

SKPC@waterford.plus.com

<http://beehive.thisisgloucestershire.co.uk/skpc>

Councillors Tessa de Bertodano, Ron Brown (Chairman), Anne Clayton, Mike McKeown, Roger Sleeman, Fred Timbrell, Peter Watkins

Clerk: Muriel Watkins 861614

The Village Hall

We are very fortunate in Somerford Keynes to have a well built and well-used village hall. Much of the credit for its construction and, over the past years, the organising of many events was down to Mike Chamberlain who sadly died this year. We all owe Mike a big debt. A new interim committee is now in place until the AGM next year but new blood will be needed in the form of a new Chair and Secretary. Any small village community such as ours needs to engender a strong village spirit and sense of belonging. Whilst this has been very successfully promoted in the past it is now time for the next generation to act as the driving force. Please consider carefully if you could help. Thanks to some excellent remedial work by Mike Willsmer (Treasurer), Des Sheen (Bookings), David Taylor and others, the hall is now in good shape, the finances are sound and it is well patronised. Participation would not involve too much effort or time but would be putting something back into the community. For more information contact Roger Sleeman, 861742.

Bledisloe Celebration

You all know that we won the Bledisloe Cup for the first time this year. Many of you may not know that the prize included £100 from the Campaign to Protect Rural England. So we want to celebrate with a village event. What would you like to do? Ideas and offers of help please to Anne Clayton, 861699.

Mud on roads

Mud generated by gravel/infill operations is causing problems once again. It is an offence to cause mud on roads, however it requires considerable pressure on the authorities to get them to act. Mud on Gloucestershire roads should be reported as soon as possible to 653231. Mud on Wiltshire roads should be reported to 0800 232323. Do not expect the Parish Clerk to do it for you, when you think of it some time later. Many complaints do actually spur the relevant officers out to look. We know that once the mud is on the road it is too late, as mechanical washers usually just spread it further. The Parish Council always asks for a condition that wheelwashers are used for vehicles leaving gravelling sites, but early permissions do not have such conditions.

Speeding

Members of the Parish Council, in conjunction with some of the more determined residents, carried out five speed checks in the village during November, using the Police supplied speed-recording sign. The radar device was operated in The Street and in Water Lane in order to record the speeds of vehicles at different times of the day.

The highest speeds recorded were for two cars on different days, one doing 45mph and the other 46mph along the Street by Church Lane. Now while these speeds are excessive, they are not near the 60mph speed which some residents think is occurring. The next highest speed recorded was 38 mph at the same location. Speeds recorded in Water Lane saw a maximum of 35mph (one vehicle) Overall approx.30% of all vehicles appear to be exceeding the 30 mph limit, but most by only a small amount. The busiest period noted seemed to be between 8.00 and 9.00am when a lot of cars are leaving the village to head for Kemble Station or are doing the School run. It seems probable that people are more likely to break the limit when they are in a rush.

It would appear from these limited results that a small number of drivers are travelling at an excessive speed through the village and we need to persuade them to slow down. We are investigating 'gateway' calming features at the entrances to the village and also automatic, flashing speed signs, although the latter appear to be very expensive (£3K - £4K). We will keep you posted and if anyone has any other suggestions, please pass them onto the Clerk.

Rubbish

The parish council would like those of you that do not have a dustbin, to consider getting one. The District Council deliberately does not provide bins or bags to encourage you to recycle as much as possible. Unfortunately some of you put out bags overnight, which are then savaged by animals, which creates a mess and an eyesore. If you do not use a bin, please do not put out your rubbish till collection day morning.

No changes to collection days this holiday Season!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all

