

Somerford Keynes Parish Council

NEWSLETTER 4

22nd April 2020

Clerk: Wendy Cartwright 861517 www.somerfordkeynes.org.uk skpcclerk@gmail.com

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

The lockdown continues. The Parish seems to be generally coping well. Neighbours seem to be shopping for the vulnerable in the village, thank you. But whilst there are excellent groups in the south of the village and Water Lane the northern part of the village is less well covered, if you can help or need help please contact our Parish Clerk, Wendy, who is the main point of contact for assistance. We seem to be in this situation for the long term. The Parish Council are meeting weekly on-line to update and review the situation, any problems please let us know. All public meetings obviously cannot be held but information will be on the village website, which thanks to Peter Watkins is now functioning. We will also send out information via the 120+ email addresses we hold in confidence. If the information can be passed on to neighbours please do so. The Annual Parish Meeting will not happen this year, we intend however to put as much information as possible on-line including the draft accounts in May, please check the website and send questions or comments into Wendy. We will respond. The NDP is also obviously delayed by this situation but the village team and the CDC who are administering the process are keen to advance as far as possible. We are in the final phase and we are assured that policies in the document will be considered on any planning issues.

The Village Lake is proving an excellent asset and a good place for informal walking. There are sightings of varied wildlife using the site including a night visit from two otters. It is proving a popular walk and the team that look after the lake ask that you observe the one-way route as indicated by the arrows to avoid meeting in close contact, particularly on the narrow wooden walk at the north-east corner. Please be careful walking along that walkway as we have had one unfortunate incident of a slip. In the light of that we have had an excellent and generous offer from Helen Sweet in memory of her husband John to provide a rope handrail along that wooden walkway. This has been agreed but cannot be implemented until rules are eased. Thank you Helen.

One issue which is causing some confusion is the garden waste collection (green bins). Collection of these bins is suspended for the foreseeable future as is the Fosse Cross waste site due to lack of manpower. Please don't leave the bins out until collection starts again when we will be informed. The Parish Council are obviously aware that this causes problems for many and if you have any practical suggested solutions please let us know (a village skip would cost around £300 each time and need regular emptying and we don't have an obvious site)

Sophie King has organized a local foodbank collection which you leave contributions in the Church Porch which she delivers onwards. This is a fantastic initiative for which we thank Sophie.

Stay safe,

Roger Sleeman, SKPC

