Kingston St Mary Parish Council
Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting, Held on 10th March 2026 at the Village Hall, Kingston St Mary, starting at 19:00

1. Attendance and Apologies

In attendance:
Cllr P Townsend (Chairman)
Cllr D Darch
Cllr S Hancock
Cllr A Simpson
Cllr D Stripp
Mrs K Gibbins (Parish Clerk)
Apologies:
Cllr P Boyce
Cllr N O'Donnell (Somerset)
Cllr D Perry (Somerset)

There were 3 members of the public in attendance.

2. Councillors' Declarations of Interest

All Parish Councillors attending the meeting were Board Members or Members of the Kingston St Mary Community Land Trust and determined they therefore had a non-pecuniary conflict of interest with respect to the Section 106 Agreements and it would be inappropriate for them to comment on the following planning applications: Case Ref: 20/26/0006/VSC; Case Ref: 20/26/0007/VSC and Case Ref: 20/26/0008/VSC.

3. Approval of Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 10th February 2026

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting were approved and will be signed as a true record at a future date.

4. Planning

Applications:
Case Ref: 20/26/0004 - Erection of single storey extensions to the side and rear of Millcot, Kingston St Mary
The Council resolved to fully support this application.
Case Ref: 20/26/0006/VSC - Variation to Section 106 agreement on application 20/23/0045 to remove the affordable housing obligations at Plots 19 and 20 Mill Meadow, Kingston St Mary
The Councillors determined they had a non-pecuniary conflict of interest with respect to the Section 106 Agreements, and it would therefore be inappropriate for the Council to comment on this planning application.
Case Ref: 20/26/0007/VSC - Variation to Section 106 agreement on application 20/23/0044 to remove the affordable housing obligations at Plots 15-18 Mill Meadow, Kingston St Mary
The Councillors determined they had a non-pecuniary conflict of interest with respect to the Section 106 Agreements, and it would therefore be inappropriate for the Council to comment on this planning application.
Case Ref: 20/26/0008/VSC - Variation to Section 106 agreement on application 20/24/0007 to remove the affordable housing obligations at Plots 5, 6, 8, 10 & 12 Mill Meadow, Kingston St Mary
The Councillors determined they had a non-pecuniary conflict of interest with respect to the Section 106 Agreements, and it would therefore be inappropriate for the Council to comment on this planning application.
Case Ref: 20/26/0009/LEW - Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of dwelling without the compliance of Condition No. 03 of application 44916/1 dated 12 May 1964 (agricultural occupancy condition) at Middlemarsh, Cheddon Fitzpaine Road, Kingston St Mary
The Council has no evidence to refute the authenticity of the applicant's Statutory Declaration and therefore raised no objection to this Planning Application.
Case Ref: 20/26/0010 - Replacement of detached garage at Bobbetts Cottage, Kingston Road, Kingston St Mary
The Council resolved to fully support this application.
Case Ref: 20/26/0011 - Demolition of conservatory and erection of a single storey flat roof extension with roof terrace to the side of Dalsyn, Park Lane, 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

Other matters:

Quantock Park – The Chair advised the three planning applications for the first phase of the houses, the Spine Road (as far as Rectory Road) and the buffer planting and drainage scheme in the Staplegrove East development had been unanimously approved by Somerset Council's Planning Committee - West. He went on to say Staplegrove West will now be called Quantock Park. The Council resolved to put questions raised in a letter from a resident regarding traffic concerns around the development to Cllr Perry for his comments at the next meeting.

5. Matters Outstanding from Previous Minutes

a. Internet Banking – To be carried forward to a future meeting.

b. Noticeboard – The Clerk advised Legal Services has escalated this matter as there has been no action from Highways.

c. Somerset Communities Raging Against Poor Planning (SCRAPP) – The Chair advised he has received the constitution for SCRAPP. The Council discussed the constitution and purpose of SCRAPP as well as general discussion around housing development and infrastructure in the area.

d. Councillor Training – The Clerk discussed the need to change the existing process around the receipt of Parish Council e-mails. She said all Councillors will need to access their e-mails through Roundcube to comply with Assertion 10 of the AGAR and be GDPR compliant. It was suggested one of the Councillors should do a GDPR training course and feedback to the whole Council. The Councillors agreed to use Roundcube to access all Parish Council e-mails. The Clerk said she would progress this matter with the webmaster.

e. PPLO Annual Review – The Chair said he had no response to the Council's article in Link-up looking for volunteers. The Clerk has received correspondence from the Rights of Way Volunteer & Trails Officer regarding the role profile of the PPLO. She agreed to circulate the role profile to the Councillors.

f. Road Hazards – The Chair advised he is still getting reports of potholes from residents. The pothole on Parsonage Lane continues to be a problem but unfortunately Somerset Council do not see it as a hazard.

g. Annual Parish Meeting – The Clerk said the date has been confirmed for Thursday, 21st May and the hall has been booked. She agreed to send invites out to all those who participated last year.

6. Somerset Community Foundation: Stronger Communities Fund

The Chair advised there is money available for projects which make communities stronger. The Council discussed applying for funding for the fete. The Chair agreed to put something together for the fete and agreed to pass the information on to the Village Hall Committee. Cllr Stripp agreed to apply on behalf of Kingston Community Partnership to help with the costs of running the Coffee Club, Good Neighbours Scheme, and other activities which brings the community together.

Actions: Chair/Cllr Stripp

7. Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance Life-Saving Equipment Appeal

The Chair said the Air Ambulance are looking for funding to help buy a new helicopter and kit it out with life-saving portable medical equipment. We have not donated money before, but the air ambulance has attended incidents in the village. The Council agreed to donate £200.00 to the Air Ambulance.

8. The Spinney

Cllr Stripp briefed the Council on the situation with The Spinney. There is concern the wildflowers and orchids in the Spinney are under threat by other vegetation which doesn't appear to be managed proactively. The land is owned by the Woodland Trust and the PC agreed it needs to try and build a working relationship with the Trust so together we can work to ensure the area is managed and maintained properly. The Chair agreed to arrange a meeting with the Woodland Trust.

Actions: Chair

9. Adult Social Care Strategy

The Chair advised Somerset Council has requested feedback from those accessing care and support in Somerset. The Council agreed this was a survey best responded to by members of the community who have experience of care. The Council agreed and the Chair said he would post it on Facebook.
Actions: Chair

10. SALC Parish, Town & City Council Survey

The Chair said he will complete the SALC survey on behalf of the Council. He went on to say it is like the survey Somerset Council did which KSM PC responded to.
Actions: Chair

11. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Somerset Review

The Chair advised LGBC for England has published its Final Recommendations for New electoral arrangements for Somerset Council. As proposed by the Parish Council, the commission has changed the name of our division from Taunton and Staplegrove, to Cheddon, Kingston and Staplegrove.

12. Somerset Residents Health and Wellbeing Survey 2026

The Chair advised the Council of the various dates and venues for the Community Health and Wellbeing Roadshow. Cllr Stripp agreed to attend the event in Monksilver on Wednesday, 15th April.
Actions: Cllr Stripp

13. Climate Emergency

Cllr Darch referred the Council to the draft article she has written on bonfires for Link-Up as this was a matter raised by quite a few people whilst the Emergency Plan was being written. The Council approved her letter and agreed for it to go into the April issue of Link-Up. Cllr Darch referred to a letter from a young member of our community who has expressed concern about the plastic litter in the village. They said they would like to see litter picks take place monthly and more litter bins in the village. The Council discussed the community litter picks and the collection of litter in the village and agreed to respond to the letter. The Council felt additional litter bins would not solve the problem.

The Chair asked if Cllr Darch would be attending the Flood Group Network meeting, Tuesday, 24th March. She said she wouldn't be able to, but Cllr Stripp said he would try and attend.
Actions: Cllr Darch

14. Playing Field Committee

The Chair talked to the Council about the quote from Proludic for the multiplay equipment in the toddler area of the playing field. This was the piece of equipment preferred by the nursery. The Council agreed the Chair should ask Proludic to provide a quote solely for the multiplay unit. The Clerk said it would be necessary to get two additional quotes as per the PC's Financial Regulations. The Council also agreed it was important to let the community know what equipment was being purchased. The Chair and Cllr Simpson agreed to work together to progress replacement of the doors on the pavilion. The Council discussed other improvements to the pavilion including plastering the walls inside the building to smarten it up a bit.
Actions: Chair/Cllr Simpson

15. Local Community Network

Cllr Stripp attended the LCN meeting last week and summarised the meeting with the Council including the presentation by the Police and Crime Commissioner. He went on to say there was discussion around whether the Highways Working Group should be joint or singular. It was felt the discussion tended to be dominated by Taunton issues. The next LCN meeting is on the 10th June at KSM Village Hall.

Cllr Stripp then referred the Council to his report on the HYPE PROJECT – Hestercombe Young People Evolving. He discussed where the project is, what the plan for it is going forward and how it is being funded. Cllr Stripp also discussed the National Youth Strategy with the Council.

16. Kingston St Mary Community Land Trust

This item was not discussed at the meeting.

17. Kingston Community Partnership

Cllr Stripp updated the Council on progress with the fete. He agreed to discuss the situation with CHSW regarding the possibility of inviting Styles Ice Cream to attend the fete. The Council agreed a subcommittee should be formed to help with the organisation and running of the fete. Cllr Stripp and Cllr Darch agreed to work on putting a subcommittee together.
Action: Cllr Stripp/Cllr Darch

18. Financial Matters

The Council noted the monthly bank reconciliation and authorised the following payments:
£206.00 – Paolo van der Steenhoven, second semi-annual invoice for editorial and technical maintenance regular KSM PC webpages at kstm.uk
£40.00 – SALC, Councillor Training 'Engage more effectively with young people 05/02/2026'

19. Items for Next Agenda

Please give any items to the Clerk.

20. Items for Link Up and KSM Website

The Chair will produce a report for Link Up.

21. Meeting Closed

21:08h

22. Date of Next Meeting

14th April 2026