KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON 9th SEPTEMBER 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 S Hancock Cllr D Stripp Mrs K Gibbins (Parish Clerk) Cllr D Perry (Somerset) PCSO Marshall Bernhardt Apologies: Cllr P Boyce, Cllr A Simpson, Cllr N O'Donnell (Somerset) Two members of the public were in attendance.	
2.0	**Councillors' Declarations of Interest** - None	
3.0	**Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 29th July 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: 20/25/0024 -** Erection of car port at Westland House, Kingston Road, Kingston St Mary Message from Planning Officer received 1 September 2025, "as all notifications were sent out on August 1st, the consultation period has now expired and I will be determining the application this week. The Council resolved to fully support the application although it had already been approved. **Case Ref: 20/25/0028/T** - Notification to fell one holly tree and one apple tree and to carry out management works to one cypress and one birch within Kingston St. Mary Conservation Area at Winstone, Winpenny Lane, Kingston St. Mary The Council resolved to fully support this application although they noted this application was approved on 04/09/2025. **Case Ref: 20/25/0029/T** - Notification to fell two birch trees within Kingston St. Mary Conservation Area at Church Farmhouse, Church Lane, Kingston St. Mary The Council resolved to fully support this application. **Appeals:** **Planning Application Ref: 22/25/0004/CQ** PINS Ref: APP/E3335/W/25/3371114 Appeal by: MR R GOTHARD Site: LOWER MARSH FARM, KINGSTON ROAD, KINGSTON ST MARY, TAUNTON, TA2 8AB Proposal: Application for Prior Approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to 1 No. dwelling house (Class C3) and associated building operations at Lower Marsh Farm, Kingston Road, Kingston St Mary The Council resolved to fully support the appeal. 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	

5.0	**Matters Outstanding from Previous Minutes –**		
	i.	**Internet Banking** – The Council agreed to carry this forward.	
	ii.	**Enhanced Highways Maintenance** – The Chair advised there was nothing to report.	
	iii.	**Finger Posts** – The Clerk advised the fingerposts were due to be refurbished and installed on the 18th September. The Chair agreed to write to Smokey Farm about the restoration of the fingerpost on the corner of Whitmore Lane.	Clerk/Chair
	iv.	**Kingston Road –** The Council discussed the temporary closure of the Kingston Road at Mill Cross and the proposed one-way system up Church Lane and down Lodes Lane. Potholes have been reported on Volis Hill and along the top as well as on Park Lane. Members of the community should report these if possible. The Clerk agreed to take pictures of any potholes on Park Lane and submit to Highways. The Chair advised the Kingston Road should reopen fully on the 24th but gas mains work will continue in Yarford and other parts of the village in October and November.	Clerk
	v.	**Noticeboard** – The Clerk advised the Council she was still waiting to hear from Legal Services and that a legal fee would be applicable. She has asked RoadRecords for a contact at Legal Services to keep the process moving forward. It would appear we may need to apply for a Section 171 from Highways. Cllr Perry agreed to message both RoadRecords and Legal Services about queries regarding the process.	Clerk
	vi.	**Playing Field Shelter** – The Clerk advised the Council the insurance payout of £6,842.75 was received on 8th August. This amount was the quote from Darrens Den for a like for like replacement less the excess of £250.00. The Clerk said she had been in contact with the insurer and they said the Council could erect another wooden structure. They went on to say should the building be destroyed by fire a third time, the underwriters may request additional protection for the building in the form of CCTV, security fencing, etc.	
	vii.	**Somerset Council Chair's Awards for 2025** – The Chair advised there was nothing to report presently.	
	viii.	**Speed Indicator Device -** The Chair advised he and Cllr Stripp had visited Westhay and spoke to the owners who were delighted to support the erection of a SID in the vicinity of their property. The Council also discussed the possibility of relocating the 20mph sign 100m up the road and use the existing 20mph post for the SID. The Council agreed to begin the process of applying to site a SID on the highway with a view to purchasing a SID once approved.	Chair/Cllr Stripp
	ix.	**Bowey's Lane Footpath** – The Chair advised he has written to the landowner about the damaged stile.	
	x.	**Dog Fouling on Playing Field –** The Chair has put an article in Link-up.	
	xi.	**Parish Council Highway Works** – The Council agreed to move forward with the possible purchase of a second SID with money in the budget allocated to Highways.	
	xii.	**St Mary's Church Flower Festival** – The Chair expressed the Council's thanks to Cllr Simpson for the floral display she entered on behalf of the Parish Council for the flower festival.	
	xiii.	**Somerset Council's Local Transport** Plan – The Chair advised he sent the Parish Council's response to the Local Transport Plan to Cllr Wilkins who has thanked the Council very much for its contribution.	

6.0	**Somerset Council Planning's Firebreak** The Council discussed what it might do if Somerset Council Planning no longer allows extensions to planning submission responses. Currently they allow 21 days to respond. The Parish Council discussed the possibility of setting up a planning sub-committee which would consist of the full council and would meet as and when required. The Clerk agreed to investigate the formalities of this. Cllr Perry said he would discuss this matter with planning directly.	Clerk/Cllr Perry
7.0	**Quarterly Accounts Review** The Chair thanked the Clerk for keeping the accounts and said they were in excellent condition. He said he had done a quick forecast for the year which included expenditure for the playing field equipment and a new playing field shelter and the Council was well within its reserves target. He went on to say we are also on target for our operational expenditure and have received more income than budgeted for as we received CIL money and the insurance payout.	
8.0	**Parish Council Meetings – agree 2026 dates** The Council discussed dates for its 2026 meetings and agreed to continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month with a break in August for a summer recess. The Clerk agreed to publish the dates and advise all interested stakeholders.	Clerk
9.0	**Kingston St Mary Rapid Response Catchment Area –** The Chair advised we have been asked by the Environment Agency (EA) to remind our residents about the risk of flash flooding. The EA has provided a lot of material. The Council agreed it should leaflet the Parish as well as put something in Link-up. The Council thought it would be a good idea to bring the Good Neighbour Volunteers together and ask then to distribute the leaflets in their area. The Clerk agreed to investigate who organised and paid for the printing of the leaflets last year.	Clerk
10.0	**Parish Council Preparedness Survey –** The Council agreed this was a good exercise but questioned the resources available to the Community for it to respond in certain emergency situations. The Council resolved for the Chair to submit its response to the survey.	Chair
11.0	**Climate Emergency** – Update and Climate and Emergency Action Plans The Council agreed to leave this agenda item for the next meeting.	DD/Whole Council
12.0	**Playing Field Committee** – update The Chair asked the Council for feedback on the playing field improvement options. Cllr Hancock advised she had spoken to Little Wildlings and asked for their feedback. Cllr Hancock agreed to follow up with Little Wildlings. The Chair spoke to the Council about the storage container and said he had 2 quotes, one from Heaver Bros for c£2.7k and a second from another supplier for c£3k. The Council has received a grant of £2.1k so the remainder of the cost would come from the playing field budget allocation. The Council voted and agreed to purchase the container from Heaver Bros.	Cllr Hancock/Chair

13.0	**Local Community Network** – update Cllr Stripp updated the Council on progress with the Children & Young People's Working Group (CYP WG). The group have put together a review of the year's activities and circulated it to the LCN members with the hope they will all be on board to allocate funds in the next budget period for the CYP WG initiatives. The Chair asked when the Council needs to make its financial contribution. Cllr Stripp advised the money stays in our budget and when we provide tangible support we can use the funds. The Council discussed how it might spend the £1,000 allocated in its budget. There is the possibility of Somerset Youth Theatre working with the primary school to help understand the needs of young people and help them transition from primary to secondary and get involved with the local youth clubs. The Boom Box will also come back to Kingston St Mary during the holidays. The Council considered increasing its budget for the 2026/27 financial year to facilitate youth opportunities in Kingston St Mary.	
14.0	**Kingston St Mary Community Land Trust** – Update Cllr Stripp advised there is some activity around the active travel route but it is still early days.	
15.0	**Kingston Community Partnership** – Update Cllr Stripp advised the Council a date of 13th June 2026 has been agreed for the fete and updated the Council on progress to date.	
16.0	**Financial Matters –** The Council noted the monthly bank reconciliation and approved it as well as approved the following payments: • £262.98 - Paolo van der Steenhoven, first semi-annual invoice for editorial and technical maintenance to regular KSM PC webpages at kstm.uk • £225.00 – David Stripp, reimbursement for payment to Rachael Sweeting for gig at village fete The Council noted the following receipt: • £6,842.75 – Insurance payout for playing field shelter	
17.0	**Items for Next Agenda –** Please pass any other agenda items to the Clerk before the next meeting.	
18.0	**Items for Link-Up and KSM Website –** The Chair will submit a write up for Link-Up.	
19.0	**Date of Next Meeting – 14th October 2025** The meeting closed at 21.21	
Signed:		
Dated:		