KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON 11th MARCH 2025
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 Mrs K Gibbins (Parish Clerk) Apologies: Cllr D Perry (Somerset), Cllr N O'Donnell (Somerset) 5 members of the public were in attendance	
2.0	**Councillors' Declarations of Interest -** Cllr Hancock declared an interest in Planning Application 20/25/0007/T	
3.0	**Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 11th February 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: 20/25/0008/LB** - Alterations to glazed link at Stonehouse Farm, Edgeborough Farm Road, Staplegrove (retention of works already undertaken) The Council considered the above planning application and resolved to fully support it. **Case Ref: 20/25/0009** - Replacement of conservatory with the erection of a single storey extension to the rear and external porch canopy to the front of The Weavers, Church Lane, Kingston St Mary The Council considered the above planning application and resolved to fully support it. **Case Ref: 20/25/0007/T** - Application to fell one ash tree and one cypress tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Kingston St. Mary No.2) Tree Preservation Order 1997 at The Cherry Orchard, Lodes Lane, Kingston St. Mary (TD720) The Council considered the above planning application and resolved to fully support it. **Case Ref: 20/25/0005** - Change of use from holiday to 1 No. unrestricted residential dwelling at Plot 1 Mill Meadow, Parsonage Lane, Kingston St Mary The Council considered the above planning application and resolved to fully support it. **Case Ref: 20/25/0006** - Change of use from holiday to 1 No. unrestricted residential dwelling at Plot 2 Mill Meadow, Parsonage Lane, Kingston St Mary The Council considered the above planning application and resolved to fully support it. **Case Ref: 38/19/0129** - Phased development of 292 no. dwellings with associated access, infrastructure, open space (formal and informal), landscaping and related works on land off Lyngford Lane, Taunton The Chair updated the Council on the position with the above planning application. The Planning Committee has deferred its decision pending a visit to the site. 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 forward. ii. **Enhanced Highways Maintenance** – The Chair advised the Council has still not had a reply from Kier and IF would like to escalate this matter. The Council agreed. Cllr Stripp will put IF in touch with the local contractor and IF has contacted Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council to discuss working together on certain maintenance projects. iii. **Finger Posts** – The Clerk advised she has received a second quote from Somerset Forge which is considerably less than the quote received form West Country Blacksmiths. She referred the Council to the meeting papers to see the quote comparison. She advised the Council of the potential grant of £250 per fingerpost from the CPRE. She mentioned to the Council there were ways of reducing the costs by putting 2 rather than 3 fingers on the Whitmore Lane fingerpost. The Clerk would like to put together a map of all the posts in the parish and has requested assistance from Somerset Council. She mentioned the fingerpost at the Farmers Arms which has one finger which is very rusted. The Clerk asked the Council if it would like her to apply to the CPRE for the grants. The Council discussed its concerns about paying to restore the posts and the posts being damaged in the future. The Clerk agreed to consult the Council's insurer about this matter and whether the fingerposts could be added to the fixed asset register. There was a question about ownership of the fingerposts as well. The Council agreed for the Clerk to apply for the CPRE grants. She will also see if she can get additional information about the fingerposts in the parish and ownership of the posts. iv. **Condition of Kingston Stream** – The Chair asked a member of the public to update the Council on developments on the condition of the stream. The member referred to a report he has reviewed approved by Somerset Council referring to the watercourses in the area and where the responsibilities lie. He hopes this report will be acted upon by Somerset Council. He expressed his frustration and views the lack of response from Somerset Council as a block. The Chair advised the Council is still awaiting a quote from Kier and it intends to escalate this matter. v. **IT Provision** – The Chair advised a quote has been received for webservices for the next financial period, i.e. 2025/26 from the webmaster and the quote is within the budget. The Council agreed to accept the quote as the support is vital.	
6.0	**Playing Field Committee -** The Chair asked Cllr Simpson to talk to the Council about the Playing Field Committee. She said that a meeting was held of people who might have an interest in getting involved in actively managing the playing field and pavilion. The meeting was very positive and there was a lot to talk about. She said Cllr Stripp forwarded information about the history of the previous committee and what has been planned historically to those who attended. Cllr Simpson was pleased to say another committee has been created with a group of enthusiastic people who have some good ideas of ways to improve the facilities. The committee agreed to concentrate on certain jobs. Cllr Simpson will continue to investigate fundraising initiatives. Money has been donated by the Croquet Club towards the installation of hand dryers in the pavilion toilets. Storage space is	Cllr Simpson

	being explored and maintenance of the pavilion both inside and out. Additional storage space is vital to make the pavilion a more attractive and suitable space for hiring out. Cllr Simpson has agreed to do a report for the next committee meeting which a date has already been set for. Cllr Simpson said Little Wildings Nursey is interested in possibly hiring out the space come September as they need additional space to meet increased demand. The Wellbeing Officer from Everyone Active is also interested in using the space for some of the activities on offer. It is hoped a website might be created in the future as well.	
7.0	**Asset of Community Value –** The Swan, Kingston St Mary The Chair advised the Swan was made an asset of community value 5 years ago and this designation has now expired. The Council agreed to reapply for the pub to be designated as an Asset of Community Value and the Chair agreed to complete and submit the application.	Chair
8.0	**Annual Parish Meeting** – Date and invites The Clerk advised the Council a date needs to be set for the Annual Parish Meeting. She asked if the Council wanted to run it at the same time as the Annual Parish Council Meeting or set a separate date. If a separate date was set it would need to be held before 1st June 2025 as the Annual Parish Meeting has to fall between the 1st March and 1st June. The Councillors discussed the Annual Parish Meeting and the best approach and reflected on the previous two Annual Parish Meetings which were combined with an Open Meeting about the Neighbourhood Plan. The Council felt the following topics would be of interest to parishioners and potential focuses for the Annual Parish Meeting: Somerset Local Plan; Devolution of Services; Increased Precept; Playing Field improvements and LCNs. The Council agreed a tentative date of 22nd May and the Clerk said she would invite Councillors Perry and O'Donnell to attend and give a brief presentation on the Somerset Local Plan. If they accepted, she would then send an expression of interest to other village organisations inviting them to attend and present a brief report on their organisation and its achievements over the past year. If the response was favourable the date would be confirmed. It was also agreed information about the meeting should be published in Link-Up and all KSM parishioners should be invited to attend.	Clerk
9.0	**Local Community Network** – update Cllr Stripp updated the Council on the progress with the CYP Working Group. He confirmed all 8 councils within the LCN have agreed to allocate 5% of their 2025/26 budgets to youth provision. He also confirmed the application for match funding had been submitted and was successful, so the LCN has a grant of £35K to put toward youth provision. He went on to discuss the provision across the LCN and provided some interesting statistics on the number of young people in each parish. Cllr Stripp said the LCN has sole use of mobile youth facility which will be taken around the LCN to connect with young people and help obtain their ideas, views and opinions. This will be a continuation of the research they have been conducting to date.	

	Cllr Stripp said the CYP Working Group has been a very positive development coming out of the LCN and a great model for how LCNs can successfully share services. Ther Chair thanked Councillor Stripp and advised the next LCN meeting is on Thursday. He also shared that he and Cllr Stripp had attended Local Plan meetings in Broomfield and at Deane House.	
10.0	**Climate Emergency** – update and Emergency Plan The Chair asked a member of the public to talk to the Council about the Emergency Plan. As the plan isn't that old there are only a few potential changes which she felt were relevant. She went on to discuss Policy 5 and 6 of the NP and felt these policies were missing a piece encouraging new builds both to be energy efficient but to also use green technology. Cllr Stripp said we can't change the NP but the Council can decide, possibly by way of a checklist, how the policies and statements of intent in the NP practically influence its decision making when considering planning applications. The member of the public said she would do a bit of research to see if she can find a template they can use as a base and then make their own. She went on to discuss Flood Mitigation and proposed adding the Quantock Joint Advisory Committee to this Statement of Intent as a working partner and one that is quite accessible. The Chair asked if the Staplegrove area of the parish could be included in the Emergency Plan under the section on Local Hazards. Cllr Simpson said she would check with one of the residents to find out where historically there have been problem areas. She agreed to send them a draft of the Emergency Plan for their input. The Council noted that a few contact details needed to be updated.	Cllr Simpson
11.0	**Neighbourhood Plan** – Review of KSM NP Policies This item was discussed as part of the previous agenda item.	
12.0	**Kingston St Mary Community Land Trust** – Cllr Stripp said there was nothing to report.	
13.0	**Kingston Community Partnership** – Cllr Stripp updated the Council on progress with the fete which will take place on 14th June. He felt it would be a great event for local clubs and societies to showcase their organisations. The Council thought it might be a good idea to invite one of the emergency services to attend and it was agreed to invite PCSO Marshall Bernhardt. It was also felt that signage promoting the event would be helpful.	Cllr Stripp
14.0	**Financial Matters –** The Council noted the monthly bank reconciliation and approved it as well as approved the following payments: • £50.00 – Kingston Community Partnership, contribution towards running costs of KSM Family Fun Cycle Ride	
15.0	**Items for Next Agenda –** Please pass any other 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 – 15th March 2025** The meeting closed at 20.35	
Signed:		
Dated:		