KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON 12th NOVEMBER 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 P Boyce Cllr S Hancock Cllr A Simpson Cllr D Stripp Cllr D Perry (Somerset) Mrs K Gibbins (Parish Clerk) Apologies: None 4 members of the public were in attendance	
2.0	**Councillors' Declarations of Interest** - None	
3.0	**Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 8th October 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: 20/24/0032** - Application for a Non-Material Amendment to application 20/23/0044 for the addition of a condition listing the approved plans to clarify the plans approved and to enable the phasing of the development at Mill Meadow, Parsonage Lane, Kingston St Mary The Council considered the above planning application and resolved to make no comments. **Case Ref: 20/24/0033 -** Notification to carry out management works to one cherry tree within Kingston St. Mary Conservation Area at Kingston Village Hall, Church Lane, Kingston St. Mary The Council considered the above planning application and resolved to fully support the application. **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 response to this application submitted 15 December 2023 still stands. 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.	Chair/Clerk

	ii.	**Parish Lengths Man** – The Chair updated the Council on the position with the Kingston Stream and advised he and Cllr Stripp had met with Somerset Council Highway's contractor Kier and asked them to quote for the clearing of the ditches on the Kingston Road. The contractors have agreed to provide a quote and make suggestions for other options to make sure the road is safe for motorists. The Clerk advised she had spoken to the Parish Council's existing contractor, and he would be happy to provide lengths man services to the Council on an ad hoc basis and has capacity to do this. He suggested the PC draft up an annual schedule of jobs they require doing and this would then make it clearer as to the total hours we might need him for. He advised his current fee is £25/hour but this will be increasing to £26/hour in January 2025.	
	iii.	**Mill Cross Road and Country Lane Markings** – The Chair advised he brought this matter up with the Kier contractor when he spoke to them about the clearing of the ditches.	Chair
	iv.	**Improvements to Playing Field Access** – The Chair suggested this agenda item be discussed when the Council spoke about the draft budget.	
	v.	**Somerset Local Plan –** The Chair referred the Council to the Somerset Local Plan Engagement Activity 1 and the 2 papers he has prepared in relation to the local plan. The Council pointed out that the parish wanted to remain a rural settlement, and this needed to be corrected. They went on to discuss the settlement assessment overview and what the priorities should be in a settlement. The question was whether the survey was to be answered based on a generic settlement or on the settlement of Kingston St Mary. The Council agreed to answer the survey from the community of Kingston St Mary's point of view. It was agreed the following services were priorities in the village; Primary School; Nursery/Pre-School; Children's Play Area; Village Hall, Pub, Recreation Ground, Church and Food Shop. The Council went on to discuss and debate the key issues and the infrastructure priorities. The Council agreed to submit the Engagement Activity 1 and the two papers prepared by the Chair, i.e. KSM Role and Function of Settlement and KSM PC's Somerset Local Plan Settlement Limit Submission.	Chair
	vi.	**Finger Posts** – The Clerk advised the Council she has requested a quote from West Country Blacksmiths for repair work to the two damaged fingerposts. She said she is also trying to source another supplier so that she can get a second quote. Once quotes are received the Council should be able to apply for a grant from CPRE to help fund the cost of the repairs. The Clerk agreed to continue to progress this agenda item.	Clerk
	vii.	**Active Travel Routes/Footpath updates –** The Chair advised he has received a 'toolkit' / guidance from Somerset Council on taking on or doing more footpath maintenance. The Council agreed they would need to ask for volunteers and suggested they create an 'adopt a footpath' scheme. This could either mean a parishioner adopts a footpath close to their home and agrees to maintain it or reports back to the Council through the website with areas requiring attention. A schedule of work required could be kept and a lengths man contracted on an ad hoc basis to do the required work.	
	viii.	**Emergency Plan –** The Chair asked the Councillors to look at the updated Emergency Plan and get back to the Clerk before the next meeting with any amendments.	Clerk
	ix.	**Nerrols 3 Open Letter –** The Chair referred the Council to Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council's open letter to the CEO of Somerset Council.	

	x. **FUNFEST@Maidenbrook 2025 –** The Chair advised he attended the FUNFEST meeting. The FUNFEST is being planned for 12th July, 2025 and is a family funday with evening entertainment for surrounding parishes. West Monkton Parish Council which is organising the event has asked for a £200 donation towards the cost of running it. The Chair offered the use of Kingston St Mary Parish Council's 2 x marquees. The Council discussed the event and agreed they would like to support West Monkton with the event and would make a donation of £200.00 towards it.	
6.0	**Kingston St Mary Playing Field –** The Council discussed the above agenda item under agenda item 10 – Draft Budget/Precept.	
7.0	**Kingston St Mary Educational Fund –** The Chair asked a member of the public present at the meeting to talk to the Council about this agenda item. The member of the public, a trustee of the charity, reported it had been about a year since 2 new trustees were appointed to the fund and this past year had been very quiet with only 2 applications for support received. He went on to say only one of the 2 applicants was awarded the funding as the second applicant never responded to requests for a receipt for a donation to be made. The Educational Fund currently has a cash balance of just under £4,000 and generally funds the school trip for families who meet certain criteria. This amount historically has equated to £1,500 – £2,000. Taking this into consideration, there will still be a fair amount of money available in the fund and he asked the Council to please encourage people who need support to apply. He went on to say the main reason for attending the meeting was to let the Council know he will be resigning from his role and the Council is responsible for nominating a replacement. Ideally, he would like to resign now but would be happy to work alongside the new appointee for the next 6 months. He said it is so infrequent that the fund receives applications meaning it is a very lightwork load. The person who takes on the role will need to submit an annual return to the Charities Commission which takes 10 minutes as the fund has approximately 8 receipts and makes 2-3 payments a year. According to the Educational Funds Constitution, the board of trustees should comprise of, the Vicar/Rector, 2 x Parish Councillors and 2 x other people appointed by the Parish Council. The Council discussed this and agreed it might be sensible to have one trustee sit on the boards of both village charities as this may help the charities make best use of the funds between them. The Council also agreed it would be sensible to do a joint article for Link-Up from both charities explaining a bit about each and that they are both looking for new trustees. It was understood that if new trustees are not found the Educational Fund may have to stop.	Whole Council
8.0	**Enhanced Highways Maintenance –** This agenda item was discussed by the Council under various other agenda item headings.	
9.0	**Road Safety –** The chair asked a member of the public attending the meeting to speak to the Council about this agenda item. The member of the public raised concerns about the safety of some of the young people who live in the village who will be waiting	Chair

	at the Garfield bus stop every morning for their transport to Pyrland Secondary School. The collection point and time have recently changed as the service is now being provided by a different transport company. She together with other parents and the Head of Kingston St Mary Primary School have expressed concerns that the new time of 08.33 and new location present many safety issues for both the secondary school pupils and the primary school children. It is an incredibly busy time on this stretch of road as cars drive up to Greenway Terrace to turn around and approach the primary school to drop children off. She has asked Somerset Council to consider changing the pickup to an early time when the road is far less busy and therefore much safer for all. An earlier pickup will also allow for a bit of leeway should there be any delays on the road. It would also ensure the pupils get to school in good time allowing them to be ready for their school day. Somerset Council has listened to her concerns and has been in communication with the new transport provider but are satisfied the time and location are fine. Cllr Perry agreed to speak to the officer who is dealing with this matter at the Council and reiterate the concerns raised. The Parish Council resolved to write to the transport provider expressing the concerns of the local community and requesting the collection time be brought forward to 08.10-08.15.	
10.0	**Draft Budget/Precept -** The Chair spoke to the Council about the draft budget for 2025/26 and said he had put forward 2 options for the Council to consider, Option A and Option B. Option A proposes an increase in costs of £6,500 for highways maintenance, playing field maintenance and LCN youth provision. The funding for youth provision has been discussed within the LCN and the Children & Young People's Working Group which Cllr Stripp chairs. It has recommended each parish in the LCN contribute 5% of its precept to youth provision. This amounts to £1,000 for Kingston St Mary. SALC has agreed to provide funding to match the funds allocated to youth provision by the LCN. The Chair said he has also allocated £500 towards the Community Land Trust and £750 to increased costs due to inflation. The Chair said Option A would increase the precept to £23,550 for 2025/26 which is a 20% increase on Band D Council Tax amounting to an extra £0.15/week. Option B includes Option A increases as well as an additional £20,000 for new playing field equipment in the toddler area. The Council discussed the two options and agreed to also apply for funding from the National Lottery to assist with the costs of the improvements to the toddler area of the playing field. The Council resolved to adopt Budget Option B and approved the precept of £43,550 for 2025/26.	
11.0	**Somerset Council Electoral Division Boundaries and Consultation** – update Cllr Perry talked to the Council about the Electoral Division Boundaries Consultation. He advised it had been decided by cross party consensus that the new number of Councillors will be 96. This review is the initial consultation to redraw the electoral division boundaries based on the new number of Councillors. The Chair suggested it might be sensible to start with the LCNs when redrawing the new electoral boundaries. The Chair agreed to draw something up for the Council to review at its next meeting.	Chair
12.0	**Local Community Network** – update	

	The Chair advised this agenda item has been covered in other agenda item discussions this evening.	
13.0	**Climate Emergency** – update The Chair has registered the Parish Council's interest in a new flood action fund which will be launched soon by the Somerset Rivers Authority. The Chair agreed to advise the Council on this more fully once he knows more himself.	Chair
14.0	**Neighbourhood Plan** – update The Councillors agreed to review the first 3 policies/statements of intent in the Neighbourhood Plan for discussion at the December Parish Council meeting.	Whole Council
15.0	**Kingston St Mary Community Land Trust** – update Cllr Stripp said there were no significant developments to report now.	
16.0	**Kingston Community Partnership** – update The Chair said the new defibrillator at Smokey Farm in Edgeborough had been installed. Cllr Simpson said she is looking at the potential of acquiring another defibrillator for the parish.	Cllr Simpson
17.0	**Financial Matters -** The Council noted the monthly bank reconciliation and approved it as well as approved the following payments: • £28.00 – Kingston St Mary Village Hall, hire of hall for defibrillator training on 17th July 2024 • £243.98 – Somerset Council Dog waste bins emptied once weekly Qtr 2, 1st July - 30th Sept 2024 • £208.03 – HMRC, 6 Apr to 5 May PAYE £174.27 and 6 Sep to 5 Oct PAYE £33.76	
18.0	**Items for Next Agenda -** Please pass any additional agenda items to the Clerk before the next meeting.	
19.0	**Items for Link-Up and KSM Website -** The Chair will submit a write up for Link-Up.	
20.0	**Date of Next Meeting - 12th December 2024** The meeting closed at 21.10	
Signed:		
Dated:		