

Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 2nd December 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 2 members 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 4th November were approved and signed. Proposed AS, seconded GV.

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 funding requirements. The VLMC was thanked for all their continued hard work. Approval was given for spending the remainder of the 2019/20 maintenance fund of £800 (tree maintenance/boardwalk improvement). Action: WC to maintain links with VLMC/progress of village lake projects.

4.3 LME cycleway: RS, GV and AS had met with Will Vicary (LME) who had indicated that LME are now unlikely to complete the cycleway. However, this may depend on the status of the NDP in law and additional funds and whether SKPC can then encourage shared funding to complete the cycleway. Action: WC to maintain awareness.

4.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): Joseph Walker (CDC) had provided an update to SKPC indicating that the consultation period would run from December 4th - January 24th. The independent examiner Andrew Ashcroft had been appointed. Sarah Powell (SP)/Ron Munroe (RM) were preparing a NDP newsletter and requested that SKPC aid its distribution. It was agreed to tie in its distribution with the next newsletter to be written by RS. Actions: SP/RM to write an NDP newsletter for circulation to parishioners.

4.5 Flooding: Nothing further to report, other than Neighbridge ground was becoming saturated. A recent meeting had occurred with Shaun Shackleton (SS, Environment Agency), MR, MK, WC and landowners to discuss flooding, and SS had indicated he would keep SKPC informed on the ways forward of clearing out the riverbed as landowners indicated their frustrations that legislative requirements were impeding this from being able to happen. Action: WC to maintain links to with SS.

4.6 GCC Highways:

Village gateways signs: Action: SKPC to reconsider at January meeting following a detailed analysis of the parishioners' survey and make a decision whether to fund in the future.

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. Action: WC to chase RG on timescales.

Spine Road flooding: MR had sent photographs of before and after photos following the Highways remedial work of reducing verges back to original width and cutting in the verges. These had showed a significant improvement and it was agreed to maintain an awareness of the situation during wet weather. Action: All to monitor and report back any flooding issues.

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

Cycleway: A parishioner had raised the issue of a dropped section of the cycleway and RG (Highways) was to make a site visit on 5th December

"The Street" footpath damage: Significant footpath damage had recently occurred following CDC leaf sweeping and the use of the contractor's mechanical lorry on the footpath. There had been significant parishioners' complaints and RG (Highways) had visited the site, the contractor Ubico had made some repairs, although the consensus was these were of poor quality and inadequate. RG was in discussion with Ubico, CDC on the way forward and trying to get remedial work organised. Action: WC to contact RG to stress the urgency for the need for adequate repair.

Overhanging tree at Neighbridge: Following the recent meeting with Shaun Shackleton (SS, Environment Agency) and landowners to discuss flooding, ownership of the land remained unclear and therefore responsibility of the tree unknown. Given the main concern is its hazard to road users, it was agreed to request RG (Highways) to view it on 5th December when he was in the area (to view dropped section of the cycleway and Shorncote blocked culverts). MR was happy to meet with him at the site. Action: WC to arrange meeting time.

4.7 Parish Field: MR/RE had a good meeting with Jo Pendleberry on 19th November and all was in order.

4.8 Neighbridge: Ben Welbourn (BW, Cotswold Water Park Trust (CWPT) had written requesting that SKPC give support for the need for the current play equipment at Neighbridge to be replaced as it was now in need of updating, which would help CWPT with their application for grant funding. It was unanimously agreed to send a letter of support, especially in view of the survey and the fact that this is the only place for local children to play in the village. Action: WC to write to BW with letter of support.

4.9 Road speed limits: MR, MK and Des Sheen had all attended a meeting on 14th November on combating traffic speeding which had been helpful, and notes had been circulated. Subsequently, DS indicated that he was in favour of the mobile automated speedwatch VAS system and village gateways, in preference to re-establishing a Speedwatch team, although it was noted we have recently been approved grant funding for a radar gun. TB (CDC) offered that he would explore further grant funding possibilities with the appropriate groups and provide information to SKPC. Action: TB to provide information on the appropriate group to contact about funding road safety projects.

4.10 Second defibrillator: KM provided an update to SKPC on the current progress and was able to confirm that the defibrillator has been installed and is in the process of being registered with the appropriate services which she was currently undertaking. In terms of the renovation, the telephone kiosk was painted, a few windows needed replacing, and KM would need volunteers to help rehang the door. Gold paint had been provided free of charge which could be painted on the Crown. The Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) were offering a managed solution in that it provides the insurance and governance and would provide an awareness course in the future which was suggested for the spring. A number of volunteers had come forward to undertake a weekly check that the defibrillator was on green light and enter into a database, or report errors should a red light appear. JW volunteered to take on the role as being the Parish Council representative for the telephone kiosk. KM was thanked on behalf of the Parish Council for all her and Lynton's hard work which was much appreciated. Action: KM to liaise with WC regarding completion.

4.11 Cotswold Community site: Nothing further to report.

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

4.13 Training courses: The organisation of the planning training for Councillors course has been postponed due to the General Election. Action: WC to maintain awareness.

4.14 Gathering and understanding parishioners' views:

There had been a good response to the survey, with still some being returned. Many views and good ideas had been put forward. A bus shelter, village speeding devices, village gateways and improved footpaths had all received positive support. It was agreed that a further detailed analysis was now needed, initial estimates of costings sought and that an overall summary should be provided. All questionnaires to be returned to JW and AS/JW would do a detailed analysis to be presented at the January meeting, at which the village gateway decision must be made in order to ensure Highways matched funding. MR also indicated that a parishioner had offered to fund purchasing blubs for planting on verges and planters around the village entry signs (current or gateways) as a welcoming feature to the village. This offer was considered a lovely idea and one which would be considered further. Action: AS/JW to do a detailed analysis of the parishioner's survey and circulate to SKPC for discussion.

4.15 Other matters:

Formal naming of "The Street": WC had contacted Clare McNee (Publica) with the SKPC view to maintain an informal locally known name of "The Street" in their database.

Tree caught in power line, Water Lane: Southern Electric had extremely promptly attended to problem with 2 hours of being contacted, which all agreed was highly impressive.

Mobile library: WC had contacted all necessary parties, and this is due to restart at village coffee mornings in the New Year.

Sir David John death: SKPC had sent a letter of condolence to the CWPT.

Newsletter: Action: RS agreed to write a winter newsletter to be distributed to parishioners.

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): No site visit was to occur unless requested at the Planning Committee meeting on 15th January 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). WC had contacted planning and emphasised SKPC support of original planning objections, and receipt had been acknowledged.

19/04007/FUL - Construction of jetty/decking extension LME; No objection

19/04109/FUL; 19/04110/FUL; 19/04111/FUL; 19/04112/FUL; 19/04178/FUL – Occupancy LME; No objections

6. Financial Matters:

6.1 Expenditure: Clerk's salary £673.20, Hall heating £10, Michele Rigby Village lake expenses £122.82, Mike Wilding Village lake expenses £57.63, Proposed JW, MK, Agreement of up to £800 was approved for village lake maintenance (tree cutting, board walk improvement) Proposed RE. Seconded GV. Unanimously approved.

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:

None.

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 6th January, 7.30 pm, Village Hall.

The public meeting closed at 9.20 pm.