KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 11th MARCH 2019

Item Nr	Item	Action By
1.0	**Attendance and Apologies** In attendance: Cllr M Anderson (Chairman) Cllr J Clarke Cllr S Farnham Cllr R Stokes Cllr K Taylor Cllr A Wilcox Cllr R Williams (SCC Councillor) Mrs K Gibbins (Parish Clerk) Apologies received from: Cllr N Bradshaw Cllr J Marsh Cllr N Townsend (PC and TDBC Councillor) Three members of the public were present.	
2.0	**Approval of Minutes of Last Annual Parish Meeting dated 12th March 2018** The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record.	
3.0	**Matters Arising** None.	
4.0	**Report from the Chairman** Cllr Anderson welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave his report as follows: **Review of the Year** The Parish Council held 11 meetings during the past year and discussed a wide range of issues affecting the local community including concerns about the volume and speed of traffic through the centre of the village, the state of local roads, fly tipping, blocked drains/culverts and broadband speeds. Cllr Anderson reported that progress had been made on some of the issues, but others remained stubbornly difficult to resolve because of the lack of funding or will of the responsible local authorities. The proposed North Taunton Development continued to be a very real concern. He went on to add the Parish Council together with Staplegrove PC and residents' groups had fought hard to get the proposed spine road built before any development took place. It seems now that despite securing £7.2 million extra funding from the Government, the developers will be allowed to start building/selling homes before this vital link is completed. In the short term this will increase the traffic pressures on lower Kingston Road and particularly around the junction with Corkscrew Lane which will have to be used by construction traffic/workers for several years as well as occupants of the new homes. In the longer term, it raises the very real fear that developers will build several hundred new homes and then pull out without ever completing the costly spine road. **Planning** The Parish Council has been consulted on 12 planning applications during the year. We raised no objection to 10 and objected to 2. However, all were eventually passed by TDBC planners.	

Community Partnership

The village is fortunate to have an energetic team who are working hard to address many of the concerns raised by residents in the Community Plan survey. As a result of their efforts:

- Community Speedwatch has been revived with teams of volunteers regularly monitoring traffic at key points and reporting speeders to police.
- A regular Litter Pick is being organised to keep the village looking tidy.
- A Youth Club meets regularly offering a range of activities for youngsters and is proving very popular.

The Parish Council has welcomed and supported these ventures and continues to work with the teams headed by David Stripp and David Taylor.

Meanwhile, the Partnership is exploring the possibility of further traffic calming measures and reduced speed limits within the parish and along Kingston road.

The Parish Council is also supporting the group calling for a dedicated pedestrian/cycle path linking the village to north Taunton.

The local authorities are using budgetary constraints as a reason for inaction, but the various groups will continue to press for these much-needed facilities.

Finance

With both SCC and TDBC making budget cuts, more and more local services are falling on parish councils. As a result, the Parish Council's spending in the next year will increase and this will be reflected in the council tax paid by local residents.

Communication

The five local notice boards are an excellent source of information about the Parish Council and social events.

The notice board at Fulford has been replaced and the board outside the Village Hall has new support posts.

Details of Parish Council meetings appear monthly in Link Up and appear on the village website together with minutes of our meetings.

We are most grateful to Paolo van der Steenhoven who manages the excellent website.

Changes

Our long serving clerk Caroline Roche stepped down in December following added responsibilities in her day job. However, we have been fortunate in recruiting Katie Gibbins who has hit the ground running.

Thanks

On behalf of the Council, Cllr Anderson thanked councillors Nick Townsend (TDBC) and Rod Williams (SCC) for their help and invaluable advice during the past year.

He also said a massive thank you to the many dozens of unheralded volunteers who contribute so much to the life of the village.

5.0 **Reports received from the Village Committees**

Playing Field Committee Report

Ivor Nation, Chairman of the Playing Field Committee gave a brief report.

He said he had taken over at the end of 2018 as Chair and the committee currently was a bit short handed as both the treasurer and secretary had left as well as the previous chair.

Despite this, he said the committee was planning a summer fayre on the playing field scheduled for June 22nd. Various attractions were planned, and a complete list would be available next month.

	The Chair also advised there was a new regular booking for Tuesday afternoons when an art club would be using the pavilion. He said the committee were trying to update the facilities and had purchased 3 plastic folding tables with the help of Kingston Community Partnership. The handwash units had been replaced and the sink plug which was causing problems in the kitchen was currently being fixed. He reported the committee would like to get a secure lock up unit on site to store chairs and croquet kit rather than in the pavilion itself. He mentioned a few matters that had arisen during the week which he hoped he would get help rectifying. The Chair closed by saying the committee was hoping to increase the use of this wonderful facility in the coming year. **Village Hall Report** Marcus Anderson Chair of the Village Hall Committee gave a brief report. He said this last year had found the village hall extending its uses with the Youth Club firmly established as weekly users. The organisers reported a high level of use of the club by boys and girls who would not normally be catered for. The Village Hall committee still meet quarterly and had added a craft fair to the calendar to replace the Christmas market. This was well attended. The committee had also planned and completed a series of 3 films in 2018 and would continue to run films on a monthly basis throughout 2019. This was a committee venture and raised funds for the village hall. The Village Hall has been lucky to be recipients of the change of the Art Week exhibition and have seen an increase in footfall to the village consequently. This is largely driven by Serena Lumley and Annie Trolley and again is a welcome use of the space. Changes have been made to the KSM-VH website and the committee have been lucky to reduce costs here with the help of Paolo van der Steenhoven. Like previous years the committee have had to remove and replace heating which is a large capital cost and have completed minor repairs throughout the year. Funds for the village hall have risen due to funds increasing from Art Week plus a generous donation, film nights and the craft fair. I must thank the committee and the executives Caroline Spencer, Andrew Wilcox and Bob Mils who without their support most things would not be possible. The meeting closed at 7.50PM.	

Signed: ..... **Date:** .....