

## Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Present: Cllr K. Mogridge (KM, Chair), Cllr R. Munroe (RM), Cllr M. McKeown (MM), Cllr M Rigby (MR), Cllr S. Powell (SP), Cllr J. Whitwell (JW) Cllr T. Berry (TB, Cotswold District Council, CDC), Cllr S. Parsons (SPa, Gloucestershire County Council, GCC), W. Cartwright (WC, Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

**1. Apologies:** Cllr R. Sleeman (RS).

**2. Declaration of interest:** Cllr M. McKeown and LME.

**3. Minutes** of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 were approved and signed. Proposed MM, seconded RM

### **4. Clerk's report**

#### **4.1 Village lake**

A successful Management Committee meeting had taken place on October 19<sup>th</sup> and the Management Plan terms of reference had been adopted. Cllr Rigby gave a summary of the recent activities such as clarification of insurance cover, identifying improvements and maintenance requirements, and the results of their first inspection of the lake which will be conducted monthly. Boundary responsibilities were clarified, and it was agreed a report be compiled annually to be presented to SKPC. It was agreed that requests for future maintenance funding should be given to the Parish Council for the December meeting to be evaluated for this year/next year budget.

**4.2 LME cycleway:** Nothing further to report.

**4.3 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP):** Cllr SP had addressed some of the CDC comments and Cllr RM is arranging a meeting with James Brain (Forward Planning Officer) in the next couple of weeks and will report developments at the next PC meeting.

**4.4 CDC Local Plan:** Nothing further to report. Cllr TB (CDC) indicated that another meeting regarding the Chesterton planning application is likely to occur before the end of the year.

**4.5 Flooding:** Cllr KM agreed to attend a meeting on local flood issues on the 17<sup>th</sup> November and will report back at the next PC meeting. Cllr RM indicated his concern of weeds growing in the Thames and potential flooding with heavy rain at back of Mill Lane. WC (clerk) to contact the EA hotline and ask whether an inspection would be possible to check if any remedial action was required. A parishioner had indicated that the ditch by Mill Lane had been recently cleared and to a high standard.

**4.6 Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Highways:** Remedial works had been completed on the surface of Water Lane. It was requested that WC (clerk) contact GCC to confirm what is happening with the road works at the Spine Road in terms of length of time of closure. A parishioner had raised the issue of condition of the public footpath alongside Kennel bungalow, and it was confirmed this will be the landowner's responsibility. However, Cllr SPa indicated that he had some funds available for improvements to footpaths and WC (clerk) would contact him on this possibility.

**4.7 Cotswold Water Park Trust (CWPT):** Cllr RM and Cllr RS had met with Annie Horn (AH, Planning Solutions Ltd) which had been a very useful meeting discussing their plans for the park, landscaping and the addressing the issue of car parking. Cllr KM and Cllr RS had also met with Jaci Harris (JH, GCC) and discussed that an appropriate way forward for the Public Right of Way would be to issue it as a dedicated footpath (on the definitive map) with a right of closure (a maximum of 10-day closure clause would only apply to the PROW between the two lakes and would have to be on days when the park is full). The remainder of the PROW will not have restrictions and it was discussed whether the short path across the southern end of the Parish Field could also become a PROW. Cllr KM wished to write to JH and AH to confirm agreement by the Parish Council on adopting this approach, and approval of the PROW at the southern end of the Parish Field. Proposed KM and seconded SP.

**4.8 Parish Field:** The Parish Council were pleased to announce Waterland were the successful applicant for the 5-year lease and that a meeting is in the process of being arranged in December to discuss future activities, and establish a close working relationship. Cllr RM and Cllr MR to attend.

**4.9 Neighbridge:** Sir David John (CWPT, Chief Executive) is to meet representatives of the Council (20/11/2017) to discuss the issues of inadequate emptying of litter, dog bins, swimming and overflow parking issues over the summer. Cllr MR and Cllr RS to attend and will report back at the next meeting.

**4.10 Broadband installation:** Nothing further to report, Cllr TB was to meet an alternative provider to Gigaclear imminently and will report back at the next meeting.

**5.11 GCC Minerals Local Plan:** Nothing further to report.

**5.12 Road speed limits:** Nothing further to report.

**5.13 Transparency code:** WC (clerk) to apply for funding for a laptop computer and software which may be on offer under the transparency code.

**5.14 Second defibrillator:** BT had sent a generic contract to adopt the phone box and it was agreed that Cllr KM agreed to investigate any associated issues (e.g. such as payment of electricity) before signing.

**5.15 Cotswold Community site:** Nothing further to report.

**5.16 Village entry signs:** Nothing further to report, deferred to the next meeting.

**5.17 Village noticeboard:** Miles Carpentry had quoted on treating/weather proofing the rest of the noticeboard at £70-100 (previously completed maintenance work on the doors). It was agreed that WC request that further maintenance work be conducted up to a maximum cost of £100. SP proposed, RM seconded.

**5.18 Somerford Keynes Conservation area:** Cllr KM had given comments on the consultation draft on Somerford Keynes Conservation area by the deadline and received no response as to why the Park was not included in the conservation area, given that it had been recognised as an area of importance. Cllr TB offered to follow up a response.

**5.19 Hedges:** Cllr KM to include a polite reminder in the next newsletter (November/December) regarding hedge cutting.

**6. Planning matters:** No objections raised.

## **7. Financial Matters**

**7.1 Expenditure:** Tanner's Solicitors Parish field £6. Proposed MM, seconded RM.

## **8. Questions/AOB**

It was requested that WC (clerk) ensure that the current standing orders be reviewed and re-approved at the annual May meeting.

Cllr TB discussed increased availability of CDC funding but only for major projects (e.g. new playgrounds).

Cllr RM had read the press release about Publica, the new body established to deliver a range of services on behalf of CDC, West Oxfordshire, Forest of Dean and Cheltenham Councils, and wished to express his concern about governance and accountability issues surrounding the new body. Cllr TB explained the nature of the new body and the process surrounding its development, which would help CDC to make considerable financial savings in the future.

There being no other business or questions, the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

**Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 7.30 pm, Village Hall.