KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON 10th JUNE 2025
AT THE PLAYING FIELD PAVILION, 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 Mrs K Gibbins (Parish Clerk) Cllr D Perry (Somerset) Apologies: Cllr N O'Donnell (Somerset) 4 members of the public, including Ms D Darch, were in attendance	
2.0	**Councillors' Declarations of Interest** - None	
3.0	**Approval of Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 13th May 2025** **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: 20/25/0016/T** - Notification to fell 3 coniferous trees, one maple and 2 hollies and to carry out management works to one eucalyptus tree and one conifer within Kingston St. Mary Conservation Area at St. Marys House, Winpenny Lane, Kingston St. Mary The Council resolved to fully support this application. **Case Ref: 20/25/0017/T** - Notification to carry out management works (crown-reduction) to one apple tree, one holly and one lilac at Bobbetts Cottage, Kingston Road, Kingston St. Mary The Council resolved to fully support this application. **Case Ref: 20/25/0019** - Erection of a single storey extension to the side with alterations to annexe at Tetton Farm, Tarr Lane, Kingston St Mary The Council resolved to fully support this application. **Case Ref: 08/25/0004/LB** - Insertion of 1 No. window to a nursery sleep room at Kings Hall School, Kingston Road, Kingston St Mary The Council decided not to consult on this application as Kings Hall School is not in Kingston St Mary Parish. Please note that the Parish Council's full response to the above planning applications and planning appeals can be found on Somerset Council's website or by following the link below. https://www3.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk/asp/webpages/plan/plapplookup.asp Other Planning Matters: **St Mary's Church, Kingston St Mary** - Re-ordering Project public consultation The Chair advised a public consultation will be held on 25th June for anyone interested in putting their views forward. After the consultation, a planning application will be submitted to make the Church more accessible for community purposes. The Medieval pews will not be disturbed. **Planning Enforcement in Somerset** – Request for information The Chair asked the Council if they have concerns about Somerset Council Planning not being able to enforce its enforcement notices. The Council discussed this item	

	and decided not to comment. DD advised enforcement is not statutory and therefore this service is likely to be compromised when considering the financial constraints currently faced by Somerset Council.	
5.0	**Matters Outstanding from Previous Minutes –** i. **Internet Banking** – The Council agreed to carry this forward. ii. **Enhanced Highways Maintenance** – The Chair advised the Enhanced Highways Maintenance was a trial, and it will be ending in October. iii. **Finger Posts** – The Clerk advised Somerset Forge had the order and were now making the fingerposts which can take up to 12 weeks. iv. **Asset of Community Value** – The Swan, Kingston St Mary The Chair advised the original documents submitted were lost and he supplied replacement copies. The application will now be given priority, and he is waiting to hear back. v. **Kingston Road –** temporary closure The Chair summarised actions taken to date about the road closure. Cllr Simpson summarised the general meeting and overall mood of the community. W&WU covered the phases in detail and explained the importance of the work. Somerset Council Highways was not represented at the meeting which was disappointing. Cllr Boyce felt the main thing W&WU took away is communication is key. It is hoped they will update the community timeously as the work progresses. DD said the website updates are very useful, and the community now knows this is the place to go to for updates. The Chair said there will be a drop-in meeting on 31 July at the Village Hall where W&WU will be able to update the community on progress with the works. Cllr Hancock encouraged residents to report the potholes as and when they come across them. DD advised residents to search Somerset County Council Report a Pothole on Google and complete as required. This process is similar for reporting fly tipping and blocked drains. vi. **Noticeboard** – The Clerk advised she has been in contact with RoadRecords and is wating to hear from them. She summarised the process as follows. The Council will be required to pay a licence fee of £165 prior to erecting the noticeboard. Once the fee is paid, a notice to erect a noticeboard will be published at the site. After a month, if no objections are received, the noticeboard can be erected. **vii.** **Playing Field Shelter** – The Clerk advised she has submitted the claim to the insurers and has sent Darren Greenslade's quote for a replacement shelter to them as well. The insurers require a second quote, and she has requested quotes from several other suppliers and is waiting to hear from them. The Chair said he has not had any additional update on the police investigation but will ask whether a suspect has been formally interviewed in connection with the fire. **viii.** **Nerrols 3 Planning Application Case Ref: 38/19/0129** The Chair advised a meeting has been arranged to talk about this in more detail. The Clerk confirmed the Council does have the power to pay legal fees. ix. **Taunton International School** – The Grange The Chair has written to the COO at Taunton School and asked them to consider 2/3-bedroom properties there and to preserve the footpath to the Spinney. He has not had a reply. x. **ROSAG** – Staplegrove West Development The Chair advised there was a public meeting on the 21 May at Staplegrove Village Hall. The main concerns are still the spine road and where it will intersect with Kingston Road and the tree clearance being done by Cross Keys.	Clerk Clerk Clerk/Chair

6.0	**Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24 and Bank Reconciliation at 31.03.2024** – Approve amended 2023/24 figures and amended bank reconciliation at 31.03.2024 The Council agreed to carry this item forward to a future meeting.	
7.0	**To Review and Note the Internal Audit Report 2024/25 -** The following items were flagged up by the auditor: On-line banking and the 2024/25 pay increase for the Clerk. The Council reviewed, noted and approved the Internal Audit Report.	Chair/Clerk
8.0	**Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25 – (AGAR)** **a. Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2024/25** - The Parish Council noted and approved Section 1 of the AGAR. **b. Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25** - The Council noted and approved Section 2 of the AGAR.	
9.0	**Kingston St Mary Educational Foundation -** Appointment of Secretary The Chair advised James Leck has kindly agreed to become the Secretary. Tony Jones will be standing down, but he will continue to be a trustee. The Council resolved to appoint James Leck as the Secretary to Kingston St Mary Educational Foundation.	
10.0	**CPRE Membership** - Appeal for members The Chair advised the CPRE would like the Council to consider becoming a member. The membership fee is £60 per annum. The benefits are as follows: Support for planning applications; access to planning resources; access to CPRE events and discounts to visit their gardens, amongst other benefits. The Council resolved to become a member of the CPRE.	Clerk
11.0	**Somerset Bus Partnership** – Appeal for representatives The Chair advised Somerset Bus Partnership would like to have a volunteer from each Council. Does anyone want to volunteer? It was decided ideally it should be a regular bus user. Cllr Stripp agreed to promote the position at the fete and see if anyone is interested. If no one comes forward the Council agreed to mention it in Link-up.	Council
12.0	**Somerset Council Chairs Community Awards 2025** – Nominations The Council discussed the awards and agreed to nominate two members of the community who are integral in organising regular events for vulnerable members of the community. The Chair will submit the application.	Chair
13.0	**Local Government Boundary Commission for England** – Consultation The Chair advised Somerset Electoral Divisional Boundary Review has produced its recommendations and have put Kingston St Mary Parish in with Cheddon Fitzpaine and Staplegrove. A Somerset Councillor would represent these 2 parishes and the Staplegrove ward of Taunton. The Council has proposed it should be put in the same electoral division as the parishes in Hestercombe LCN. Somerset Council said KSM should be in with Bishops Lydeard and other Quantock parishes. The Council discussed the consultation and agreed it was predominantly a numbers game and was not looking at commonality at all.	Chair

	The Chair agreed to speak to Cheddon Fitzpaine and Broomfield about the consultation and get their thoughts on it.	
14.0	**Playing Field Committee** – update Cllr Stripp updated the Council on the fete. Unfortunately, the PTFA will not be able to provide food in the evening. This would be a good opportunity for the playing field committee to provide food and raise funds for the playing field. The Council discussed this and agreed to ask the members of the playing field committee if they would assist with this. Cllr Stripp went on to say the Playing Field Committee met on Friday and had a very useful meeting. Cllr Simpson said an Everyone Active rep will be at the fete promoting chair-based exercises which they would like to run from the playing field pavilion on Monday mornings going forward.	Cllr Stripp/Cllr Simpson
15.0	**Local Community Network** – update The Chair advised there is a meeting on Thursday, 12th July at North Petherton to review last year's activities and set the priorities for this year and working group reports. Cllr Stripp updated the Council on the progress of the Children & Young People's Working Group, and the activities of the mobile boom box. Cllr Stripp said after August, the working group should have a programme of events to move forward with.	
16.0	**Climate Emergency** – update and Emergency Plan DD advised the Council the Emergency Plan is on the website and updated. She intends to promote the Climate Change Action Plan at the fete and see if she can encourage more volunteers to help with updating this document.	DD
17.0	**Neighbourhood Plan** – Review of KSM NP Policies Cllr Stripp reviewed the NP policies around housing. He discussed the policies and statements of intent and discussed how these might influence the Council and action points for the Council to consider.	
18.0	**Kingston St Mary Community Land Trust** – Cllr Stripp updated the Council on progress with securing land for an active travel route through the village.	
19.0	**Kingston Community Partnership** – DD advised a litter pick had been done of the Kingston Road whilst it has been closed. The next litter pick will be organised for November or December and the details will be published in Link-Up.	
20.0	**Financial Matters –** The Council noted the monthly bank reconciliation and approved it as well as approved the following payments: • £809.34 – Zurich Insurance – insurance renewal • £250.00 – Citizens Advice – donation • £252.20 – Jill Larcombe, Internal audit fee for 2023/24 and 2024/25 • £336.00 - Jack Councill, cutting of Village Green for 2025 season • £181.58 - David Stripp, Village Fete expenses The Council noted the following receipt:	

	• £2,475.93 – Remaining CIL payment in respect of planning application 20/24/0027 – Grove Farm, Pickney Lane, Kingston St Mary, Taunton, TA2 8AS	
21.0	**Items for Next Agenda –** Please pass any other agenda items to the Clerk before the next meeting.	
22.0	**Items for Link-Up and KSM Website –** The Chair will submit a write up for Link-Up.	
23.0	**Date of Next Meeting – 29th July 2025** The meeting closed at 20.49	
Signed:		
Dated:		