KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 8th NOVEMBER 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 Cllr A Wilcox Mrs K Gibbins (Parish Clerk) Cllr D Darch (SCC/SW&T) PCSO Simon Parry PCSO Marshall Bernhardt Apologies: None 6 members of the public were in attendance	
2.0	**Councillors' Declarations of Interest -** Cllr D Stripp declared an interest in agenda item 5.0 (iv)	
3.0	**Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 11th October 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 -** **a) Applications:** **Case Ref: 20/22/0031** - Erection of single storey extensions, re-positioning of vehicle access and erection of detached garage at Cherrymead, Pickney, Kingston St Mary The Parish Council considered the above referenced planning application and resolved to fully support the application for extending and adding a detached garage to Cherrymead in Pickney. The Council felt the alterations would improve the appearance and utility of this single storey property as a family home and would make better use of the site.	
5.0	**Matters Outstanding from Previous Minutes -** **i.** **Oak Tree Maintenance -** The Chair advised the Council it will need to revisit the maintenance of these trees in Spring/Summer 2023. **ii.** **Kingston St Mary Annual Community Event -** The Chair asked the Council if they would like to hold an annual event next year. The Council decided the weekend of May 6th - 8th, the King's Coronation, was a good weekend and agreed to hold the fete on the playing field on Sunday afternoon. **iii.** **Marquees and Kingston St Mary Beacon -** Cllr Stripp advised the Council a village resident was prepared to sell his marquee to the Council. The Council agreed it would like to buy the marquee. The Clerk advised the Council they had discussed this at the October meeting and had agreed to buy the marquee for £250.00 provided they could find somewhere to store it. Cllr Stripp agreed to discuss storage with another village resident. **iv.** **Kingston Stream** – SCC Cllr Darch advised she had reported the problems with the stream to SCC but had not had an acknowledgement from them. A member of the public with concerns about Kingston Stream said he last had positive communication regarding this issue from SCC in 2014. His concerns are that where historically there was a two-tier	Clerk Whole Council Cllr Stripp Whole Council / SCC Cllr Darch

		system for watercourses, i.e., major and minor, now watercourses are all lumped together and very little is done to manage minor watercourses. He still wants regular maintenance of the stream to allow the water to flow freely at the bifurcation and said for this to happen there needs to be a supervised means of access to the chamber. The Council acknowledged the member of the public's frustration but emphasised the message from Somerset County Council that although he hasn't heard back from the Council that doesn't mean they are not going to address the issue but high-risk areas and flooding to homes will always be a priority. The PC agreed to keep this matter open.	
	v.	**Surface Water problems** – to include discussion of recent flooding on Lodes Lane and Kingston Road The Chair invited a member of the public with concerns about flooding to talk to the Council. This individual who has lived in Kingston St Mary since April has twice, in this short time, had to go and assist neighbours with clearing drains. The problem he identified appears to be with two drains on the pub side of the Kingston Road as well as the drains on Lodes Lane. A few weeks ago, during heavy rain and thunderstorms he cleared the drains near Alpha Cottages and then went up Lodes Lane to determine where the source of the problem was. He reported that most of the drains on Lodes Lane were full of leaves and water was flowing down the middle of the road as a result. He asked the Council whether SCC came out regularly to clear the drains. SCC Cllr Darch addressed the issue and said it was not a new problem. As a new County Council member, she has been trying to find out what the standard County Council clearance rate is. In high-risk areas the gullies are de-silted and cleared once a year and in non-high-risk areas possibly every other year. She has repeatedly reported the flood issues on the Kingston Road and has had a very helpful response from an Officer who supports the Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA). SRA makes decisions about extra action for managing flood risk. Kingston St Mary has benefitted from this. The SRA funded a big scheme of drainage improvements down Lodes Lane delivered in April 2021 and in association with this FWAG looked at land nearby to consider ways to reduce the amount of water running down on to the Kingston Road. For several years SRA has provided funding for an extra round of clearing for gullies on SCC's list of high-risk annual gully cleaning rounds enabling high risk gullies to be cleared twice a year. Lodes Lane is on the high-risk annual gully cleaning round. However, Lodes Lane did not get an extra round of cleaning in 2021/22 and the reason for this is because of Highways having problems with contractors. Cllr Darch will try to find out whether this extra round of clearing will be carried out in 2022/23. She said as a Councillor it is very hard to get a response from Highways directly, however, Highways is very keen for people to report problems of flooding. She said reports do not guarantee that something will happen because SCC are prioritising areas with high risk. Please do not stop reporting issues and please continue to go out and clear if you are not putting yourself at risk. She also said there has been recent activity from FWAG to work with farmers on Lodes Lane to help reduce flooding on the lane and mentioned additional work being done on Lodes Lane presently. The Council agreed to consider forming a group of volunteers to help deal with emergencies in the village.	Whole Council
	vi.	**Street Lighting – Sawyers Leigh, Kingston St Mary** A member of the public raised her concerns about the level of lighting in Sawyers Leigh and wanted to know what was happening with this matter. The Council advised her the recommendations from fellow residents was for the lights to be tuned off from 11.00 to 06.30 and 4 of the lights to be permanently turned off. The Council agreed to pass the recommendations to highways and ask them to provide a cost for the alterations.	Chair

	vii. **Highway Improvements and Community Speed Watch** – The Chair advised the SID is back in operation and the new bracket has been installed. Cllr Simpson agreed to keep an eye on the parking situation on the Kingston Road by the garage. viii. **Parish Councillors – co-option of** – The Chair said the co-opting process wasn't going very well. There were a couple of people who might be interested and he and Cllr Stripp agreed to approach them directly.	Chair / Cllr Stripp
6.0	**Relief in Need Charity** – appoint Trustees The Council was in favour and agreed to appoint Rory O'Donnell and Sarah Hancock as Trustees to the Kingston St Mary Relief in Need Charity.	
7.0	**Warm Spaces Provision –** The Chair advised the Council the Parish had been asked if it could identify a warm space for the winter. After consultation, it was decided there was no need for a warm space in the Parish at the present time. It was agreed that this would be monitored and if the need arose a warm space would be identified. The Clerk agreed to respond to the Warm Spaces questionnaire on behalf of the Council.	Clerk
8.0	**Half-yearly Review of 2022-23 Accounts –** The Chair advised the Council he had audited the half yearly accounts and was satisfied they were in good shape. He said the forecasts to the end of the financial year showed operational costs to be on target and income will be higher because of the grants we have received for the playing field. He went on to say reserves expenditure was forecast to be c £43k, broken down as follows: £15k traffic calming, £12k for the playing field and £10k for the neighbourhood plan. We will be carrying forward reserves of about £13k at the end of the year.	
9.0	**Draft Budget and Precept for 2023-24 –** The Chair reviewed the draft budget and precept for 2023/24 with the Council. He advised the Council that operational costs will increase slightly from £13.4k to £14k mainly reflecting inflationary pressures. The precept will be equal to the operational costs. As he has not included the discretionary grant in the precept, it will increase by c15% next year. He has set aside in the reserves £1k for the community celebration and £1k for the neighbourhood plan. He went on to say, reserves carried forward at the end of 2024 will be £16k compared to £13k at the end of this financial year. The Chair asked the Councillors if they had any questions. Thanks were given to both the Chair and the Clerk. The Council agreed to approve the budget for 2023/24. The Council also agreed to approve the precept for 2023/24.	
10.0	**KSM PC Meetings 2023** – agree dates The Council agreed the dates for next year's meetings which will be the second Tuesday in the month with no meeting in August. The Clerk agreed to send a list of dates to the Councillors and will publish the dates on the Kingston St Mary website.	Clerk
11.0	**Community Governance Review of Taunton and Surrounding Parishes –** The Chair advised the Community Governance Review had been approved by Somerset County Council and Kingston St Mary's parish boundary will now include the rural part of Staplegrove from April 2023. The Chair also mentioned the independent parliamentary boundary review and it is proposed that Kingston St Mary will remain part of Taunton. The consultation is open until 5 December and the Chair agreed to respond to it and say the Council is in favour of this.	Chair
12.0	**Local Community Networks –**	

	The Chair advised that after the Council's October meeting we received an e-mail from West Monkton Parish Council asking if KSM PC wanted to join them in a different LCN consideration including West Monkton, Cheddon Fitzpaine, North Petherton and others. The Council agreed they had already discussed and responded to the LCN consultation and that they were happy with the decisions made at the October Council meeting.	
13.0	**Climate Action Planning** – The Chair asked SCC Cllr Darch to talk to the Council about Climate Action Planning. She is hoping everyone has subscribed to the SWT Climate Newsletter. She has got some very good material to share with Parish Councils and communities and would like to reinstate the climate group but needs to pass the lead on to someone else as she doesn't have time to lead on this as well. Cllr Darch agreed to share the material with the Council and hopes she can find someone to take the climate group on.	SCC Cllr Darch
14.0	**Neighbourhood Plan** – The Chair asked Cllr Stripp to talk to the Council about the Neighbourhood Plan. He said the Active Travel Feasibility Study had been finished and copies printed out and they are now approaching landowners to discuss this with them. Cllr Stripp also talked about the open meeting and felt it went well despite it not being as well attended as he would have liked. He said the next step is to investigate setting up a Community Land Trust.	Cllr Stripp
15.0	**Kingston Community Partnership** – update The Chair asked Cllr Stripp for an update on the KCP. He said there was not a lot to say other than KCP will be doing the festive Christmas gifts again for vulnerable people and those living on their own. SCC Cllr Darch said another litter pick was being organised for the weekend of 10th and 11th December.	
16.0	**Financial Matters –** **The Council noted the October bank reconciliation and approved the following payments:** • £212.00 – Kingston St Mary Village Hall, hall hire for extraordinary meeting in August and winter meetings of the Council • £60.00 - Pete Miller Electrical Ltd, flood lighting for the Queens Jubilee The Clerk also advised the Council the payment approved in October for the SID bracket will be made payable to Neil Popham Steel Fabrications and not David Taylor. The cheque was approved for £120.00 but this did not include VAT so the cheque will be in the amount of £144.00, i.e. £120.00 + 24.00 VAT.	
17.0	**Items for Next Agenda –** Please pass any agenda items to the Clerk before the next meeting.	
18.0	**Items for Link Up and KSM Website –** The Chair will do a write up for Link Up.	
19.0	**Date of Next Meeting – 13th December 2022** The meeting closed at 21.36	
Signed:	**Dated:**	