

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 9th January 2017

Present: Cllr S.Powell (SP, Chair). Cllr M. McKeown (MM), Cllr R. Munroe (RM), Cllr R. Sleeman (RS); Cllr S Parsons (SPa, Gloucestershire County Council, GCC), Cllr T Berry (TB, Cotswold District Council, CDC), W. Cartwright (WC, Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

Before the minutes were recorded, SP proposed that WC be formally appointed as the new clerk and seconded by RM and accepted by all present.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr John Brailey (JB), Cllr Karen Mogridge (KM), Cllr Michele Rigby (MR)
2. **Declaration of interest:** MM on Lower Mill Estate (LME).
3. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 5th December 2017 were approved and signed. Proposed RM, seconded RS.

4. Business remaining

4.1 Village Lake (L99):

The maintenance of Lake 99 will be an on-going concern and it was suggested that KM meet with Green Attitude to understand these costs and to feed into a future Management Committee when put in place.

4.2 LME Cycleway:

WC to ask Will Vicary (or Mike Viney, LME) about a timetable for completion of the cycle path.

4.3 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): No action to report.

4.4 CDC Local Plan:

No action other than to keep on agenda and monitor actions. SPa (GCC) indicated that following further public consultation (16th Jan-27th Feb), examination by the Inspector in March, it is likely to be finalised by the summer.

4.5 Cullimore: See under Planning.

4.6 Flooding:

The previous clerk (Muriel Watkins, MW) had been trying to contact Laurence King (LK, Flood defence manager, CDC) for further information about the proposed culvert beneath Spine Road. It was agreed that WC seek a position statement from MW on the current situation. During the meeting, SPa (GCC) offered his assistance to help progress.

4.7 GCC Highways:

MW had formally reported on-going highways issues to Amey (need for yellow-backed highway sign at staggered junction at Shorcote/Spratsgate Lane, highway sign at LME, culvert under Water Lane). The Chair requested that WC familiarise herself with the list of logs and specifically the status of the drainage problem near the Chestnuts junction. WC to also report a new highway incident to Amey regarding a pothole in Water Lane. RM reported on his attendance of the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Council (GAPTC) cluster meeting of South Gloucestershire parishes on the 8th December, Tetbury (see appended report).

4.8 Cotswold Water Park Trust (CWPT):

SP, MR and RM met with Matthew Millett (MM, Managing Director, CWPT) on 04/01/2017 regarding the clarification of the current lease of the Parish Field. It was accepted that the current lease should be formally regularised and the PC would tender to do so. A minimum of 6 months notice period was agreed amicably with a finalisation deadline of 26/09/2017 in line with the usual renewal date.

It was noted that Keynes Country Park (KCP) is now closed and that CWPT is still deciding on a new professional organisation to take over the lease from Easter. Once the decision is made, it will be communicated to the public and what the new licensee will continue to offer and any developments. The meeting was considered a satisfactory discussion meeting in formalising the lease of the parish field, and it was agreed that MR obtain a quote from land solicitors on moving forward. It was considered that access to public footpaths should be a key component of any tender document. RM reported that assurances had been given by MM (CWPT) that the footpaths and public right of access would remain as is. During the SKPC meeting, SPa (GCC) advised that SP (chair) should write to Peter Bungard (Chief Executive, GCC) to reactivate the modification order of the definitive map and formalise the current footpath access.

4.9 Broadband installation:

Gigaclear has started to install fibre broadband in the area. WC to speak to KM on developments and whether the uptake has been adequate for installation to the village.

4.10 GCC Minerals Local Plan: SP has forwarded comments to GCC on behalf of SKPC.

4.11 Ashton Keynes NDP. SP will send letter of support to AKPC.

4.12 Road speed limits.

WC to confer with MW on the progress on making the whole length of the Spine Road have a cohesive speed limit.

4.13 Transparency code:

RM indicated that discussion at the recent GAPTC cluster meeting on the 8th December regarding transparency was useful and he felt SKPC was compliant with the transparency code. It was agreed that the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) should be contacted by WC about conducting an audit to ensure compliance.

4.14 Second defibrillator:

MW confirmed that there was enough power in the redundant telephone kiosk to run a second defibrillator.

5 Planning applications

5.1 16/0099/COMPU Cullimore Drainage scheme. Compliance with condition 33

RM and Alan Steeves-Booker (ASB) had a teleconference with Richard Mitchener (RM, Atkins consultant to GCC) discussing questions and concerns raised by ASB on the proposed scheme (see appended report). RM reported that although there were uncertainties in the answers on the questions raised, subsequent discussion with Jason Betty (JB, Planning officer, GCC) confirmed that the GCC position was that the proposed Water Management Scheme (WMS) aim is to present no additional flow into the county ditch. This reassurance was acknowledged but there is still concern on margins of error and whether, in practice, with high rainfall that there will be an increased risk of flooding to the village. RM is to consider the points and ideas raised by ASB and their impact of any final decisions. It was agreed that the SKPC stay in touch with JB and request a copy of the final report and ascertain the next steps that need to be taken (e.g. Full Planning Committee meeting). SPa (GCC) indicated that he thought it would not go back to Committee and any decisions will be delegated to the Planning Officer, JB.

6. Financial Matters

6.1 Budget and precept:

MW had presented a statement of the present financial situation to end November and estimates to year end to enable SKPC to decide whether an increase in the precept is necessary. Following discussion on the figures, it was agreed that the current situation is healthy and no increase is required. MM proposed that the precept should be kept at its current level and this was seconded by RS, and formally adopted.

6.2 Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) donation:

Traditionally SKPC had given a donation of £30 to the CAB. Whilst the merits of this organisation were not disputed, there was discussion on whether this should continue and that any donations to such organisations be on an individual and personal choice basis. RS proposed that the donation continue but this was not seconded, and therefore will cease. RS strongly disagreed with this decision.

6.3 Noticeboard maintenance:

It was agreed that the noticeboard may require some maintenance and that WC contact a local parishioner to assess and quote for any work required.

6.4 Course attendance for new clerk:

A GAPTC course for new clerks is to be held on 19/01/2017 and it was proposed by SP (chair) that WC attend the course and the cost of £35 and any travel expenses be paid. Seconded RS.

7. Questions/comments

7.1 Thames water:

SPa (GCC) raised the fact that Thames Water was clearing the ditch near the sewage treatment outfall and the footpath in this area and as a result, noticeable improvements were being seen near the Shorncliffe Reedbeds (on footpath from north-east corner of KCP).

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 6th February 2017 at 7.30 pm, Village Hall.