

Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 3rd December 2018

Present: Cllr K. Mogridge (KM), Cllr S. Powell (SP), Cllr M. Rigby (MR), Cllr R. Sleeman (RS), Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), Cllr T. Berry (TB, Cotswold District Council (CDC)), W. Cartwright (WC, clerk) and 2 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr R Munroe (RM), Cllr M. McKeown (MM), Cllr S. Parsons (SPa, Gloucestershire County Council)

2. Declaration of interest: None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 5th November were approved and signed. Proposed RS, Seconded JW.

4. Clerk's report

4.1 Keynes Country Park (KCP):

Footpaths: Nothing further to report. Action: WC to contact the Cotswold Water Park Trust (CWPT) and Planning Solutions Limited (PSL) in the New Year to invite to a future Parish Council meeting.

4.2 Village lake: A report by Mike Wilding (MW, Village Lake Management Committee) was presented. MW is the process of getting a quote for fencing and has received three quotes for undertaking a new environmental plan (estimates of £1000-2000). Sophia Price (CDC) indicated in order to be successful for 106 grant funding that matched funds would be required and therefore MW had requested that £500 be re-allocated for the environmental plan. Due to volunteer mornings, there had been an underspend on various maintenance of the village lake and as the £500 fell within the original budget which had been agreed for 2018/19, it was agreed this should be re-allocated for this purpose. Action: MW to send a copy of the 106 grant funding application to TB (CDC) who agreed to provide support.

4.3 Lower Mill Estate (LME) cycleway: WC had re-contacted Mike Viney (MV, LME) with nothing further to report. MV (LME) had agreed to clear a LME ditch which was needing attention. Action: WC to maintain contact and keep SKPC aware of any developments.

4.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): SP provided an update indicating that all comments had been incorporated from CDC, although there were still three aspects (including how to present ecological data, validity of the housing need survey and the boundary of the development limit) which need further discussion. A meeting had been arranged in early January with SP/RM accompanied by TB (CDC) and the CDC Planning/ NDP Team. Action: RM/SP to inform SKPC of any developments.

4.5 Flooding: Shaun Shackelford (SS, Environment Agency, EA) had inspected the riverbed at Neighbridge with RS/KM and local landowners walking up to the Old Mill. The meeting had proved useful in clarifying the current position of ownership and responsibility and process of clearing the riverbed. RS had requested the maintenance schedules for those sites that were responsibility of the EA including the pump maintenance. SS (EA) agreed actions to be investigated, including removal of thick branches of a tree which had fallen into the Thames at Neighbridge. Action: WC to maintain contact with SS (EA).

KM had written to Mr Holland Martin regarding clearing the ditch in Spratsgate Lane following a parishioner's concern.

4.6 GCC Highways: Public footpaths: WC had contacted Mike Barton and arranged a follow-up meeting on a variety of footpath issues on December 4th which was to involve RS, JW and herself. This would include issues which had been specifically raised by parishioners. Action: RS to provide an update to SKPC.

Spine Road flooding: Action: WC to finalise for meeting time on the afternoon of Monday 10th December with Gillian Portlock (Highways) to involve RS/MR and to invite Ann Whitwell to view road flooding sites and include any other new Highway issues as necessary, such as tree cutting of damaged trees/overhanging branches on roads.

4.7 Parish Field: MR provided a report of the recent meeting on 19th November which had been a positive meeting. Jo Pendleberry (JP, Waterland) was fully supportive of the draft agreement from Jaci Harris (JH, GCC) to make the short path at the southern end of the Parish Field a Public Right of Way (PROW). She also requested permission on whether she could at her own expense, upgrade the current fence behind the trees to protect the Parish Field from unpermitted use which SKPC agreed. Proposed RS, Seconded SP. Action: MR agreed to draft a letter to JP (Waterland) of agreement of upgraded fencing. It was unanimously agreed to sign at the meeting the draft PROW documentation of the southern boundary of the Parish Field and send to JH (GCC). Proposed RS, Seconded SP. Action: WC to send signed document to JH (GCC).

JP (Waterland) had also indicated that she was happy to give defibrillator use training, although she cannot issue any certificates, which SKPC may take up the kind offer in due course.

4.7 Neighbridge: Nothing further to report.

4.8 GCC Minerals Local Plan: Nothing further to report.

4.9 Road speed limits: KM had sent the final agreed letter to Wiltshire County Council (WCC) with concerns about the variable speed limits of Spine Road (by Somerford Keynes, Keynes Country Park).

4.10 Second defibrillator: Volunteer mornings had taken place and progress in preparing the telephone kiosk for renovation was being made, with red paint now in the process of being obtained. KM had also been in contact with the Community Heartbeat Trust regarding defibrillator costs as well as providing a new training session, which totalled £1775.00 and payment was by SKPC was unanimously agreed. Proposed KM, MR Seconded. Action: KM to send off payment to Community Heartbeat Trust.

4.11 Cotswold Community site: Nothing further to report.

4.13 Trees/hedges/verges: KM had written to Lake House regarding bowing stone wall alongside the pavement and request for action in terms of maintaining safety.

4.15 Other matters:

A highly successful “Battles over” village celebration had taken place with the number attending around 70, and all involved in its organisation were thanked. The event was kindly funded by the Parish Council (£42.50), Village Hall Committee (£42.50) and CDC (£185).

Baker’s Arm Community Asset (on-going): The form to designate the Baker’s Arms as a community asset had been sent to CDC and the outcome is expected around mid-January (currently the pub remains unsold). Action: WC to maintain awareness of outcome.

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

Bus shelter: JW had requested whether this may be a useful asset to the village, in particular at the site between the telephone box and noticeboard. It was agreed to place as a future agenda item to consider further.

BT Overhead cables: WC had been in contact with BT regarding the trees and overhead cables/leaning post and needs exact location in term of whether on private/public property, and the post number. Action: SP to give WC information who would further follow-up with Open Reach, BT.

Dog control: TB (CDC) advised that CDC now have no dog control warden and that any future incidents/concerns should be reported to the police/RSPCA. RS indicated that Mike Barton (CDC footpaths) is also to be informed.

6. Planning matters: 18/034223/DMPO (LME occupancy); No objections.

7. Financial Matters:

7.1 Expenditure: Clerks salary £492.75; GAPTC course fee £40, Clerk attendance GAPTC course £54.75, Clerk petrol expenses GAPTC course £27, Village hall heating £12; WW1 expenses £270; Telephone kiosk renovation £77.31. Agreed *en bloc*: Proposed SP, RS.

Defibrillator £1775.00: Proposed KM, Seconded MR.

8. Questions/AOB

WC had received an enquiry from a Cornwell resident regarding the history of the LME mill and it was suggested that purchase of “Through the Saxon Door” could provide useful information. Action: WC pass on information.

SP raised the issue of lack of car parking in Cirencester and TB (CDC) assured SKPC that this was high on his future agenda.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 7th January 2019 7.30 pm, Village Hall.