KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD VIRTUALLY ON 11th MAY 2020

Item No	Item	Action By
1.0	**Attendance** In attendance: Cllr P Townsend (Chairman) Cllr S Farnham Cllr S Hancock Cllr D Stripp Cllr D Taylor Cllr N Townsend Cllr A Wilcox Mrs K Gibbins (Parish Clerk) Cllr R Williams (SCC) Cllr D Darch (SWT) 3 Members of the public attended the meeting	
2.0	**Councillors' Declarations of Interest** Cllr A Wilcox declared an interest in Agenda item 7. Cllr S Hancock declared an interest in Agenda item 4, Case ref: 20/20/0013.	
3.0	**Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 6th April 2020** **Resolved:** The minutes were approved and will be signed as a true record at a future date.	
4.0	**Planning** **a) Applications:** **Case Ref: 20/20/0010** – Variation of Condition No. 02 (approved plans) of application 20/19/0016 at Cala, Kingston Road, Kingston St Mary. The Council reviewed the above referenced planning application and decided to object to the Variation of Condition No. 02 for the following reasons: The Council feels the size and dominance of the building as a result of the increased square footage is out of character within the conservation area and is unsympathetic to the overall building style in the village. The Council objects to the removal of a significant tree within the conservation area as a result of the larger footprint moving the proposed building closer to the road. The Council would like to add that the material increase in size does not appear to justify Variation of Condition No. 02 (approved plans) of Application No. 20/19/0016. **Case Ref: 20/20/0011** – Change of use of land from agricultural to domestic at Ilbeare, Cattlewash, Fitzroy Road, Norton Fitzwarren (retention of works already undertaken). The Council reviewed the above referenced planning application and decided to object to the change of use of the land from agricultural to domestic. The Council considers it detrimental and inappropriate to introduce such a large domestic area into a predominantly agricultural setting, which would adversely affect the rural character of the area. The Parish Council would like to see this planning application withdrawn and resubmitted with an application which is acceptable to the applicant and the majority of residents residing in the Fitzroy hamlet. **Case Ref: 20/20/0013** – Replacement of garage and outbuildings with the erection of a carport and store with solar panels to roof at Greenbanks, Lodes Lane, Kingston St Mary.	

	The Council considered the above referenced planning application and decided to make no comment. **Case Ref: 20/20/0014 –** Erection of two-story side extension at 10 Parsonages Cottages, Parsonage Lane, Kingston St Mary (resubmission of 20/20/0006) The Council considered the above referenced planning application and decided to make no comment. **b) Withdrawn:** **Case Ref: 20/20/0005** – Change of use of agricultural building to part equestrian and part storage with re-siting and change of material to approved agricultural building and erection of agricultural building for storage at Lower Portman Farm, Fitzroy Road, Norton Fitzwarren	
5.0	**Good Neighbours Scheme –** Cllr Stripp advised the Council an award of £750.00 had been confirmed for the Good Neighbours Scheme from Somerset Community Foundation to help support the activities of the scheme during the coronavirus crisis. He thanked the Council for the offer of assistance but said it would no longer be required.	
6.0	**Insurance Renewal –** The Council considered the insurance quotations received, one from the existing insurer Zurich and a second from AXA. The Chair said the AXA insurance was 35% cheaper and he felt provided better cover but had slightly higher excesses. The Chair proposed the Council accept the AXA quote. Cllr Taylor raised a concern regarding whether the AXA policy covered Councillors on Council business and volunteers working on behalf of the Council. Cllr Stripp agreed that clarification was needed on this point and he also wanted confirmation the Speed Indicator Device was covered. The Clerk confirmed that the SID was covered and said she would clarify the other point and report back to the Council.	Clerk
7.0	**Marie Curie Emergency Appeal** – The Councillors considered a request for funding from Marie Curie for end of life support. It was agreed Marie Curie is an excellent charity and the appeal was timely and fully understood under the current circumstances. Discussion revolved around possibly requests from other organisations in similar positions and the importance of considering whether the charity making the request directly benefitted residents or was relevant to the local area. It was agreed the Council needed to demonstrate a consistent approach moving forward. The Chair proposed to draft up a policy regarding making charitable donations for consideration at the next meeting of the Council. This was seconded by both Cllrs Wilcox and N Townsend. The Clerk confirmed that the Council could make donations to charitable organisations under Section 137.	Cllr P Townsend
8.0	**Taunton Unparished Area –** The Chair advised it would appear Taunton town centre is unparished and therefore residents in outlying parishes are paying for services in the town centre. Cllr N Townsend believes Taunton town centre residents pay a precept, but it was unclear to him how the money was then allocated to services. The Council had a general discussion about this and decided clarification was required on this as there was some confusion about it. Cllr Darch agreed to find out more and the Clerk agreed to forward the e-mail to her for further investigation.	Clerk/ Cllr D Darch
9.0	**Oak Trees on Kingston Road –** The Chair advised a resident had expressed concern about Woodland Trust oak tree limbs overhanging the road by the Spinney and causing a danger to passing traffic by forcing vehicles into the centre of road. The resident has informed the Woodland Trust which has taken action, but the resident feels not enough has been done. It was agreed to refer the issue to SCC Highways as it is potentially a safety concern. Cllr Williams agreed to take the matter up with Highways.	Cllr R Williams
10.0	**Financial Matters** ❖ £374.40 – Payroll Specialists, payroll services for the year to 5 April 2021 ❖ £100,00 – SWT, uncontested parish election fee for May 2019 ❖ £114.18 – Katie Gibbins, Clerk's 2019 expenses **Resolved**: The Council agreed to make the above payments.	
11.0	**Items for Next Agenda –** Please pass to the Clerk Millennium seat	

	Letter to the Swan thanking the new tenants and recognising the contribution they have made to the village at a difficult time. Cllr Stripp to draft up letter.	Cllr Stripp
12.0	**Actions from March 2020 Meeting – Not discussed but to be carried forward to a future meeting** a) **Highways –** The Council discussed SCC's plan for the new advisory 20mph speed limits hoped to be in place by 2022 outside all schools in Somerset. **b) Playing Field –** The Clerk updated the Council on the ongoing efforts to get quotes for new equipment for the playing field which hopefully will be funded by available S106 funding. She advised she and Cllr P Townsend were completing the application and were hoping for assistance from the Chair of the Playing Field Committee. c) **Natural environment –** The Clerk advised that a meeting had been scheduled for 23 March with SWT. d) **Council Reserves** - i. Clearing of roadside verge on Kingston Road by the Grange and the Spinney ii. Furniture for the Playing Field Pavilion e) **Housing Needs Survey** – The Council agreed the existing wording for the covering letter and survey were fine.	C/F
	Date of Next Meeting – 8th June 2020	
Signed:		**Date:**