

Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 6th January 2020

Present: Cllr R. Sleeman (RS, Chairman), Cllr R. Elsey (RE), Cllr. M. Keegan (MK), Cllr M. Rigby (MR), Cllr A. Stradling (AS), Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), Cllr T. Berry (TB, Cotswold District Council (CDC), W. Cartwright (WC, clerk) and 36 members of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr G. Valentine (GV), Cllr S. Parsons (SPa) (Gloucestershire County Council, GCC)

2. Declaration of interest: None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December were approved and signed. Proposed MR, seconded RE.

4. Presentation by Mediation in Planning/Applicants: Rob Garnham (Mediation in Planning), Tom Waldron (Representative of Applicant Company, County to County) and Emma Wilsdon (Senior Planner, Ridge and Partners) gave a brief presentation on the proposed development after which parishioners were given an opportunity to speak. There were many questions and comments raised which related to access difficulties (including refuse/emergency vehicles), flooding risk, drainage and sewerage, potential further development, and the fact that the development was in depth and not infill and was contrary to the NDP and the CDC Local Plan. One parishioner raised specific highly technical concerns regarding the flood risk assessment itself, the dimensions of the gateway access and road safety assessment as well as the transport statement, indicating that his objections had already been passed to CDC. There was one question regarding the additional land offer which was indicated would be on a freehold basis. The applicants were thanked for their presentation and following their departure, SKPC sought for a collective view from parishioner which was to strongly object to the development on the basis of the above concerns that were identified. TB (CDC) indicated that he would recommend the finalised planning application be put forward to the Planning Committee meeting. Action: RS to write a letter of objection from SKPC.

5. Clerk's report

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

5.2 Village lake: Nothing further to report other than thanks were given to Village Lake Management Committee for all their continued hard work. Action: WC to maintain links with VLMC/progress of village lake projects.

5.3 LME cycleway: Nothing further to report. Action: WC to maintain awareness.

5.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): The NDP is currently with the CDC and the consultation period is to ending on January 24th after which the independent examiner would review these and make a judgement. Action: SKPC to keep parishioners aware of the outcome.

5.5 Flooding: Nothing further to report. Action: WC to maintain links to with Shaun Shackleton (Environment Agency) on any developments regarding flooding at Neighbridge.

5.6 GCC Highways:

Village gateways signs: See section 5.14 for discussion/decision.

Erosion of double yellow lines: WC had contacted Richard Gray (RG, Highways) on those missing in Water Lane who indicated he would request remedial work to be undertaken. Action: WC to continue to chase RG on timescales.

Spine Road flooding: A significant improvement had been seen following the recent remedial work and it was agreed to maintain an awareness of the situation during wet weather. Action: All to monitor and report back any flooding issues.

Footpaths: Nothing further to report. Action: RS to contact Mike Barton (MB, GCC, Footpaths) and raise all identified issues.

Cycleway: A parishioner had raised the issue of a dropped section of the cycleway and cones/barriers had been currently placed by Highways in the affected area. Action: WC to maintain awareness of Highways further action.

"The Street" footpath damage: WC had contacted RG to stress the urgency for the need for adequate repair. RG was in discussion with Ubico, CDC on the way forward and trying to get remedial work organised. Action: WC to maintain awareness and continue to stress to RG the urgency for the need for adequate repair.

Overhanging tree at Neighbridge: RG had made a site visit and had subsequently contacted the GCC tree specialist to make a judgement on its safety. Action: WC to contact and ascertain outcome.

5.7 Parish Field: Nothing further to report.

5.8 Neighbridge: WC had written a letter of support had been written to Ben Welbourn (BW, Cotswold Water Park Trust (CWPT) for the need for the current play equipment at Neighbridge to be replaced as it was now in need of updating.

5.9 Road speed limits: Nothing further to report, other than 10 volunteers had come forward from the parishioner's survey for Speedwatch. The grant had been approved for a speed gun, but the funds as yet to be received. TB (CDC)

offered that he would explore further grant funding possibilities with the appropriate groups and provide information to SKPC. Action: TB to provide information on the appropriate group to contact about funding road safety projects. WC to chase the funding.

5.10 Second defibrillator: Karen and Lynton Mogridge were thanked for all their hard work as the second defibrillator had been installed and the renovation of the telephone box almost completed. Volunteers were to meet in January to establish the rota for weekly checks and JW had volunteered to take on the role as being the Parish Council representative for the telephone kiosk. Action: KM to liaise with WC regarding completion.

5.11 Cotswold Community site: Nothing further to report.

5.12 Trees/hedges/verges: Nothing further to report.

5.13 Training courses: Nothing further to report. Action: WC to maintain awareness of when the planning training for Councillors course is scheduled.

5.14 Gathering and understanding parishioners' views:

AS gave an overview of the findings in that of 165 printed for the village, 89 had been returned giving a response rate of 54%. Following analysis, a bus shelter, village speeding devices (as well as volunteers coming forward for Speedwatch), village gateways and improved footpaths had all received positive support. Other good ideas had been put forward such as purchasing bulbs for planting around the village entry signs as a welcoming feature to the village. JW gave an overview of costings for a bus shelter which depending on the specification was in the region of £5000, and further analysis would be needed on specification, location before any decision could be made and perhaps discussed at the Annual Meeting in April to ascertain a collective view. It was proposed that the village gateway signs be funded this year in order to receive the current offer matched funding from GCC Highways. Vote. 5 in favour, 1 against. Action: AS to progress the grant application with GCC Highways. AS/JW to make any further recommendations at the next PC meeting following analysis of the surveys.

5.15 Other matters:

Mobile library: WC had contacted all necessary parties, and this is due to restart at village coffee mornings in January.

Local SSSI designations: A public meeting was scheduled on 9th January at the Gateway Centre for any who were interested in attending.

6. Planning matters:

19/02233/FUL (Old stable block to become 2 dwellings, Manor Farm Shorncote): Approved.

19/02114/LBC; 19/0213/LBC (Yew Tree Farm driveway): Discussion at January Planning Committee meeting now postponed, and due in February. Action: TB to ensure SKPC and those parishioners who have objected are kept aware of the on-going situation, the Planning Committee date at which this will be discussed and the opportunity to make representations if desired.

18/04794/FUL (APP/F1610/W/19/3238414) (Ivydene, Shorncote): On-going.

19/04270/FUL - Erection of 2 open market dwellings and 3 affordable dwellings and associated works at land to the south east of Ashland House, The Street Somerford Keynes (see section 4): Action: RS to write objection letter on behalf of SKPC

19/04360/FUL; 19/04359/FUL; 19/04267/FUL; 19/04269/FUL; 17/02967/FUL (all LME related applications): No objections.

7. Financial Matters:

7.1 Precept and budget setting – A financial update was distributed to Councillors and it was proposed that there would be no increase in the precept next financial year. AS proposed, MK seconded. Vote: All in favour.

7.2 Expenditure: £98.99 (Printer inks); £294 (Defibrillator installation charge). Proposed JW, Seconded MR. Agreed *en bloc*.

8. Questions/AOB:

None.

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

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.