KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON 12th SEPTEMBER 2023
AT THE PAVILION, KINGSTON ST MARY PLAYING FIELDS, STARTING AT 19.00

Item No	Item	Action By
1.0	**Attendance and Apologies -** In attendance: Cllr P Townsend (Chairman) Cllr P Boyce Cllr P Chicken Cllr S Hancock Cllr D Stripp Mrs K Gibbins (Parish Clerk) Cllr D Darch (Somerset) Apologies: Cllr A Simpson 5 members of the public were in attendance.	
2.0	**Councillors' Declarations of Interest** – None	
3.0	**Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 11th July 2023** **Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting were approved and will be signed as a true record at a future date.	
4.0	**Planning** **a) Applications -** **Case Ref 20/23/0032 and 20/23/0033/LB** - Erection of pool house structure, installation of french doors and 2 No. conservation rooflights, erection of extension to first floor with internal configuration at Stonehouse Farm, Edgeborough Farm Road, Staplegrove The Parish Council considered the above planning application and noted that these relatively modest and sympathetic alterations will make better use of Stonehouse Farm's living accommodation and its outbuildings. From a material planning consideration, the alterations and positioning of the pool house and garden shed will be a minimal intervention into the historic fabric of this Grade II listed farmhouse and its setting. The Parish Council resolved to fully support the application. **Case Ref: 20/23/0029** - Change of use of agricultural land to dog paddock at Sweeters Pocket, Pickney Lane, Kingston St Mary The Parish Council considered the above planning application and noted that the creation of a dog paddock is a much-needed local facility for dog walkers, which will prevent dogs coming into contact with livestock when being exercised in a predominately rural environment. Despite concerns regarding the generation of additional vehicle movements using narrow country lanes to access this facility, it was considered that on balance the benefits of the proposed dog paddock outweighed these reservations. From a material planning consideration, the dog paddock will provide an additional income stream for business diversification purposes, providing an economic benefit to the local area. The Parish Council resolved to support this application. **Case Ref: 20/23/0030/T** - Notification to fell one cypress tree within Kingston St. Mary Conservation Area at Myrtle House, Church Lane, Kingston St. Mary The Parish Council considered the above planning application and noted that the cypress tree was dying and in very poor condition and should therefore be felled.	

	The applicant should be aware that nesting birds and bats are protected and if discovered must not be disturbed. If works are to be carried out during the breeding season (February to August, possibly later) then the tree should be checked for nesting birds before work begins. The Parish Council resolved to fully support this application. **Case Ref: 38/23/0256** - Consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 to underground existing overhead electricity lines and for the erection of associated replacement terminal towers on land west of Staplegrove, Taunton **Case Ref: 38/23/0256** - Consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 to install and keep installed above ground an electric line of voltage on land west of Staplegrove, Taunton The Parish Council considered the Chairman's response to the above planning application and agreed the application does not provide sufficient information concerning its impact on trees and hedgerows. Nor does it provide for the delivery of measurable improvements in biodiversity by creating or enhancing habitats in line with national requirements for biodiversity net gain. The Ecological Report dated February 2016 relates to the entirety of the Staplegrove West site and is not specific to this planning application. Taking the above material planning considerations into account, the Parish Council agreed to support the Chairman's objection to Planning Application 38/23/0256 as it's not possible to assess the impact of this planning application on the natural environment. **b) Refusals**: **Case Ref: 20/23/0020** - Removal of Condition No. 01 (holiday occupancy) of appeal decision of application 20/06/0039 at Plots 19 and 20 Mill Meadow, Parsonage Lane, Kingston St Mary The Parish Council discussed the issues and concerns raised around the refusal of the above referenced planning application and agreed to wait for a decision to be made on the appeal which will be submitted by the applicant.	
5.0	**Matters Outstanding from Previous Minutes –** **i. Parish Emergency Plan –** Somerset Cllr Darch spoke to the Parish Council and firstly gave thanks to the Webmaster for converting the proforma provided into a user-friendly document online as well as the mapping work which he has completed. She also thanked Cllrs Strip and Simpson for their work on helping with areas of the plan. She went on to say the document was nearly complete and the Emergency Plan key holder names were still to be finalised and authorisation required from these people and/or organisations to be GDPR compliant. Once these permissions have been given the document will be uploaded to the website. Cllr Stripp said it would be good to take the opportunity to arrange a meeting of all the Good Neighbour Volunteers (GNV) in the Village to allow these individuals to meet one another, to discuss the emergency plan and to answer any questions and or concerns they may have about it. He asked the Parish Council to support this financially. Cllr Darch went on to discuss materials sent to her by the Wessex Flood Team and how to disseminate this information to the community. She felt sharing it on-line might be the best approach. The emphasis is on being prepared and having a flood plan. These materials could be handed out to the GNVs at the meeting and 100 copies would be sufficient. The Chair asked Cllr Darch to add the grit bins to the emergency plan.	Cllr Darch/Cllr Stripp

	ii. **Kingston St Mary Village Gate –** The Chair advised the village gate was currently being erected. iii. **The Chair's Awards for Service to the Community 2023** – The Chair advised the nomination for Link-up had been accepted and he has been invited to the event which will take place in October. iv. **Noticeboard – Staplegrove Rural Area** The Clerk advised she had not received a response from Somerset Highways about erecting a noticeboard at the end of Edgeborough Lane and would chase this up. v. **D-Day 80th Anniversary Beacon and Fete – 6 June 2024 –** The Council agreed to discuss this item at the October meeting.	
6.0	**Creating Places for People** – Consultation The Chair and Parish Councillors agreed to find out more about this consultation and discuss it further at the October meeting. It was felt both the Council and individuals within the Parish should be encouraged to respond to the consultation. The Webmaster agreed to upload information about it to the website and the Chair agreed to put a piece about it in Link-up.	Chair
7.0	**State of Hedges and Overgrowth Encroaching on to Highway** In response to the Neighbourhood Plan a resident pointed out that the hedges in the village are quite overgrown and this makes it dangerous for walkers and cyclists. The Council decided this was a Somerset Council Highways issue and Cllr Darch agreed to flag this up with Highways. She advised Somerset Council has stated in the past that they will only cut back hedges and vegetation if there is a health and safety or visibility issue.	Cllr Darch
8.0	**Tree Inspections** The Chair referred the Council to the comparison he had done of the 2 quotes and recommended that the Council now act on the recommendations as there are trees with Ash dieback as well as dead trees which need removing. The Chair proposed the Council accept the Groves Associates quote of GBP1670.00 and that the Council budget for the Ash dieback works needed next year and the year after. The Chair asked the Clerk to obtain another quote from Arboricare for work required on the Oak tree on Tarr Lane. The Council agreed clarification was needed on certain points on the Grove Associates quote but agreed to the expenditure this financial year.	Clerk
9.0	**Parish Path Liaison Officer** – Parish Council Insurance The Clerk said she had a conversation with the insurers, and they said that yes, our PPLO is covered on our insurance provided the Council risk assesses the activities he is doing, he wears hi-vis and he only works on roads with a 30 mph speed limit or less. If we want him to do work on roads with a speed limit greater than 30 mph the insurance representative suggested we send an e-mail detailing what we want him to do and the reasons why we think the underwriters should cover him and they will send it to the underwriters. The Council felt it was important to try and get more volunteers to cover smaller areas and the Chair said he would put something in Link-up.	Chair/Clerk
10.0	**Marquee Hire** The Chair advised we have had a request to hire the marquees for a wedding next year and Cllr Stripp said there had been a few additional enquiries. The Council	Clerk

	discussed the standard terms and conditions of hire and the advantages/disadvantages and concerns involved in hiring them. The Clerk agreed to contact both SALC and the insurers to make sure the Council was covered should they decide to hire out the marquees.	
11.0	**Mill Cross Grit Bin** The Chair has had a request from a resident for a grit bin at Mill Cross. The Council discussed this and agreed it has been dangerous in the past and felt it would be very sensible to put a grit bin there. It was also agreed that there should be one by the school as this road gets very slippery and that it could be sited in the car park or possibly by the noticeboard. The Chair said Somerset Council was performing a grit bin audit and he would like to advise them of the locations of the bins. The Council agreed to purchase 2 new grit bins, one for Mill Cross and a second for outside the school.	Chair
12.0	**Local Community Networks** – update The Chair said the minutes from the first Hestercombe LCN meeting were in the meeting papers and that the next meeting was scheduled for 2nd October.	
13.0	**Climate Change** – update Cllr Darch advised the Council she had booked Target $C0_2$ to come and give a talk in the village hall on Thursday, 26th October from 7-9 about retrofit and the Chair agreed to put a piece in Link-up about it. Cllr Darch said it would be a discreet talk about retrofit by a very experienced firm which perform audits on homes and help identify ways in which a home can become more climate friendly. The Council agreed it would be a good way of raising awareness of how residents might make improvement to their properties to make them more energy efficient. She also said the Climate Change Action Plan was now on the website and thanks to Paolo van der Steenhoven and Steve Bisiker for their work on this.	Chair
14.0	**Neighbourhood Plan** – update Cllr Stripp confirmed the plan was submitted in August. Comments had come back, and the plan was updated and sent to Somerset Council together with the supporting documentation. Once they have reviewed it, the plan will go out for another 6-week consultation and hopefully by the end of October it will go to examination. He confirmed the Parish Council will jointly appoint the independent examiner with Somerset Council Planning. Cllr Stripp said it is unlikely the process will be done by the end of the year but most likely now in the spring of 2024. The Chair thanked Cllr Stripp for all his hard work with the Neighbourhood Plan.	
15.0	**Kingston Community Partnership** – update Cllr Stripp said that the Kingston St Mary Neighbourhood Watch rep was likely to give this up soon. He was hoping to have a chat with the Nailsbourne Neighbourhood Watch rep to see if he might take on this role for the entire village. The Council discussed the possibility of supporting an apple tree planting scheme in the village and encouraging residents to try and recultivate the Kingston Black apple. It was agreed Cllr Stripp would put an article in Link-up.	Cllr Stripp

16.0	**Playing Field Shelter** – update The Council agreed to discuss this in the October meeting.	
17.0	**Internal Audit/Quarterly Review to June 2023** The Chair thanked the Clerk for keeping the Parish Council's financial records in good order. He went on to say there was nothing of note in the audit and that he had looked at the position to the end of July. He went over the key income and expenditure figures as well as the reserves and said all items were on target.	
18.0	**Financial Matters -** The Council noted the May bank reconciliation and approved the following payments: • £228.70 – Somerset Council, 1st April – 30th June 2023 x 2 bins emptied once weekly • £25.00 – SALC, Councillor Training, Responding to Planning Applications, 12 July 2023 • £25.00 - SALC, Councillor Training, Finance & Governance, 17 July 2023 • £500.00 – Link-up, annual donation to be used as follows: £300.00 for printing additional copies for Staplegrove area and £200.00 towards operational costs	
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	**Date of Next Meeting - 10th October 2023** The meeting closed at 21.18	
Signed:	**Dated:**	