KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON 12th DECEMBER 2024
AT THE VILLAGE HALL, KINGSTON ST MARY, STARTING AT 19.00

Item No	Item	Action By
1.0	**Attendance and Apologies -** In attendance: Cllr P Townsend (Chairman) Cllr A Simpson Cllr D Stripp Cllr D Perry (Somerset) Cllr N O'Donnell (Somerset) Mrs K Gibbins (Parish Clerk) Apologies: Cllr P Boyce, Cllr Hancock 6 members of the public were in attendance	
2.0	**Councillors' Declarations of Interest** - None	
3.0	**Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 12th November 2024** **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: 20/24/0034** - Removal of storage buildings and erection of replacement site workshop, welfare and storage unit with EV charging at Mill Meadow, Parsonage Lane, Kingston St Mary. The Council considered the above planning application and resolved to fully support it. **Case Ref: 20/24/0029** - Removal of Condition No. 07 (demolition of building) of application 20/17/0027 at Ilbeare, Cattle Wash, Fitzroy Road, Norton Fitzwarren The Council considered the above planning application and resolved to fully support it provided planning approval is conditional upon the property only being used for storage or as a workshop. **Case Ref: 20/24/0035/LEW** - Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of a dwelling in breach of the agricultural occupancy condition at Burlands Lodge, Langford Lane, Staplegrove The Council considered the above planning application and resolved to fully support it. **Case Ref: 38/23/0347** - Variation of Condition No. 02 (to amend the approved Masterplan and add Parameter Plans); Condition No. 24 (relating to delivery of the spine road); Condition No. 25 (relating to the delivery of the Corkscrew Lane temporary access) of the permission with reference 34/16/0007 for the development of land at Staplegrove West, Taunton (The Staplegrove Garden Community) The Council considered the above planning application and resolved that the Council's previous comments submitted on 15th December 2023 still stand. Please note that the Parish Council's full response to the above planning applications can be found on Somerset Council's website or by following the link below. https://www3.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/asp/webpages/plan/plapplookup.asp	
5.0	**Matters Outstanding from Previous Minutes -** i. **Internet Banking** – The Council agreed to carry this agenda item forward and hopes to have it addressed in the first quarter of 2025. The Clerk advised Unity Bank has been recommended by	Chair/Clerk

		the Council's Internal Auditor who is Clerk to several Parish Councils in the area.	
	ii.	**Mill Cross Road and Country Lane Markings** – The Chair advised this item will be discussed under agenda item iv.	
	iii.	**Finger Posts** – The Clerk advised she has still not received a quote from West Country Blacksmiths despite chasing them and wonders if they are busy leading up to Christmas. She has now been contacted by the Clerk to Wembdon PC with the names of 2 foundries which undertook restoration work in Wembdon parish. A foundry in Chard and a second called Mark Foundry have been recommended. The Clerk agreed to continue to progress this agenda item.	Clerk
	iv.	**Condition of Kingston Stream** – The Chair advised he had contacted Kier, Somerset Council's highways contractor, and they have come back with a quote to clear the ditches, gullies and repaint the white lining at Mill Cross. He said the Parish Council will need to consider this cost for next year. The Chair emphasised this quote does not include ongoing management of the system just clearing the current build up. He is hoping to clarify with Kier exactly what work would be undertaken. A member of the public present at the meeting requested the clearing of this ditch be incorporated into a regular maintenance schedule. The Chair advised this work, if done, would now need to be paid for by the Parish Council. The member of the public mentioned a detailed document produced by Calm Engineering Consultants regarding Somerset's waterways which contains a framework for maintaining these and his understanding is that Somerset Council has approved and accepted this document. He feels this item is not progressing and there is no communication between the relevant authorities. He has therefore come up with his own recommendations which he said he would leave until a later date. No resolution was agreed, and the item remains open awaiting further communication from Somerset Council regarding future highways maintenance and additional information from Kier. The Council went on to discuss the concerns regarding public liability should the Parish Council take on responsibility for clearing the ditch/chamber. The Council questioned who would be responsible if water spilled on to the road and caused an accident? The Clerk agreed to contact the Council's insurers to obtain guidance on this.	Chair
	v.	**Road Safety** – The Chair advised he had written to Hatch Green Coaches and his letter was then passed on to Somerset Council. Somerset Council's School Transport Manager has said the matter has been the subject of a Stage One and Stage Two review and neither review has been upheld. The Council resolved that it was not able to take this item any further and would advise the member of the public of the situation.	Clerk
	vi.	**Somerset Council Electoral Division Boundaries Consultation** – The Chair advised the Council about a public consultation being undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), which closes on 20 January 2025, asking for suggestions about where Somerset Electoral Divisional boundaries should be. The LGBCE has decided that there will be 96 Somerset Councillors. In addition, Somerset Council has requested that each Councillor should represent a single Division. This is a change from the current arrangements, which has 110 Councillors with 2 Councillors representing each Division, consequently the number of Somerset's Electoral Divisions will increase from 55 to 96. The Chair referred the Council to his review report in the meeting papers. The Council discussed the Chair's report and agreed the divisions should align with the LCNs. The Council agreed the review report should be submitted	Chair

	to the LGBCE and shared with all LCNs to get feedback and support for the proposal from other LCNs.	
6.0	**Somerset Parishes Conference –** This agenda item was not discussed.	
7.0	**Enhanced Highways Maintenance –** This agenda item was covered under agenda items iv and v.	
8.0	**Draft Budget/Precept –** The Chair referred the Council to the letter received from Cllr Bill Revans, Leader of Somerset Council and the continued financial struggles Somerset Council is facing as it awaits details of the draft financial settlement from Government. The implications suggest a possible rise in Council Tax. The Clerk advised the precept request had been received and the request needs to be submitted by 31 January 2025. The Council discussed the amounts earmarked for Highways and Natural Environment in the 2025/26 budget and agreed these amounts would go quite quickly. The Clerk advised the Parish Council had the power to spend money on play equipment.	
9.0	**Local Community Network** – update Cllr Stripp updated the Council on the work of the Children and Young People's Working Group which he chairs. They are currently surveying young people in the LCN with the goal of the survey results directing the projects of the Working Group. SALC has provided seed funding to do the initial gathering of information. The Working Group has asked each PC in the LCN to allocate 5% of its 2025/26 precept to youth work.	
10.0	**Climate Emergency** – update The Clerk mentioned the Emergency Plan and reminded the Council that the EP needs to be reviewed, and any changes need to be submitted to the Clerk for inclusion in the updated plan.	Clerk
11.0	**Neighbourhood Plan** – Review of KSM NP Policies 1, 2 & 3 The Council agreed to push this agenda item back for discussion at its January meeting.	Whole Council
12.0	**Kingston St Mary Community Land Trust** – update The Council agreed to push this agenda item back for discussion at its January meeting.	
13.0	**Kingston Community Partnership** – update Cllr Simpson updated the Council on the Good Neighbours Scheme and confirmed they were successful at getting a festive grant of £250 from Somerset Community Foundation. The GNVs have made recommendations regarding who they feel may benefit from the festive fund. Cllr Stripp reminded everyone of the organised community litter pick this weekend.	
14.0	**Financial Matters –**	

	The Council noted the monthly bank reconciliation and approved it as well as approved the following payment: • £200.00 – West Monkton Parish Council, donation towards FUNFEST@MAIDENBROOK 2025	
15.0	**Items for Next Agenda –** Speed limits on Buncombe Hill and Emergency Plan. Please pass any additional agenda items to the Clerk before the next meeting.	
16.0	**Items for Link-Up and KSM Website –** The Chair will submit a write up for Link-Up.	
17.0	**Date of Next Meeting – 14th January 2025** The meeting closed at 20.42	
Signed:		
Dated:		