

Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 9th April 2018

Present: Cllr K. Mogridge (KM), Cllr R Munroe (RM), Cllr S. Powell (SP), Cllr M Rigby(MR), Cllr R. Sleeman (RS), CDC Cllr Tony Berry and 3 members of the public

In the absence of the Clerk on annual leave, RM chaired the meeting and KM took minutes

1. Apologies: Cllr J Whitwell

2. Declaration of interest: None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2018 were approved and signed. Proposed RS, seconded SP.

With the agreement of Councillors, the Chair brought an Agenda item forward to enable Ms E Hawley of 'The Orchard' to explain a recently submitted planning application (not yet received by the PC). It was agreed that this had been useful, and the PC would now await formal consultation from CDC.

4. Clerk's report

4.1 Cotswold Water Park Trust (CWPT): The PC had been informed by GCC PRoW Officers that its 2010 application to create a Public Right of Way around Keynes Country Park was unlikely to be upheld. This was because recent case law (2014) had deemed that as KCP had been purchased and set up as a "Country Park" access therefore has been 'by right' and not 'as of right' which would imply continuous acts of trespass over several decades. Access 'by right' was not a sufficient criterion for declaring a PRoW. Cllr Sleeman had also been informed by a GCC Officer that a new lease had been negotiated between the CWPT as leaseholder and PSL, the site operator, with the endorsement of GCC as landowner, allowing the operator to erect 5 gates and charge for cyclist/pedestrian entry to the Park.

The following actions were agreed:

- 1) RS to ask Nigel Riglar, Commissioning Director Communities and Infrastructure, GCC (NR) to a meeting (preferably before the Annual Parish Meeting on April 30th) to brief the PC on the current position and what further action GCC proposed, representatives of the Parishes which had joined with or supported SKPC in the PRoW application also to be invited;
- 2) KM to invite a CWPT representative to the Annual Parish Meeting, to discuss the latest situation regarding access at KCP.
- 3) Depending on the outcomes of 1) and 2) consideration should be given to arranging a Public Meeting between Water Park parishioners, GCC Officers, County Councillors and the CWPT to account for a number of issues, both past and future, including: why had the PRoW application been allowed to continue for 8 years if invalid; had the delay in settling it materially affected the outcome (the precedent in case law having been set since the application was made); how could GCC justify denying local people unfettered access to the Park when it had been purchased using public money for the benefit of local people; what does GCC, CWPT and the operator intend to do in the future.

4.2 Village lake The Volunteers' Day had been successful. A S106 application for further work was being considered by the Management Committee, which was due to meet soon.

4.3 LME cycleway: A Planning application had now been received.

4.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): SP had circulated a revised draft. RS objected to the setting of one of the development boundaries at the fork of the Ewen Road, believing it opened the way to greatly increased development. SP suggested that other policies would prevent this. Following a vote it was agreed to take the revised draft forward without further amendment to the next stage of the process, proposed KM, seconded SP, 4 votes for, 1 vote against. Actions: SP and RM to draft a NDP Newsletter, including the information that there had been substantial changes since the first draft; KM to prepare a PC Newsletter for delivery at the same time; SP to make a copy of the revised draft available to Webmaster Peter Watkins for posting on the Parish website.

4.5 CDC Local Plan: Consultation had now finished but nothing had yet been heard.

4.6 Flooding: There are currently no concerns despite the recent bad weather and high levels in Coke's Pit.

4.7 GCC Highways: Surface water and potholes were still a problem. Clerk and KM are to meet Richard Gray of GCC Highways on 19th April to discuss.

RS and KM are to meet Mike Barton of GCC Footpaths on 18th April to discuss footpath issues including the public footpath by Kennel Bungalow.

4.8 Parish Field: Next meeting with the tenant is scheduled for June.

4.9 Neighbridge: Verges had been chewed up by people reluctant to use the car park. Action: All to continue to monitor the situation.

4.10 Broadband installation: Nothing further to report.

4.11 GCC Minerals Local Plan: Nothing further to report.

4.12 Road speed limits: Some work on Spine Road speed limits had been done near S Cerney, but none near Somerford Keynes. Action: County Councillor S Parsons to keep SKPC aware of progress.

4.13 Transparency code: A computer had been purchased for the use of the Clerk. Some Councillors had had difficulty in accessing the Cloud storage. Action: MM to provide some support.

4.14 Second defibrillator: A grant of £500 had been received for this. Following some research KM recommended using the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) to provide the equipment. It was agreed that a locked rather than an unlocked cabinet should be acquired, and that the Cardiac Science GU5 defibrillator would be the best option as it is a later model of the defibrillator already existing at the Village Hall, and will therefore be easier to understand for training purposes. CHT had recommended that the PC apply for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant for the equipment. However, the telephone kiosk still needs refurbishing. Action: KM to push this forward, including asking for help in the forthcoming PC Newsletter.

4.15 Cotswold Community site: Nothing further to report.

4.16 Village noticeboard: Work had now been completed to good effect. It was recommended that the noticeboard be oiled twice a year, in September/October and March/April.

4.17 Data Protection regulations: Nothing further to report.

5. Planning matters:

18/00675/FUL LME cycleway and Minety Lane access at LME (resubmission of a previously lapsed application):
Action: KM to write in support and to request a speedy resolution.

18/00758/FUL LME water treatment building. No objections.

18/00508/FUL Elm View single storey house extension. No objections.

17/05194/FUL Parcel of land Mill Lane – permitted.

6. Financial Matters:

6.1 Appointment of internal auditor: Roger Duckett proposed RS, seconded SP, agreed unanimously.

6.2 Exemption from external audit: Resolution that the PC declare itself exempt from external audit within the definition contained in the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) regulations 2015, proposed RM, seconded SP, agreed unanimously.

6.3 Expenditure:

PC noticeboard £100, proposed SP, seconded MR.

Being a Better Councillor course (JW) – agreed in principle but no invoice had yet been received.

7. Questions/AOB: None

The meeting closed at 9.52 pm.

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 14th May 2018 at 7.30 pm, Village Hall.