KINGSTON ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON 13th JANUARY 2026
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 D Darch Cllr S Hancock Cllr D Stripp Mrs K Gibbins (Parish Clerk) Cllr D Perry (Somerset) Apologies: Cllr A Simpson, Cllr N O'Donnell (Somerset) There were no members of the public in attendance.	
2.0	**Councillors' Declarations of Interest** - None	
3.0	**Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 9th December 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: 20/25/0040** - Conversion of garage and loft space into ancillary accommodation with insertion of roof lights, replacement of windows and doors, erection of extension to storage shed and erection of carport at St Marys House, Winpenny Lane, Kingston St Mary The Council resolved to fully support this application. **Case Ref: 20/25/0041** - Change of use of holiday let into 1 No. residential dwelling at Mallards, 11 Mill Meadow, Kingston St Mary The Council resolved to fully support this application. 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 **b) Mill Meadow Section 106 Agreement** – The Chair said he has been advised there has been a change to the Mill Meadow Section 106 Agreement which the PC has been asked to support. The original agreement was for £151k to be put forward for affordable homes in Somerset. Mill Meadow believes the agreement no longer applies as a Section 106 agreement only is relevant when 6 or more homes are built by one developer. Mill Meadow has always intended to put something back into the community and has proposed to put forward an amount of £90k +/- towards affordable housing or some other community purpose in Kingston St Mary Parish. The Parish Council agreed to support the amendment to the Section 106 Agreement in relation to having the funds available for affordable housing or some other purpose in Kingston St Mary Parish. They did not agree to support a change in the amount to be put forward as this was not felt to be part of the Parish Council's remit.	

5.0	**Matters Outstanding from Previous Minutes –** i. **Internet Banking** – The Council agreed to carry this forward. ii. **Noticeboard** – The Clerk advised there was still no further update. She said we are still waiting on Highways to erect the legal notice at the site of the proposed noticeboard. She agreed to send the e-mail correspondence to Somerset Cllr Perry in hope he might be able to assist with this matter. iii. **Speed Indicator Device -** The Chair advised he has not had a reply from the owners of Westhay Cottage and has sent a follow up request. iv. **Kingston St Mary Rapid Response Catchment Area** – The Chair confirmed the leaflets had been distributed with the January edition of Link-Up. v. **AGAR 2025/26** – Assertion 10 – Digital & Data Compliance - The Council considered the proposed Information Technology Policy and resolved to adopt it. The Chair advised he also updated the GDPR Data Map and the Data Protection Privacy Policy. The Council agreed to adopt these policies as well. The Clerk advised that it wasn't necessary to adopt all the Council's policies in one go at the Annual Parish Council Meeting and that this process could be done over the course of the year. The Clerk agreed to clarify the position on the adoption of policies.	Chair/Clerk Clerk Chair Clerk
6.0	**Financial Matters -** Precept 2026/27 The Chair advised the Parish Precept Return has been submitted to Somerset Council. The precept will be paid in 2 tranches, the first tranche in April and the second in September. The Chair also advised that no new services will be devolved to Parish Councils but this does not prevent requests being made in the future.	
7.0	**Meet Gideon Amos MP** – 6 February 2026 The Chair advised a meeting had been scheduled with Gideon Amos on the 6th February at the Swan. The Council discussed what issues they should discuss with Gideon Amos and agreed the following: • Reliability of bus services; • Digital switchover for telephones and when will we lose our landlines and • The treatment of the landlord at the Swan.	
8.0	**Somerset Council** – Community Governance Review The Chair said the attendees at the Parish Conference were told there was going to be a Community Governance review for the whole of Somerset looking at the Parish boundaries. Residents living in Fennington have approached KSM PC and said they would like to be part of our parish. The Chair said he spoke to Electoral Services, and it seems a rather difficult and complicated process to try and achieve this. Boundaries have changed over time and in 1851, Cushuish, Taunton and Hestercombe were part of Kingston St Mary Parish. The Chair agreed to talk to Electoral Services again to find out more about what would be involved. He also agreed to respond to the resident who sent the e-mail advising the Parish Council would be looking into this matter further. Somerset Cllr Perry said it would be good to consult the Guidance on Community Governance Review document. The Council agreed the residents of the rural part of Staplegrove which has become part of Kingston St Mary Parish should be asked if their preference is to remain in Kingston St Mary or become part of Taunton town.	Chair
9.0	**Councillor Training** – Breakthrough Events	Clerk

	The Chair advised there was money in the budget for training, £40 per councillor and asked if there was any interest in attending any of the sessions. It was agreed that Cllr Darch would be put forward for 'Crisis Communications for Local Councils' and Cllr Stripp for 'Engaging more Effectively with Young People.' The Clerk said she would investigate whether it was mandatory for Cllr Darch as a newly elected Parish Councillor to attend any Councillor training sessions. The Clerk suggested the webmaster should attend the Web Accessibility session which is free. The Council agreed.	
10.0	**Climate Emergency** – update Cllr Darch said there was not much to report and that the Parish seems to be coping better with the heavy rainfall. She pointed out that in response to the Climate Emergency Plan update a few residents mentioned bonfires and their irritation with them. The Council agreed for Cllr Darch to write a measured piece about this for Link-Up.	Cllr Darch
11.0	**Playing Field Committee** – update The Chair advised Cllr Simpson is trying to arrange a meeting of the Playing Field Committee. The Chair said the burnt bits of the oak tree branches were removed and the Council thanked the individuals who cleared them away.	
12.0	**Local Community Network** – update The Chair advised there is a meeting of the Highways Working Group. He also referred the Council to Highways' gritting map which Kingston St Mary is absent from. The Council discussed this as well as the fact that several of the gritting bins in the village are nearly empty. Somerset Cllr Perry agreed to investigate the inclusion of Kingston Road for gritting purposes.	Somerset Cllr Perry
13.0	**Kingston St Mary Community Land Trust** – Update Cllr Stripp said there was a meeting of the individuals involved in the community orchard and active travel route projects on Thursday, 22 January. He invited Somerset Cllr Perry to attend. He discussed the possibility of setting up a community wealth fund to fund community initiatives and has been researching this and considering how this might be achieved. The Council discussed the idea and felt it would be very worthwhile.	
14.0	**Kingston Community Partnership** – Update Cllr Stripp said the fete was progressing nicely and the date was set for Saturday, 13th June. Cllr Boyce suggested the PTFSA were interested in getting involved and he messaged the Chair of the PTFSA to confirm their availability.	
15.0	**Financial Matters –** The Council noted the monthly bank reconciliation and approved it as well as approving the following payments: • £25.00 – SALC, Annual Governance Statement Assertion 10 Training - 10/12/25 • £150.00 – Kingston St Mary Village Hall, hire of Village Hall for winter meetings 2025/26 • £500.00 – Parochial Church Council, annual grant The Council noted the following receipt: • £500.00 – CPRE, grant towards restoration of fingerposts	
16.0	**Items for Next Agenda –** Please pass any other agenda items to the Clerk before the next meeting.	

17.0	**Items for Link-Up and KSM Website –** The Chair will submit a write up for Link-Up.	
18.0	**Date of Next Meeting – 10th February 2026** The meeting closed at 20:38	
Signed:		
Dated:		