

**KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017**

Item Nr	Item	Action By
1.0	<p><b>Attendance and Apologies</b></p> <p>In attendance:            Cllr R M Stokes (Chairman)            Cllr M Anderson            Cllr S Farnham            Cllr J Marsh            Cllr K Taylor            Cllr N Townsend            Cllr A Wilcox</p> <p>Miss C Roche (Parish Clerk) and 7 members of the public were in attendance.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr J Clarke, Cllr N Bradshaw, PCSO Wearmouth and Cllr D Wedderkopp.</p>	
2.0	<p><b>Approval of Minutes of Last Annual Parish Meeting dated 14 March 2016</b></p> <p>The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record.</p>	
3.0	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>None were received.</p>	
4.0	<p><b>Report from the Chairman</b></p> <p>Cllr Stokes welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave his report as follows:</p> <p><b>1. Review of the Year</b></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 1650 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 several 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><b>2. Planning</b></p> <p>The Parish Council had been consulted on 14 planning applications during the year and had objected to two of these.</p> <p>Cllr Stokes confirmed that the Parish Council had vigorously opposed the North Taunton Urban Extension at every stage but without success. Cllr Stokes had also attended several meetings with residents' action groups WARG and ROSAG to ensure a co-ordinated and robust response to the plans although on some points there was a difference of opinion. The best that the Parish Council could now hope for was to influence the developers, to ensure that the best outcome is achieved. The only silver lining is that the Parish will receive Community Infrastructure Levy from any house development.</p> <p><b>3. Highways</b></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 2017.</p>	

	<p><b>4. Flooding</b></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 several 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><b>5. Kingston St Mary Playing Field</b></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 Chairman which included plans for community engagement, in summer 2017. Refurbishment of the Playing Field is also being planned. Future issues included dealing with dog poo being left on the Playing Field but information signs had now been erected.</p> <p><b>6. Village Hall</b></p> <p>Cllr Anderson advised that small repairs had been undertaken in the kitchen and steps leading to the Hall. Also, new heating had been installed. The Bank Account had a good balance. New Village Hall committee members were required, to ensure that the important resource that is the Village Hall can go from strength to strength for the benefit of the village.</p> <p><b>7. Community Plan Steering Group</b></p> <p>A report was received from CPSG Chairman who advised that the outcome of the questionnaire had been analysed and the Community Plan was being finalised. The Plan would assist on where forthcoming Community Infrastructure could be spent. Also, work groups had been formed to focus on issues such as youth provision.</p> <p><b>8. Finance</b></p> <p>The Precept is £8061 for 2017/2018. Cllr Stokes reported that this was the first time in 9 years that an increase had been made. With both SCC and TDBC making cuts, the Parish Council is having to pick up the bill for an increasing number of routine maintenance jobs around the village such as the clearing of debris from pavements, grass cutting and painting of rusty finger post signs.</p> <p><b>9. Communication</b></p> <p>The Parish Council, as part of its responsibility to keep residents informed had five notice boards at KSM Village Hall, Fulford, outside the Primary School, 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><b>10. Thank You</b></p> <p>Cllr Stokes thanked Cllrs Caroline Tucker and Nick Townsend 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 7.50PM.</p>	
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Signed: ..... Date: .....