

Somerford Keynes Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016

Clerk: Muriel Watkins 861614

www.somerfordkeynes.org.uk

SKPC@waterford.plus.com

Councillors John Brailey, Mike McKeown, Karen Mogridge, Ron Munroe, Michele Pinto, Sarah Powell (Chair), Roger Sleeman

Your Parish Council

The full list of Parish Councillors appears at the head of this newsletter and all are happy to listen to any comments or problems you may have – you can obtain their telephone numbers from the Clerk if you don't know them.

Annual Parish Meeting

This will take place on **THURSDAY 28th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**. The Annual Parish Meeting is your chance to hear and comment on what the Parish Council has been doing over the past year, and to set its priorities for the future. Your County and District Councillors will also be present which will enable you to hear and question their actions. Please try to come.

Clean for the Queen

This is the Annual Parish Spring Clean rebranded in honour of Her Majesty's 90th birthday and will take place on **Saturday 16th April**. Put on your wellies, bring your rakes and make a difference to the hedges and verges of the Parish. Black bags, high-vis waistcoats, 'pickers' and generic protective gloves provided. Meet at the Village Hall, 10.00am. **Please let Maureen or Ian Boast (861664) know you are coming by Thursday April 14th so that there will be hot dogs for you at the end.**

Barbecue and Beacon

In a more orthodox celebration of the Queen's birthday, we will be lighting a beacon (as will many communities throughout the country) on **Thursday April 21st**. This will be preceded by a **barbecue at the Village Hall at 7.30pm**. The aim will be to light the beacon before 9.00pm (depending on light conditions) and finish by 9.30pm. A small charge will be made for food to cover costs.

Please let Karen Mogridge know (860476, karen@somerfordconsulting.co.uk) if you are intending to come, so that there is enough food for everyone. We would also appreciate some help with setting up the gazebo in the afternoon, and with running the barbecue. Again, please let Karen know if you are available.

Lake 99

The formal opening of Lake 99 will be a lunchtime bring-your-own picnic on **Sunday 22nd May from noon onwards**. This small beautiful lake at the Spine Road end of Mill Lane has now been set up by the Parish Council as a Nature Reserve with a public footpath around the perimeter. There is also a picnic area with benches. Access is off the Spine Road cycleway by Mill Lane. It will be a great asset for

Somerford Keynes residents and visitors alike. Do come along to the picnic and see what has been done here! Parking for the event, for those who need it, will be at Neigh Bridge. If you will have difficulty getting there please let a Parish Councillor know and we will try to find a way of assisting you.

The lake belongs to our community, and volunteers are needed to form a small management team to oversee its operation (although it will be maintained by professionals). This will not be very time-consuming but will be an interesting way to put something back into the community. Please let the Clerk know if you would like to help.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Work continues on the Neighbourhood Development Plan. We are now in the final stages leading up to submission to CDC for scrutiny prior to formal examination and the referendum (no, not that one!) that determines if it has community support. In order to conform with technical requirements there are procedures that must be followed rigorously. More details will be provided in a forthcoming "NDP News". As part of the process we will be arranging meetings specifically for businesses operating within our area to review those elements of the Plan which impact most directly upon them. Again, details will be in the "NDP News". Remember that anyone wishing to contribute to or make comments may do so via email (ndp@somerfordkeynes.org.uk).

Emergency Plan

Some time ago a number of you filled in a questionnaire to let us know whether you might need help, or would be available to offer help, in the case of an emergency, such as a widespread flood or prolonged power cut. In cases like these we are on our own, at least in the short term, and need to have some sort of plan in place so that those who are vulnerable or badly affected are given some assistance.

It has taken us some time but we are now preparing to get the Emergency Plan set up and tested so that it can be published before the end of the year. The first step is to contact everyone who filled in the initial questionnaire, to check that their details are still correct. If this applies to you, you should already have received either an email or a letter from us.

If you have not previously filled in the questionnaire and now wish to do so, a revised version is attached to this Newsletter for you to complete and return to the Clerk (or if you prefer, email emergency.plan.sk@gmail.com and

we will send you a version in Microsoft Word which can be filled in and emailed back).

Please note that the Data Protection conditions have been changed since the initial form was sent out. This is to allow for the storing of data online. These conditions are explained in the letter or email you may have received, and on the attached questionnaire.

If you agree to offer help in an emergency you will NOT be contacted to assist with individual cases. The Emergency Plan will only be invoked when it is clear that the emergency services cannot immediately cope - we hope this will never happen! At other times, we would expect a combination of good neighbourliness and the normal emergency services to prevail.

Keynes Country Park

The Cotswold Water Park Trust has invited Expressions of Interest for the management of several of its sites, including KCP, which is due to revert to the Trust at the end of this year. The Parish Council has presented its vision for the future of KCP to the Trust's management. We would like to see it gain accreditation from Natural England:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-accreditation-for-your-country-park>

Accreditation includes the following essential criteria:

- Free to enter (parking may be charged for)
- Predominantly natural or semi-natural landscape, with no more than 5% of the area built upon (excluding car parks)
- Informed by the local community – the public should have some influence over the management and development of the site.

Addressing these three criteria will mean, once again, Keynes Country Park can become a valued asset in our community. We appreciate that there is a benefit, and a financial necessity, to the Park having commercial offerings. However, we believe that such offerings can be operated within the framework provided by the Natural England accreditation such that they will not detract from our vision for the Park.

Our support for the Park to be an accredited country park will be incorporated into our Neighbourhood Plan. The policy relating to Keynes Country Park will reflect the ethos and criteria of the accreditation scheme.

Cotswold Community Site

We understand that an application has been made to Wiltshire Council, but not yet published on its web portal, for a development of 75 dwellings (including the 27 already existing) at the former Cotswold Community site. As we explained in a previous newsletter we are not sure that this number is enough to form a sustainable and diverse community, so we await publication of the application with interest. The Wiltshire Planning web address is <http://planning.wiltshire.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/Home.aspx>.

Spine Road Cycleway

This was always due to start at Neigh Bridge car park, but the short stretch between Neigh Bridge and the Thames bridge was never constructed. The cycleway is now due to be completed as a condition of the creation for a new entrance to the Lower Mill Estate development on Minety Lane. Plans are currently being drawn up and we hope the work will take place soon.

History Group

The Somerford Keynes with Shorncliffe History Group invites you to 'An Evening in Somerford Keynes' on **Monday, 25th April** at 7pm for browsing and 7.30 start in the Village Hall. We shall be showing a DVD taken of a lovely walk around the village area and then screening a selection of the 'Village Photos'. Entry £2 to include a glass of wine or fruit juice.

The History Group is discussing how to present our history with the options a book or a web page. Is there anyone who would feel able to help with this project?

Any queries contact Judy Monger 01285 861292 or email judy@monger.uk.net

Somerford Keynes Fete...

... will take place this year on **Saturday, 25th June at 2pm** at the Croft House. An afternoon in a lovely garden with a country house background with Stalls, Raffle and Sideshows, Barbeque, Arboretum Tours, Music with Pavo (request a song), Auction of Promises and more. Mark the date in your diary.

The Village Hall AGM...

... will be on Friday 15th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. A glass of wine and nibbles will be available to help the evening flow!

Dates for your Diary

Friday 15th April 7.30pm Village Hall AGM

Saturday 16th April 10.00am Clean for the Queen

Sunday 17th April 11.30am PCC AGM

Thursday 21st April 7.30pm Barbecue followed by beacon for the Queen's birthday

Monday 25th April 7.00pm Parish History Society

Thursday 28th April 7.30pm Annual Parish meeting **NOTE THURSDAY NOT FRIDAY**

Saturday 14th May Friends of SK Church Safari Supper

Sunday 22nd May noon onwards Opening of Lake 99 and picnic

Saturday 25th June 2.00pm Village Fete



Sarah Powell, Chair

Email: sarah.powell.sk@gmail.com

Tel: 860150

*The unadopted minutes of the Parish Council are displayed on the Parish Notice Board together with bus and mobile library timetables. The agenda for the next meeting is also displayed some days before each meeting. **Parish Council meetings are always open to the public.** The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday 4th April in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.*