



Kewstoke Parish Council

“Here to protect the Rural Character and Environment of the Village and to promote Kewstoke as a pleasant place to live”

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Chairman Councillor J.MacDonald

Minutes of the of the Kewstoke Parish Council meeting held on Monday 4th November 2024, which commenced at 7.04 pm.

Present:- Cllrs, K.Harper, J.MacDonald (Chairman), R.Adams (Part), K.Kenkins, T.Morris.(Vice Chairman),G.Vearncombe, T.Horry, S.Baxter, R. Cunningham, A.Clapp & N.Whyte .

In attendance

Parish Clerk

M.Hardwick

Unitary Members

Cllr Pilgrim

Public Participation

There were two members of the public in attendance.

A Local resident expressed her disappointment that the street furniture had been removed from the grassed area adjacent to Anson Road.

The Chairman confirmed that this was not an action by the Parish Council but North Somerset Council.

The resident also requested lighting to be installed at a dangerous bend along Sand Road to improve safety, or at least signage requesting vehicles to slow down.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting opened at 7.04 pm

2. Apologies for absence

N.Richards **Liaison Officer**

Cllr Williams **Unitary Member**

3. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of Interest

4. Adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 7th October 2024

Proposed Cllr Vearncombe

Seconded Cllr Whyte

The Chairman called for a show of hands by the Councillors in attendance at the meeting on 7th October 2024 to indicate their support for the adoption. This was indicated unanimously.

Agreed Unanimously

5. O/S Actions/Updates from previous meeting.

Signage Toilets & Crookes Lane Footpath

It was agreed that Cllr MacDonald would further progress obtaining signage relating to the fact that the Parish Council maintained both the above facilities.

Cllr Harper confirmed that existing signage had now been installed at the Toilet Block

It was proposed that a sign prepared by Cllr MacDonald be sited at the Footpath entrance on Crookes Lane indicating that the path was provided and maintained by the Parish Council.

Proposed Cllr Morris

Seconded Cllr Vearncombe

Agreed by a Majority decision of 7-1

Action: - Cllr MacDonald- ongoing – It was agreed to wait until the fencing had been repaired before installing the signage. This was expected September 2024

It was agreed that now the fencing work had been completed the signage would be installed.

Signs were now available and Cllr Harper agreed to install.

Action: - Cllr Harper

Book Swap

Cllr MacDonald also raised the possibility of setting up a book swap facility in the Telephone Kiosk currently housing the defibrillator unit. Following some discussion it was agreed that this would be progressed noting some matters of detail needed to be agreed and resolved.

Cllr Clapp suggested someone who would be able to make and fit a book case in the Telephone Box.

Action: - Cllr Clapp

Cllr Adams requested that Cllr Pilgrim contact North Somerset Council as he was concerned of reports that the BMX park had been again expanding.

Cllr Pilgrim reported that a hole had been excavated for a new water container which may have given the impression that the site was expanding. Nevertheless, this excavation appeared to be dangerous and Cllr Pilgrim agreed to follow up the concerns.

Action: - Cllr Pilgrim ongoing

Document Storage

It was agreed to set up a steering group to look at scanning and indexing documents relating to the Parish Council and the Local History Group.

Due to illness the Steering Group was unable to meet, this is to be rearranged.

Action: - Cllr Baxter, Cllr Horry, & Cllr Jenkins.

Signage on the Dunes

It was also noted that the newly opened chip shop had installed signage on the Dunes which appeared to encourage members of the Public to follow the route to the beach over the post and rail fencing. It was agreed that this was not appropriate and the Clerk was requested to contact the owner of the Chip Shop.

The Clerk confirmed that he had spoken to the owner and requested re positioning of the signage. Unfortunately this appeared to be still in place.

It was agreed to report the matter to Natural England.

Action: - Parish Clerk

6. Police Beat Report

Cllr MacDonald read out the Police Neighbourhood report for October 2024

Call Received 47

Crimes Recorded 18

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cygnets 28 | Burglary 0 |
| Sand Piper Care Home 0 | Criminal Damage 0 |
| Assault 2 | Concern for Welfare 2 |
| ASB 0 | Harassment 1 |
| Abandoned 999 5 | Public Order 0 |
| Theft 1 | Road Related 1 |
| Threats 0 | Suspicious 1 |
| Other 5 | |

It was noted that reported crimes were still at a comparatively low level

7. Unitary Members Report

Cllr Pilgrim

Cllr Pilgrim reported that a site meeting had been arranged with representatives of NSC and the Police on 18/11/2024 at 11.30am in the Car Park opposite the South Sands Hotel to discuss anti social behaviour, mainly relating to speeding vehicles in the Car Park and in and around the Village.

It was confirmed that the Chairman, Cllr Baxter and the Clerk would attend.

Action; - Cllr MacDonald, Cllr Baxter and the Clerk

Cllr Pilgrim also requested the date of the Children's Christmas Party which was confirmed as Saturday 14th December. Unfortunately Cllr Pilgrim is unable to attend.

8. Other Issues

Staff Issues

The meeting was closed at 7.35pm and reopened at 7.50pm.

Details of these discussions are recorded outside of these minutes.

Annual Playground report

Work on the recommendations of the report was ongoing, noting all remedial works were considered low risk.

A quote for repairs has been received from GB Sports & Leisure for £2384 plus Vat in respect of additional works required to the apparatus.

In addition a quote was received for a replacement post required at the access to the Village Green for approx £120-£150 from Cllr Morris. .

After some discussion it was proposed to accept both quotes but to defer the GB Sports work until the spring and after the 2025/26 precept meeting.

Proposed Cllr Vearncombe

Seconded Cllr Morris

Agreed Unanimously

Action: - Parish Clerk

Coach Signage

North Somerset Council had been contacted by the Clerk with a view to add additional signage routing coaches away from using upper Kewstoke Road.

Unfortunately this could not be agreed although they were prepared to consider changing the existing directional signage to highlight the restriction ahead, if the Parish Council met the cost.

Prior to any changes, a Highways improvement form would be required to be completed.

It was agreed to complete the appropriate forms and await the details of the costing.

Action: - Parish Clerk

Christmas Menus

Cllr Cunningham confirmed the date as 24th January 2025 for the Christmas gathering, and requested confirmation of numbers.

Date of Policy & Finance Meeting (Pre Precept Meeting)

This was agreed as 17th December 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall

Devolution of Services

The Clerk referred to a meeting attended by Local Clerks whereby it was proposed by Officers of NSC to devolve certain services to Local Parish Councils. It was suggested that additional finances could be raised by increasing the Parish precept rather than North Somerset's which was likely to be capped by the Government.

It was also suggested that several Parishes got together to negotiate contracts for such services to achieve economic benefits. The proposed devolution of services was confirmed by Cllr Pilgrim,

Also as part of this exercise to address the financial difficulties facing North Somerset Council, the Clerk referred to an invite to a Budget Development Engagement exercise on 7th November 2024 at the Town Hall between 5.30pm and 7pm.

No one from the Parish Council wished to attend.

Birnbeck Pier

The Mayor Cllr John Crockford-Hawley who is also a local historian and trustee of Birnbeck Pier and sits on the redevelopment committee has agreed to come and undertake a presentation. It was agreed to invite the Mayor to one of the next Parish Council meetings with a 30 min slot made available.

Action: - Parish Clerk

Dune Maintenance

The Clerk requested an indication of when next year's cut of the Sea Bank and Dunes should be undertaken

This was agreed as 2nd-3rd week June 2025

Action: - Parish Clerk

It was also confirmed by Cllr Adams that contractor had been requested to undertake a reduced cut of the verges in and around the Village as well as within the Car Park opposite the South Sands Hotel.

The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted the Environment Agency with regards the damage to the recently installed Chestnut fencing on the Dunes and requesting that it be replaced.

Unfortunately it appears no funds are available at the present time to address.

Communications are ongoing with regards to the management of the Sea Buckthorn on the Dunes with Natural England. The Land and Conservation Manager has been requested to meet with the Parish Council to discuss options.

Clerks Report

Public Rights of way

The Clerk confirmed that 4 new recycled plastic bridges have been installed on the footpath between Crookes Lane and Court Road. The additional improvements required to the footpath behind the houses at Court Lane should be completed later in the year.

EDF Electricite de France

The Clerk referred to the compulsory surveys currently being undertaken by EDF with a view to flooding farmland in Kingston Seymour to create a salt marsh to offset the loss of fish from the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station operations, resulting from a decision not to fit an underwater Acoustic Fish deterrent.

It was suggested that the Parish Council may wish to issue a statement supporting the objections raised by Artingham, Kingston Seymour and Westbury-on-Severn Parish Councils.

The Clerk was requested to draft a statement for agreement.

Junction Markings Collum Lane

The Clerk reported that North Somerset Council had confirmed that Junction Markings requested by the Parish Council at the junction of Collum Lane and Lyefield Road had been scheduled for implementation by NSC within the next 13 weeks.

Monks Hill

Cllr Pilgrim was requested to chase up North Somerset Council to establish when the hedge and verge agreed along the sides of Monks Hill would be scheduled for completion.

Engagement Session on the Integrated Transport Scheme Pipeline

The Clerk reported that he had received an invite from North Somerset Council to attend an “on line” meeting to discuss North Somerset Councils Integrated Transport Scheme Pipeline on November 19th

Unfortunately none of the Councillors were able to join the meeting.

Weekly Checks of defibrillators’

The Clerk sought assurance that the weekly defibrillator checks were being undertaken and the compliance sheets completed.

This was confirmed by Cllr Cunningham and Cllr Harper.

Trees adjacent to Crookes lane Footpath

The Clerk confirmed that he understood it had now been agreed to plant some 50 trees alongside the Crookes Lane Footpath and on land adjacent to the Village Hall by the Forest of Avon Trust.

The Landowner had confirmed he would be responsible for their maintenance.

Memorial Bench Replacement

The clerk confirmed that he had a request to pay for a new Memorial Bench which potentially could replace an existing bench which had become beyond repair.

It was generally agreed to pursue this offer although final details would require clarification and agreement by the Council.

Action: - Parish Clerk

9.Financial Update

Payments for October have been approved outside of this meeting to allow payment in the appropriate calendar month. See below.

Payments for Approval October 2024

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Salaries & Reimbursements | £2,930.69 |
| HM Revenue and Customs | £369.65 |
| Foremostsigns | £12.00 |
| K.Harper Reimbursements | £29.50 |
| Weston Support services | £70.66 |
| Glasdon | £1,478.89 |
| Lannings Trees & Fences Ltd | £810.00 |
| Weston Town Council | £617.76 |
| Nathan Kelly | £600.00 |
| J.K Gardening | £965.00 |

Total

£7,884.15

Additional Payments for October paid by DD

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Water2Business | £40.50 |
| Water2 Business | £93.00 |
| British Gas | £31.31 |
| EDF | £1046.60 |

The Clerk reported that a request for a VAT refund of £1,900 had been received from HMRC, as well as a £218 refund from BWW in respect of water supplied to the allotments.

10. **Councillors Report**

Cllr Jenkins

Cllr Jenkins requested any articles for the newsletter should be passed to her by the end of November 2024.

Cllr Vearncombe

Cllr Vearncombe raised the issue with mud on the road caused by both agricultural and commercial vehicles using Collum Lane, to access Collum Farm.

The Clerk was asked to contact the owner of Collum Farm requesting the issue be addressed.

Cllr Clapp reported that it was believed an attempt had been made to clean the road as a vehicle was spotted extracting water from the mains supply close to the vicinity.

Action: - Parish Clerk

Cllr Vearncombe also confirmed that he had contacted North Somerset Council with regards a number of trees in and around the Village that required attention to make safe.

Cllr Morris

Cllr Morris gave an update on the painting of the Bus Shelter at the Bus Terminus Car Park which had been successfully completed.

He suggested that the Bus Shelter near the "Pink Shop" also required painting possibly in the spring along with some remedial work required on the wooden seats.

Cllr Whyte

Cllr Whyte reported that the streetlight (Number 2) on Anson Road was not working.

Action: - Cllr Harper

Cllr Harper

Cllr Harper referred to the request made in Public Participation for signage and lighting at a bend on Sand Road. It was generally agreed that this was not necessary.

Cllr MacDonald

Cllr MacDonald reported positive feedback received following the cutting of the grass on the Dunes undertaken this year by a new contractor.

Meeting closed at 8.33pm

11. Date of next meeting Monday 2nd December 2024.

