

# *Somerford Keynes Parish Council*

**NEWSLETTER**

**July 2019**

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*Councillors Richard Elsey, Mandy Keegan, Michele Rigby, Roger Sleeman (Chair), Angela Stradling, Graham Valentine, John Whitwell*

## **Your Parish Council**

Following the elections in May we now have a new Parish Council whose names appear at the head of this Newsletter. They are all happy to listen to any views or problems you may have – their telephone numbers can be obtained from the Clerk. Somerford Keynes was one of the few Parish Councils in the Cotswold District to actually hold elections and our thanks must go to all those who took part. Our thanks also must go to the four Councillors who stood down after many years in the role. Their expertise will be missed but we are fortunate that Ron Munroe and Sarah Powell have agreed to continue with their excellent work on the NDP and we thank them.

## **Village Lake**

As you are aware the village has its own lake at the end of Mill Lane, next to the by-pass. It is a delightful amenity to have which combines both recreation and biodiversity. There is a management team lead by Michael Wilding who not only look after the maintenance of the lake but also seek ways to improve the nature conservation value of

the site. To that end they applied to the Calor Gas Rural Fund for grant aid and, thanks to support from many in the village, have reached the second round. A fantastic effort and the result should be known by the middle of July.

## **Telephone Box**

The Parish Council purchased the redundant telephone box for the princely sum of £1. It is intended to house the second defibrillator which is already in our possession. Unfortunately the box is in need of much refurbishment and, led by Karen Mogridge, a very small band have been carrying out the work. This is an essential job and will provide the village with, what will be, a vital piece of life saving equipment. Much still remains to be done and Karen would appreciate any offers of help. Please let her know if you can spare a little time to help.

## **Footpaths**

There have been many complaints about the state of the much used footpath from the middle of the village by Kennel Bungalow into the fields. In wet weather it became difficult to walk because of the muddy

surface. That should now be a thing of the past as a new graveled surface has been installed. Funding for this has been found from GCC, the landowner and the Parish Council. We have a good relationship with the Rights of Way team at GCC and are hopeful for more improvements in the future. In particular it is hoped to replace some difficult stiles with kissing gates to enable the less able walkers to negotiate. It does depend on the co-operation of the landowners who also point out that dog walkers must keep their dogs under control whilst out exercising and not allow dog faeces to contaminate the ground.

### **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

As reported earlier work is continuing on the Parish NDP. This is detailed and time-consuming work which, hopefully, will be completed this autumn.

### **Highways**

We have recently had a meeting with Highways to discuss various matters. You may have noticed that several local villages have new “gateway” signs at their entrances. One option being explored is to provide them for Somerford Keynes as there is currently a Community Support Grant available covering half the cost. The recent patching on roads around the Parish has resulted in the double yellow markings disappearing. This has been noted by Highways for action. Potholes are a continuing problem and the best way of getting action is to report them directly to highways on 08000514514 [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/report-it/](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/highways/roads/report-it/) A case number is assigned so progress may be tracked.

### **Cotswold Water Park**

Keynes Country Park is heading for high season and, in spite of there being no public footpath access, we have been promised usage of the pathways at times when the park is not closed for overcrowding. It will be interesting to note how this works, any problems please keep us informed. There has been a marked increase of usage of Neighbridge Country Park with parking on the adjacent roadways. Again it is important that we monitor this situation with a view to try to improve this in the long term. The area of lake just inside the entrance has been fenced and planted by reeds to improve the biodiversity.

### **Village Website**

This excellent website is updated regularly by Peter Watkins and contains a wealth of information on all parish matters. It includes amongst other things the Parish Council agendas and minutes (a riveting read!)

[www.somerfordkeynes.org.uk](http://www.somerfordkeynes.org.uk)

**Don't forget to support the Somerford Keynes Village Fayre at Croft House on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July.**

### **Roger Sleeman**

*The unadopted minutes of the Parish Council are displayed on the Parish Notice Board together with the bus 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 2<sup>nd</sup> September in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.*