

# *Somerford Keynes Parish Council*

**NEWSLETTER 7**

**3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020**

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

The Parish Council held its monthly meeting on Monday (on-line), and the agenda and minutes can be accessed on the village website. If you have issues for us to address, please contact the Parish Clerk Wendy. We also meet informally during the Corona crisis (again on-line) on a weekly basis. At the meeting last Monday three matters took up most time.

## **Neighbridge.**

There have been many comments, emails and photographs regarding the operation of the publicly owned lake with the new gates being shut at times to cars although the Thames Path remains open. Even with the gates open many cars park outside the site but on the recent weekend, with the gates shut, the cars parked right through the village up as far as the Bakers Arms. The CWP Trust, who lease the site, apparently need the income from the parking charges but shutting the gates does little to achieve this. The intent apparently is also to prevent overcrowding. but if cars park through the village and still use the lake shutting the gates does not achieve this either. The Parish Council have contacted the Trust to recommend that during the corona virus pandemic parking charge be discontinued and the gates stay open. We also suggest that villagers who are concerned at the situation write directly to the Trust to comment copied to the Parish Council, our County Councillor Shaun Parsons and our District Councillor Tony Berry.

## **Village Lake**

There has been a request to allow swim training on the lake which belongs to the Parish Council. This lake was constructed and designed after extraction for the deliberate purpose of Nature Conservation. It has shallow edges with a small adjacent lake for small invertebrates. It is possibly the only lake in the CWP designed for this purpose and we

obtained grants specifically to achieve this. To allow swimming would negate this intention and encourage others to use the lake for swimming. The signage at the entrance makes this clear and the Council unanimously decided to refuse the request. The team who administer the lake on behalf of the community have done a great job which is a pleasure to walk around.

### **Keynes Country Park**

It has been reported that the footpaths around Keynes Country Park have recently been closed at times. The reason given for this is to prevent unauthorized use of the facilities. These footpaths have been controversial in that there is a long history of debate regarding whether they should be designated as PROW. The Trust who is the primary leaseholder of the site which is owned by GCC have agreed that they would only be closed when the park is overcrowded on busy weekends. This obviously is not the case currently when the park is closed but they argue that with lack of on-site staff they cannot supervise safety. We have requested a meeting with the operators once it is practical to discuss this.

To reiterate, the Parish Council meet on-line formally once a month and informally on a weekly basis. if you have issues which need raising please contact the Clerk and they will be addressed.

Stay safe.

Roger Sleeman, SKPC