

Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 1st October 2018

Present: Cllr K. Mogridge (KM), Cllr R Munroe (RM), Cllr M. McKeown (MM), Cllr S. Powell (SP), 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 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr M. Rigby (MR)

2. Declaration of interest: Cllr RS and 18/03482/TCONR

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September were approved and signed. Proposed MM, seconded RS.

4. Clerk's report

4.1 Keynes Country Park (KCP):

Footpaths: RS provided a detailed update of the outcome of 13th September meeting between Cotswold Water Park Trust (CWPT) and GCC. A deed had been signed allowing footpath access, but it did not include access within the car park meaning that the official footpath would require a section to be along the verge of Spratsgate Lane. There was discussion on whether a permissive path would be sensible given the hazards of walking along the road. Compromise conditions had also been increased to up to a 20-day closure for hot days where the park at capacity, and Councillors questioned how this would be monitored. Action: KM to write to express our gratitude to Gloucestershire County Council and local parishes for their support and to invite Planning Solutions Limited (PSL) and CWPT to a future Parish Council meeting. SPa (GCC) to check with Jaci Harris (GCC) how the notification of park closure would be operationally monitored.

4.2 Village lake: JW updated SKPC on the recent volunteer morning where 5 volunteers (which included 3 committee members) had been successful. Quotes were currently being sought from 3 companies for undertaking the revised environmental management plan, and Mike Wilding (MW) was still awaiting a 3rd quote. There was much discussion about the ownership of the land, and requirement to fence off a small triangular area of land which children play as a den area that is not part of the village lake. Action: It was agreed that MW should get a quote for fencing the area. The Management Committee had requested that letters/e-mails of support for the environmental plan from parishioners be forwarded to the Clerk as this would aid funding. Action: KM to include request in newsletter.

4.3 Lower Mill Estate (LME) cycleway: TB (CDC) had made enquiries with CDC, and WC had re-contacted Mike Viney (MV, LME) to understand why progress had not been made. MV indicated that this was currently not a priority due to other outstanding work. Action: WC to maintain contact with LME and keep SKPC of any developments.

4.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): RM gave a detailed update in that a revised plan had been placed on the website. CDC had considered the revised plan and advised that a further pre-submission consultation with local community/statutory consultees should be undertaken. RM/SP indicated that the Council should accept their advice and were seeking an informal meeting with CDC to ensure they are satisfied with reference with to any new regulations/the adopted CDC local plan before submitting pre-submission consultation. After the informal CDC meeting, RM suggested that the Council NDP working party then have a follow-up meeting. Action: RS/SP to inform of any developments.

4.5 CDC Local Plan: Nothing further to report.

4.6 Flooding: Laurence King had provided WC with a contact Shaun Shackleton (Environment Agency) who she had e-mailed requesting clearing of the growing weeds in the riverbed at Neighbridge. No response had yet been received. Action: WC to chase a response from the EA. Action: KM to write a general reminder on clearing ditches in the next newsletter; WC to write to specific landowners as necessary.

4.7 GCC Highways: *Public footpaths:* Mike Barton (MB, GCC) had sent a useful update on the progress and outstanding issues on footpaths and RM requested that BSK11 also be included. MB had requested that the Parish Council contribute by purchasing new gates, but that GCC provide and fund the labour. The Council agreed this was a very reasonable offer and it was agreed would purchase gates up to a cost of £250. Proposed MM, Seconded SP. It was noted that the public footpath by Kennel Bungalow had not yet been addressed and should continue to be a priority. Action: RS to request a follow-up meeting with MB (GCC).

Spine Road flooding: MM had provided excellent photos of flooding which WC had been sent to Gillian Portlock/Richard Gray (GCC Highways) and was awaiting a response. Action: WC to re-contact Highway contacts.

4.8 Parish Field: Nothing further to report other than the next meeting scheduled for 19th November, which would be the opportunity to raise any operational matters e.g. car parking and that the annual rent is now due. Action: WC to raise an invoice.

4.9 Neighbridge: RM suggested that a notice be placed up on the current sign on entering the park that draws attention to the modest charge. Action: WC to write to the CWPT regarding this suggestion and ask for copies of leaflets that the CWPT/security company are placing on cars when parked on verges.

4.10 GCC Minerals Local Plan: Nothing further to report.

4.11 Road speed limits: KM had drafted a letter Wiltshire County Council (WCC) with concerns about Spine Road (by Somerford Keynes, Keynes Country Park). Action: All Councillors to provide comment to KM.

4.12 Second defibrillator: A volunteer morning had taken place on 22nd September (involving KM and two parishioners of the four who had volunteered) during which there had been an assessment of necessary work. KM presented an estimate and requested that an additional budget of £300 +VAT be agreed for necessary materials (glass, paint, personal safety equipment). There might be a need for a further increase depending on the condition of the door hinges. Proposed: MM, Seconded: JW

Des Sheen (DS) also suggested that the Village Hall Committee might be willing to contribute and that this could be raised at their next meeting on 7 October. Action: WC to write to DS to raise at the next Village Hall Committee.

4.13 Cotswold Community site: Nothing further to report.

4.14 Trees/hedges/verges: Nothing further to report.

4.15 Other matters:

“Battles over”: It was agreed that an evening barbeque with lighting the beacon at 7 pm should take place on the 11th November at the churchyard given the bells would also be ringing at this time, and the local history group display in the church. It was agreed that the event would be funded by the Parish Council (£100), Village Hall Committee (£100) and CDC (£150). Action: KM agreed she would organise the event and to publicise in the next Parish Council newsletter.

Jenny Swaffer (JS) presented a commemoration plaque which she had commissioned and which she requested support to be placed in the village hall. JS was thanked and RM indicated that agreement from the Village Hall Committee would be required for a final decision. It was agreed that the Parish Council support that the plaque be placed in the village hall. Proposed MM, Seconded JW.

Action (on-going): JW circulated the form to designate the Baker’s Arms as a community asset and requested comments. Action: All Councillors to comment within 2 weeks with the aim to add further detail to the form, especially sections 4.3, 4.4.

Village signs (on-going): Councillors to view recent Siddington village signs and reconsider at next meeting.

6. Planning matters: 18/03482/TCONR (West Manor Barn tree): No objections.

7. Financial Matters:

7.1 Expenditure: ICO £40, Printer inks £26, Notice board pins £2.49. Agreed *en bloc*: Proposed SP, Seconded RM

8. Questions/AOB

KM indicated that she had met with homeowners of “The Orchard” who wished to discuss their revised planning plans for an extension. KM had indicated that the Parish Council could not make any comment/judgement until a new formal planning application had been received.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

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