May and as had proven successful in past years, the evening will be co-hosted by the Parish Council and the Village Hall. Unfortunately, the "Friends" will be unable to take part this year and a new agenda item about staying safe online is to be delivered by AG and SH.

The agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting must be published on the 8th May and the themes were agreed with protocol items then one section looking back at what had been done in the 24/25 year and a section looking forward to this year and beyond.

Action: Clerk to publish agenda on 8th May and to collaborate with the Village Hall Chairman to develop a pack for use of the evening.

10. To agree any items that are to be placed on the next regular meeting Agenda, scheduled for Wednesday 9th July in the Village Hall

In the July meeting the Complaints policy will be reviewed. A decision will be taken regarding this year's Hedge and Verge contract. Feedback and issues from the annual parish meeting would be considered and actions determined. 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,
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer,
8th May 2025