KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 24th NOVEMBER 2021

Item No	Item	Action By
1.0	**Attendance -** In attendance: Cllr P Townsend (Chairman) Cllr S Hancock Cllr D Taylor Mrs K Gibbins (Parish Clerk) Cllr R Williams (SCC) Cllr D Darch (SW&T) Cllr M Rigby (SW&T) Apologies: Cllr T Bedford, Cllr A Simpson, Cllr D Stripp, Cllr A Wilcox Approximately 50 members of the public were in attendance.	
2.0	**Councillors' Declarations of Interest – N**one	
3.0	**Community Governance Review** SW&T Cllr Mike Rigby opened the meeting by explaining that Community Governance Reviews are generally undertaken every 10 to 15 years to determine if Parish boundaries need updating by considering any new and projected urban developments. In addition, as Taunton's town centre is currently unparished, the review will establish if Taunton should have a town council. The parishes surrounding Taunton (including Kingston St Mary) have been included in the review, as it's felt that the unparished part of Taunton no longer represents the town's urban centre. This is of concern to the Parish Council, as Community Governance Reviews can change parish boundaries, group parishes together and even abolish parishes. SW&T Cllr Rigby assured the meeting that, in his opinion, there was no intention to make Kingston St Mary part of a Taunton Town Council. He also explained that Kingston St Mary was included in the review because the proposed Staplegrove East Development will occupy a small number of fields at the extreme south of the parish. After an interesting and engaging question and answer session, it was clear that the south of the parish should remain as an undeveloped rural belt, thereby protecting Kingston St Mary and the Quantock Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty from the urban expansion of Taunton. The consensus at the meeting was that: • Kingston St Mary Parish should remain separate from Taunton; and • the parish boundary should be altered to exclude Staplegrove East, by being redrawn to reflect the perimeter of this planned urban development. The Parish Council resolved to carefully consider the views expressed at the meeting at the Council's December meeting.	
4.0	**Date of Next Meeting – 15th December 2021** The meeting closed at 20.35.	
Signed:	Dated:	