

KINGSTON SEYMOUR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Kingston Seymour Parish Council held on
Wednesday 7th September 2022 at 19.30
At the Kingston Seymour Village Hall, Ham Lane, Kingston Seymour

Councillors Present:

Mike Sewell, Chairman
Bryony Cole (BC)

Richard Barber (RB)
Ian Wariner (IW)

Zoe Bartlett (ZB)

In attendance:

Steve Dixon (SD) Clerk & RFO

Wendy Griggs, District Councillor

PC James Rochford

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Councillors Cox & Malton and from District Councillor 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 were present.

The Chairman reordered the Agenda to allow PC Rochford to depart sooner for other duties

5. Police & Neighbourhood Watch Update

PC Rochford advised that he was now able to be more available to the communities he serves because he could access and post information online from his patrol vehicle. He also advised that whilst crime in the area was low at present, the darker nights tended to see an increase in thefts from outbuildings and he urged residents to check their security arrangements.

Rural crimes – such as hare coursing – were also likely to increase in the autumn and he urged residents to report their concerns on 999 if a crime was taking place or on 101 if they felt an activity was suspicious. If they encounter any reticence from call handlers to recording the information, they should insist – as these reports help build the big picture of what is really happening in the area. He urged farmers to be part of groups such as “Farm Watch”.

The Chairman thanked PC Rochford for his time and for his service to our community.

4. Pier to Pier Route Update

Unfortunately, the NSC Project Manager was unable to attend but he had given a brief update to the clerk.

Deliveries of the stone for the bridge foundations had been largely completed however, the piling contractors had been plagued with issues including equipment malfunction and deliveries of concrete that was not of the right consistency. A meeting between the piling and the bridge contractor was scheduled to determine a plan to complete the work.

The approach tracks on either side of the sluice were largely completed but some work is still needed on Samson Sluice where a high voltage cable needs to be moved.

Work on the signage for the route through the Parish lanes is underway and Councillors want to see these proposals as soon as possible together with anything else to do with road layout and markings. Councillors are also interested in what facilities may be feasible to support the Parish – e.g., bicycle racks in specific locations.

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Easter 2023 is the target opening date for the route.

Action: Clerk to request early sight of the proposals so that they can be considered and discussed. A separate meeting to focus on this – before the next arranged meeting in November - may be appropriate.

6. To confirm the minutes of the following meeting

- Meeting of the Parish Council – 6th July 2022

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

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

7.1 Village Railings

The clerk had approached NSC about whether – with experience – their contractor would give a keener price for other railing work but had been told that the NSC contract was based on a price per metre.

Councillors agreed that they needed refreshed quotations in order to consider the prioritisation of further work. Consideration also needed to be given to what facilities might be achieved alongside the Pier to Pier project

Action: Clerk to request refreshed quotations from NSC for the remaining areas.

7.2 Bus shelter refurbishment

Councillors had met at the bus shelter prior to the meeting in order to review its condition. After consideration, it was agreed that the basic structure was sound and that with some judicious care and maintenance the shelter should give many more years of service. It was proposed by RB, seconded by BC and agreed unanimously that this was the way forward.

A notice board for Parish announcements is under construction by a parishioner.

Action: RB to lead the care and maintenance of the bus shelter, securing other resource as necessary.

7.3 Rights of Way

A Public Rights of Way Strategy document had been received from NSC and issued to Councillors. After discussion, it was agreed that BC would create and submit the response on behalf of the Council – referring to other as she deemed necessary. This was forward was proposed by ZB, second by RB and supported unanimously

Action: BC to submit a response on behalf of the Council by the due date of the 7th October.

Following a report of overgrowing brambles, the clerk had written to Highways England about the condition of the underpass under the M5 that links two of our rights of way. Highways England have confirmed that the underpass has now been cleared.

7.4 Roads

The clerk had written to NSC about Yew Tree Lane and – again – had been told that there is no resource to repair this road at this time. The clerk will keep trying.

The New Cut Bow railings have been broken again and the clerk has contacted the structures team in NSC who are responsible for these. He has been advised that that team was actively considering solutions as they too were frustrated with the frequency that these railings are struck. The clerk has asked to be notified of their findings and their plan of action.

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

8.1 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

MS reported that a number of events were held across the Jubilee weekend and these had been enjoyed by many resident. A village photograph had been taken and it had been agreed that an A3 copy would be framed by the Parish Council and given to the Village Hall for hanging.

Action: Clerk to arrange for the photograph to be framed.

MS advised that the 108 mugs that had been purchased had all been distributed to our young people or had been purchased by others generating £224 of income. MS reported that he had more demand and asked that a further batch of 36 mugs should be ordered (the minimum) for a net cost of £210 to ensure that any young people who had not yet come forward and unmet demand could be satisfied. It was proposed by BC, seconded by ZB and supported unanimously.

Action: Clerk to order 36 more mugs

8.2 Climate Emergency & Sustainable Travel

The Chairman and Clerk had received a notification from Nailsea Town Council suggesting new , more sustainable, measures for housing developments in the district and this had been circulated to Councillors. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would write back to Nailsea TC offering our support in principle and acknowledging that some of the ideas they propose for North Somerset to follow are vested in national planning policy and cannot be changed by NSC.

Action: Clerk to draft a response for MS to consider and send.

9. Administration and Communication.

9.1 To review and adopt the Parish Councils' Standing Orders

The clerk had reviewed the current standing order with sources of professional advice and had made some minor alterations to align to that advice. The proposal had been circulated to Councillors in advance of the meeting.

After discussion it was proposed by RB, seconded by ZB and supported unanimously that the new version be adopted.

Action: Clerk to post the new version on the website

9.2 Draft Date for 2023 Meetings

The clerk presented an initial view of possible dates for Council meetings in 2023. This will be an election year so the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be on a defined date. The joint village AGMs are already set for a date in late May. Venues have not yet been approached or booked.

He asked Councillors to provide feedback on these draft dates: 11th January, 9th March, 9th May, 24th May (Village AGMs), 12th July, 7th September and 8th November.

Action: Councillors to feed back on any issues by the 23rd September.

10. Finance.

10.1 To receive the current Financial Report

The clerk reported that the Parish finances were sound with a total of £17.3k available overall and following receipt of the first half of the annual precept. The clerk said he was pursuing the possibility of defibrillator training in the autumn/spring and councillors continue to consider how best to invest available funds.

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Other than the clerk's net monthly salary (£360), there had been no new cheques issued for over £100.

11. External Meetings. Reports and nominations

RB advised that there was a PCAA meeting shortly and that he was keeping abreast of the CAA plans to reorganise airspace around Bristol. He will also be attending a course on planning at the end of the month. The clerk has an NSC Parish briefing at the end of the month.

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

There had been no very recent communications to discuss

13. Confidential Item

This item has been held over to the next meeting.

14. To agree any items that are to be placed on the next regular meeting Agenda, scheduled for Thursday 8th September 200 in the Church

In the regular meeting, there will be an update on the Tutshill project and on existing outstandings. It is possible that National Grid representatives will come and brief us on the construction of T pylons. A discussion is needed about the state of the sea wall in some places. The ongoing confidential item will be reviewed, and the Council's formal Financial Regulations will be reviewed. The draft agenda will be circulated nearer the time for Councillors to add any additional items before formal issue.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.15

Steve Dixon

Steve Dixon,
Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer,
10th September 2022