KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 13TH DECEMBER 2022

Item No	Item	Action By
1.0	**Attendance and Apologies -** In attendance: Cllr P Townsend (Chairman) Cllr S Hancock Cllr A Simpson Cllr D Stripp Mrs K Gibbins (Parish Clerk) Cllr D Darch (SCC/SW&T) Apologies: SCC Cllr D Perry 1 member of the public was in attendance	
2.0	**Councillors' Declarations of Interest -** None	
3.0	**Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 8th November 2022 -** **Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting were approved and will be signed as a true record of the meeting at a future date.	
4.0	**Planning -** **Applications:** **Case Ref: 20/22/0030** - Variation of Condition No. 03 of application 20/94/0025 to allow for the annexe to be used as a holiday let as well as ancillary accommodation to the main dwelling at Pickney Farm, Kingston St Mary. The Parish Council considered the above referenced planning application and resolved to fully support the application. **Case Ref: 20/22/0033/T** - Application to fell one Beech tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Kingston St. Mary No.1) Tree Preservation Order 1997 at The Grange, Kingston Road, Kingston St. Mary. A decision of conditional approval was made by Somerset West & Taunton Council on 12/12/2022. **Case Ref: 20/22/0034/T** - Notification to carry out management works to one Oak tree and one Ash tree within Kingston St. Mary Conservation Area at Orchards, Kingston Road, Kingston St Mary. The Parish Council considered the above referenced planning application and resolved to fully support the application.	
5.0	**Matters Outstanding from Previous Minutes -** **i. Marquees and Kingston St Mary Beacon -** Cllr Stripp advised the Council he has negotiated the purchase of a marquee and storage for 2 marquees. The Clerk asked the Council to clarify that it plans to purchase 2 marquees as she doesn't think she has recorded this correctly in previous minutes. The Chair confirmed that the Council has agreed to spend £500.00 on the purchase of 2 marquees, one from Kingston Community Partnership and a second from Nigel Palfrey. The Chair also confirmed the Council has agreed to pay £100.00 per annuum to store the marquess in a secure location. It was agreed the cheques would be raised for approval at the January meeting.	Clerk

	ii. **Kingston Stream and Surface Water problems** – SCC Cllr Darch updated the Council on the position after a site meeting with a representative from FWAG and interested villagers. She also said the chamber at Mill Cross was clear when they looked at it today. Cllr Darch said FWAG agreed the culvert on the opposite side of the road from the Mill Cross chamber needed clearing and agreed to approach highways about this. iii. **Parish Councillors – co-option of** – Cllr Stripp advised the Council that the individual he was asked to contact was not able to put themselves forward. The Chair spoke to another possible candidate who said he may be prepared to step forward if no one else was available.	
6.0	**Dignity at Work Policy** – to pass a resolution to adopt The Council discussed the Dignity at Work Policy and agreed to adopt the policy.	
7.0	**The Civility and Respect Pledge** – to pass a resolution to sign up to the pledge The Council agreed to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge.	
8.0	**Leaches Field and Sawyers Leigh** – to discuss green space planting The Chair explained to the Council that he, Cllr Stripp and SCC Cllr Darch had looked at the green space between Leaches Field and the playing field with the view to improving it by planting wildflowers and apple trees. Before any improvements could be undertaken, the Council would first need to get the approval of the residents as the land belongs to the Leaches Field housing development and isn't considered open community space. Having visited some of the residents, Cllr Darch was very aware that they valued their privacy. If the residents are consulted and are in agreement, there is nothing to stop the Council from improving the space but evidence of a consultation would be necessary. The Chair agreed to write to the residents about the proposed scheme and ask them if they had any concerns with improving the green space. It was felt the letter should also ask them if they wanted to be involved with the planting. The Council agreed that a letter would be hand delivered to all residents of Leaches Field and the houses with gardens backing on to the open space would also be visited personally by a Councillor or Councillors. The Council agreed to do this in the New Year. The Council also discussed the green at Swayers Leigh and whether it would be a suitable space to plant a few more apple trees. It was felt this was an open area which was used quite frequently by the younger residents. The Council agreed to adopt a similar approach and consult with the residents before any planting was agreed.	Chair/Cllr Stripp/SCC Cllr Darch
9.0	**Citizen's Advice Taunton** – funding appeal The Chair advised the Council it had been approached by Citizen's Advice Taunton as part of its fund-raising efforts. He went on to say the Council donated £200.00 to CAB in 2020. The Council has a budget of £400.00 for this type of expenditure of which £50.00 has been spent to date. The Council agreed to donate £200.00 to Citizen's Advice Taunton and to review this expenditure on an annual basis.	
10.0	**Parish Emergency Plan** – to discuss The Council discussed the idea of a Parish Emergency Plan and what it might look like. It was agreed that a slim lined version would be good and a starting point may be to use the good neighbours network to identify key contacts and then extend this out to identify residents with particular skills, equipment, tools, etc. The Council agreed to investigate producing a draft plan.	Whole Council

11.0	**Highway Improvements and Community Speed Watch –** The Chair asked a member of the public present at the meeting to talk to the Council about the situation regarding improvements to the road traffic signage through the village. Unfortunately, Somerset County Council is not responding to correspondence requesting changes to be made. A proposal to improve the signage in the village with applicable costs was put forward to the Parish Council. The Clerk advised the Council that she would investigate whether the Council had the power to erect road signs. The Council agreed to write to Somerset County Council stating its intentions and asking for approval to erect additional signage. If a response is not forthcoming, the Council agreed to proceed with improving the signage themselves providing it has the power and can legally do this.	Chair
12.0	**Street Lighting –** Sawyers Leigh, Kingston St Mary The Chair talked to the Council about the street lighting in Sawyers Leigh and said that some work had been done on the lights. The Chair explained that approval for the proposed amendments had been given by the PCSOs and Highway Safety. The lights would be turned off between 12.00 and 05.30 and the cost for the alterations would be around £500.00. The Council agreed to fund the costs of the alterations to the lighting operations in Sawyers Leigh.	
13.0	**Local Community Networks** – update The Chair explained that the consultation had not produced a clear winner in terms of identifying the preferred geographical areas for LCNs. The consultation documents will continue to be reviewed and we should hear more about this in January.	
14.0	**Climate Action Planning** – update SCC Cllr Darch updated the Council on the climate action activities and said the infrared camera was proving hugely popular and she had a list of residents waiting to use it. She also said she and Cllr Stripp were hoping to plan a meeting in January with the old climate action team and see if they can resurrect the group. She felt it would be good to discuss whether the Parish Emergency Plan should be linked with the Climate Action Plan. Cllr Stripp discussed with the Council how the Neighbourhood Plan might overlap with the Climate Action Plan. He also asked the Council its views from a housing perspective on what it was looking for in a housing policy again in relation to climate change and whether the Council should develop its policies any further.	SCC Cllr Darch/Cllr Stripp
15.0	**Neighbourhood Plan** – update Cllr Stripp updated the Council on the NP and said the first drafts of the reports from each of the teams were due this week. He was hopeful to pull the reports together in the New Year and pass them to Stuart Todd Associates for their feedback. The idea is to submit the completed draft plan to the Council for their January Meeting, with community consultation and a referendum at a later date, after the NP had been approved by the Planning department. Cllr Stripp went on to discuss the Community Land Trust and said he had spoken to the Community Land Trust Network, a national body representing CLTs, and they had provided useful information about the formation of a CLT. He briefly discussed this process with the Council.	Cllr Stripp
16.0	**Kingston Community Partnership – update** Cllr Stripp reported that KCP was busy with a few things. He said the first of the warm social gatherings took place at The Swan this afternoon with a few people attending. Another will be held in January and it is hoped a few more will come. He said the pub was a great place to hold it with the open fire and warm, comfortable surroundings.	

	SCC Cllr Darch said another litter pick was organised and explained that due to the cold weather conditions some people would be doing it as and when they could. Cllr Stripp said the distribution of small Christmas gifts would be done by the good neighbour volunteers. Cllr Simpson said it would be nice to send something to Ashley the owner of Kingston Garage as he hadn't been well. Cllr Stripp went on to say that both activities had been funded with money from Shell.	
17.0	**Financial Matters –** The Council noted the November bank reconciliation and approved the following payments listed below: • £57.40 – David Stripp, printing copies of the Active Travel Feasibility Study • £250.00 – Nigel Palfrey, purchase of a marquee for future village events The Council also discussed the o/s cheque payable to SALC which hasn't been received or cashed by SALC and agreed to raise a replacement cheque. It was noted that the original payment was approved at the October meeting.	
18.0	**Items for Next Agenda –** Please pass any agenda items to the Clerk before the next meeting.	
19.0	**Items for Link Up and KSM Website –** The Chair will do a write up for Link Up.	
20.0	**Date of Next Meeting – 10th January 2023** The meeting closed at 21.05.	
Signed:	**Dated:**	