

Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 3rd June 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), Cllr S. Parsons (SPa) (Gloucestershire County Council, GCC), W. Cartwright (WC, clerk) and 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies: None

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

3. Election of officers

- Chair Roger Sleeman, proposed JW, seconded MR and elected unanimously
- Vice-chair: Richard Elsey, proposed JW, seconded MR
- Newsletter: Roger Sleeman
- Footpaths: Roger Sleeman
- Flooding, ditches, verges: Michele Rigby (Elected *en bloc* Proposed JW, seconded MR)
- Emergency Plan: Karen Mogridge and Graham Valentine
- Neighbourhood Development Plan: Sarah Powell and Ron Munroe
- Village lake representatives: Michele Rigby and John Whitwell
- Village hall representative: Angela Stradling
- Parish Field: Michele Rigby and Richard Elsey
- Snow Warden: Andrew Timbrell
- Tree Warden: Lisa Willis
- Website: Peter Watkins
- Clerk payroll: Mandy Keegan

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th May were approved and signed. Proposed JW, seconded MK.

5. Clerk's report

5.1 Keynes Country Park (KCP): RS gave a brief outline of the situation to the new Councillors with currently there being nothing further to report. WC indicated that the 113 events triathlon is scheduled for Sunday 9th June and will publicise on the general distribution list. Action: SKPC to maintain awareness on KCP and reconsider future actions in July meeting.

5.2 Village lake: There was a growing number of votes cast on the Calor gas website for a grant application (now 1267 votes and placed 24th in number of votes, needing to be placed in the top 20 to stand a chance of success). JW indicated that Lara Lampney (LME) had been very helpful and LME had been leafleted Action: JW requested that all Councillors rally round villagers, family and friends for support by the closure date of June 17th.

Mike Wilding (MW) indicated that the ecological survey had been completed (a meeting had occurred on Monday 27th May) as had the great crested newt survey. The updated environmental plan is on-going.

Following feedback from parishioners, MR requested that a ramp be placed on either side of the boardwalk to enable easier access for the elderly, pushchairs and wheelchairs. The cost would be up to £300 and would include some volunteer work, which was in their budget but required approval as it was in excess of £200. Proposed JW, Seconded MK and agreed unanimously.

TB (CDC) gave RS a position paper on section 106 application requirements for funding.

5.3 LME cycleway: Nothing further to report.

5.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): Ron Munroe (RM)/Sarah Powell (SP) gave an update following the consultation period which had closed in April. All consultees had responses to their comments other than one (LME) as RM/SP still needed to seek clarification from CDC on where boundaries lie as there was still some confusion regarding this point. However, reassurance was given that all comments received had not affected the overall original aims of the NDP. Action: RM/SP to keep SKPC aware of developments.

5.5 Flooding: Nothing further to report.

5.6 GCC Highways:

Highways: Nothing further to report. SPa (GCC) indicated that he was monitoring progress on whether signs being knocked down were being resurrected.

Footpaths: RS had spoken to Mike Barton (MB, GCC) and had been reassured that the improvement work for the Kennel Bungalow footpath was still a priority as was the replacement of stiles with kissing gates. Colin Mortimer requested that the existing kissing gate on Macs Farm be replaced, and that repair to the nearby footbridge and maintenance work to footpaths around Shorcote be considered. Action: RS to discuss on further contact with MB.

5.7 Parish Field: Nothing further to report other than MR and RE would be meeting with Jo Pendleberry (Waterland) on Monday 10th June.

5.8 Neighbridge: Ben Welbourn (Cotswold Water Park Trust, CWPT) had informed SKPC of the reed planting around Neighbridge to try to prevent swimming which had received largely positive feedback from parishioners, and whether SKPC would also offer a positive comment in the future.

5.9 Road speed limits: Nothing further to report. There was a discussion regarding Speedwatch which had occurred in the past within the village, and whether this could be re-introduced and possibly purchase some of our own kit. Action: RS to contact Speedwatch and re-consider at next meeting.

5.10 Second defibrillator: Karen Mogridge (KM) was continuing to lead the telephone refurbishment which was well underway but would continue to need further volunteers to complete the work. Action: WC to continue to communicate for request for volunteers.

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 Standing orders/financial regulations: Following review by SKPC, it was agreed that these be adopted. Proposed RE, MR seconded.

5.14 Training courses: New Councillors to consider attending “Being a Better Councillor” courses, GV and RE indicated their wish to attend the 5th September course. Action: WC to organise attendance.

5.15 Other matters:

Village gateway signs: AS indicated that she was keen to further investigate this option. Action: AS to liaise with WC and provide an update.

Dog control: Nothing further to report, other than a number of parishioners had been contacted by the police regarding aggressive dog behaviour/dog attacks.

First Aid Training: The first aid training event provided by GCC on 30th May in the village hall had been excellent and attended by 21 parishioners. Action: WC to communicate gratitude to GCC.

Community infrastructure levy: RS to attend evening meeting on 3rd July in Cirencester. Action: Councillors to contact RS should they wish to also accompany him.

New Septic tank regulations: These come into force in 2020, but RS indicated that he had read the conditions and that they will not apply to our village households due to low volume of waste produced.

Fly tipping: Fly tipping correspondence/map had been received from CDC. The local incident of oil drums on the “Quiet Lane” between Siddington and Shornocote was noted, with CDC being responsible for the clean-up (TB, CDC indicated that the workforce had been increased to deal with fly tipping incidents).

6. Planning matters:

19/01810/TCONR: No objections

19/01833/FUL (LME Pontoon): No objections

18/04988/FUL (Oak and Furrows): No previous objection had been raised by the SKPC, the only comment being whether there should be change of use from wildlife rescue centre to sculpture trail, although it was thought that the period of comment had now closed.

TB (CDC) indicated that planning officers were checking on the building work being conducted at The Orchard.

7. Financial Matters:

7.1 Expenditure: Clerk’s salary: £589.05. Proposed RS, Seconded MR

RS requested that the clerk’s annual hours be reviewed and that a closed meeting be conducted following the meeting.

8. Questions/AOB:

JW indicated that a village map with house names would be helpful - RS indicated that this already existed and would investigate on how to access. Action: RS to communicate findings.

Action: SPa requested that RS provide an update on any flooding issues as he was keen to monitor within the area.

AS indicated she was finding it hard to keep up with e-mails, although it was recognised there had been more than expected given the start of the new Council. Action: WC to provide tagging on e-mails in terms of priority/actions.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm. A discussion was held on increasing the clerk’s current number of working hours in a closed meeting.

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 1st July 2019 at 7.30 pm, Village Hall.