

## Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020

Present: Cllr R. Elsey (Vice chair, RE), Cllr M. Rigby (MR), Cllr A. Stradling (AS), Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), Cllr T. Berry (TB, Cotswold District Council (CDC), Cllr S. Parsons (SP) (Gloucestershire County Council, GCC), W. Cartwright (WC, clerk) and 4 members of the public.

**1. Apologies:** Cllr R. Sleeman (RS, Chairman), Cllr. M. Keegan (MK),

**2. Declaration of interest:** None other GV and LME.

**3. Minutes** of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 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:** JW gave an overview of village lake activities which included a 3-day closure due to tree surgery work being undertaken by contractors, as well as a volunteer morning to be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Calor periodically contacted the Village Lake Management Committee (VLMC) on progress of work utilising the grant and photographs were being provided to be used in advertising successful past projects on their Rural Grant Fund this year. Mike Willis had stepped down from the VLMC and was thanked for his work, and Nick Cartwright had agreed to be a replacement. MR was identifying a wider list of volunteers and seeking e-mail addresses for improved communication. A financial report was distributed regarding maintenance work funded by SKPC and projects funded by the Calor grant. Action: WC to maintain links with VLMC/progress of village lake projects.

**4.3 LME cycleway:** Nothing further to report. Action: WC to maintain contact with LME and awareness.

**4.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP):** RE indicated that there had been no objections on the website following the consultation period with parishioners, but only minor comments on the NDP. It was now a case of awaiting the report from the independent inspector. Action: SKPC to keep parishioners aware of the outcome.

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

### **4.6 GCC Highways:**

Village gateways signs: AS indicated that an expression of interest form been submitted to GCC/CDC and acknowledged, and it was a case of awaiting the outcome. Action: AS to keep aware of progress.

Erosion of double yellow lines: WC had contacted Richard Gray (RG, Highways) on those missing in Water Lane and it was confirmed remedial work had been requested. Action: WC to maintain awareness on timescales.

Spine Road flooding: A significant improvement had continued following the recent remedial work. Action: All to monitor and report back any flooding issues during wet weather.

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, with remedial work being identified. Action: WC to maintain awareness of further action.

"The Street" footpath damage: RG indicated that remedial work was now earmarked in his budget for financial year 2020/21. Action: WC to continue to stress to RG the urgency for the need for adequate repair.

Overhanging tree at Neighbridge: RG had made a site visit, and following inspection by the GCC tree specialist, RG has informed that the tree is now to be trimmed. Action: WC to maintain awareness of timescales.

**4.7 Parish Field:** Ben Welbourn (BW, Cotswold Water Park Trust, CWPT) had contacted SKPC to request that a new hedgerow entrance be placed from the angler's car park to the Parish Field in view of road safety and ease of parking. The entrance would be a straight line in the corner of the field near the road and an aerial view had been provided of the proposed new entrance, with the old entrance being replanted with hedgerow. All Councillors considered this would be acceptable and to write to BW our position. Action: WC to write to BW on our agreement.

**4.8 Neighbridge:** TB (CDC) indicated that CDC had received application from CWPT for a grant to fund replacement of the current play equipment at Neighbridge. SKPC had already given full support in view of the parishioners' survey results and requests for a play area for village children.

**4.9 Road speed limits:** The grant had been approved for a speed gun and funds have now been received. JW indicated that 10 volunteers had come forward from the parishioners' survey for Speedwatch. TB (CDC) offered that he would explore further grant funding possibilities with appropriate groups on additional measures such as flashing signs and provide information to SKPC. A parishioner expressed interest in receiving the presentation held at the Northleach meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November. Action: TB to provide WC with information on possible funding for additional road safety projects. WC to circulate presentation notes.

**4.10 Second defibrillator:** The volunteer group and JW had met in January regarding the weekly rota and "check" demonstration from Karen Mogridge, who was thanked for her continued hard work. There is some renovation work

to be completed on the phone box, but the defibrillator is functional and working. It was agreed that a training session be organised in the spring and publicised in the next newsletter. Action: KM to liaise with WC regarding completion.

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

**4.12 Trees/hedges/verges:** Parishioners who attended the meeting raised the issue of landowners maintaining their hedges, verges and identified a couple of hedges considered hazardous. These included the hedge bordering the road opposite the Ewen junction at the north end of the village. Others identified were at the end of Nursery cottage (conifer and evergreen hang over the wall) and along the Dower House wall. It was agreed to write to the specific landowners should there be any hedges considered a hazard. Action: WC to write to responsible landowners.

**4.13 Training courses:** Action: WC to ascertain when the planning training for Councillors course is rescheduled.

**4.14 Gathering and understanding parishioners' views:**

JW gave an overview of the survey analysis on the 6 ideas that had been considered, as well as additional ones which had been put forward. The need for a bus shelter had received the highest interest and it was agreed should be researched further in terms of location/costs. Speed indicator lights had also been supported and required more research in terms of costs, and volunteers had been identified for Speedwatch. The request for a children's play area was to be covered by the CWPT replacement of the current play area at Neighbridge. There had been a desire to develop footpaths at Mill Lane to Neighbridge and at the end of Water Lane, as well as improve the condition of the footpath along The Street. The village gateway signs had been submitted due to the shared funding which was currently available. Other ideas that had been raised included a village facebook group, projected minutes or have additional paper copies available at meetings, the issue of improved mobile phone signal, a community shop at the Baker's Arms and utilising it for village groups such as a meeting place for young mums and toddlers. Bulb planting on verges was also raised and an offer had been received from LME ground staff to help.

AS indicated that subgroups should be identified on each of these issues to move forward and leads identified.

JW: Bus shelter. SP (GCC) indicated he may have funds available to help with a building a base for a bus shelter.

AS: Village gateways signs – in progress, TB (CDC): Speed indicators research and possible funding, RS: Footpaths  
Action: WC to invite the new owners of the Baker's Arms to attend a future meeting.

**4.15 Other matters:**

Village website: WC indicated that Peter Watkins had informed her of a software error in the website which meant documents currently could not be uploaded. Action: WC to contact PW and maintain awareness of the issue.

Mobile library: The mobile library had attended the January village coffee morning with positive feedback received.

Local SSSI designations: Mike Wilding had attended the recent Natural England public meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January at the Gateway Centre and which had discussed the re-designating of lakes as SSSI sites in the whole of the Cotswold Water Park for bird protection issues. SP (GCC) mentioned that the real purpose was increased concern of bird strike danger at RAF Fairford. Action: VLMC to keep awareness of the Village Lake designation.

VE Day celebrations: Action: WC to contact Village Hall Committee on whether any event could be organised.

**6. Planning matters:**

19/02114/LBC;19/02113/LBC/19/02113/FUL (Yew Tree Farm driveway): To be put forward at the Planning Committee on evening of 11<sup>th</sup> March. Action: TB to ensure SKPC and those parishioners who have objected are kept aware of the on-going situation. SKPC to resubmit original objection letter by 13/02/20.

18/04794/FUL (APP/F1610/W/19/3238414) (Ivydene, Shorncote): Dismissed

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. SKPC had written a letter of objection which had been received by CDC. TB (CDC) could provide no further update as planning officer was ill, and a parishioner indicated that conservation officer had recommended refusal of the planning application.

19/04680/FUL - Personal training centre, Manor Farm, Shorncote; No objection; 19/03862/FUL - Jetty, LME; No objection; 19/04747/FUL - Erection of single storey side extension and front porch, Elm View; No objection.

**7. Financial Matters:**

**7.1 Expenditure:** £49.99 (McAfree virus checker); Village Lake expenses £450 (BPJ Arb services), £900 (Danny Isaacs Tree Surgery) Proposed AS, Seconded GV. Agreed *en bloc*.

**8. AOB/Questions:** Proposed date for Spring Clean – 28/03/2020. Provisional dates for AGM at end of April/beginning of May were discussed and to be confirmed as soon as possible.

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

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.