

Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 3rd August 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 T. Berry (TB, Cotswold District Council (CDC), Emma Wilsdon (Senior Planner, Ridge and Partners LLP): Giles Brockbank (Ridge and Partners LLP), Thomas Waldron (Applicant: County to County) and 0 members of the public.

Held by Zoom conference due to the coronavirus

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

2. Declaration of interest: GV and LME.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th July were approved. Proposed JW, seconded MR.

4. Presentation by Emma Wilsdon (EW, Senior Planner, Ridge and Partners LLP): 19/04270/FUL - Land to The South East of Ashland House The Street, Somerford Keynes. Following the withdrawal of the original plans for development, EW presented early stage revised proposals to SKPC for possible future resubmission which had taken into account local views, previous objections, and the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). The new proposals were for a more modest development of smaller bungalow dwellings, with reduced garden sizes, with access to the development only to be by the north. Should parishioners wish there to be access to the village lake that could be considered. There would be an area which would include a pond, a planted orchard, with a management company overseeing maintenance, and it was stated that there was no intention to develop the land any further. The Councillors specifically questioned compliance with the NDP, flooding and highway access and safety given the previously strong opposition by parishioners at the Parish Council meeting held in January. The applicants indicated that they felt the modest development behind the building line, could now be demonstrated to comply with the NDP. As the previous application had satisfied consultees on flooding, the new proposals would anticipate to also satisfy any requirements due to the reduced area of hard standing. There was now a turning circle for refuse trucks which would mean they could exit in forward gear. The road safety audit had been previously met and so it was hoped that this would be further satisfied. Following the presentation, TB (CDC) indicated that the new proposals could be potentially be now more appealing to the planning department, and therefore the village may wish to consider whether the orchard land be donated to the village as community land for a playing area, or as a community orchard. It was agreed that SKPC would consider further details and ensure the parishioners are kept informed of proposals via newsletters. Action: SKPC to review any detailed future submission.

5. Clerk's report

5.1 113 Triathlon: The triathlon had taken place on Sunday 2nd August, and it had appeared to be organised well and no adverse comments had been received from parishioners.

5.2 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. VH had discussed with Jo Pendleberry (Waterland) a compromise to enable villagers to walk the lake would be to enter via Waterland entrance during this period. MR/AS had visited the KCP and gained access via the Waterland entrance, explaining to the gate steward that they were local parishioners who wished to walk around the lake. They were given access to enter the park via this entrance and had no difficulties in walking around the bottom lake. WC also indicated that she had similarly entered via Waterland. Iron barriers are still erected which block the entrance via the end of the parish field and gates on the roadside which prevent access via the permissive paths. MK indicated that when you approach the northern lake from Shorcote, the barriers are still up on the permissive paths and it is still not possible to walk around the lake in either direction. Action: RS to publicise current situation in next newsletter.

5.3 Village lake: The Village Lake Management Committee (VLMC) had a zoom meeting in July to restart improvement projects which had been postponed due to Coronavirus. MR explained that the handrail project kindly funded by Helen Sweet was also underway, and that following discussion with Helen, VLMC had agreed that the rail be placed on the lakeside. There was a need for the boardwalk to be cleaned, oiled and weather proofed, and a contractor quote from South Cerney was being sought. The possibility of offering young adults in the village to quote for the work was also discussed and agreed would be acceptable. Action: VLMC to continue to provide updates.

5.4 LME private lake: MR/AS had met with Oberon Rogers (OR, LME) and discussed the issue of the locked gates at the LME private lake which had previously been enjoyed with some local villagers walking around the lake. OR 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, swimming in the lake and intentional damage. It was agreed that OR would put forward to the landlord the idea of a restricted access on a controlled permit basis (for walking, jogging and dog walking but not on a commercial basis). The permit and vetting process would need to be administered by SKPC. Action: MR/AS to continue to update on progress.

5.5 LME cycleway: Nothing further to report.

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

5.7 Flooding: Nothing further to report.

5.8 GCC Highways/footpaths:

Village gateways signs: An invoice had now been received from GCC of £1750 to fund the village gateway signs, which WC had paid. Action: WC to contact Highways on progress and timescales.

Spine Road flooding: Nothing further to report.

Kennel bungalow footpath: Nothing further to report.

Other footpaths: The grass on footpaths on Mrs Timbrell's land had been cut and much improved for walking and thanks had been expressed. 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.

5.9 Parish Field: Nothing further to report, other than a meeting was scheduled between Jo Pendleberry (JP, Waterland) and MR/RE on 13th August. Action: MR/RE to update of the outcome.

5.10 Neighbridge: The issues previously identified at Neighbridge have continued in hot weather. JW had attended a zoom meeting arranged by Jackie Wright (CDC, Community Wellbeing Manager), the Cotswold Water Park Trust (CWPT) and other agencies such as the police. JW and TB (CDC) indicated that the meeting had been useful, despite there being no obvious and easy solutions. AS had noted that there had been an increased police presence the previous weekend which was welcomed and TB (CDC) indicated was a result of the meeting. WC had written to Highways regarding re-painting of double yellow lines on the quiet lanes. A gift for the litter picking volunteer from Minety had been gratefully received, and she indicated that she was overwhelmed by our appreciation and would continue her efforts. Action: All to maintain awareness and monitor issues.

5.11 Road speed limits: Nothing further to report.

5.12 Second defibrillator: Karen and Lynton Mogridge (LM) completed renovation of the telephone box other than one problem which had been identified regarding the internal light not working, and that LM would if able attempt to replace, or seek quotes if too difficult. It was agreed that LM could use his judgement and any costs for replacement bulb or materials needed to be reimbursed. Some gifts had been given from the SKPC for their hard work, which were gratefully received. Action: WC/LM to keep SKPC updated on progress.

5.13 Cotswold Community site: Nothing further to report.

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

5.15 Training courses: Nothing further to report.

5.16 Website: WC had purchased a gift for Peter Watkins (PW) for his excellent on-going website support. PW indicated that he now wished to retire from the role after running the current site for over 9 years and was thanked for all his hard and excellent work. The website was at a stage where it was needed upgrading to WordPress and PW felt this was now a time to pass on the role, although he was willing to continue in the transitional period whilst a replacement was found. MR indicated that she had a family member who might be able to build the website using WordPress but would not be able to continue to support it on an on-going basis. It was agreed that GV would try to define the role, and WC/MK agreed that they would be happy to receive future training. Action: WC to request for volunteers via the distribution list and RS to include in next newsletter.

5.17 Other matters:

Roadside parking outside Elemental Sculpture Park: A letter had been received from a Parishioner regarding parking outside the Elemental Sculpture Park. WC had spoken to Dave Hartland (owner) who indicated that he was trying to combat the problem by increasing the number of car parking spaces within the park, as well as increasing entry prices to reduce numbers visiting the park at any one time. He indicated that since lockdown easing the park had had a much larger number of visitors than usual. Action: WC to write to the parishioner and maintain awareness.

Village Hall: AS indicated that she had attended the Village Hall Management Committee AGM held by zoom. They had successfully reopened the hall on the 27th July to enable the tutoring business to restart, which provided an income for the village hall. This was being trailed as a pilot scheme with the hope that it may be re-opened more widely for general use in September. During Covid-19, a grant had been received and internal and outside maintenance work undertaken. Action: AS to keep SKPC informed.

Village Noticeboard: WC had reviewed the village noticeboard be reviewed in terms of business cards, or faded information. Action: JW to assess currently provided advertised information, and whether any additional information could be included, and to get a second set of keys cut.

Internal Audit: WC had purchased a gift for Roger Duckett for internal auditing the accounts which was gratefully received.

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 the next September meeting.

Parish Charities Representatives: It was agreed to approve Judy Monger and John Haywood as the village representatives for charities. Action: WC to inform of their agreed approval and to give thanks for their continued roles.

Business Unit paint colour: A parishioner had contacted the SKPC regarding the choice of white paint colour of the off-road business units on the north end of the village. The Councillors discussed that the units had been in existence over many years, had received planning permission at the time, that no questions had ever been previously raised on this issue. Action: WC to write to parishioner to explain that no further action was considered necessary.

Church services: The church was now open for private prayer, and a reduced number of services.

Foodbank update: Sophie King had indicated that she would be finishing her collections in August and was thanked for her efforts over recent months which were greatly appreciated.

6. Planning matters:

20/02250/FUL (LME Render work) – No objection.

7. Financial Matters:

7.1 Expenditure; £50 - WC expenses for gifts; £868.80 - Village lake rope handrail (Hailey Wood), £128.11 - Village lake rope handrail/maintenance (Mike Wilding expenses); £40 - Information Commission Office fee. Agreed *en bloc* Proposed JW, Seconded AS.

8. AOB/Questions: None

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 7th September, 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.