

Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 7th October 2019

Present: Cllr R. Sleeman (RS, Chairman), Cllr R. Elsey (RE), Cllr. M. Keegan (MK), Cllr M. Rigby (MR), Cllr A. Stradling (AS), Cllr G. Valentine (GV), Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), Cllr T. Berry (TB, Cotswold District Council (CDC), W. Cartwright (WC, clerk) and 7 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr S. Parsons (SPa) (Gloucestershire County Council, GCC)

2. Declaration of interest: GV and Lower Mill Estate (LME), MK (19/02233/FUL)

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September were approved and signed. Proposed JW, seconded MR.

4. Clerk's report

4.1 Keynes Country Park (KCP): Nothing further to report other than there is to be an inquiry of recent drowning accident.

4.2 Village lake: RS thanked the Village Lake Management Committee (VLMC) on its success in winning the £5000 and all their on-going hard work. A successful volunteer morning had occurred 28th September, although the poor weather meant that a BBQ could not take place as originally planned. A shed and the board walk rails had been erected, and expenses submitted, and the next VLMC meeting was scheduled for Thursday 10th October. Mike Wilding was putting together quotes/timescales for the remaining work to be funded by Calor Gas Rural Fund. Action: WC to maintain links with VLMC and awareness of progress of village lake projects.

4.3 LME cycleway: Nothing further to report. Action: WC to maintain contact

4.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): Ron Munroe (RM) gave an update on the current situation following the informal explanatory meeting with SKPC held on Thursday 3rd October. The NDP document was ready to be submitted to CDC other than adding a line regarding the current situation with KCP footpaths, which was agreed by the SKPC. RM explained the process that the approved NDP will be submitted to an elected CDC nominated member, and if approved, the CDC will then instigate a further consultation period of 6 weeks. Should further comments be received, these will be considered by the CDC which might mean additional questions to SKPC, but if not, the NDP will be submitted to an independent examiner. If then agreed by the independent examiner, the NDP will be subject to a referendum with the process being overseen by CDC. Provided a majority vote is received, the NDP will be in place until 2031. RS wished to formally thank RM and Sarah Powell (SP) for all their hard work over the years. A formal vote was undertaken whether to approve the final NDP document. Proposed JW, MR seconded. Vote: Unanimously agreed in favour for the NDP to be submitted to CDC. Action: RM/SP to send final version to WC to circulate to SKPC for a final check, and then submit to CDC.

4.5 Flooding: Nothing further to report.

4.6 GCC Highways:

Village gateways signs: Richard Gray (RG, GCC Highways) had provided a detailed proposal for village gateway signs and information on how to apply for matched funding. The cost was £3500 (CDC would pay 50% meaning a contribution of £1750 from SKPC). It was agreed that SKPC would seek parishioners' views through a wider questionnaire survey (see section 4.14 for further detail) before making the final decision. Action: SKPC to reconsider at next PC meeting.

Erosion of double yellow lines – RG (Highways) had viewed those missing in Water Lane and indicated he would request remedial work to be undertaken. Action: WC to contact regarding timescales.

Spine Road flooding – MR had contacted RG (Highways) who was awaiting proposed solutions from his contractor. A parishioner also raised that the flooding which previously occurred at the junction of Spratsgate Lane/Spine Road had now moved to further back along the road, indicating that the drains maybe needed clearing. Action: WC to contact RG on both these issues.

Footpaths: Mike Barton (MB, GCC footpaths) had indicated to RS that he currently cannot replace the stiles at the north of the village due to funding issues Any future meeting would also be used discuss any other identified issues, namely the FP18 footpath (fallen fingerpost and overgrown vegetation) and that the Shorncote reedbed was also overgrown. Action: RS to contact MB (GCC, Footpaths) and raise all identified footpath issues.

4.7 Parish Field: To be discussed in a closed meeting following the public meeting.

4.8 Neighbridge: Nothing to report, other than WC had re-contacted Shaun Shackelford (SS, Environment Agency) regarding clearing the weeds from the Neighbridge waterbed, and who had offered a further meeting. Action: WC to arrange a meeting with SS (EA).

4.9 Road speed limits: TB (CDC) had provided grant application information to purchase a speed gun. In addition, the need for Speedwatch volunteers had been raised in the Autumn newsletter. MK indicated that speeding was an identified issue in Shorncote and parishioners would welcome such a scheme, as well as new signs such as "Access to Village" only. It was agreed to apply for the grant deadline (due 14th October). JW proposed, seconded MR Vote: Unanimously agreed in favour. Action: WC/MK to contact RG regarding speeding in Shorncote.

4.10 Second defibrillator: Progress was continuing with the telephone box which had been hampered by the rain, but painting had now begun. KM had submitted expenses so far and requested whether SKPC were happy to fund two additional defibrillator signs (approximately £55). Proposed RS, Seconded JW. Vote: Unanimously agreed in favour.

4.11 Cotswold Community site: Nothing further to report.

4.12 Trees/hedges/verges: Nothing further to report, other than RG (Highways) had been responded to WC regarding Water Lane hedge maintenance. He confirmed that whilst it was not on a regular Highways maintenance schedule, it was cut on an adhoc basis if considered to intrude the footpath.

4.13 Training courses: All new Councillors had attended “Being a Better Councillor” courses other than MK whose training was imminent, and all agreed the course had been very useful.

4.14 Gathering and understanding parishioners’ views: Following an informal meeting by SKPC, it was agreed that the new Councillors would like to introduce themselves and to try and gather and understand the views of what projects parishioners would like the SKPC to take forward. It was considered that a door to door questionnaire survey could be undertaken. TB suggested that Joseph Walker (CDC) may be helpful for idea on how to design the questionnaire. Action: AS, JW and RE to lead the project.

4.15 Other matters:

Dog control: Nothing further to report.

First Aid Training: Once the second defibrillator was installed, WC to recontact GCC regarding whether first aid training could be repeated in the spring.

CDC Response to LME change of occupancy conditions: A written response had been provided by GCC on the rules and it was agreed that it would be useful for GV to explain the situation to LME homeowner. Action: GV to communicate the rules to LME homeowners.

Newsletter: An autumn newsletter had been completed and circulated.

Formal naming of “The Street”: Following contact by Publica Group (GCC), a meeting was scheduled with RS/WC on Tuesday 8th October with Clare McNee as process was more complex than originally anticipated. Action: RS/WC to report back at next PC meeting.

Kemble and Ewen NDP: No comments. Action: WC to confirm no comment by SKPC

6. Planning matters:

18/04988/FUL (Oak and Furrow/sculpture trail): TB (CDC) has approved the application as a permanent residence. 19/02233/FUL (Old stable block to become 2 dwellings, Manor Farm Shorncote): New plans had been submitted for a 2-dwelling residence (as opposed to four) and any GCC Highway concerns had now been addressed. It was agreed that these plans were much improved; RS requested that drainage be carefully considered.

19/02114/LBC; 19/0213/LBC (Yew Tree Farm driveway). GCC Highways continued to support the view that the new entrance would be present any hazard which would mean that planning officers are likely to recommend. TB noted the strong objection from SKPC and other parishioners but had not currently managed to organise a site meeting with Planning Officers. However, TB would ensure this application was raised at the next Planning Committee meeting, the next one being Wednesday 13th November, 9.30 am and which presents a platform for any objections to be presented. Action: TB to ensure the SKPC and those parishioners who have objected are kept aware of the on-going situation, and the opportunity to make representations if desired.

7. Financial Matters:

7.1 Expenditure: GAPTC Being a better Councillor course attendance (AS, GV, RE) - £255, Stamps - £4.20; Village phone box renovation (KM) - £199.36, Village Lake improvements – £11.90 (Mike Willis); £9.60 (Mike Wilding), £837.97 (Mike Wilding). Agreed *en bloc*. Proposed AS, Seconded MK.

7.2 Income received: Waterland annual rent of Parish Field £1,080; Outstanding precept £750

7.3 Financial update: 6-month financial update was distributed to Councillors and would be updated monthly for the remaining of the year as decisions were being made on projects to be funded in the future.

8. Questions/AOB: None

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 4th November, 7.30 pm, Village Hall.

The public meeting closed at 9.05 pm. A closed was subsequently held to discuss the Parish Field.