

Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 11th May 2020

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

Held by Zoom conference due to the Coronavirus

1. Apologies: None.

2. Declaration of interest: None.

3. Election of officers

- Chair Roger Sleeman, proposed JW, seconded GV and elected unanimously
- Vice-chair: Richard Elsey, proposed JW, seconded GV
- Newsletter: Roger Sleeman
- Footpaths: Roger Sleeman
- Flooding, ditches, verges: Michele Rigby (Elected *en bloc* Proposed JW, seconded MR)
- Emergency Plan: Karen Mogridge and Graham Valentine
- Neighbourhood Development Plan: Sarah Powell and Ron Munroe
- Village lake representatives: Michele Rigby and John Whitwell
- Village hall representative: Angela Stradling
- Telephone box defibrillator representative: John Whitwell
- Parish Field: Michele Rigby and Richard Elsey
- Snow Warden: Andrew Timbrell
- Tree Warden: Lisa Willis
- Website: Peter Watkins
- Clerk payroll: Mandy Keegan

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th April approved. Proposed JW, seconded GV.

5. Clerk's report

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

5.2 Village lake: All activities suspended due to coronavirus pandemic.

5.3 LME cycleway: Nothing further to report.

5.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): During the final checking round by Councillors, GV commented on a drafting error, and this had since been rectified by Sarah Powell (SP)/Ron Munroe (RM). GV was thanked and all Councillors agreed that the current version was now acceptable to be returned to CDC. Action: WC to inform SP/RM.

5.5 Flooding: Nothing further to report.

5.6 GCC Highways:

Village signs: MR and RS reported on two signs which were knocked down (Northend crossroads and Chestnut junction) and Highways had been contacted.

Village gateways signs: Nothing further to report due to the coronavirus. Action: AS to maintain awareness.

Spine Road flooding: Nothing further to report.

Kennel footpath: AS indicated that the path was now becoming overgrown with grass which was disappointing given the excellent path that had been laid. RS updated that the landowner had sprayed with grass killer, and the grass was now dying back but that the grass would need shearing rather than strimming due to the metal wire. MR requested that should any further treatment be done that signs be placed up for dog walkers to be made aware. Action: RS to maintain contact with the landowner on progress with maintenance.

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

"The Street" footpath damage: Nothing further to report due to the coronavirus. Action: WC to maintain awareness of timescales and continue to stress the urgency of repair.

Road closures: C/181 Road from Spine Road West to County Boundary Junction C/182 Spine Road West.

5.7 Parish Field: MR had spoken to Jo Pendleberry regarding her request for a change in current lease conditions regarding car parking. It was agreed to consider this more fully at the next meeting due to time constraints and the fact that currently Waterland is shut for the foreseeable future due to coronavirus. Action: Councillors to consider request.

5.8 Neighbridge: WC had contacted Ben Welbourn (BW, Cotswold Water Park Trust) regarding reopening the car park to Neighbridge given the increased car parking on verges. BW had given a written response explaining that the current closure was in line with Government advice on the coronavirus pandemic so would need to be adhered to until such a time where lockdown restrictions change. He would inform us of any change in policy as appropriate.

5.9 Road speed limits: Nothing further to report

5.10 Second defibrillator: Nothing further to report

5.11 Cotswold Community site: Nothing further to report.

5.12 Trees/hedges/verges: Nothing further to report, other than the excellent job of the stone wall by Lake House which had been completed.

5.13 Training courses: Nothing further to report.

5.14 Gathering and understanding parishioners' views: Nothing further to report.

5.15 Other matters:

Covid-19: Two parishioners had expressed concern of lack of social distancing within the village either by villagers or members of the public who were visiting Neighbridge, walking in fields, and parking within the village and ignoring the Countryside Code. Councillors discussed the issue of how the Parish Councillors could "police" such behaviour, and it was recognised this would be highly difficult to achieve, and instead would need to rely on individual responsible behaviour. Due to time constraints, it was agreed to consider more fully at a future meeting and monitor the situation in the meantime.

Village website: Peter Watkins had found a solution to the recent software difficulties and was thanked for his efforts. He had also sent a document regarding how the website was currently updated and potential future development for future consideration by Councillors. Action: Councillors to consider current website and development.

Vote of thanks: Two Parishioners had formally wished a vote of thanks be given to RS (Chair), WC (clerk) and all the Parish Council for their hard work this year.

Cheques: Given the current coronavirus pandemic and virtual meetings, AS raised the issue of whether internet banking could be instigated in the future. It was thought, however, two signatories were legally needed to raise any payments. Action: TB (CDC) to investigate and let WC know the current position.

6. Planning matters:

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. Application has currently been withdrawn.

20/01229/FUL; 20/01228/FUL (LME occupancy) – No objections.

20/01178/FUL (LME Variation of condition 2 to 19/00247/FUL to change of permitted unit type)- No objection.

20/01212/FUL (LME Extend decking area at rear) – No objection.

7. Financial Matters:

7.1 Approval of External Audit Exemption Certificate: Proposed RS, seconded JW, agreed unanimously.

7.2 Approval of Annual Governance Statement: Proposed RS, seconded JW, agreed unanimously.

7.3 Approval of Annual Accounting Statements: Proposed RS, seconded JW, agreed unanimously.

7.4 Expenditure Zurich annual insurance (£257.60); Proposed JW, Seconded RE.

8. AOB/Questions: None

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 1st June, 7.30 pm, Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.