

KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2007 AT 7.30 PM

1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Councillors

W R I Barrie (Chairman)	D S Bradley
J L Clarke	R J L Flood
C G Hancock	C Miles
R Stokes	K Taylor

The Clerk - Mrs T J Canavan, Mr H Masterton-Smith and 2 members of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllr S B Harris

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8 October 2007

Resolved

The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST in any Agenda item

Cllrs Clarke and Miles declared an interest in item 13.1 planning application 20/2007/026. Reason given was the current Standard's Board investigation following a complaint by the applicant.

4 HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS

4.1 Relocation of telephone box - the Clerk advised that Cllr Jayne Brockwell had been pursuing the matter with Taunton Deane Borough Council. She had now received an email from Tim Haynes that all the relevant paperwork has been signed and sent to BT.

4.2 White Lines on road between the Swan Pub and Post Office – the Parish Council discussed the correspondence received from Dan Martin at Somerset County Council. He has advised that they are limited in what they can do to remove the old road markings. They are no longer allowed to burn off the markings for health and safety reasons. The only other option is to scabble off the markings, but this would damage the road surface and there are currently no plans to resurface this section of road.

Resolved

The Clerk is to write to Dan Martin advising that the Parish Council appreciates the problem; however, something should be done to stop the glistening in wet weather etc as it represents a health and safety hazard.

4.3 Street Lighting at Pinch point at Mill Cross – The Clerk has been advised by Dan Martin that the cowling has been delivered to their depot and that it was expected to be fitted to the lighting column the week commencing 15 October 2007.

Resolved

To place this item on next month's agenda to check that the cowling has been fitted.

4.4 Parking outside the Village Hall – the Clerk advised that the Parochial Church Council will be discussing the Parish Council's correspondence at its next meeting on 12 November 2007.

4.5 Finger post opposite the Swan Pub – update on correcting unsatisfactory work. The Clerk advised that she had received an email from Dennis Quick advising that he has inspected the finger post and that he agrees the quality of the work is poor. He has requested that the area technician places this finger post on the proposed painting scheme list for next summer.

Resolved

The Clerk is to write to Dennis Quick advising that the Parish Council feels that merely repainting the finger post is not adequate, and that the post should be stripped down to the base metal to remedy the previous substandard work.

4.6 Temporary road closure. The Clerk had received notification from Somerset County Council that Broomfield Road will be closed for 5 days starting from 12 November 2007.

5 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY/NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Clerk advised that she had been informed by Karl Hine that he has yet to hear from Taunton Deane Borough Council's planning department regarding the suggested sites. This is despite several phone calls, emails and letters.

Also a bid has not yet been submitted to the Housing Corporation by Falcon Housing. This is because the Housing Needs Survey got caught up in the postal strike. Also Falcon Housing no longer has any limits as to when they can submit bids because of their track record with the Housing Corporation. A bid will be submitted once the exact need is known.

Cllr Bradley also suggested that the Parish Council request that Taunton Deane's Housing Department puts a note on the relevant housing files about converting end terrace houses, in Kingston, into flats.

Resolved

The Clerk is to draft a letter (to be agreed with Cllr Bradley) to Taunton Deane Borough Council, saying that, taking a strategic view, there is a need for one bedroom accommodation in the Parish. In view of this the Parish Council requests that a note is placed on housing files about converting end of terrace housing into flats.

6 SITE FOR SHOP/POST OFFICE/VILLAGE HALL

It was noted that there was nothing to report.

Resolved

To leave this item on next month's agenda

7 PARISH PLAN

Mr H Masterton-Smith circulated the results of the questionnaires. These were discussed by Members.

Mr Masterton-Smith outlined the timetable. The draft report will be worked on between the November public meetings and January 2008. A presentation will be given to the Parish Council as part of the Parish Council's January meeting.

8 AREA WORKING PANEL

The Clerk advised that Cllr Bradley had been successful in being selected as the Staplegrove Division representative. Councillors congratulated her. She will be attending the Area Working Panel meeting on 6 December and asked Councillors what they would like her to raise.

Resolved

The Parish Council requested that Cllr Bradley ask for clarification of the Area Working Panel's role. She is also to ask about a possible extension of the pavement to the vicarage.

9 OAK TREE ON THE GREEN – Cllr Taylor advised that the tree has been inspected and it is ok.

Resolved

The Parish Council will ask someone to look at the tree again in the spring.

10 LIBERAL DEMOCRATS' KINGSTON ST MARY RESIDENTS' SURVEY RESULTS – Cllr Bradley had asked for this to be placed on the agenda. It is not clear who received the questionnaire and who responded. Cllr Stokes had contacted the Liberal Democrats' office asking how many questionnaires had been sent out and he was advised that someone would provide a "best estimate". It was agreed that this was unsatisfactory.

Resolved

The Clerk is to write to Jeremy Browne, MP, on behalf of the Parish Council saying that it is concerned that the Liberal Democrats did not contact the Parish Council first. The correspondence will also explain that the Parish Council, through the Parish Plan Committee, is carrying out a much more comprehensive survey which is going to all households. Will also ask how many people were surveyed and how many responded.

Will also invite Mr Browne MP to the open meetings on 21/27 November.

11 CONSULTATION

11.1 Taunton Deane Borough Council – Submission of Taunton Town Centre Area Action Plan – comments by 5.00pm Thursday 6th December 2007 (summary document previously circulated). The Parish Council discussed the documentation.

Resolved

The Parish Council is to make no comment.

11.2 Somerset County Council – Future Waste Planning in Somerset – Issues and Options Consultation – comments by 15th December 2007 (document previously circulated). The Parish Council discussed the documents and made comments.

Resolved

The Clerk is to complete the relevant pro forma with the Parish Council's agreed comments and return to the County Council by the deadline.

12 CORRESPONDENCE

12.1 TDBC – bulletin - Cllr Clarke

12.2 TDBC – Allotments in Taunton Deane - preparation of draft Allotments Strategy consultation exercise

- 12.3 TDBC – Notification of TDBC Parish Liaison Officer’s annual leave dates
- 12.4 Kingston St Mary PCC – Letter of thanks

Items of interest were noted and documents circulated as requested.

Matters arising from correspondence:

- Item 12.2 the Parish Plan is to flag up the issue. Also place something in Link Up

The Chairman advised that Mr Marshall Taylor had personally contacted him to thank him for the information on cancer rates. The Council agreed that a letter of thanks should be sent to the PCT for providing the information.

13 PLANNING MATTERS

13.1 Applications

20/2007/026 – Removal of Agricultural Occupancy Condition 6 of Application 20/91/027 at Millfield House, Parsonage Lane, KSM

Cllrs Clarke and Miles did not take part in the discussion or the vote regarding this application because of their interest.

All documentation relating to this application had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting.

The Members discussed the application and how to respond.

Resolved

That having considered the application the Parish Council objects for the following reasons:

- The circumstances have not changed since the planning permission for the annexe in 2006
- Given the valuation report by Greenslade Taylor Hunt, the Parish Council would also query the values at which the property has been marketed. They seem to have been set at unrealistically high levels.
- The Parish Council queries the validity of the questionnaire sent to local farmers as it refers to farm workers rather than farmers/ retired farmers.
- The Parish Council would also draw attention to the conflicting statements regarding a separate access as detailed in the answers to question 6 of the planning application form and the penultimate paragraph on page 6 of the Greenslade Taylor Hunt report.

20/2007/027 – Extension to an Agricultural Building at Lower Marsh Farm, KSM; supporting letter from Mr W.G Thorne

The plans were circulated and the proposed scheme outlined. The supporting letter, which had been copied to all Members, was also discussed. The Members understood the reasons for wanting the extension.

Resolved

That having considered the application the Parish Council does not object.

13.2 Waiting Decisions – Nil

13.3 Granted permission -20/2007/025 – Erection of single storey rear extension, Redcot, KSM

13.4 Refused Permission - Nil

13.5 Withdrawn - Nil

13.6 Other – Nil

14 SUBMISSION TO LINK-UP

Resolved

That the following should be included:

- Details of TDBC's proposed allotment strategy. Will ask for residents' views
- Liberal Democrats' residents survey – explain that bears no connection with the extensive survey carried out by Parish Plan team
- Youth Club – that the Parish Council supports the youth club and anyone interested should contact Anne Simpson

15 FINANCIAL MATTERS

15.1 Proposed funding for Kingston Youth Club – Cllr Hancock declared an interest in this item as his daughter attends the youth club.

Members discussed correspondence received from Ann Simpson giving details of progress to date and requesting funds to cover the cost of some equipment.

Resolved

The Parish Council agreed that they are moved to give them some money once a bank account has been set up for the youth club. They agreed a figure of £100. This will be placed on the agenda for next month's meeting.

15.2 Member Audit Opinion – The Clerk reported that Cllr Harris had carried out the 6 monthly internal audit. Cllr Harris has checked all receipts, payments, transfers, expenses and bank statements. He has concluded that all is in order and that the accounts balance.

15.3 Members to consider items for expenditure 2008-2009

The Clerk advised that she would be preparing the budget for 2008-2009 in time for approval at the next meeting and Members should advise her of any items of expenditure.

It was noted that the Village Hall Committee is intending to increase the cost of hiring the committee room from £9 to £15 per session. The Parish Council raised no objections. This increase will need to be reflected in next year's budget. The Clerk was also asked to contact David Greig regarding the rules surrounding accumulating funds for traffic calming.

15.4 Parish Precept – 2008/09 – The Clerk had circulated to all Members information from Taunton Deane Borough Council detailing the procedure for applying for next year's Parish precept. It was noted that the deadline for completed forms is 21 January 2008. This item will be placed on a future agenda for resolution.

15.5 Requests for grants – The Clerk advised that requests for grants had been received from Somerset Arts Week and the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Resolved

It was agreed to award £25 to Somerset Arts Week and £100 to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

This item will be placed on next month's agenda for payment.

15.6 Receipts: Nil

Payments:

Resolved

That the following payments should be made:

- Clerk's Salary – S/O £ 228.11
- Clerk's expenses (cheque no. 093) £23.46
- Kingston St Mary Village Hall Hire (cheque no. 094) £9.00
- T Lomas (pram race) (cheque no. 095) - £50

16 ITEMS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- The Clerk advised that she had received Items of Interest to Councillors and Clerks from SALC. She advised that the National Agreement on salaries has been settled. This will be placed on next month's agenda for consideration.
- The Clerk had also received a letter from Somerset County Council asking if the Parish Council is prepared to pay £500 for 4 years toward training for the 2012 Olympic Games. This will be placed on next month's agenda for consideration. In the meantime an item will be placed in Link up to gauge residents' views.

17 DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Mon 10 Dec 2007	Mon 14 Jan 2008	Mon 11 Feb 2008
Mon 10 Mar 2008	Mon 14 Apr 2008	Mon 12 May 2008
Mon 9 June 2008	Mon 14 July 2008	Mon 8 Sept 2008
Mon 13 Oct 2008	Mon 10 Nov 2008	Mon 8 December 2008

18 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - Nil

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Signed

Date: