

Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 8th January 2018

Present: Cllr K. Mogridge (KM, Chair), Cllr R. Munroe (RM), Cllr M. McKeown (MM), Cllr M Rigby (MR), Cllr R. Sleeman (RS), 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 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr S. Powell (SP), Ian and Maureen Boast

2. Declaration of interest: Cllr MM and Lower Mill Estate (LME).

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2017 were approved and signed. Proposed RM, seconded JW.

4. Clerk's report

4.1 Cotswold Water Park Trust (CWPT): Cllr RS updated the Parish Council on the latest position from Jaci Harris (JH, GCC) following advice she had received from legal teams within both GCC and Wiltshire County Council (WCC). On the basis of legislation concerning health and safety, the CWPT would be allowed to instigate emergency temporary closure of public rights of way in the park on ground of likelihood of danger of the public (due to overcrowding.) A situation which would lead to such closure, for example, would be a met office heatwave reported on a Friday night. There was concern about in practice, how often this could be initiated and that monitoring the frequency of closure would be important. JH had advised SKPC to continue the application for a dedicated footpath as this was almost complete and that the 10-day closure compromise discussed in the December 2017 Parish Council meeting be removed in view of the recent legal advice. It was proposed that the dedicated path application (without the 10-day closure compromise) be initiated on the premise that Cllr RS contact JH and request confirmation in writing this is the best approach. Proposed RM, Seconded KM. Action: Cllr RS to contact JH (GCC) to ensure the best approach is taken and confirm in writing. Cllr KM to write to other Parish Councils (South Cerney, Minety, Poole Keynes, Ashton Keynes, Kemble) to inform of the current situation.

4.2 Village lake

Thanks were given to the Management Committee for all their continued hard work and progress with the on-going maintenance of the Village Lake ("slippery board walk" signs had been put in place). Further consideration was given for funding a tree condition survey (quote estimate £250) following a letter which had been circulated from the Management Committee justifying its need. It was proposed that a vote be undertaken on whether to approve this as a one-off grant for 2017/18 and that subsequently, other funding be sought in the future. Cllr SP had forwarded the standard proforma and it was suggested that LME be approached for 106 funding by the Management Committee before any contact with Sophia Price (CDC). Approval for funding for a tree condition survey in the current financial year was agreed following a vote. Proposed JW, Seconded MR, in favour 4 to 2. Action: WC (clerk) to inform the Management Committee of the decision.

4.3 LME cycleway: WC (clerk) had contacted Mike Viney (LME) to encourage completion of the work following the application being granted. Action: WC (clerk) to keep SKPC aware of developments.

4.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): Cllr RM reported that a meeting had occurred between James Brain and Sophia Price (Forward Planning Officers, CDC) which had been extremely helpful. The CDC local plan had made considerable progress and as a result, there were policies (e.g. settlement protection/mineral extraction) in the NDP which required amendment to be consistent with the local plan. Action: Cllr RM and Cllr SP to address these comments and will circulate a further draft to SKPC sub-committee for comment.

4.5 CDC Local Plan: See 4.4 above. TB (CDC) indicated that the meeting regarding the Chesterton planning application had been cancelled; re-scheduled on 16th January, 10.00 am at the Cirencester Baptist Church.

4.6 Flooding: The meeting on the 4th January at CDC on "natural flood management" to also involve the Environment Agency (EA) had been postponed. Action: Cllr SPa (GCC) to inform regarding any rescheduled meeting. Cllr JW indicated he had informed the EA of large branches that had fallen into the Thames as he is concerned that this could cause local flooding at Neighbridge (incident number allocated). There also was some concern raised about clearing under road gullies following the leaf sweeping that had recently be undertaken.

Action: SPa (GCC) to check the situation with his personal contacts; WC (clerk) to contact Highways.

4.7 Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Highways: Following complaints of the condition of public footpath alongside Kennel bungalow, WC (clerk) had visited the responsible landowner (without success) to request that some remedial measures be undertaken e.g. infill with gravel/cover with bark chippings. Action: Cllr KM offered to visit/write a letter.

4.8 Parish Field: Cllr RM and Cllr MR had met with Jo Pendleberry (JP, Waterland) on the 8th December which was highly positive (meeting notes had been circulated by the Councillors). The next scheduled meeting is on 11th June. JP had provided a summary of the principal intended uses of the Parish Field for the coming year. For completeness, JP agreed to specify the actual number of days usage linked to each of the major events. Action: WC (clerk) to formally request for this information.

4.9 Neighbridge: Nothing further to report. Action: All to continue to monitor the situation.

4.10 Broadband installation: Nothing further to report. Action: Cllr TB to keep SKPC aware of any developments of contact with the wireless broadband provider Voneus.

4.11 GCC Minerals Local Plan: Nothing further to report.

4.12 Road speed limits: Nothing further to report, Cllr SPa (GCC) to continue work on adopting a consistent speed limit on the Spine Road. Action: SPa (GCC) to keep SKPC aware of progress.

4.13 Transparency code: Nothing further to report.

4.14 Second defibrillator: It was proposed a vote be taken on whether to include a budget (£1000) to purchase a second defibrillator in the next financial year (2018/19), and to apply this financial year to hopefully obtain a grant for part-funding (£500). Proposed MM, Seconded JW. Accepted in favour (5 to 1). Action: Cllr KM to apply for a grant.

4.15 Cotswold Community site: Nothing further to report.

4.16 Village entry signs: Nothing further to report; it was agreed to defer to September meeting.

5.17 Village noticeboard: Miles Carpentry had been approached on treating/weather proofing the rest of the noticeboard which would be weather dependent. Action: WC (clerk) to organise preferably before end of March.

5.18 Somerford Keynes Conservation area: Cllr KM indicated that all landowners had received consultation letters from CDC regarding the new Somerford Keynes Conservation area and that the Park had been included in the conservation area. The PC had received no comments directly from any landowners.

5.19 Miscellaneous: It was agreed to consider organising a commemoration of the end of the 1st World War, Action: WC (clerk) to place on the agenda at the AGM to obtain parishioners views.

WC (clerk) confirmed that Roger Duckett had agreed he was still happy to act as our internal auditor.

Peter Watkins, from the floor, indicated that his previous e-mail on the issue of extinguishing unsurfaced roads was not an issue for the SKPC and need no further consideration.

WC (clerk) made Councillors aware of the emerging General Data Protection Regulations and that any advice needed would be sought from Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC).

6. Planning matters: 17/04725/FUL (LME) No objections raised.

7. Financial Matters

7.1 Budget and precept: It was unanimously agreed that the precept should be increased by £250 to reflect additional expenditure that will be incurred for 2018/19 (e.g. maintenance of assets such as the village lake, purchase of a second defibrillator). Proposed RS, Seconded JW.

7.2 Expenditure: Slippery path signs £57.66. Proposed KM, seconded RS.

8. Questions/AOB

WC (clerk) to circulate currently held dates of AGM (as well as include a Monday)/spring clean to Councillors and confirm availability.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 5th February 2018 at 7.30 pm, Village Hall.