KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON 11th NOVEMBER 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 D Stripp Mrs K Gibbins (Parish Clerk) Cllr D Perry (Somerset) Apologies: Cllr A Simpson, Cllr N O'Donnell (Somerset) 1 member of the public was in attendance.	
2.0	**Councillors' Declarations of Interest -** None	
3.0	**Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 14th October 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: 20/25/0034/T** - Application to carry out management works to one oak tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (Kingston St. Mary No.2) Tree Preservation Order 2007 at The Barn, Kingston Road, Kingston St. Mary The Council resolved to fully support this application. Please note that the Parish Council's full response to the above planning application 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. **Finger Posts** – The Clerk advised the fingerposts had been refurbished and the fingers re-attached. She said the invoice from Somerset Forge was scheduled for approval at this meeting and the requisite paperwork had been sent to CPRE. The 2 x £250 grants should be paid into the Council's account in due course. iii. **Kingston Road** – The Chair advised the Kingston Road will be closed at Corkscrew Lane from 17th – 21st November. To travel to Taunton Kingston St Mary residents will need to use Hope Corner Lane or Corkscrew Lane. iv. **Noticeboard** – The Clerk is waiting to hear back from Legal Services and agreed to contact the noticeboard supplier to ensure they are happy to keep the noticeboard until such time as the Council has the necessary permissions to erect it. **v.** **Playing Field Shelter** – To be discussed at a later stage. vi. **Speed Indicator Device -** The Chair advised the owners of Westhay Cottage are supportive of this initiative. He recommended the Council ask Somerset Council to send an officer out to survey the area and obtain any necessary	Clerk Chair

	advice/guidance on erecting a SID in the suggested location. The cost for this service would be £250.00. The Council agreed to this expenditure.	
	vii. **Parish Council Highway Works** – IF advised he had met with the Highways Officer and she has included painting of road markings at Mill Cross in next year's budget. She also agreed to look at the drainage issues raised. Cllr Boyce agreed to discuss cutting of hedge obscuring vision north on Kingston Road from Mill Cross with property owner and Cllr Townsend and Cllr Stripp agreed to discuss the hedges by the garage with the relevant property owner.	Cllr Boyce/Chair/Cllr Stripp
	viii. **Somerset Council Planning's Firebreak** – Somerset Cllr Perry said the 12-week period had ended. The Council had hoped to find out whether the 21-day period may be reconsidered but it would appear this isn't up for negotiation. It is still unclear whether extensions will be granted. The Council may need to consider its options regarding planning applications if extensions are not going to be granted. The Clerk agreed to consult SALC and Cllr Rodrigues on this matter.	Clerk
	ix. **Kingston St Mary Rapid Response Catchment** Area – The Council agreed to print the Environment Agency leaflets for distribution possibly by the GN volunteers to parishioners.	
	x. **The Grange, Taunton School** – The Chair advised the sale was scheduled for completion on 19 November. He had not heard from Taunton School regarding access to the Spinney and would chase this up with them.	Chair
	xi. AGAR 2024/25 - Assertion 10 – Digital & Data Compliance The Clerk asked the Council if she could attend training provided by SALC in December regarding Assertion 10. The Chair said the cost of the training was GBP25.00. The Council agreed to the Clerk attending the training and asked that she report back to the Council on the outcome of the training.	
6.0	**Charitable Collection Licensing Policy** – Consultation The Chair advised Somerset Council is consulting on a new charitable collection licensing policy with the intention of only granting licences to registered charities. Collections can take place any day of the year with no restrictions on the number of collections in any one place on any day and the removal of the need for proceeds to be published in the newspaper. The Council discussed the consultation and felt door to door collections were not suitable considering the number of vulnerable people living in KSM Parish. The Council agreed to respond to the consultation highlighting its concerns.	Chair
7.0	**Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council Legal Advice** – Nerrols 3 The Council discussed the situation with the underlying planning application and the implications around a possible legal challenge. The Council agreed that there was nothing more it could do regarding this agenda item.	
8.0	**Staplegrove West** – Transport Assessment The Chair advised a resident had expressed concerns about the impact of the spine road on traffic through Kingston St Mary. The Council agreed it also has concerns about this but unfortunately it cannot do anything. The planning application going forward is for the spine road to go only as far as Whitmore Lane so this should not affect Kingston St Mary. The report says when the east goes up for development another traffic assessment will be carried out. The Council agreed to respond to this when the time comes.	

9.0	**Dogs on the Playing Field** – The Chair advised another resident was concerned about dogs on the playing field after an upsetting incident in the park. The Council discussed how they might encourage people not to take their dogs on the playing field and agreed to erect bigger signs. The Clerk agreed to look at when the Council last published a piece in Link-Up and on the website and the Council agreed to post 6 monthly reminders.	Chair/Council
10.0	**Half-yearly Accounts Review** – April to September 2025 The Chair summarised the position of the half-yearly accounts. He reported that income was up by £11k mainly due to the insurance claim and CIL payments. Operating costs are £15k below budget as it is only half-way through the year and capital expenditure is below budget as income has not yet been spent on the playing field improvements. The Chair said the accounts were in good shape. He advised that a payment for the Kingston Community Partnership needed to be made and the Council agreed to make the £500 payment in December. The Clerk asked the Chair to clarify the budget category for the Link-Up donation of £500.	Chair/Clerk
11.0	**Draft Budget/Precept** – 2026/27 The Chair talked to the Council about the proposed budget for 2026/27. The Chair has kept the precept as low as possible and there has been an increase of 2.5%. The budget includes a lump sum of £20K to spend on the playing field and will include the erection of a new shelter. The Chair said he had included £500 as a Section 137 payment for Link-Up in the 2026/27 budget. The Councillors agreed Link-Up provided a very important service to the Parish and supported this contribution. He went on to say, capital expenditure includes money for playing field improvements, operating costs are much the same and the precept will add £2 per annum to a Band D property and is in line with the average precept in England. The Council approved the budget for 2026/27 and the precept of £44,660.	
12.0	**Co-option of New Parish Councillor** The Chair proposed that Dixie Darch be co-opted on to the Parish Council. Cllr Stripp seconded this proposal. The Clerk distributed the ballot papers and the Councillors voted on the co-option. As per the Council's Co-option Process, the ballot papers were collected by the Clerk and the votes will be counted after the formal meeting has closed.	
13.0	**Climate Emergency** – update The Chair advised there is an Environment Agency Flood Group Network meeting on 17th November which DD confirmed she will be attending. It will be focusing on the River Tone catchment area and she will report back at the next meeting. DD confirmed the updated Climate Change Community Action Plan should be on the website and there was a piece in Link-Up to remind the community of this. She also updated the Council on Climate Change action plan activities taking place in the parish and encouraged the Councillors to have a look at the new Quantock Management Plan for the Quantock National Landscape which will be open for consultation soon.	DD
14.0	**Playing Field Committee** – update	

	The Chair advised the storage container is due to arrive on Friday, 21 November. The Council discussed possible ways of obscuring the container so it looks a bit more in keeping with the area. The Chair expressed the Council's thanks to IF who is leading the preparation work on this project.	
15.0	**Local Community Network** – update The Chair advised the Council has been invited to a Teams meeting tomorrow on the HPC workforce uplift to 15,000. Cllr Stripp suggested it was worth attending as there may be funding available to communities affected by the uplift. Cllr Stripp updated the Council on the C&YP Working Group and the position with the grant from SALC. He said the 6-month report to SALC has been distributed and it breaks down the results by Parish. The SALC grant will fund extra activities around the 3 main youth clubs in the LCN, i.e. North Petherton, West Monkton and Creech. The Council discussed ways in which it might support young people in the parish.	
16.0	**Kingston St Mary Community Land Trust** – update Cllr Stripp updated the council on the CLT and said it had a meeting earlier this month. He confirmed the CLT had successfully raised £10k towards the active travel route. He went on to say the CLT had identified its 2 top priorities as being the active travel route and a community orchard. Cllr Stripp updated the Council on recent developments with regards to the active travel route. He went on to say the CLT had set up specialist sub-groups to allow people to focus on specific priorities. DD and Claire Evans will lead on the community orchard project.	
17.0	**Kingston Community Partnership** – update DD reminded the Council there will be a litter pick the weekend of 13/14th December. Cllr Stripp updated the Council on the 2026 village fete which has been set for Saturday, 13th June. The Chair advised Cllr Simpson had applied for the festive grant.	
18.0	**Financial Matters –** The Council noted the monthly bank reconciliation and approved it as well as approved the following payment: • £3,426.00 (£2,855 + VAT) – Somerset Forge Ltd, refurbishment of Whitmore Lane and Park Lane fingerposts The Council noted the following receipts: • £2,693.32 - Somerset Council, CIL collected between 01APR25 and 30SEP25 for the following development 20/20/0010 - Cala, Kingston Road, Kingston St Mary, TA2 8HN • £2,092.00 – Somerset Community Foundation, grant funding towards playing field storage facility • £10,000.00 – SALC, Health & Wellbeing Grant for Active Travel Route	
19.0	**Items for Next Agenda –** Please pass any other agenda items to the Clerk before the next meeting. Local Plan	
20.0	**Items for Link-Up and KSM Website –**	

	The Chair will submit a write up for Link-Up.	
21.0	**Date of Next Meeting – 9th December 2025** The meeting closed at 20:52	
Signed:		
Dated:		
	After the meeting closed, the Clerk opened and counted the co-option ballot papers and confirmed the Councillors had unanimously co-opted Dixie Darch on to the Parish Council. DD signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.	