

Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 2nd March 2020

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

1. Apologies: Cllr A. Stradling (AS), Cllr S. Parsons (SP) (Gloucestershire County Council, GCC)

2. Declaration of interest: None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February were approved and signed. Proposed MR, seconded JW.

4. Clerk's report

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

4.2 Village lake: Mike Wilding had given an update on the village lake activities and a financial report. The next volunteer morning is to be held on Saturday 7th March. It was considered that the boardwalk could be slippery and Helen Sweet had kindly offered to fund post rail/rope on the boardwalk which she wished to be in memory of her husband, John Sweet who had been highly involved in the early days of the lake. Thanks were expressed for this kind offer. 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): Comments had been now received by the independent examiner and SKPC had made a response which had been sent to Joseph Walker (CDC) and acknowledged. Action: SKPC to keep parishioners aware of the outcome.

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

4.6 GCC Highways:

Village gateways signs: AS had received confirmation that a matched funding grant had been received for the village gateway signs. The work is scheduled to start next financial year. 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, despite the recent extremely 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, 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 maintain awareness of timescales and continue to stress the urgency of repair.

Overhanging tree at Neighbridge: Highway had removed the problematic limbs of the tree and thanks had been expressed to Richard Gray (RG). It was mentioned that some debris remained following the work, and that Highways be contacted. Action: WC to contact Highways.

4.7 Parish Field: WC had written to Ben Welbourn (BW, Cotswold Water Park Trust, CWPT) regarding the proposed new entrance indicating that SKPC had no objections.

4.8 Neighbridge: Nothing further to report.

4.9 Road speed limits: The speed radar gun had been purchased, and TB (CDC) queried whether there are existing Speedwatch signs. TB (CDC) had offered that he would explore further grant funding possibilities with appropriate groups on additional measures such as flashing signs and provide information to SKPC. This was in progress. Action: TB to provide WC with information on possible funding for additional road safety projects.

4.10 Second defibrillator: The volunteer group weekly rota and "check" was up and running. 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: WC to liaise with KM regarding completion.

4.11 Cotswold Community site: Nothing further to report.

4.12 Trees/hedges/verges: Hedges identified had been identified that were in need for trimming were at the end of Nursery cottage (conifer and evergreen hang over the wall) and along the Dower House wall. It was agreed to contact specific landowners with a gentle reminder. Action: WC/MR to contact responsible landowners.

4.13 Training courses: WC had booked JW, MR, GV, MK on the planning training for Councillors course on 16/17th March in Cirencester.

4.14 Gathering and understanding parishioners' views:

Subgroups had been identified on each of these issues to move forward and leads identified.

Bus shelter. JW had contacted Jonathon Roberts (Transport Infrastructure Officer in the Integrated Transport Unit for GCC) who had indicated he could provide 50% match funding for the shelter itself, and in the new financial year could also pay for a hard-standing base. The cost of a shelter was £5,000, which would mean a future SKPC contribution of £2,500. Village gateways signs (AS) - in progress. Speed indicators research and possible funding (TB, CDC) - in progress. Footpaths (RS) - stiles in progress

4.15 Other matters:

Village website: WC indicated that Peter Watkins (PW) had informed her of a software error in the website which meant documents currently could not be uploaded. As a result, PW indicated that he was now investigating new software. Action: WC to contact PW and maintain awareness of the issue.

Mobile library: Positive feedback had been received on the mobile library attending the village coffee mornings.

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

Baker's Arms: Action: WC to invite the new owners of the Baker's Arms to attend Annual Parish Meeting.

6. Planning matters:

19/02114/LBC;19/02113/LBC/19/02113/FUL (Yew Tree Farm driveway): Th application is to be put forward at the Planning Committee on 11th March which starts at 10.00 am. It is scheduled as the second item on the agenda. RS hopes to attend the meeting on behalf of SKPC but will also send a letter to TB to be read out in case this is not possible. Action: TB to send the list of objectors to ensure WC also makes them aware of the meeting.

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. Nothing further to report.

7. Financial Matters:

7.1 Expenditure: Clerks salary £673.20, Microsoft subscription £59.99, GAPTC subscription £133.80, Kelloggs Historic Rural Towns and Villages subscription £15. Speed radar gun £138.63; Village lake expenses £22.80 (Calor fund) £247.42 (SKPC fund), Hall heating £10. Proposed MR, Seconded RE. Agreed *en bloc*.

8. AOB/Questions:

In view of the coronavirus, it was considered that a review of the emergency plan was appropriate. Karen Mogridge had given GV all the documents during a handover meeting. Action: GV to send SKPC relevant key documents to review.

RS indicated that he would be writing a draft PC Spring Newsletter and would be seeking comment from Councillors. WC asked whether SKPC were in agreement to appoint Roger Duckett to be the internal auditor for the accounts, and all agreed this continue to be the case.

Spring Clean – Saturday 28th March

Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 4th May

Annual PC meeting - Monday 11th May

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 6th April, 7.30 pm, Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.