

## Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 1<sup>st</sup> July 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) (late arrival), W. Cartwright (WC, clerk) and 4 members of the public.

**1. Apologies:** Cllr S. Parsons (SPa) (Gloucestershire County Council, GCC)

**2. Declaration of interest:** GV and Lower Mill Estate (LME), MK (19/02233/FUL)

**3. Minutes** of the meeting held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> were approved and signed. Proposed JW, seconded MR.

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

**4.1 Keynes Country Park (KCP):** Nothing further to report.

**4.2 Village lake:** Mike Wilding (MW) confirmed that the village lake project had been placed in final judging of the Calor Gas Rural Community Fund, having come 18<sup>th</sup> (needing to be in the top 20 projects to have a 50/50 chance of obtaining funding of £5,000). It was agreed this was a marvellous achievement and thanks were given to Village Lake Management Committee (VLMC). The final result will be published on 18<sup>th</sup> July. Wildwood Ecology had submitted its first invoice to SKPC (due end of July), and it was agreed that this be paid with agreement by the VLMC that the work had been satisfactorily completed. Action: MW to request for Sophia Price (CDC) for the agreed reimbursement of SKPC payment.

**4.3 LME cycleway:** Nothing further to report.

**4.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP):** RS read out an update provided by Ron Munroe (RM)/Sarah Powell (SP), which summarised the further progress being made with a revised timescale that the NDP would be completed by the autumn. Action: RM/SP to continue to provide timely updates to SKPC.

**4.5 Flooding:** Nothing further to report.

### **4.6 GCC Highways:**

Highways: A meeting had been arranged between MR, AS and GV and Richard Gray (GCC Highways) on 4<sup>th</sup> July to primarily discuss village gateway signs and the remedial work for Spine Road Flooding. It was agreed that during this meeting that other issues such as missing double yellow lines (where patching had occurred), deepening potholes in Water Lane and reducing speed limits on "Quiet Lanes" be included in discussions. Action: AS/MR/GV to provide a written report following the meeting.

Footpaths: The Kennel Bungalow footpath work was currently underway. A complaint had been received from a parishioner regarding the placement of the gravel required for the work. RS indicated he would contact Mike Barton (MB, GCC) to find out the estimated completion date by Green Attitude and would also contact the parishioner to explain the current situation. Two other issues were highlighted by parishioners, namely the FP18 footpath (fallen fingerpost and overgrown vegetation) and that the Shorcote reedbed was also overgrown. Action: RS to contact MB regarding all on-going footpath issues and provide an update.

**4.7 Parish Field:** MR/RE had provided a report of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June at Waterland and confirmed that all was in good order. The next meeting was scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> November.

**4.8 Neighbridge:** The reed planting had been successful in stopping swimming in the lake around that area, although it was noted swimming had instead moved to other areas such as the Thames. There had also been a resurgence of problems with parking in the hot weather. Action: All to continue to monitor where possible and report any issues as necessary.

**4.9 Road speed limits:** Action: RS had contacted Speedwatch and to update on response and reconsider issue at next meeting.

**4.10 Second defibrillator:** Further volunteers were needed for the telephone renovation and MK indicated she would be happy to volunteer as had Nick Cartwright. Action: WC to liaise with Karen Mogridge on how /when volunteers could help.

**4.11 Cotswold Community site:** Nothing further to report.

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

**4.13 Training courses:** WC had successfully booked all new Councillors had been onto "How to be a better Councillor" training courses and all would be trained by the end of the autumn.

### **4.14 Other matters:**

Village gateway signs: AS had contacted Glasdon on various options and would update on their feasibility following the meeting with Highways on 4<sup>th</sup> July (see above).

Dog control: Nothing further to report.

First Aid Training: WC had communicated thanks to GCC for the excellent first aid training in June. Once the second defibrillator was installed, views would be sought on whether this should be repeated.

Community infrastructure levy: RS indicated he would try to attend the evening meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> July in Cirencester.

Village house names map: A map (current up to 2013) had been circulated by RS to all Councillors.

Chartered Parish and Town Council meetings: It was considered that whilst these meetings had been useful in the past, there were no issues in recent years that warranted attendance and no need to provide detailed feedback.

Quiet Lanes: AS indicated she was unclear regarding the definition of “Quiet Lanes” and RS gave an explanation highlighting that they are legal entities. MK also raised the issue of speed limits of 60 miles/hr, and it was agreed reducing to 20 miles/hr be discussed with Richard Gray (GCC) during the meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Village hall meeting: JW agreed to represent SKPC in replacement of AS who was unable to attend the July meeting.

Newsletter: RS would write a summer newsletter in July and would be requesting for Councillors (all present volunteered) to help with delivery in Somerford Keynes, surrounding areas and LME (the latter by e-mail).

## **6. Planning matters:**

18/04988/FUL (Oak and Furrow/sculpture trail): RE had been visited by David Hartland who had requested for a letter of support from SKPC regarding this planning application which was currently not moving forward with CDC. Previously it had been agreed that there had been no objections from SKPC and it was agreed that a letter of support be given with a specified change of use for the sculpture trail “as a tourist attraction” rather than its previous use as a wildlife sanctuary.

19/02262/TCONR (Tree work, Yew Tree Cottage); No objection

19/01838/FUL (Holiday let/Barn South East, Southleaze Farm, Ewen): No objection

19/01999/FUL (Holiday let/ Old Manor Barn, Shorncote): No objection

19/02233/FUL (Old stable block to become 4 dwellings, Manor Farm Shorncote): MK requested to leave the meeting due to declaration of interest. Following a lengthy discussion, it was agreed by majority voting to object (4 for, 2 against) to the application on the basis on reversing onto a “Quiet Lane” and the increased traffic and disruption caused by the work, the fact it was positioned in a hamlet and lack of facilities, with reference also made to ensuring whether consistent with the current NDP. The benefit of bridging the gap on lack of affordable housing in the area was discussed and reference made to the local CDC plan and call for housing. Action: RS to write a letter of objection which is to be sent to CDC planning via WC.

## **7. Financial Matters:**

**7.1 Expenditure:** Printer paper £5.90, Internal auditor gift £25.26, Wildwood Ecology Ltd £1,392.00. Agreed *en bloc*. Proposed MK, Seconded RE.

**7.2 Signatories of Bank Account;** It was resolved that “The Authorised Signatories in the current mandate, for the accounts detailed in section 1.3, be changed in accordance with section Authorised Signatories, and the current mandate will continue as amended. Proposed MR, Seconded JW and unanimously agreed by all Councillors.

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

A parishioner noted that the Water Lane hedge needed maintenance, and could this issue be considered by SPKC. Action: WC to place on agenda item for future discussion.

As the mobile library van was now out of service, it was requested that a letter be written to SPa (GCC) regarding the on-going need of the mobile library and support that the service be continued in the village. Action: WC to write a letter of support for the continued service to SPa (GCC).

**Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council:** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 7.30 pm, Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.