

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

Present: Cllr K. Mogridge (KM), Cllr R Munroe (RM), Cllr. M. McKeown (MM), Cllr M Rigby (MR), Cllr S. Powell (SP), Cllr R. Sleeman (RS), Cllr T. Berry (TB, Cotswold District Council (CDC), Cllr S. Parsons (SPa) (Gloucestershire County Council, GCC), W. Cartwright (WC, clerk) and 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr J. Whitwell (JW)

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

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July were approved and signed. Proposed SA, seconded RM.

4. Clerk's report

4.1 Triathlon (113 Events) The signs placed in the village for the triathlon on the 5th August were welcomed, and it was suggested that the date be written on the top of the sign and in bigger print. Action: WC to thank Graeme Hardie (113 Events) and provide feedback on signs.

4.2 Keynes Country Park (KCP):

Footpaths: RS provided a detailed update - a meeting was scheduled on September 13th between the Cotswold Water Park Trust (CWPT) and GCC with the hope to come to a legal agreement. GCC have drawn up two deeds which dedicate the footpaths as rights of way under the Localism Act. In both cases, the footpath between the two lakes had been included, but there was a slight variation between the two deeds regarding entrance to the park. Compromise conditions e.g. up to a 10-day closure for hot days where the park at capacity is likely to be included in any discussion. Action: RS to inform SKPC of developments/outcome.

Car parking/traffic queuing: WC had contacted GCC directly and received a positive response in traffic enforcement patrols were sent and ticketing had occurred. It was agreed that WC would contact GCC directly in the future to alert on any events where illegal car parking might become an issue.

4.3 Village lake: MR gave an overview of progress following a recent meeting of the Management Committee. A volunteer morning was scheduled for September 29th for a general tidy up session. The Section 106 application for funding had been withdrawn following a meeting between Mike Wilding and Sophia Price (SPr, CDC). SPr advised that this should be conducted in two stages – a new environmental management plan was firstly required. Stage two would be to access funding for the projects identified in the revised plan. Quotes were currently being sought from 3 companies for undertaking the revised environmental management plan. The Management Committee requested that letters/e-mails of support from parishioners be forwarded to the Clerk as this would aid funding. Action: KM to include in newsletter.

It had been discovered that there is a small triangular area of land which children play as a den area, that is not part of the village lake. This therefore would not be covered by insurance purposes and it was suggested that a fence and appropriate sign be placed by this area. MR indicated that GCC stated that information held on their files could not be passed on and therefore could not divulge who owned this land. Searches carried out did not provide any useful information.

Action: SPa (GCC) would make enquires and inform SKPC as he did not think this was correct procedure under these circumstances.

A parishioner had written regarding fouling on the boardwalk, and CCTV cameras had shown this was due to otters and foxes rather than dogs. Action: WC to inform the parishioner of these findings.

4.4 Lower Mill Estate (LME) cycleway: WC had contacted Mike Viney (MV, LME) whom had indicated that no further progress made. Action: TB (CDC) to enquire with CDC why there had been no progress, and if necessary SPa (GCC) to make enquiries with GCC Highways.

4.5 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): The modified NDP had been posted to CDC and SP/RM were awaiting their comments to hear whether the NDP now met requirements in line with the local plan. Action: TB (CDC) to expediate a response from CDC colleagues.

4.6 CDC Local Plan: TB (CDC) informed SKPC that the local plan was approved on 3rd August which would mean 9,400 houses would be built with infrastructure to support the increased population e.g. doctor surgery, school, sports centre. Parking problems in Cirencester were already voiced and TB (CDC) indicated that £500,000 was being earmarked for this issue from the Chesterton Development (106 agreement), and a further £15 million was being spent by CDC building a multi-storey car park in Cirencester.

4.7 Flooding: Whilst there was nothing to report due to the low rainfall, it was considered that the weeds growing in the Thames at Neighbridge, and local ditches could become an issue when heavy rainfall returns. This would require involvement from the Environment Agency (EA) for rivers (with consideration to wildlife protection) and local land owners for ditches. Action: SPa (GCC) to make enquiries with Laurence King (CDC Flooding) on clarification/contacts and WC the EA to remind them of their statutory requirement to maintain our flood

defences. Action: KM to write a general reminder on clearing ditches in the next newsletter; WC to write to specific landowners as necessary.

4.8 GCC Highways: Public footpaths: WC had re-contacted Mike Barton (MB, GCC Footpaths) on the progress on footpath issues, especially the public footpath by Kennel Bungalow as a number of parishioners had made complaints. MB (GCC) previously indicated he was in the process of getting quotes for required the work and now would give a higher priority following the holiday season. The bridge at Neighbridge is currently being repaired, although it was unclear of the completion date. RS made MB (GCC) aware that the lack of communication on this work had been unsatisfactory and an apology had been received from MB (GCC). Action: RS/WC to maintain contact.

4.9 Parish Field: Nothing further to report other than the next meeting scheduled for 19th November.

4.10 Neighbridge: RM had written to the CWPT specifically regarding the travellers camping and a detailed response had been given as well as appropriate action taken. It was agreed that there must be lessons learned from the summer period and proactive measures taken for future years e.g. if necessary hiring security companies with experience in dealing with such situations. Action: SPa to maintain awareness and keep pressure on CWPT to ensure a future plan is in place. RM suggested that a sign be placed up by the CWPT regarding the car parking charges, on the verges where cars are currently parking. Action: WC to write to the CWPT.

4.11 GCC Minerals Local Plan: Nothing further to report.

4.12 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.

4.13 Second defibrillator: WC had spoken to a contact who had a background in renovating phone boxes, whom now indicated he would not undertake the work. WC had also approached Unicorn Restorations, but this involves removing the phone box, and renovating off site and as a result was expensive. The organisation had indicated that local volunteers often get involved and could provide advice as well as the necessary materials for a fee. WC also contacted CDC for any knowledge on local contractors, but none were given. Action: KM to follow-up with BT/Community Heartbeat Trust/Unicorn Restorations for advice with the aim to organise a local working volunteer group.

4.14 Cotswold Community site: Nothing further to report.

4.15 Trees/hedges/verges: Jim Tyson (GCC, tree specialist) had visited the village end of Water Lane and provided a written assessment of the conditions of the trees in terms of risk to safety. His assessment was that there was no concerns and no further action required at this time. Action: WC to inform parishioner and our local tree warden.

4.16 Other matters: Action (on-going): WC informed SKPC of the current plans to village commemorations of "Battles Over" which included a Saturday night quiz, Sunday church service and viewing information boards organised by the history group. It was agreed that, in principle, the Parish Council would contribute to any associated social event and TB (CDC) also indicated that he had funds available once agreement had been reached. RS considered that SKPC should support an event on lighting the beacon at 7 pm (which is in line with national commemorations). Action: KM to contact Village Hall Committee.

Action (on-going): JW had met with the Baker's Arms owner to discuss whether it could be designated as a community asset, the response of which had been negative in view of its possible sale. JW had the appropriate form and it was agreed that he continue to fill out the form and then circulate to Councillors for comment and additional information to be incorporated.

Oaksey Neighbourhood Plan: No comments.

6. Planning matters: 18/0954/FUL/; 18/02604/FUL; 18/02412/FUL; 18/02875/FUL: No objections.

7. Financial Matters:

7.1 Expenditure: Clerks salary £492.75, Internal auditor gift £20. Proposed MM, Seconded SP.

8. Questions/AOB

A parishioner asked whether SKPC was aware that Waterland had charged for car parking on the Parish Field during the summer. It was agreed this would be raised at the next meeting scheduled in November.

RM indicated that there very attractive village gateway signs had been installed in Siddington and SP also agreed as she had also seen them. Action: Councillors to reconsider village signs at next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 1st October 2018 at 7.30 pm, Village Hall.