KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 11th OCTOBER 2021

Item No	Item	Action By
1.0	**Attendance -** In attendance: Cllr P Townsend (Chairman) Cllr T Bedford Cllr S Hancock Cllr A Simpson Cllr D Stripp Cllr D Taylor Mrs K Gibbins (Parish Clerk) Cllr R Williams (SCC) Cllr D Darch (SWT) Apologies: Cllr A Wilcox No members of the public attended the meeting.	
2.0	**Councillors' Declarations of Interest – N**one	
3.0	**Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 13th September 2021 -** **Resolved:** The minutes were approved and will be signed as a true record at a future date.	
4.0	**Planning –** **a) Applications:** **Case Ref: 20/21/0030** - Erection of a single storey passageway extension to connect dwelling to summer house at Orchard Hill, Kingston Road, Kingston St Mary. Application Type: Full Planning Permission The Council considered the above planning application and resolved to fully support the application.	
5.0	**Matters Outstanding from Previous Minutes –** **i.Tree Planting within KSM Conservation Area** – The Chair and Cllr Stripp had a very positive meeting with the landowners who explained their reasons for planting the hedge of which privacy was most important. The landowners assured the Council they would keep the hedge at a manageable height, no higher than the Church wall. The Chair and Cllr Stripp stressed the importance of the location and the uninterrupted view over the hills which had been there for centuries for people to admire. They also reiterated the concerns of the AONB. Cllr Bedford suggested the Council consider integrating native species and nature into the local neighbourhood plan to give the Council more influence in this regard in the future. The Chair and the Council resolved to close this item. ii. **Staplegrove (West) Garden Community development – Integrated Constructed Wetland proposal** – SW&T Cllr Darch advised the Council the meeting to discuss the wetlands had been postponed by the SW&T Projects Officer as there was no news. She asked about organising a consultation with residents and the contractors appear to be receptive but stressed the need to focus currently on finalising the planning application. The Projects Officer will contact SW&T Cllr Darch when the time is right. iii. **Happy to Chat Bench -** Cllr Taylor said he is in contact with the supplier about the purchase of two benches and will chase them for a full quotation. Location of the second bench to be decided.	SW&T Cllr Darch/Cllr Taylor/Cllr Stripp/Chair

	iv. **Active Travel Funding/Speed Limit Restrictions –** The Chair asked Cllr Simpson to talk to the Council about the accident which recently occurred outside Littlebrook. She explained the history and told the Council a mirror had been mounted to the wall opposite Littlebrook some years ago but had been damaged and was removed and not replaced. The reason for not replacing the mirror was concern it may cause a distraction to passing motorists who could end up damaging the wall again. Several residents would like to have a mirror remounted to the wall to help reduce the likelihood of accidents happening here as it is a very dangerous section of road. The Council discussed this issue and it was decided the residents should try to resolve the matter as a group in the first instance. It was decided the Council would progress the matter further if a resolution was not agreed amongst the residents. v. **Path from Lodes Lane to the Church –** Cllr Stripp suggested he and the Chair have a chat with the landowners to see if there is any possibility of buying a strip of land around the perimeter of the field to re-route the path. **vi. Future Parish Elections –** The Chair advised that most Councils who had responded said they would like to move the elections forward to May 2022 to allow them to fall in line with the new Somerset unitary authority elections. **vii. SCC £500k Opening Up Fund –** The Chair told the Council its bid for the opening up fund had been successful and that the Council could now purchase a third Happy to Chat Bench. It was felt the third bench might replace the bench at the end of Leachs Field which is damaged. It was then suggested the Council put a piece in Link Up asking residents to put forward their suggestions of where the best location for the third bench might be. Cllr Taylor agreed to go back to the outdoor furniture supplier and get a quote for 3 benches. The Chair said he was still waiting for a decision on the £5k bid submitted.	
6.0	**Draft Budget** – The Chair presented the 2021/22 budget to the Council which shows an increase in the precept of approximately 10%. The major increase in expenditure is to do with the playing field which has increased from £500 in this year's budget to £3500 in next year's budget. There has been a reduction in payment to the KCP from £500 to £200. Cllr Stripp said he would like the Council to reconsider this as the Youth Club has restarted and is costly to run as youth workers need to be employed to run it. Historically the Parish Council has given the Youth Club £500.00 so he is hoping the Council will reconsider this. The Council agreed to include this in the second draft of the budget. The Chair said the following amounts had been included in Reserve spending: £5000.00 – Playing Field Equipment £1000.00 – Climate Emergency £1500.00 – Queen's Jubilee and Community Celebration Cllr Taylor suggested the Council should consider the purchase of a permanently sited SID and therefore the existing one could become a roaming SID. A second location to site a SID might be at the bottom of Buncombe Hill coming into the village or across the street from Cala. The training for the SID operatives has been included in the budget under highways and the Clerk is going to investigate when future training sessions will be held and what it will cost as it was felt a couple more operatives should be recruited and trained to ensure there are always able hands to help manage and move the device.	Chair/Clerk
7.0	**Climate Mitigation Strategy** – The Chair mentioned the SCOP26+ Conference on Saturday 6th November and asked if anyone was available to attend. The conference is being organised by the Levels Climate Forum and will be held at The Edgar Hall in Somerton from 13.00-18.00. SW&T Cllr Darch said she would like to attend if she is free and she will register herself. The Clerk agreed to send the details of the conference to SW&T Cllr Darch.	Clerk
8.0	**Local Government Reorganisation and LCNs –**	

	The Chair advised the Council that he and the Clerk had attended the Town and Parish Council Conference on the 7th October to discuss local government reorganisation and the formation of local community networks and the parish councils role in the new unitary authority. The Chair felt a key message from the conference was Parish Councils should focus on community and building community by asking what the community needs and wants. He suggested the Council should discuss this perhaps aside from its regular monthly meeting. The Clerk said Councils are encouraged to have 'a vision for their place'. What do you want it to look like in 5, 10, 15 years' time? The Chair went on to say it is still unclear how the local community networks are going to be established and how exactly they will operate. SCC Cllr Williams advised the Council the next meeting of the LGR Advisory Board is on 21st October which he will attend. On the agenda is LCNs and Taunton Town Council and he will be able to tell the Council more about this after the meeting. He went on to say the work to give shape and form to the LCNs will move quite quickly between now and Christmas. The LGR Advisory Board will meet every 3 to 4 weeks and he feels it will be influential. The Council discussed the LCNs and how they may function although it is still very early days and unclear as to the exact way in which the LCNs will work and how they will be formed. It also discussed the formation of a Taunton Town Council and how this may look. The Council resolved to wait until after the LGR Advisory Board meeting to get more detail about this agenda item.	
9.0	**Housing Needs Survey and Neighbourhood Plan –** Cllr Stripp referred the Council to the notes he had circulated in the meeting papers summarising the conversation he, Cllr Townsend and Cllr Taylor had with SW&T Strategy Specialist Officer where they discussed the possibility of developing a Neighbourhood Plan. He went on to say in terms of the housing needs which were identified in the Housing Needs Survey a meeting had been set up with a local landowner who has existing planning permission and might consider meeting some of the needs identified in the survey. They are also hoping to speak to another developer who may be able to meet the housing needs which have been identified. The Council recognised the advantages of a Neighbourhood Plan and went on to discuss the disadvantages which were the costs of the process, the referendum which is a requirement as well as the fact that the plan is a very detailed piece of work to put together. Discussion then revolved around, why do a neighbourhood plan and what status does it have. It was felt a Neighbourhood Plan formally sets down the view of the community which hopefully the Planning Authority will then take notice of. Planning applications will then be considered against the criteria in the Neighbourhood Plan. The vision for the community was also discussed and this could be a project running alongside the Neighbourhood Plan. The Council resolved to put together a clear proposal outlining the process to complete a Neighbourhood Plan and the cost of doing one for the Council to decide on at its November meeting.	Cllr Stripp
10.0	**Monthly Parish Council Meeting** – The Clerk advised the Council that the Committee Room is available on Tuesday and the Main Hall is as well but the cost for the Main Hall is £50.00 per evening. The Clerk has asked the Village Hall Committee to consider reducing the cost for the Parish Council's monthly meetings.	Clerk

	The Council resolved to change the monthly meetings to the second Tuesday of the month commencing with the December meeting. The venue will be decided next month, and the Clerk will publish the 2022 meeting dates once the venue is agreed.	
11.0	**Kingston Community Partnership** – update SW&T Cllr Darch said the Cycle Ride was very successful and a lot of fun was had by all who participated. It was also covered in the Somerset County Gazette. She told the Council the Guerilla Gardening Group had changed its name to Planting for Wildlife. The group had been doing lots of ground preparation in the overspill car park of the church yard where the PCC has given Planting for Wildlife an 'L-shaped' piece of land for planting of plug plants which was done last week. Cllr Stripp went on to say The Youth Club has started again with a couple of good events. A village Litter Pick has been organised for the end of November and Good Neighbours is relaunching its singles lunches.	
12.0	**Financial Matters -** • £100.80 – Somerset West & Taunton Council – Emptying of dog waste bin once/week from 1 Jul 2021 to 30 Sep 2021 • £170.40 – HMRC – Clerk's PAYE for JUL/AUG/SEP 2021 • £186.25 – Steen R&W - Maintain and update KSM PC webpages for 1st half 2021/22 • £55.98 – Steen R&W - Annual renewal of domain name and webhosting • £48.00 – PKF Littlejohn LLP – Admin charge for Certification of Exemption **Resolved**: The Council agreed to make the above payments. • £5645.00 – Somerset West & Taunton Council – Precept 21/22 P2 • £1250.00 – Somerset West & Taunton Council – Parish Grant 21/22 Resolved: The Council noted the above receipts.	
13.0	**Items for Next Agenda –** Please pass any agenda items to the Clerk.	
14.0	**Items for Link Up and KSM Website –** The Chair will do a write up for Link Up.	
15.0	**Actions from March 2020 Meeting – Not discussed but to be carried forward to a future meeting.** a) **Natural environment –** The Clerk advised that a meeting had been scheduled for 23 March with SWT. b) **Council Reserves** - i. Clearing of roadside verge on Kingston Road by the Grange and the Spinney **ii.** Furniture for the Playing Field Pavilion	
16.0	**Date of Next Meeting – 8th November 2021** The meeting closed at 21.50	
Signed:	**Dated:**	