

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

Present: Cllr R. Sleeman (RS, Chairman), 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), Graeme Hardie (GH, 113 Events) and 0 members of the public.

Held by Zoom conference due to the coronavirus

1. Apologies: None

2. Declaration of interest: RS and Tree surgery.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 1st June were approved. Proposed MK, seconded JW.

4. Presentation by Graeme Hardie (GH, 113 Events): GH gave a presentation on the triathlon scheduled to take place on August 2nd which was following guidelines by the British Triathlon Federation. He explained that usually there would be 1100 athletes taking part, but that this year only 400 would be invited to allow for new Covid-19 safe measures and social distancing, which he would expect only around 300 would attend. All athletes would have a thermometer check and if raised, prohibited to take part, and there would be no spectators allowed. GH had previously sent a detailed document to SKPC, and it was agreed that the increased safety measures based on the guidelines were appropriate. Following August and a review, the cancelled triathlon from June was rescheduled for September 20th. Action: RS to inform parishioner in the next newsletter.

5. Clerk's report

5.1 Keynes Country Park (KCP): Victoria Hadnett (VH, General Manager, Cotswold Country Park and Beach) had previously informed SKPC that due to issues surrounding the Covid-19 crisis that the permissive paths had also to be closed due to health and safety reasons. WC had written to VH requesting that these reopen as soon as possible, and to keep SKPC updated on the situation, although no response had been received. The permissive paths were still currently closed. MK indicated that barriers which had also been mistakenly put up on the public footpath near Shorcote were now unlocked, but still blocked the path. Action: SP offered to chase KCP to remove the barriers, and request for further update.

5.2 Village lake: The Village Lake Management Committee have a rescheduled zoom meeting in July to restart improvement projects which had been postponed due to Coronavirus. MR discussed the suggestion that in September/October (and if Government guidelines allowed) the possibility of a village BBQ to celebrate the installation of the boardwalk hand rail. The great crested newt survey had taken place on June 5th. Action: RS to include suggestion of village lake BBQ in the next newsletter

5.3 LME private lake: A number of parishioners had contacted SKPC regarding the locked gates at the LME private lake which had previously been enjoyed with some local villagers walking around the lake. GV explained this measure had been a result of Covid-19 resulting in increased numbers of non-residents of LME visiting the lake to dog walk and swimming in the lake and on one occasion requesting police assistance. There was disappointment raised by the SKPC that the informal permission had been ceased, and it was discussed whether there could be some system of access to the codes for local parishioners. MR had written to the LME Management to arrange a meeting, and GV indicated he would chase a response. LME had reopened on 4th July, and this was currently taking priority. Action: MR/GV to update SKPC on progress.

5.3 LME cycleway: Nothing further to report.

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

5.5 Flooding: Nothing further to report.

5.6 GCC Highways/footpaths:

Village gateways signs: An invoice had now been received from GCC of £1750 to fund the village gateway signs, which was being matched funded by GCC. Action: WC to pay the outstanding balance.

Spine Road flooding: Nothing further to report.

Kennel bungalow footpath: Nothing further to report.

Other footpaths: AS raised the issue of cutting the grass on footpaths on Mrs Timbrell's land which were becoming increasingly hard to walk. Action: RS to contact Mrs Timbrell. Nothing further to report due to the coronavirus on other on-going footpath issues. Action: RS to contact Mike Barton (MB, GCC, Footpaths) in due course.

"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.

5.7 Parish Field: Nothing further to report, other than a meeting was scheduled between Jo Pendleberry (JP, Waterland) and MR/RE in July. Action: MR/RE to update SKPC of the outcome.

5.8 Neighbridge: The continued issue of dangerous parking had worsened over recent weeks and especially in the extremely hot weather. It was also noted parking had significantly extended further into the village at times. In addition, anti-social behaviour such as littering, noise and swimming with some unwanted behaviour extending into the village such as use of personal wheelie bins, sitting on people's walls whilst drinking. A number of complaint letters had been received from parishioners, and which had also been sent directly to the Cotswold Water Park Trust (CWPT) and/or SP (GCC) whom who were responding. RS/SP had contacted the CWPT to request free car parking remedial measures during Covid-19. CWPT and SP also indicated that the immediate issues is being raised at the highest level with the Police and Director of Public Health. SP was also contacting a company with experience in crowd control for further advice. TB (CDC) also indicated that there was to be a meeting arranged with CWPT and Jackie Wright (CDC, Community Wellbeing Manager). In the longer-term, enforcement and the issue of new double yellow lines raised, and SP indicated that a traffic prohibition regulation order (TPO) would be needed which costs £15-20K and financial contribution would be required from SKPC. The potential to displace the parking problem further into the village was also raised. WC raised the re-painting the double yellow lines on the Quiet Lane which had been tarmacked over, and it was agreed this would be helpful. JW raised the issue that he had been made aware of a volunteer from Minety had been continuing to pick up litter on her daily walk over years, and it was agreed that her valuable contribution should be thanked by means of correspondence and a gift. It was also noted that increased signage regarding blue green algae dangers and swimming had been installed. Action: a) SP to keep SKPC updated on his progress with organisations b) WC to write to Highways regarding re-painting of double yellow lines c) WC to purchase a gift for the volunteer from Minety.

5.9 Road speed limits: Nothing further to report

5.10 Second defibrillator: Karen and Lynton Mogridge had completed replacement of the windows in the telephone kiosk, signage and it was agreed a gift should be given to show the SKPC appreciation for all their excellent and hard work. Action: WC to purchase an appropriate gift.

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.

5.14 Other matters:

Internal Audit: Action: WC to purchase a gift for Roger Duckett for internal auditing the accounts.

Website: Action: WC to purchase a gift for Peter Watkins for his excellent on-going website support.

Covid-19: Newsletters had continued to be produced updating parishioners of developments and on-going issues, such as reintroduction of the garden waste collection scheme, social distancing and kind offers of help by volunteers.

Village Hall: AS indicated that the Village Hall Management Committee had contacted her to inform that they are preparing to open the village hall to the tutoring business in a Covid-19 safe manner. It was not anticipated that the Village Hall would open for general village use until September.

Village Noticeboard: JW requested that the village noticeboard be reviewed in terms of outdated business cards, or faded information. Action: WC/JW to assess currently provided advertised information.

6. Planning matters:

19/04270/FUL - Land to The South East of Ashland House The Street, Somerford Keynes. Emma Wilsdon (Senior Planner, Ridge and Partners LLP) had sent some revised proposals to SKPC for possible future resubmission on the day of the PC meeting and requested a future zoom meeting to present to SKPC. The revised proposals had taken into account local views, and therefore TB (CDC) indicated could be potentially more appealing to planning department. Action: SKPC to review proposals and TB (CDC) to also advise SKPC on his considered opinion on ways forward.

20/00690/FUL - LME Variation of conditions (delegated approval given)

20/02188/TCONR (West Manor Barn tree work) – No objection

20/01948/FUL (LME variation of occupancy) – No objection

7. Financial Matters:

7.1 Expenditure; Village Lake - Master Ropemakers handrail - £512.64; £192 – Plaque

Village gateway signs: £1,750, Clerk's salary - £112.20 Agreed *en bloc* Proposed MR, Seconded JW.

8. AOB/Questions:

A parishioner had questioned whether the meetings/minutes of CWPT are available to the public and what was the position of CWPT management to Neighbridge. Action: WC to make enquiries with CWPT on this issue.

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 3rd August 7.30 pm (to be confirmed)

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.