

Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 2nd July 2018

Present: Cllr K. Mogridge (KM), Cllr R Munroe (RM), Cllr S. Powell (SP), Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), Cllr T. Berry (TB, Cotswold District Council (CDC), W. Cartwright (WC, clerk) and 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr. M. McKeown (MM), Cllr M Rigby (MR), Cllr R. Sleeman (RS), Cllr S. Parsons (SPa) (Gloucestershire County Council, GCC)

2. Declaration of interest: None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2018 were approved and signed. Proposed RM, seconded SP.

4. Presentation by Graeme Hardie (113 Events): SKPC firstly wished to state that the recent triathlon on June 10th had been well organised and there was a vast improvement on parking issues that had been experienced in the previous year. However, it was considered that further thought was needed to prevent traffic delays at the junction of Water Lane and Spratsgate Lane. Graeme Hardie (GH) showed examples of signs which could be used at the west end of Water Lane to warn traffic of runners in the road and potential delays, and which may encourage traffic to leave the village via the top/bottom end of the village. These signs if agreed, could be placed for the next event scheduled on 5th August. GH explained the inability to now employ as many police officers due to newly introduced regulations, but that accredited Marshalls are used for traffic stewarding. It was agreed that in the later stages of the race that priority should be given to traffic with runners having to wait for a short period to prevent the build-up of traffic queues. It was agreed that politeness of Marshalls as well as respect for the environment in terms of litter prevention was appreciated. GH indicated that 113 event's policy is to disqualify any runners who are seen littering. GH also kindly offered help from 113 events for the running of the village fete next year. Actions: GH to place agreed signs for next triathlon event in Water Lane. WC to inform the Parochial Parish Council (PCC) of the offer to help at next year's fete.

5. Clerk's report

5.1 Keynes Country Park (KCP):

Footpaths: The Commons and Rights of Way Committee had met on the 22nd June and as SKPC expected, determined the application for a Public Right of Way (PRoW) to be invalid (on the basis of the 2014 Neuberger case) and that the public had been entering the park "by right" rather than "as of right". However, under the Localism Act, GCC was still keen to designate the footpaths subject to some compromise conditions e.g. up to a 10-day closure for hot days where the park at capacity, and that the footpaths between the lakes are not part of the dedication. At the meeting Councillors indicated that whilst the 10-day closure may be acceptable, omission of the footpath between the lakes was not. Currently KCP is operating under the old system with no obstruction to access. Support had been received from Ashton Keynes and South Cerney Parish Councils to designate the footpaths, and KM had responded to the consultation letter from Jaci Harris (GCC) confirming SKPC position. Action: KM to write a similar letter to Wiltshire County Council (WCC) for August 3rd deadline.

Car parking/traffic queuing: Due to the recent hot weather, significant illegal car parking on the double yellow lines had occurred on Sunday 1st July around KCP, especially early afternoon. Action: WC to provide feedback on the website Parking@gloucestershire.gov.uk/GCC Parking colleagues.

5.2 Village lake: Mike Wilding had provided an update of Village Lake Management Committee activities to SKPC. The S106 grant application (following incorporation of SKPC comments) had been submitted to GCC and a successful volunteer morning had occurred on 16th June, and thanks given.

5.3 Lower Mill Estate (LME) cycleway: WC had contacted Mike Viney (MV, LME) whom had indicated that the planning application was with GCC, but no further progress made. Action: WC to maintain on-going contact.

5.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): RM indicated that further work on supporting documents had been completed that he would notify SKPC when the document was uploaded on the website.

5.5 CDC Local Plan: TB (CDC) had informed that a special meeting is scheduled for 3rd August to approve the recommendations by the Inspector, although it was of note that none are major nor would affect the plan.

5.6 Flooding: Nothing further to report.

5.7 GCC Highways: All items from the last meeting had been reported to Highways. Of note, the blocked drain opposite the Baker's Arms is scheduled to be jetted again, and Thames Water had attended and confirmed that the water is from natural sources and not from any mains. WC had also reported the safety risk of the bowing of the stonewall by Lake House, although it was thought this would be responsibility of the landowner ultimately. A meeting was scheduled to meet with Gill Portlock (local Highways representative) in July, but it was agreed that this should be postponed until later in the year when it was more likely that flooding problems could be seen.

WC had re-contacted Mike Barton (MB, GCC Footpaths) on the progress on footpath issues and MB (GCC) indicated he was in the process of getting quotes for required the work. Action: RS/WC to maintain contact.

5.8 Parish Field: A successful and positive meeting with the tenant had occurred on June 11th and RM/MR had circulated a report to Councillors, with the next meeting scheduled for 19th November.

5.9 Neighbridge: The on-going issues of car parking and litter was raised by a parishioner. KM had re-written to the CWPT regarding litter/anti-social behaviour but had received no response. It was agreed all to continue to monitor the situation and provide photos if possible which would be sent to GCC requesting for their help. Action: KM to write to GCC regarding the health risks of swimming, algal blooms, excrement, littering and fire risks of BBQs.

5.10 GCC Minerals Local Plan: Nothing further to report.

5.11 Road speed limits: Nothing further to report. Action: SPa (GCC) to keep SKPC aware of situation in view of any new planning applications which might increase any progress. KM to write to Wiltshire County Council (WCC) with concerns about Spine Road (by Somerford Keynes, Keynes Country Park), request for action and updates.

5.12 Second defibrillator: WC had requested for a quote from a contact who renovated phone boxes and had chased a number of times, but had received no response, and therefore now was considering approaching other organisations. Action: WC to keep SKPC aware of developments.

5.13 Cotswold Community site: On the 2nd June, WCC had approved the outline application (75 dwellings and 27 existing houses), although conditions still needed to be agreed which is anticipated to take some time.

5.14 General Data Protection Regulations: KM had written a number of policy documents and circulated to Councillors for comment. RM requested that the words “public/private businesses” also be added in the general privacy notice. It was proposed following this addition that approval of the documents be given. Proposed KM, Seconded RM. Unanimous vote in favour.

5.15 Standing orders: KM had reviewed/rewritten our standing orders in line with recently revised guidelines issued by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). It was proposed that the new standing orders should be adopted on the basis that they are regularly reviewed. Proposed RM, Seconded SP. Unanimous vote in favour.

5.16 Trees/hedges/verges: WC had contacted Highways to request reduction of the height of trees in Water Lane and Jim Tyson had responded by telephone. He was unsure whether Highways formally owned the land and therefore whether it was responsibility to maintain them. However, he would visit when next in the area on the basis of risk to safety and provide a written assessment on his view. Action: WC to chase and maintain contact.

5.17 Other matters: Action (on-going): WC to communicate with interested parties (Church, Village Hall) on organising village commemorations of “Battles Over” which was thought could be organised in September. It had been suggested by a group of parishioners that a wooden cross be placed in the village hall. It was agreed that, in principle, the Parish Council would contribute to any associated social event once agreement had been reached. Action (on-going): JW was exploring whether the Baker’s Arms could be designated as a community asset, especially in view of its possible sale. JW had the appropriate form and it was agreed that he would initially fill out the form and then circulate to Councillors for comment and additional information to be incorporated. Action: WC to inform the parishioner that the request for the use of PC noticeboards has been agreed, which would be the case for any village events.

6. Planning matters: 18/0910/FUL; 18/1070/FUL (LME occupancy): No objections.

7. Financial Matters:

7.1 Expenditure: Printer inks £17.99 Proposed SP, Seconded KM.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 3rd September 2018 at 7.30 pm, Village Hall.