

## Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Present: Cllr K. Mogridge (KM), Cllr S. Powell (SP), Cllr M. Rigby (MR), Cllr R. Sleeman (RS), Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), T. Berry (TB, Cotswold District Council (CDC)), Wendy Cartwright (WC, clerk) and 2 members of the public.

**1. Apologies:** Cllr R. Monroe (RM), Cllr M. McKeown (MM).

**2. Declaration of interest:** None

**3. Minutes** of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February were approved and signed. Proposed RS, Seconded JW.

### **4. Clerk's report**

#### **4.1 Keynes Country Park (KCP):**

*Footpaths:* KM had requested a meeting with Planning Solutions Limited (PSL, KCP's operator) at the next April Parish Council meeting or an alternative April date which had been acknowledged by PSL. KM had also contacted Ben Welbourn (Cotswold Water Park Trust, CWPT) and requested to meet CWPT to discuss KCP and Neighbridge. Action: KM to chase later in the month.

**4.2 Village lake:** Mike Wilding (Village Lake Management Committee) had provided an update on a successful volunteer morning that had occurred at the end of February. TB (CDC) indicated that an application for 106 money for fencing could be put forward but would only be considered by CDC if there were a clear biodiversity reason. MR had received no helpful advice from Zurich on minimum fencing requirements from insurance purposes, and therefore the PC considered that the blue rope and signs currently in place were adequate.

**4.3 Lower Mill Estate (LME): Cycleway:** Nothing further to report. Action (ongoing): WC to maintain contact with LME and keep SKPC aware of any developments.

*Polytunnels:* A letter had been received from LME requesting whether this project could be discussed with SKPC. It was agreed that LME be invited to the next Council meeting or that alternative dates to visit LME be organised. Action: WC to organise a meeting.

**4.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP):** The NDP newsletter had been delivered, was also on the SKPC website and all statutory consultees have been informed. A few additional addresses were considered for delivery as well as to ensure all local businesses had been consulted. The date for the public consultation has been set 1<sup>st</sup> March – 12<sup>th</sup> April, with a public display of documents at the Village Hall on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March (evenings) and Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March (morning). It was agreed that the public display boards would need manning. Actions: KM to deliver to a few specific addresses and include update in newsletters. SP to ensure all local businesses are consulted and organise a Councillors manning rota for the public display.

**4.5 Flooding:** RS had been in contact with landowners of the field south of the bridge at Neigh Bridge regarding the tree might cause potential blockage of the Thames at this point. The landowners had confirmed they do not own this land, and Shaun Shackelford (SS, Environment Agency, EA) also confirmed nor do the EA own the land and advised that the tree officer of the local Council be contacted. WC had already contacted Highways, but no action had been undertaken. Action: WC to chase Highways/tree officer.

**4.6 Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Highways:** *Public footpaths:* RS had a successful meeting with Mike Barton (MB, GCC) who had agreed to provide additional monies to cover the shortfall in funding for improving the footpath by Kennel Bungalow. The work is to be done under the new 2019/20 budget, and it is hoped will be completed by the summer. RS also had a successful meeting with MB (GCC) and the landowners regarding the replacement of stiles with kissing gates which is currently in further discussion and will be the next priority for improving footpaths. There had been concerns raised by the landowners regarding uncontrolled dogs and fouling, and it was agreed that KM would include a reminder of the Country Code in the next newsletter. Action: RS to continue to progress footpath issues. KM to include updates in next newsletter.

*Spine Road flooding:* Nothing further to report. Action: WC to maintain contact with Gill Portlock (GCC) on any progress of remedial work for previously identified issues.

**4.7 Parish Field:** Jaci Harris (GCC) had responded to WC regarding the creations of dedicating the footpath through the site, and JH would let us know as soon as possible once completed. Action: WC to maintain awareness

**4.8 Neighbridge:** Nothing further to report. For information, WC gave some leaflets provided by the CWPT to discourage parking on verges to Councillors.

**4.9 Road speed limits:** Nothing further to report

**4.10 BT phone box/second defibrillator:** Renovation work on the phone box by volunteers had continued and KM highlighted the continued need for more volunteers. WC confirmed that the Community Heartbeat Trust had received our payment. Action: KM to now request that the goods be sent to her, and to include progress in next newsletter.

**4.11 Cotswold Community site:** JW had circulated the developers plans for mineral extraction due for the spring/summer, with house building scheduled for towards the end of the year.

**4.12 Trees/hedges/verges:** A planning application for the removal of the tree causing damage to the stone wall in the Street had been received which was welcomed. It was hoped this work would be conducted in a timely manner once approved and be monitored.

**4.13 Parish Council elections:** KM had prepared a draft short leaflet setting out what being a Parish Councillor entails and detailing how the application should be made and circulated to Councillors for comment. Action: Once agreed, WC to circulate to parishioners.

#### **4.14 Other matters:**

Wild Duck – RS indicated that the pub was closing for 1 year for refurbishment.

Village signs (on-going): Given the closeness of Council elections, it was considered that this should be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) 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: WC had contacted Open Reach, BT regarding leaning poles, cables in trees and discussed the BT process for any action. On further inspection, SP indicated that neither pole was leaning particularly nor were cables in trees considered problematic. It was therefore agreed that currently that no further action be required.

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

First Aid Training: GCC had offered free courses for first aid training including the use of a defibrillator and it was agreed that this offer be accepted and located in the Village Hall. Action: WC to contact GCC and organise venue/date.

Street naming: An enquiry had been received from CDC regarding the name of the main street in Somerford Keynes. It was agreed that this be formally adopted as “The Street”. Proposed MR, seconded JW. All in favour.

Garden waste scheme: TB (CDC) gave a detailed explanation of the new garden and recycling waste scheme due to commence in November, which will be communicated to all householders imminently by letter. Action: KM to include briefly in next newsletter.

A419 Missing link: It was agreed no objections from the SPKC on future scheme.

Littering the countryside: TB (CDC) indicated that there was increased funding available and consequently the manpower for preventing fly tipping had been increased.

#### **6. Planning matters:**

18/04684/FUL (LME – jetty with variation) – KM had written objection letter to ‘temporary’ Airspeed caravan to be parked within the 250m exclusion zone.

19/00327/FUL (LME -jetty): No objection

19/00247/FUL (LME – seven dwellings): No objection

19/00472/FUL (reception building layout at land parcel Spine Road /Water Lane: No objection

19/00645/TCONR (removal of trees causing dangerous stone wall): No objection

#### **7. Financial Matters:**

##### **7.1 Expenditure:**

Clerk’s salary £525.60, GAPTC subscription £130.93; Kellogg College-Historic Town Forum subscription £15, Village hall heating £8; Village lake maintenance expenses £127.05; Village phone box renovation expenses £230.04. All agreed *en bloc*; Proposed RS, Seconded MR.

**7.2 End of year accounts:** WC indicated that she would be preparing the accounts in March for internal audit, that reserves were healthy and the internally audited accounts would be presented to the Annual Parish meeting in April.

#### **8. Questions/AOB**

None.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

**Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council:** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 7.30 pm, Village Hall.