

Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 4th February 2019

Present: Cllr K. Mogridge (KM), Cllr R. Monroe (RM), Cllr M. McKeown (MM), Cllr S. Powell (SP), Cllr M. Rigby (MR), Cllr R. Sleeman (RS), Cllr T. Berry (TB), Cotswold District Council (CDC), and 1 member of the public.

In the absence of the Clerk, Parish Council members present agreed that RM would chair the meeting and KM would take minutes.

1. Apologies: Cllr J. Whitwell (JW).

2. Declaration of interest: MM and LME.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 7th January were approved and signed. Proposed RS, Seconded MM.

4. Clerk's report

4.1 Keynes Country Park (KCP):

Footpaths: KM had emailed Annie Horne of PSL (KCP's operator) but had received a reply saying that she was no longer with PSL. A new Park Manager is to begin at KCP in March, and Mike from PSL suggested a meeting in April or May. Action: KM reply to PSL asking for an April meeting (before the PC elections on 2nd May); and also to contact the Cotswold Water Park Trust (CWPT) for a meeting re KCP and Neigh Bridge.

4.2 Village lake: A Volunteer Morning scheduled for January had been postponed.

MR had been unable to trace the ownership of the small parcel of land to the east of the site. Mike Wilding (MW, Village Lake Management Committee) had asked for another quote to fence it off, but this had come out at over £2000, which was considered excessive. A member of the public confirmed that Ben Crew, who had done the original fencing, still undertook work in this area. Actions: MR to ring insurers to ask for advice on minimum fencing requirements. Village Lake Committee to continue progress on the various projects.

4.3 Lower Mill Estate (LME): Cycleway: Nothing further to report. *Jetties:* TB reported that following a request from the PC at its January meeting he had asked Planning whether there were pre-existing restrictions on the building of these, and had been told that there are only restrictions on lakes considered to be of ecological benefit. Action (ongoing): WC to maintain contact with LME and keep SKPC aware of any developments.

4.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): The Task Group had met and had, by a majority vote, agreed that the revised NDP should be put to the PC to be approved for public consultation. There were still a few small corrections to make but subject to these it was agreed that the NDP should now go forward. Proposed MM, seconded SP, passed 5 to 1, RS objecting.

The date for the public consultation was set at 1st March – 12th April, with a public display of documents at the Village Hall on Thursday 28th and Friday 29th March (evenings) and Saturday 30th March (morning). Proposed SP, seconded MR, passed unanimously. Action: RM/SP to co-ordinate, with other Councillors assisting.

4.5 Flooding: Shaun Shackelford (SS, Environment Agency, EA) had been in communication with WC and had confirmed who are the owners of the field south of the bridge at Neigh Bridge. Actions: RS to communicate with the landowner regarding a tree which might cause a potential blockage of the Thames at this point. WC to maintain contact with SS (EA).

4.6 GCC Highways: Public footpaths: KM had written to Sophia Price (CDC) and Mike Viney (LME) to explore the possibility of applying for a S106 grant for the restoration of the footpath by Kennel Bungalow. They had replied to say S106 money was not available for this sort of project, although Mike Viney had offered four person-days of labour as a goodwill gesture. Actions: RS to set up a meeting with Mike Barton (footpaths officer, GCC) and various landowners regarding both the Kennel Bungalow footpath and also the replacement of stiles with kissing gates as discussed at January's PC meeting. KM to thank Mike Viney for the offer of help but decline it as the footpath requires professional resurfacing rather than just clearing.

Spine Road flooding: Nothing further had been heard. It was noted that the drain around the Spratsgate Lane bollards had been flooded again following wet weather. Action: WC to maintain contact with Gill Portlock of GCC on progress of remedial work for identified issues.

4.7 Parish Field: Nothing to further report. Action: WC to chase GCC re progress on dedicating the footpath through the site.

4.8 Neighbridge: Nothing further to report, but see action for KM against 4.1.

4.9 GCC Minerals Local Plan: A submission had been received but its content for the Water Park was entirely in the eastern part around Fairford and it was not considered necessary to comment on it.

4.10 Road speed limits: Nothing further to report

4.11 Second defibrillator: Nothing further to report. Action: KM to chase Community Heartbeat Trust to ensure that they have received our payment.

4.12 Cotswold Community site: JW had asked for an update from the developers. He had been told a building firm, with a reputation for building bespoke houses, has shown significant interest in the project. The developers' best guess was that house building would start by the end of this year. Mineral extraction is likely to start this Spring as the planning issues have mostly been resolved.

4.13 Trees/hedges/verges: A Parishioner had reported in December that a wall was in a poor condition on the Street, and KM had written to the homeowner reminding them of their responsibilities. The Parishioner had subsequently reported the matter to GCC, who had confirmed to KM that the matter needed attention, but not urgently. Action: WC to inform the Parishioner of the above.

4.14 Parish Council elections: Since several Councillors expressed an intention to retire, it was agreed that a short leaflet should be prepared, setting out what being a Parish Councillor entails and detailing how the application should be made. Action: KM

4.15 Other matters:

Baker's Arms Community Asset: This had now been designated a community asset. Thanks were expressed to JW for his work on this.

Village signs (on-going): Given the closeness of Council elections, it was considered that this should be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting and left to the next Parish Council for its consideration.

Bus shelter: In view of the proposed expenditure on Village Lake and footpaths, it was considered that this was probably something desirable but not at the moment feasible. It should be raised at the APM to ascertain opinions.

BT Overhead cables: SP will give WC information regarding the telephone post which is likely to be impeded by trees. Action: SP to give WC information who would further follow-up with Open Reach, BT.

Dog control: Nothing further to report, but a short piece on how to report dangerous dogs to appear in next Newsletter.

6. Planning matters:

18/04722/FUL (LME – jetty) – no objection.

18/04684/FUL (LME – jetty with variation) – no objection to jetty, but objection to 'temporary' Airspeed caravan to be parked within the 250m exclusion zone. Action: KM to write objection.

7. Financial Matters:

7.1 Expenditure: Clerk's expenses (McAfee anti-virus for PC laptop): £49.99 - Proposed MR, Seconded MM.

8. Questions/AOB

Clerk's hours: In view of the fact that the Clerk had finished 2018 with hours owing to her, it was agreed to increase her hours to 16 per month, which is the minimum recommended by GAPTC. Proposed MR, seconded KM. Action: KM to notify the Clerk.

Annual Spring Clean: date set for Saturday March 30th meeting at the Village Hall at 10.00am.

Annual Parish Meeting: date set for Monday April 29th at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 4th March 2019 7.30 pm, Village Hall.