KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 11th OCTOBER 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) Cllr D Perry (SCC) PCSO Simon Parry Apologies: None 11 members of the public were in attendance	
2.0	**Councillors' Declarations of Interest -** Cllr D Stripp declared an interest in agenda item 8.0	
3.0	**Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 19th July 2022 and Extraordinary Meeting held on 16th August 2022 -** **Resolved:** The minutes of both meetings were approved and will be signed as true records of the meetings at a future date.	
4.0	**Planning -** **a) Applications:** **Case Ref: 20/22/0025/CQ** - Application for Prior Approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to 1 No. dwelling house (Class C3) and associated building operations at Lower Marsh Farm, Kingston Road, Kingston St Mary The Council considered the above referenced planning application and resolved to fully support the application. The new building will significantly improve the site by making good use of a surplus agricultural building, which is of little architectural value. The conversion will also allow additional family members to reside at the farm thus helping to support Parish facilities and activities. **Case Ref: 20/22/0029/T** - Application to carry out management work to 1 No. Beech tree, 2 No. Birch trees and dismantle to ground level 1 No. White Poplar tree, 2 No, Sawara Cypress, 1 No. Balsam Poplar, 1 No. Ash tree within Kingston St Mary conservation area at Church Farmhouse, Church Lane, Kingston St Mary The Council considered the above referenced planning application and has no objection to this application to manage and fell these trees which are within the Kingston St Mary Conservation area.	
5.0	**Matters Outstanding from Previous Minutes -** **i.** **Oak Tree Maintenance -** The Chair asked the Clerk to revisit the quotes and request the contractors come back and look at the trees which may require maintenance. **ii.** **Kingston St Mary Community Orchard** – SCC Cllr Darch suggested the Council needed to act quickly on this with the new Unitary Council being formed. She agreed to ask SCC whether this piece of land could be acquired by the Playing Field and what costs would be associated with this.	Clerk / SCC Cllr Darch / Cllr Stripp

	iii. **Wildlife Surveys** – The Chair said he hadn't heard any more about the surveys. The Council agreed this item was no longer outstanding and could be removed from the agenda. iv. **Kingston St Mary Annual Community Event/Marquees** – Cllr Stripp discussed the possibility of a regular annual community event with the next event potentially on the day of the new King's Coronation. Cllr Stripp suggested the Council purchase a marquee which is currently owned by Kingston Community Partnership for these events. The question of storage came up and it was suggested a secure storage area may need to be looked at in the future. Cllr Stripp agreed to approach a village resident who may have a second marquee for sale. After discussion, the Council agreed to purchase the marquee from KCP for £250.00. v. **Kingston St Mary Beacon** – The Council agreed to discuss this item at a later date.	
6.0	**Mill Meadow Pre-Application Consultation** – The Chair invited Mr Chris Heayns, owner of Mill Meadow, to talk to the Council about Mill Meadow and the potential for housing for local people. Mr Heayns said he has had discussions with some of the Parish Councillors around housing stock in the village and the lack of certain types of houses as identified in the recent Housing Needs Survey conducted by the Council. These discussions and approaches he has had over the years from residents in the Parish have encouraged him to think about the existing planning application in place for Mill Meadow and the possibility of proposing an alternative to include a combination of both holiday and permanent dwellings. If the Parish Council is prepared to support this proposal, he would be happy to look at the prospect of local need and would consider providing up to 4 units for downsizing for retirement and 2 other homes for young people and families. To progress with this proposal, he asked for the unanimous support of the Parish Council and in addition he felt support from the wider community would be needed. Cllr Stripp gave a summary of the results of the housing needs survey and stated it had concluded that some 20-25 people in the village want to downsize in the next few years and would like to stay in the village. He went on to say the Council would like to focus on sites that already have planning permission to try to fill some of these needs rather than introducing new sites. The Councillors discussed the issue in depth and agreed in principle, to fully support the proposal to allow a small number of unbuilt Mill Meadow holiday lodges, which already have planning permission, to be occupied as a person's sole or main residence. It was felt this proposal, if submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority, would go some way towards meeting the local community need for smaller homes, as highlighted in Kingston St Mary's recent Housing Survey.	
7.0	**Parish Councillors** – Co-option of The Chair said we need more Parish Councillors and have been advertising the vacancies on social media and in Linkup. If any of the Councillors can think of people who might be interested, please ask them to come along to a future meeting.	Whole Council
8.0	**Kingston Stream** – Condition of The Chair invited a member of the public to talk to the Council about Kingston Stream. The member of the public referred to a report he had sent the Council after the recent site meeting and explained the local concern regarding the Kingston Stream and Mill Cross Chamber, where the watercourse bifurcates. Presently, no water is flowing at all down the channel next to Kingston Road. As far as he can ascertain the trash screens are blocked up which affects properties upstream. The alternative route down Parsonage Lane isn't affected because of the fall of the land. He and others feel there should be a balance between the two flows. In the past this has been done by residents keeping the chamber clear however the County Council put a locked grid on it which means it is not accessible and recently no maintenance	Chair / SCC Cllr Darch

	appears to have been done. He has sent reminders from time to time to the County Council since the chamber has been locked which were acknowledged previously but now are not. He went on to say that one side of the stream is degrading progressively season by season and what is needed, he feels, is regular, supervised and determined maintenance. SCC Cllr Darch acknowledged the concerns and said this is the first she has heard of the problem. She asked to have the e-mails forwarded to her and she will try to find a 'person' in the Council who can deal with the issue. She went on to say that a collaborative community effort would be great but access to the chamber was necessary. The issue was discussed by the Council and the Chair and SCC Cllr Darch agreed to follow up on the e-mails and try and identify who in the Council can take responsibility for this matter and help rectify the problem.	
9.0	**Surface water** – Problems The Chair mentioned the continued problem of surface water flooding on Church Lane and Lodes Lane which happened again in August. The Council agreed that SCC needed to be more proactive and ensure regular clearing of the drains in Kingston St Mary as currently routine maintenance doesn't appear to be happening. They also agreed the reasons why theses lanes flood quite regularly should be determined. SCC Cllr Darch agreed to try to find out if there was a maintenance programme in place for the clearing of drains in Kingston St Mary including Church Lane, Lodes Lanes and the chamber under the grid at Mill Cross and the frequency of the clearing. She also said she would ask if the Parish Council could contribute towards the budget to ensure maintenance was carried out regularly.	SCC Cllr Darch
10.0	**Street Lighting** – Sawyers Leigh, Kingston St Mary The Chair invited a member of the public to talk to the Council about the street lighting at Sawyer's Leigh and asked for her recommendations after surveying residents of Sawyer's Leigh. The member of the public reported back to the Council with the results of the survey. She said 80% of respondents wanted either no lights or reduced hours of operation at night, 64% of respondents said they would like reduced hours of operation atnight and 20% were happy with the lights as they are. She recommended to the Council that the lighting be reduced based on the results of the survey. She also said the survey concluded that 3/4 streetlights were troublesome to individual households and ideally if these lights could be turned off all together and the remaining 8 to have reduced hours of operation this would satisfy most of the residents who responded to the survey. SCC Cllr Darch suggested the survey be taken back to County and looked at it in conjunction with the Officer's report. Cllr Darch said she had raised this issue at an Executive meeting and it has triggered a review of streetlights across the County. The Council discussed the issue and voted to support the member of the public's recommendations based on the survey results and take it to County and obtain a cost to turn the lights on and off as per the results of the survey.	Chair / SCC Cllr Darch
11.0	**Kingston St Mary Playing Field -** Accounts The Chair advised the Council the accounts for the Playing Field needed to be filed with the Charity Commission and asked the Council to approve the accounts. The Council approved the accounts.	
12.0	**Highway Improvements and Community Speedwatch** – The Chair invited a member of the public in attendance to discuss her concerns regarding parking on the Kingston Road outside of Kingston Garage.	Chairman / Cllr Simpson/ SCC Cllr

	PCSO Simon Parry who was also in attendance to talk about community policing said that unless there is a restriction on the roadside it is open parking. The police will only deal with dangerously parked vehicles. This issue he feels is a matter for the Parish Council, SCC Highways and the Garage owner to resolve. The local speed limit is 20mph and motorists should precede with caution when faced with a blind corner and a single carriage way. Cllr Stripp emphasised it had taken the Parish Council more than 5 years to get the speed limit restrictions agreed and implemented in the village and this is really the best solution to the issue of parked cars on the carriageway. The Councillors discussed the situation and acknowledged that there are different views regarding the cars parked on the carriageway and the Council accepted it has no legal grounds on which to act in this matter. The Chair and Cllr Simpson agreed to talk to the garage owner and request that he park fewer cars on the road whenever possible to allow motorists to have a better view of the road ahead making it easier to pass. The Council also discussed the speed limit restrictions in the village and that SCC Highways had not yet responded to its request for improvements to the newly implemented speed restrictions. SCC Cllr Darch agreed to contact the Highways Officer to see if an update was available. The Clerk agreed to forward the correspondence between the Council and the Officer to Cllr Darch to follow up.	Darch / Clerk
13.0	**Community Governance Review of Taunton and Surrounding Parishes –** The Chair invited SCC Cllr Perry to talk to the Council about the CGR. Cllr Perry said the conclusion of the review was as expected and there are no changes for Kingston St Mary PC other than minor boundary changes and that we will have a new neighbour as a Parish Council. He explained the process leading up to the establishment of the new Town Council which formally comes into being on the 1st April, 2023. The elections will be held on the first Thursday in May and post-election day there will be a fully elected Town Council. The intervening time period between April and May will consist of a formally constituted Council with appointees filling the gap for a month and from now until then there will be a Shadow Council which will be made up of various different individuals including unparished area Councillors, County Councillors and representatives from the parishes that will become part of the new Town Council. The Council discussed the outcome of the Community Governance review in more detail.	
14.0	**Local Community Networks –** The Chair told the Council that he and the Clerk had attended a conference on the 4th October where LCNs were discussed in more detail. He said the consultation around LCNs closes on the 17th October and he would like the PC to respond to the consultation. The Chair said there are 3 boundary options being put forward and the Council needs to choose which one is best suited for Kingston St Mary Parish. He outlined the three options as follows: Option A - based on geography, this option tries to get the area of each network the same or a similar size and this would place KSM in the same LCN as Taunton with a mixture of urban and rural areas included. Option B – based on population, this option would put KSM in a rural LCN which excludes Taunton but includes the Quantocks and some of the Levels. Option C – based on a total of 10 LCNs throughout Somerset and it puts KSM with Taunton and other unrelated parishes. The Council discussed the pros and cons of the different options and agreed to vote on the options with the result of the vote below. Option A – 2 votes Option B – 2 votes Option C – 1 vote	Chair

	The Council agreed that as the Chair had the casting vote and he voted for Option B this was the Council's preferred choice. The Chair agreed to complete and submit the consultation on behalf of the Council showing a preference for Option B.	
15.0	**Neighbourhood Policing** – PCSO Simon Parry introduced himself and said he together with PCSO Marshall Bernhardt and PCSO Lyndsay Smith were the PCSOs for Kingston St Mary. He gave the PC his contact details and said that parishioners should contact 101 for suspicious activities and 999 if a crime was occurring. This item was also discussed as part of agenda item 12 above.	
16.0	**Climate Action Planning** – Due to the length of the meeting, the Council agreed to leave this item until the November meeting.	
17.0	**Neighbourhood Plan** – Cllr Stripp advised the Council of the open meeting on the 20th and asked them to attend if they could.	Cllr Stripp
18.0	**Financial Matters –** **The Council noted the September bank reconciliation and approved the following payments:** • £120.00, David Taylor – Steel bracket for speed indicator device • £248.78, SALC – Affiliation fee for April 2022 – March 2023 • £207.79, SW&T – 2 x dog waste bins emptied once weekly for 2nd qtr, 01/07-30/09/2022 • £238.43, – Steen R&W - Semi-annual invoice for editorial and technical maintenance of KSM PC webpages, Essential Hosting Package and Domain Renewal with Eco Web Hosting • £170.40, HMRC – Clerks' PAYE for JUL/AUG & SEP • £1768.51, Gopak Ltd - Furniture for the pavilion (grant funding secured for this purchase) • £1380.00, DFE (UK) Ltd – Picnic benches for the playing field **The Council noted the following receipts:** • £1,250.00 – Parish Grant 22/23 • £6,192.50 - Precept 22/23 P2	
19.0	**Items for Next Agenda –** Please pass any agenda items to the Clerk before the next meeting.	
20.0	**Items for Link Up and KSM Website –** The Chair will do a write up for Link Up.	
21.0	**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	
22.0	**Date of Next Meeting – 8th November 2022** The meeting closed at 22.15	
Signed:	**Dated:**	