

Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 1st April 2019

Present: Cllr K. Mogridge (KM), Cllr. R. Munroe (RM), Cllr M. McKeown (MM), Cllr S. Powell (SP), Cllr M. Rigby (MR), Cllr R. Sleeman (RS), Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), Cllr T. Berry (TB, Cotswold District Council (CDC)), Cllr S. Parsons (Gloucestershire County Council), Wendy Cartwright (WC, clerk) and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies: None.

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

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 4th March were approved and signed. Proposed MR, Seconded SP.

4. Clerk's report

4.1 Keynes Country Park (KCP):

Footpaths: There was a detailed discussion regarding what had happened with the reversed decision regarding the dedicated footpaths following judicial review, and how to move forward. SPa (GCC) indicated that the fundamental technicality had been that to change a contract in law, both parties (GCC and Cotswold Water Park Trust, CWPT) had to agree and sign agreement, which had not occurred. There was a detailed discussion on the advice given from GCC to the Parish Council and the ways in which information regarding the reversed decision had been poorly relayed. It was also discussed whether a separate village action group could be formed in order to take a further lead on the issue. Actions: a) KM to draft a letter to Peter Bungard/copy to SPa (GCC) asking for more detailed information on the technicality, how/or if the Parish Council can move forward in terms of possibly re-negotiating dedicating the paths, as well as exploring improved communication to the Parish Council. b) to arrange meeting Mike Stickland (PSL) and ascertain how they are going to operate going forward, and to draft a letter asking a similar question to CWPT c) KM to notify other Parishes regarding what has happened. d) KM to explore the formation of an action group, possibly at the Annual Parish Meeting.

4.2 Village lake: A further successful volunteer morning had occurred for planting snowdrops. Following the donation to the village lake in memory of a parishioner, bluebells bulbs and some other plants had been bought. Previously, 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 for the fencing. RS asked whether TB could find out more about 106 money agreement and its use. Action: TB to report back on the use of 106 money and its agreement.

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 meeting had been arranged to visit LME on Tuesday 9th at 10.00 am which involved a number of Councillors (KM, MR, JW, RS and possibly, RM). Action: KM to finalise meeting arrangements.

4.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): The pre-submission consultation was now under way until 12 April, and the three events in the Village Hall had been visited by around 40 people, who completed comment slips. Any further comments could be submitted via the email link. Once the consultation period had closed, SP/RM would collate the comments, then submit to CDC. SP expressed her disappointment that a member of the PC should have chosen to ignore the collective decision of the PC to fully endorse the draft Plan and circulated a different proposal with regards to development. Action: KM to send a reminder about the close of the consultation deadline of 12th April.

4.5 Flooding: Nothing further to report.

4.6 Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Highways: *Public footpaths:* Nothing further to report as Mike Barton (MB, GCC) had been on annual leave. Action: RS to continue to progress footpath issues.

Spine Road flooding: WC had contacted Highways a number of times including Gill Portlock (GP) directly by e-mail but had no response on progress. She had also requested for further details on proposed resurfacing work on the Spine Road, but no further details were on the Highways system at that time, nor had GP responded. It was considered that the change in Highway contracts likely to be the underlying reason. Action: MR offered to further chase Gill Portlock (GCC) on any progress of remedial work for previously identified issues discussed at the previous December meeting, including the cutting tree at Neighbridge.

4.7 Parish Field: The process dedicating the footpath by the Parish Field had been abandoned by CDC given the developments of Keynes Country Park footpaths (see above). Nothing further to report.

4.8 Neighbridge: KM had contacted Ben Welbourn (Cotswold Water Park Trust, CWPT) to discuss Neighbridge and a meeting had been arranged on 3rd April at 10.00 am. A parishioner had volunteered to place the leaflets provided by CWPT on car windscreens parked on verges.

4.9 Road speed limits: Nothing further to report.

4.10 BT phone box/second defibrillator: A volunteer morning had been arranged for Saturday 6th April and one additional volunteer had come forward. The renovation was still work in progress, although it was hoped may be completed for early summer. Action: KM to continue to lead renovation work and update on progress.

4.11 Cotswold Community site: Nothing further to report.

4.12 Trees/hedges/verges: Nothing further to report, and it was agreed to monitor progress of the removal of the tree causing the stonewall to bow.

4.13 Parish Council elections: A number of new candidates had come forward, sent nomination packs and requesting help to fill the forms in view that the deadline for nominees was Wednesday 3rd April.

4.14 Other matters:

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.

Street naming: It was agreed to accept the boundary of naming The Street as proposed by CDC, other than possibly suggest moving it by 50-100 metres in the southern to reflect the 30 miles speed limit if possible.

Dog control: Following complaints by parishioners to the police regarding aggressive dog behaviour, further parishioners who also have had similar experiences had also been contacted by the police. The police were now responding to the situation and would be in contact with the owner on steps forward. Action: WC to maintain awareness.

First Aid Training: GCC had offered free courses for first aid training including the use of a defibrillator and the date had been agreed as Thursday 30th May. Action: WC to organise publicising via website/annual meeting/distribution e-mail.

Garden waste scheme: A letter is imminent from CDC regarding explanation of the new scheme, and there would be no halting of the green bins in the interim.

Rural Services network – RM indicated that there had been a recent news bulletin which had been useful regarding funding grants (including Calor gas funding) and whether this could go on the website. HW was investigating this for the Village Lake. Action: RM to forward the relevant newsletter to Peter Watkins to place on the website.

6. Planning matters:

18/04794/FUL (Shorncliffe dwelling) – No objections

19/00827 (LME jetty) – No objections

7. Financial Matters:

7.1 Expenditure:

Stamps £5.08; Village Lake bluebells £119.44 (including VAT); Proposed MM, Seconded RM

It was noted that there had been a donation of £100 for the village lake to cover the plants and that the VAT would be reclaimed back, this would cover all expense.

7.2 End of year accounts: WC had prepared the end of year accounts and indicated that the Parish Council was again exempt from external audit. It was agreed that Roger Duckett should be formally appointed as our internal auditor, and that these audited accounts would be completed by the Annual Parish Meeting in April. Proposed SP, Seconded RM.

8. Questions/AOB

RM/SP indicated that they would continue to lead on the NDP and intend to be involved until its final completion.

JW asked whether the offer of help by Graeme Hardie (113 events) for the fete had been communicated to the organisers. WC confirmed this had already occurred - a further e-mail would be sent to ensure that all contact details were shared.

The meeting closed at 9.11 pm.

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 13th May 2019 7.30 pm, Village Hall.