

Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 4th November 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 1 member of the public.

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

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

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 7th October were approved and signed. Proposed JW, seconded AS.

4. Clerk's report

4.1 Keynes Country Park (KCP): Nothing further to report.

4.2 Village lake: Mike Wilding (Village Lake Management Committee, VLMC) had provided an update to the SKPC on progress to date on village lake improvements and the VLMC was thanked for all the continued hard work. The next VLMC meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday 7th November. Action: WC to maintain links with VLMC and awareness of the progress of village lake projects.

4.3 LME cycleway: Nothing further to report. It was agreed that a meeting should be arranged to meet LME given the continued lack of progress. Action: WC to contact Will Vicary and arrange a meeting with RS, JW and GV.

4.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): Sarah Powell (SP) gave an update on the current situation and that the final SKPC approved NDP has been sent to Joseph Walker (CDC) who had acknowledge receipt. The process was now being governed by CDC, with a CDC member Rachel Coxcoon needing to give approval for the next stage - a 6-week consultation period overseen by CDC. Currently, this would end on 24th December and it was agreed to support an increase in the timespan of consultation to extend beyond the Christmas period into January. CDC had recommended an independent NDP examiner, Andrew Ashcroft, who had been the examiner for other local NDPs and whose style of examination was respected. A formal vote was undertaken whether to approve Andrew Ashcroft as the independent examiner. Proposed JW, Seconded MR. Vote: Unanimously agreed. Actions: SP to confirm to Joseph agreement of examiner, suggest approval of increasing the consultation period beyond Christmas, and keep SPKC aware of developments. SP/Ron Munroe to write an NDP newsletter for circulation to parishioners.

4.5 Flooding: Nothing further to report.

4.6 GCC Highways:

Village gateways signs: AS indicated that following contact with Richard Gray (GCC Highways) a decision to apply for village sign funding to GCC must be provided no later than January, as there are no guarantees funding will be available next financial year. 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 to be sent in November (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 – WC had contacted RG (Highways) on those missing in Water Lane who indicated he would request remedial work to be undertaken.

Spine Road flooding – A comprehensive report provided by Atkins had been circulated with provided three options (£3K, 4K or 14K) by Atkins, the cheapest option of which was to reduce verges back to original width as an initial action with cutting in the verges. If this remedial action does not work, to then explore the two more expensive options. Action: WC to contact RG, confirm our support for this approach and thank him.

Footpaths: Nothing further to report. Action: RS to contact MB (GCC, Footpaths) and raise all identified footpath issues.

4.7 Parish Field: Nothing further to report- the next scheduled biannual meeting is 19th November.

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 a meeting was taking place on the morning of 5th November, with MR, MK and landowners. Action: WC to circulate outcome of meeting.

4.9 Road speed limits: WC had been applied to CDC for a grant to purchase speed radar device and it was agreed that seeking Speedwatch volunteers would be required. There was a meeting on 14th November on reducing speeding through villages and MS, AS and Des Sheen wish to attend. Action: WC to book places to attend.

4.10 Second defibrillator: The installation costs of the second defibrillator (£245 + VAT) were unanimously agreed to be funded. It was also agreed that the two extra defibrillator signs were not needed, and that one sign was adequate. JW Proposed, MR, seconded.

4.11 Cotswold Community site: Nothing further to report.

4.12 Trees/hedges/verges: Nothing further to report.

4.13 Training courses: All new Councillors had attended “Being a Better Councillor” courses other than MK who had to unexpectedly cancel her training session.

4.14 Gathering and understanding parishioners’ views: The draft version written by AS/JW was discussed and Councillors were highly supportive of its content and the format. It was agreed that Councillors would provide any comments to AS as soon as possible some (minor amendments were highlighted) after which she would send the final version to WC for printing who would also look at reallocating the distribution quota. It was agreed that Councillors would hand deliver to each house (16/17th November) and aim to collect the following weekend (23rd/24th November) and analyse the results in time for the January meeting, possibly the December meeting if time allowed.
Action: AS, JW and RE to lead the project.

4.15 Other matters:

Formal naming of “The Street”: Following contact by Publica Group (GCC), a meeting had occurred with RS/WC on 8th October with Clare McNee which showed the process to be more complex than originally anticipated. In order to get a formal adoption of the road name and a street sign, all affected homeowners would need to give approval by means of a signed questionnaire, as there could be a possibility that postcodes may change for some houses. The work by GCC and survey would also involve a monetary cost which SKPC may also need to contribute to. A simpler option would be to maintain an informal name of “The Street” in their database, in which case no further action/costs would be required. It was agreed that this simpler approach would be the preferred option. Action: WC to contact Clare McNee with the SKPC view.

5. Planning matters:

19/02233/FUL (Old stable block to become 2 dwellings, Manor Farm Shorncote): Nothing further to report other than a survey on door mice/crested newts was currently being conducted.

19/02114/LBC; 19/0213/LBC (Yew Tree Farm driveway). TB (CDC) updated SKPC on the current situation in that there will not a site visit. As Highways continued to support the view that the new entrance would be present any hazard, this would mean planning officers are likely approve the planning application. However, given the strong objection from SKPC and other parishioners, TB had ensured the application will go before the Planning Committee which presents a platform for any objections to be presented. Action: TB to ensure SKPC and those parishioners who have objected are kept aware of the on-going situation, the Planning Committee date at which this will be discussed and the opportunity to make representations if desired.

18/04794/FUL (APP/F1610/W/19/3238414) (Ivydene, Shorncote). It was agreed to support the planning officer’s original objections (e.g. cramped, not in keeping with the village) as the application had now gone to appeal. Action: WC to contact and emphasise SKPC support of original planning objections.

19/03726/TCONR (Tree work at the Croft): No objections

19/03460/FUL (Two Polytunnels): No objections

LME; 19/03633/FUL (Soft Play area): No objections

LME; 19/03616/FUL (LME, variation of conditions): No objections

6. Financial Matters:

6.1 Expenditure: Printer inks £75.45, Website hosting £83.52 Agreed *en bloc*. Proposed AS, Seconded JW.

6.2 Financial update: A 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.

7. Questions/AOB:

Local plan; TB (CDC) indicated that there was a formal proposal that the Local Plan is to be reviewed before the 5-year originally scheduled (timescale unclear).

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 2nd December, 7.30 pm, Village Hall.

The public meeting closed at 9.25 pm.