

Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 13th May 2019

Present: Cllr R. Sleeman (RS, Chairman), Cllr. M. Keegan (MK), Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), W. Cartwright (WC, clerk) and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr R. Elsey (RE), Cllr M Rigby (MR), Cllr A Stradling (AS), Cllr G Valentine (GV), Cllr T. Berry (TB, Cotswold District Council (CDC), Cllr S. Parsons (SPa) (Gloucestershire County Council, GCC),

2. Declaration of interest: None.

3. Election of officers

It being the Annual Meeting of the Council, Karen Mogridge (KM, previous Chairman) took the chair whilst nominations were received for the position of Chairman. Given that four Councillors were unable to attend the meeting, it was agreed that RS be nominated as an interim Chair until the next SKPC meeting in June at which the full election of officers would be conducted. Proposed JW, seconded MK.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 1th April 2019 were approved and signed. Proposed RS, seconded JW.

5. Clerk's report

5.1 Keynes Country Park (KCP): KM had written to Peter Bungard on how/if the Parish Council can move forward in terms of re-negotiating dedicating the paths. A response had been received from Colin Chick (GCC) regarding the current stalemate position. An e-mail had been received from Matthew Millett (Cotswold Water Park Trust, CWPT) requesting that all future communication should be directed to CWPT, and no direct contact to Planning Solutions Limited (PSL). All other Parishes had been notified in writing of the current position by KM.

5.2 Village lake: The next Village Lake Committee meeting was scheduled for 28th May meeting, and an application had been submitted to Calor Gas for grant funding of £5000 funding. There had been 260 votes so far on the site and villagers were continued to be urged to vote. WC had e-mailed the distribution list and a leaflet drop would be conducted in due course (deadline for votes 17th June). Contact had been made by the Freshwater Habitats Trust to undertake a great crested newt survey at the end of May, which was welcomed by SKPC.

5.3 LME cycleway: Nothing further to report.

5.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): The pre-submission consultation period had now closed and Sarah Powell/ Ron Munroe (previous Councillors) had responded to the public and CDC comments and sent the necessary documents to SKPC which had been acknowledged. Action: SKPC to fully consider at the next PC meeting in June.

5.5 Flooding: Nothing further to report.

5.6 GCC Highways:

WC (clerk) had met on site at Neighbridge with Richard Gray (RG, Highways), Gillian Portlock (GP, Highways) and Ben Welbourn (CWPT) to discuss the parking issues and which had been a useful meeting. A comprehensive note on possible solutions and cost estimates prepared by RG (GCC) had been circulated to Councillors. However, RG (GCC) highlighted that displacement of the problem to further into the village could be a real risk and this should be carefully considered. RG (GCC) indicated that other Highway work being done in the village included remedial work for the Spine Road/Spratsgate junction flooding, Spine Road surface patching, footpath patching (by the post box) as well as correcting the drain/flooding issues identified by the Baker's Arms.

Nothing further to report on Kennel Bungalow footpath/stiles. Action: RS to contact MB (GCC Footpaths).

5.7 Parish Field: Nothing further to report.

5.8 Neighbridge: See 5.7 regarding recent meeting with Highways/CWPT.

5.9 Road speed limits: Nothing further to report.

5.10 Second defibrillator: KM was continuing to lead the telephone refurbishment which was well underway but would continue to need further volunteers to complete the work.

5.11 Cotswold Community site: Nothing further to report.

5.12 Trees/hedges/verges: Nothing further to report, other than to monitor progress of the removal of the tree causing the stonewall to bow.

5.13 Other matters:

Village signs: Nothing further to report.

Dog control: Nothing further to report.

First Aid Training: The GCC offer of free first aid training was scheduled for two sessions on Thursday 30th May and there had been a good level of interest shown with approximately 20 parishioners already signed up. Action: WC to contact GCC and communicate with parishioners.

5.14 Standing orders/financial regulations: WC had circulated our current standing orders/financial regulations to all Councillors to be reviewed and seek approval at the next PC meeting in June. Whilst there are other procedural documents which Councillors would need to become familiar with in due course, it was considered this can be done in gradual manner to enable new Councillors to digest the amount information being sent.

5.15 Training courses: WC indicated that there were a number of courses run by the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC) which could be beneficial for Councillors to attend e.g. “Being a Better Councillor”, “Chairmanship skills”. Action: WC to send a list of dates to Councillors and agree attendance at the June meeting.

6. Planning matters:

18/04988/FUL (Oak and Furrows): No objection.

10/01505/FUL (LME jetty): No objection.

19/01497/FUL (LME jetty): No objection.

7. Financial Matters:

7.1 Approval of external audit exemption certificate: Proposed RS, seconded JW, agreed unanimously.

7.2 Approval of Annual Governance Statement: Proposed RS, seconded JW, agreed unanimously.

7.3 Approval of Annual Accounting Statements: Proposed RS, seconded JW, agreed unanimously.

7.4 Expenditure Zurich annual insurance (£257.60); Clerks additional hours (£129.03), Gifts for Councillors (£32), printer ink (£26). Proposed RS, Seconded JW *en bloc*

KM had asked for approval to buy further material for the refurbishment (estimates at £85) which was agreed. Proposed RS, Seconded JW.

RS requested that the clerk’s hours should be reviewed and increased appropriately at the June meeting in view of the additional administrative work associated with a new Council. Proposed RS, Seconded JW.

7. Questions/AOB: A parishioner if reserves were available, whether any further suggestions could be made on improvement to footpaths, bridges. This was welcomed by the Council and it was requested that he contact the clerk in writing with any requests.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 3rd June 2018 at 7.30 pm, Village Hall.