

Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 5th October 2020

Present: Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), (Chairman), Cllr R. Elsey (RE, Vice Chairman), Cllr M. Rigby (MR), Cllr. M. Keegan (MK), Cllr A. Stradling (AS), Cllr G. Valentine, W. Cartwright (WC, clerk), Cllr T. Berry (TB, Cotswold District Council (CDC), and 0 members of the public.

Held by Zoom conference due to the coronavirus

1. Appointment of new chair: John Whitwell was nominated as the new Chairman. Proposed Mandy Keegan, Seconded Graham Valentine. RS was thanked for all his excellent hard work as Chairman over the years, and who will have served the Parish Council for 40 years (in November).

2. Apologies: Cllr R. Sleeman (RS), Cllr S. Parsons (SP) (Gloucestershire County Council, GCC)

3. Declaration of interest: GV and LME.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 7th September were approved subject to a minor amendment. Proposed MR, seconded GV.

5. Clerk's report

5.1 Keynes Country Park (KCP): The installed iron gates at the entrance near to the Parish Field had been removed. Victoria Hadnett (VH, Planning Solutions Ltd (PSL), General Manager, Cotswold Country Park and Beach) offered a meeting with SKPC and MR/RE indicated that they would be happy to attend a meeting. MR updated the latest on the permit system for villagers (to be administered by Waterland) which would mean access to the lake via their gates as well as additionally parking cars for villagers at Waterland. MR was trialling the system and had applied for a permit, but which had not yet arrived. Action: WC to write to PSL and arrange a meeting. Action: AS to also apply for a permit from Waterland

5.2 Village lake: The Village Lake Management Committee (VLMC) had provided an update of the latest projects which had been completed, the bird nesting platform which had been installed by Nick and Chris Cartwright, the pond dipping platform, and the boardwalk maintenance. Action: VLMC to continue to provide updates.

5.3 LME private lake: Following the previous meeting with MR/AS and Oberon Rogers (OR, LME) on the issue of locked gates at the LME private lake, OR had put forward to the landlord the idea of a restricted access to the lake for local villagers. This would be on a controlled permit basis for walking, jogging and dog walking (but not on a commercial basis). Whilst the landlord was less keen on this idea, an alternative suggestion had been to allow Somerford Keynes residents free access to another part of the estate which had previously not been given. Action: GV to recontact OR and MR/AS continue to update on progress on permitted walking routes in the estate.

5.4 LME cycleway: Nothing further to report.

5.5 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): Nothing further to report.

5.6 Flooding: Nothing further to report.

5.7 GCC Highways/footpaths:

Village gateways signs: In progress, although timescales for work unclear at this stage. It was recommended that closer to installation, a further meeting should be instigated with AS. Action: WC to maintain contact with RG.

Spine Road flooding: Nothing further to report.

Water Lane potholes: Nothing further to report.

Cycleway: Nothing further to report.

Repainting Double yellow lines: Nothing further to report.

Kennel bungalow footpath: Nothing further to report.

Other footpaths: Some signs had been placed up regarding the public rights of way on Margaret Timbrell's fields and WC had contacted Mike Barton (MB, GCC, Footpaths) for clarification. Action: WC to chase MB (GCC, Footpaths).

5.8 Parish Field: Nothing further to report, other than the annual rent had been paid.

5.9 Neighbourbridge: There had been a parishioner complaint regarding litter, and JW indicated there was to be another on-line multi-agency meeting on 20th October which he would attend. Action: JW to update SKPC of the outcome.

5.10 Road speed limits: Nothing further to report.

5.11 Second defibrillator: Nothing further to report

5.12 Cotswold Community site: Nothing further to report.

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

5.14 Training courses: Action: JW to attend a chairmanship skills training course on 12th November.

5.15 Website: Two parishioners (Mike McKeown and Jon Lunn) had kindly volunteered for taking over from Peter Watkins (PW) for his excellent on-going website support. Action: WC to maintain awareness of progress.

5.16 Other matters:

G4/G5 Broadband: Peter Burrows had drawn attention to its importance given that homeworking was now being increasingly done due to Covid-19, and the possibility of a mast being erected in the Parish Field was considered. Action: To discuss this issue fully at a future meeting.

Fly tipping: An incident had been reported on Ewen Road but been promptly cleared which was appreciated.

Triathlon: A parishioner complaint has been received regarding noise from some of the Marshalls during the event, and it was agreed this be fed back to 113 Events. Action: WC to write to Graeme Hardie (113 Events).

White barns: A parishioner had rewritten a complaint regarding the colour and presence of the units. Action: WC to write to the parishioner and suggest that the local planning authority be contacted directly.

Pizza van visits: The Village Hall Committee had welcomed the offer from a local business that pizza van visits could take place in the village hall carpark.

Newsletter: JW/MR to write the next newsletter and to include news of RS retirement as chair and his contribution to the Parish Council for 40 years.

5. Planning matters:

20/02500/FUL - Erection of timber fishing cabin/private pedestrian bridge over watercourse, 47 Mill Village, LME: TB (CDC) indicated that the planning application was likely to be refused.

19/04270/FUL - Land to The South East of Ashland House The Street, Somerford Keynes. The revised plan of the development had been circulated to parishioners. It was agreed to send a letter to the applicants to request for an update on the stage of the planning process, and that more consideration would be given by SKPC once any formal application is made. TB (CDC) indicated that the revised plan did have a higher chance of success as the applicants had made efforts to address previous objections. As a result, TB suggested that the Parish Council might want to consider with applicants the registering of green space, or whether any land could be donated to the village. Action: AS/MR to approach the applicants for further clarification on current application.

20/03046/FUL - Erection of a new dwelling, associated access/landscaping at Croft House, Somerford Keynes – No objection.

20/03006/FUL - Siting of oil tank at Greystones, Somerford Keynes – No objection.

20/02896/FUL (LME), 20/02262/FUL (LME), 20/02617/FUL (LME), 20/03092/FUL (LME), 20/03013/FUL (LME), 20/03207/FUL (LME); No objection.

20/03309/NONMAT (LME): No objection.

6. Financial Matters:

6.1 Expenditure; Village lake expenses - Pond dipping platform £862.92, Pond dipping installation: £465
Boardwalk maintenance - £360 (labour), £447.77 (materials), £18 (mop and bucket)
Agreed *en bloc* Proposed MK, Seconded GV.

7. AOB/Questions:

Cirencester car parking: A parishioner had stated the fact that cash payment was being scraped for car parking machines was reducing significant choice for shoppers and was not a favourable step for the town. Action: TB (CDC) agreed he would be revisiting this issue.

TB (CDC) indicated that there was a CDC meeting on the 23rd September discussing the issue of commercialisation, and there were no implications for Parish Councils.

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 2nd November, 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.