

KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 14th MARCH 2016

Item Nr	Item	Action By
1.0	<p>Attendance and Apologies</p> <p>In attendance: Cllr R M Stokes (Chairman) Cllr N Bradshaw Cllr J Clarke Cllr S Farnham Cllr K J Taylor Cllr N Townsend PCSO Wearmouth</p> <p>Miss C Roche (Parish Clerk) and 5 members of the public were in attendance.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr M Anderson, Cllr J Marsh, Cllr A Wilcox, and Cllr D Wedderkopp.</p>	
2.0	<p>Approval of Minutes of Last Annual Parish Meeting dated 9 March 2015</p> <p>The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record.</p>	
3.0	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>None were received.</p>	
4.0	<p>Report from the Chairman</p> <p>Cllr Stokes welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave his report as follows:</p> <p>1. Review of the Year</p> <p>The Parish Council had held 11 meetings during the past year and had discussed a wide range of issues affecting our community including state of local roads, flooding, the effect of the cutbacks in SCC/TDBC and the proposed Taunton North Urban Extension, a 1,500 house development that will extend into Kingston St Mary parish, north of Staplegrove.</p> <p>Cllr Stokes was pleased to report that progress had been made on a number of issues and detailed reports on some of these would be given by those more closely involved.</p> <p>Most of the Parish Councils discussions had centred on planning and highways issues, so Cllr Stokes started with these.</p> <p>2. Planning</p> <p>The Parish Council had been consulted on 19 planning applications during the year and had objected to four of these which were later passed by TDBC Planning Department despite their earlier rulings.</p> <p>Cllr Stokes confirmed that the Parish Council had vigorously opposed the North Taunton Urban Extension at every stage but without success. The best that the Parish Council could now hope for was to influence the developers, to ensure that the best outcome is achieved. At the time of the Annual Parish Meeting, the outline plans for Staplegrove East which will affect KSM parish was still awaited. The only silver lining is that the Parish will receive Community Infrastructure Levy from any house development.</p> <p>3. Highways</p> <p>The Parish Council continues to work with SCC Highways to ensure that highway issues, such as potholes, road signs and surface dressings are dealt with promptly. At Yarford, there were problems with the poor quality highway surface dressing that was laid in summer 2013. SCC Highways has assured the Parish Council that the surface dressing will be re-laid in summer 2016.</p>	

	<p>4. Flooding</p> <p>Flooding or rather the threat of it continues to be an issue. Cllr Stokes advised the meeting that the Parish Council continues to work with Somerset Highways regarding a number of issues including requesting riparian owners to maintain their watercourses and when required repair broken structures. Also, the chamber at Mill Cross requires repair following a road traffic incident.</p> <p>5. Kingston St Mary Playing Field</p> <p>The Parish Council is the sole trustee of the Playing Field. This will safeguard the long term future of the playing field - an extremely valuable community asset. A report was received during the meeting from the Playing Field Committee Treasurer.</p> <p>6. Policing</p> <p>PCSO Wearmouth attended the meeting to advise that the Staplegrove Beat Team had once more been re-organised and to bring the Parish Council up to date with crime and other Police matters affecting the parish. The Parish Council awaits the Beat Team's details.</p> <p>7. Finance</p> <p>The Precept is £5508 for 2016/2017. Cllr Stokes was pleased to report that there had been no increase in Precept for eight years, however it was doubtful that this situation would continue for long.</p> <p>8. Communication</p> <p>The Parish Council, as part of its responsibility to keep residents informed had five notice boards at KSM Village Hall, Fulford, Mill Cross and Nailsbourne. These notice boards are an excellent source of local information including social events.</p> <p>Cllr Stokes also writes the monthly article for LinkUp which highlights issues discussed at the previous month's Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>Minutes of Parish Council meetings are uploaded onto the village website. Cllr Stokes thanked those who maintain the website.</p> <p>9. Thank You</p> <p>Cllr Stokes thanked Cllr Caroline Tucker, Cllr Nick Townsend and Cllr Danny Wedderkopp for their help and advice, the Parish Councillors, the Parish Clerk for her support and efforts during the year and the many people who contribute to the life of the village through charity events, meet the village and litter picking.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 7.55PM.</p>	
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