

KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 10 DECEMBER 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	S B Harris
C Miles	R Stokes
K Taylor	

The Clerk - Mrs T J Canavan and 5 members of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies were received from DCllr J Brockwell

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12 November 2007

Resolved

The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST in any Agenda item

Cllr C Hancock declared an interest in item 12.1 planning application 20/2007/029. Reason given was the proximity/access of the proposed development to the Member's address.

4 HIGHWAYS/FOOTPATHS

4.1 Relocation of telephone box - the Clerk has been advised by Mr D Martin at Somerset County Council, that all relevant paperwork had been passed to BT by the County Council and that BT are making arrangements for the phone box to be removed.

4.2 White Lines on road between the Swan Pub and Post Office – Mr D Martin has advised by email that he is going to speak to other colleagues to see if there are any other options to treat the lines, but previous enquiries unfortunately drew a blank.

4.3 Street Lighting at Pinch point at Mill Cross – It was noted that the cowling had not yet been fitted.

Resolved

To place this item on next month's agenda. If the cowling has not been fitted, the PC will again write to Somerset County Council.

4.4 Parking outside the Village Hall – the Clerk advised that she had not yet received a response from the Parochial Church Council (PCC) regarding parking in the Church car park. Cllr Miles (in his capacity as a member of the PCC) advised that the PCC are happy for village hall users to use the Church car park. The Chairman of the Village Hall Committee also advised that they are looking to remove the flower bed in front of the village hall in order to create more space.

Cllr Bradley arrived at the meeting at 7.40 pm.

4.5 Finger post opposite the Swan Pub – update on correcting unsatisfactory work. The Clerk advised that she had not yet received a response to the correspondence sent to Dennis Quick following the last meeting, requesting that the post be stripped down to the base metal to remedy the previous substandard work.

Resolved

If a response has not been received in time for the next meeting, the PC will again write to Dennis Quick.

4.6 Notification of temporary road closure. The Clerk had received notification that the road at Pitchers Hill/Volis Hill will be closed on Sunday 17 February 2008 between 10.20am and 12.50 pm. This is to facilitate the Hestercombe Road Race and Fun Run. An item will be placed in Link Up advising of the road closure.

5 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY/NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Cllr Bradley advised that she has spoken to the Community Council for Somerset and anyone who has a connection with the Parish and who is in need of affordable housing should contact them to arrange to complete the relevant forms. An item is to be placed in Link Up advising residents to arrange to complete the relevant forms.

6 SITE FOR SHOP/POST OFFICE/VILLAGE HALL

Cllr Bradley has spoken to Mr. L Dormer and queried whether or not the PC would like to speak to him regarding a proposed shop with flats above. It was noted that the PC has received no written details of what is proposed on the site.

The sub-postmaster also advised that at no point has he been consulted through the Parish Plan exercise regarding the possibility of relocating the post office. The Chairman extended his apologies.

Resolved

Cllr Bradley is to speak to Mr. Dormer regarding the proposals; and to leave this item on next month's agenda.

7 PARISH PLAN

7.1 Update

Cllr Flood gave an update in Mr. Masterton Smith's absence. It was noted that the response to the open meetings held in November was good. A skeletal version of the Plan is being produced in time for the Parish Council meeting in January.

Resolved

To place an item on next month's agenda.

7.2 Speed Watch Scheme

The possibility of setting up the Speed Watch Scheme was discussed in light of the results of the Parish Plan survey. The Chairman outlined the Scheme, and advised that at least 6 volunteers were needed to run it. There are costs involved to cover the purchase of a speed gun; and training given by the Police. Sharing costs with another Parish is a possibility.

It was noted that there have been no accidents reported in the Parish in the last 3 years.

Resolved

To place an item in Link Up asking for volunteers. If enough volunteers are received the PC will look into the idea and contact the Police after then. Cllr Flood is to be the contact name for volunteers.

The Clerk is to contact Norton Fitzwarren PC regarding the possibility of sharing costs.

8 AREA WORKING PANEL

Cllr Bradley fed back details from the meeting held on 6 December 2007. Criteria were agreed for dispensing the budget of £180k. To date the Night Bus and the Restorative Justice Schemes have been funded. Discussion took place on Youth Provision and Facilities and how best to meet these needs.

Cllr Bradley has also placed an item in Link Up advising of the Night Bus which runs every Thursday to Saturday to Kingston St Mary, Cheddon Fitzpaine, Norton Fitzwarren, Cothelstone and Bishops Lydeard. www.nippybus.co.uk

Cllr Hancock left the room at 8.15pm.

Cllr Bradley is to ask for some posters detailing the Night Bus service.

- 9 LIBERAL DEMOCRATS' KINGSTON ST MARY RESIDENTS SURVEY** The Clerk had circulated to all Members the response from Jeremy Browne MP, to the PC's correspondence following the last meeting. Mr. Browne's comments were noted.

Cllr Hancock returned to the room at 8.17 pm.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Taunton Deane Borough Council – Allotments in Taunton Deane - Comments by end December 2007.

The Clerk advised that she had received no response to the item in Link Up requesting residents' views.

Resolved

To place a second item in Link Up, advising that any comments should be sent direct to Taunton Deane Borough Council.

The Clerk is to write to Taunton Deane Borough Council advising that the PC has received no response from residents and that a second item is being placed in the Parish magazine.

10.2 The Planning Inspectorate – Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West: Review of Additional Pitch Requirements for Gypsies and Travellers in the South West – consultation on draft list of Matters and Participants.

Comments by Tuesday 18 December 2007. The PC discussed the documentation which had been copied to all Members.

Resolved

The Clerk is to write to the Planning Inspectorate with the following comment:
With reference to D (IV), should this not be extended to all AONBs and SSSIs?

11 CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 TDBC bulletin - Cllr Barrie

11.2 TDBC – Request for information on current Byelaws, dog bins and signage within the parish

11.3 Somerset County Council – Parish/Town Council Questionnaire Highway Related Services Results – 2007 (copy attached for Members)

11.4 Somerset County Council – Safer Somerset Awards

11.5 Somerset Waste Partnership – Promotion of the Refuse & Recycling Collection Service during the Festive Period

11.6 Somerset Association of Local Councils – Items of Interest to Councillors and Clerks – Cllr Taylor

11.7 Somerset Strategic Partnership – Notification of Consultation events to discuss priorities for Somerset's future.

11.8 Correspondence from David Barnes regarding water spilling onto Kingston Road

Items of interest were noted and documents circulated as requested.

Matters arising from correspondence:

- Item 11.1 – Cllr Barrie advised that following the consultation on the draft strategy for polling stations, it is proposed that the provision in Kingston St Mary is staying the same.
Cllr Barrie also advised of the revised refuse/recycling collections over the Festive period. The Clerk is to photocopy the poster and place on notice boards/ display in Post Office.
- Item 11.2 – The Clerk is to contact TDBC asking them to provide details of the information they already hold for the Parish.
- Item 11.3 – The Clerk is to place an item in Link Up regarding the winter services.
- Item 11.4 – No action
- Item 11.7 – Cllr Bradley volunteered to attend. The Clerk is to complete and return the relevant slip.
- Item 11.8 – The PC considered the correspondence from David Barnes.

Resolved

The Clerk is to write to Somerset County Council raising the issue, explaining that the problem happens on a regular basis, and requesting that someone checks the situation (especially in the event of high rainfall).

A copy of the letter to Somerset County Council is to be copied to David Barnes.

12 PLANNING MATTERS

12.1 Applications –

20/2007/029 - Change of use of Redundant Barn to Residential Dwelling, The Barn OS Field No 9138, Lodes Lane, Kingston St Mary

Cllr Hancock gave his representations and then withdrew from the room because of his declared interest. He therefore took no part in the discussion and decision made.

The Chairman had taken digital photos of the barn and its location and these were displayed. The plans were circulated and the proposed scheme outlined. The Design and Access Statement had been copied to all Members prior to the meeting.

Members discussed the application and how to respond.

Resolved

That having considered the application the PC supports the application, with the following comments:

- If the Local Planning Authority is mindful of approving the application, adequate tree screening should be provided,
- The proposal would retain the building, preventing it from falling down, which is an example of the local vernacular.

Cllr Hancock returned to the meeting.

12.2 Waiting Decisions

20/2007/026 – Removal of Agricultural Occupancy Condition 6 of Application

20/91/027 at Millfield House, Parsonage Lane, KSM

20/2007/027 – Extension to an Agricultural Building at Lower Marsh Farm, KSM

12.3 **Granted permission** - Nil

12.4 **Refused Permission** - Nil

12.5 **Withdrawn** - Nil

12.6 Other –

Cllrs Clarke and Miles declared an interest in this item due to the ongoing Standards Board investigation, and withdrew from the room. They therefore took no part in the discussion and decision made.

Correspondence from J Higginbottom of Foot Ansteys regarding planning application 20/2006/026 – the PC considered the correspondence from Ms J Higginbottom, which had been copied to all Members, and discussed how to respond.

Resolved

That a copy of the November meeting's minutes should be sent to Ms Higginbottom, with a covering letter explaining that the minutes should answer her questions.

Correspondence from Mr C Heayns – the PC considered the correspondence received from Mr Heayns, which had been copied to all Members, and discussed how to respond.

Resolved

That a letter be sent to Mr Heayns advising that the Parish Council has considered his correspondence and enclosing a copy of the November meeting's minutes to answer his questions.

Cllrs Clarke and Miles then returned to the meeting

13 SUBMISSION TO LINK-UP

Resolved

That the following should be included:

- Allotment consultation
- Notification of temporary road closure
- Affordable housing
- Speed watch scheme
- Somerset Highways – winter services 2007 - 2008

14 FINANCIAL MATTERS

14.1 Budget and Parish Precept 2008 – 2009 – The Clerk advised that unfortunately she had not yet completed the budget for 2008-09. She will prepare the budget in time for next month's meeting, which would still meet the deadline for returning the completed precept request form to the Borough Council.

14.2 Clerks Salaries and Mileage Allowances 2007 – 2008 – the Clerk provided details of the agreed new rates. The PC considered applying the new rates to the Clerk's salary

Resolved

That the Clerk's salary be increased to reflect the new rates.

14.3 Request for Funds from Somerset County Council for 2012 Olympic Games – The Parish Council considered the request from Somerset County Council. The Clerk advised that there had been no response to the request in Link Up for residents' views.

Resolved

The PC will not be providing any funds.

14.4 Proposed Funding for Kingston Youth Club – The Clerk advised that she had spoken to Anne Simpson following the last meeting, advising that the Youth

Club will need to set up a bank account to receive funding from the PC. The Clerk is to confirm this in writing.

Bank account details are yet to be received.

Resolved

To place this item on next month's agenda.

14.5 Request for Grants – The PC considered requests for funding from Age Concern and Victim Support Somerset.

Resolved

It was decided to put this in abeyance until the March 2008 meeting, when the requests would be considered with any others received in the interim period.

14.6 Receipts: Nil

Payments:

Resolved

That the following payments should be made:

Clerk's Salary – S/O £ 228.11

Chedzoy (grass cutting/footpath) (cheque number 096) £295.00

Society of Local Council Clerks (membership fees) (cheque number 098) £70

Somerset Arts Week (s137 grant) (cheque number 099) £25

Citizens Advice Bureau (s137 grant) (cheque number 097) £100

15 PERSONNEL MATTERS

15.1 Letter of resignation from Parish Clerk – Mrs Tracey Canavan's resignation was received with regret. The Clerk explained that she will stay in post (for a reasonable period) until a new Clerk has been appointed.

Members discussed the recruitment process

Resolved

That an item be placed in Link Up asking for expressions of interest, along with copy of current CV, by 14th January.

Should anyone wish to discuss the post they should contact the Chairman / Vice Chairman.

The Clerk is also to contact TDBC regarding placing an advert in the weekly bulletin.

The Chairman then proposed to bring items 16, 17 and 18 forward on the agenda. This motion was carried.

16 ITEMS OF REPORT AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- The Clerk advised that she had received an email from Katy Calvert at the Community Council for Somerset requesting details of Post Offices/shops within the Parish. The Clerk will provide the information to her.
- It was noted that the Speed Watch Scheme should be placed on the next agenda.

17 DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

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 Dec 2008	

18 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC –

A query was raised regarding the access for the proposed development under planning application 20/2007/029.

The meeting was closed to members of the public and press and then the following items were discussed

15.3 Other Personnel Matters – The PC was made aware of other personnel matters and discussed appropriate actions needed.

Resolved

That appropriate correspondence be sent by the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council

Cllr Taylor then excused himself from the meeting.

15.2 Correspondence from Clerk to Taunton Deane Borough Council – The Clerk made Members aware of her correspondence to the Borough Council, which was discussed.

Resolved

That a letter be sent by the Chairman to Taunton Deane Borough Council, on behalf of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 10.38 pm.

Signed

Date: