

Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 7th January 2019

Present: Cllr K. Mogridge (KM), Cllr R. Monroe (RM), Cllr M. McKeown (MM), Cllr S. Powell (SP), Cllr M. Rigby (MR), Cllr R. Sleeman (RS), Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), Cllr T. Berry (TB, Cotswold District Council (CDC)), W. Cartwright (WC, clerk) and 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies: Cllr S. Parsons (SPa, Gloucestershire County Council)

2. Declaration of interest: MM and LME.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December were approved and signed. Proposed MM, Seconded JW.

4. Clerk's report

4.1 Keynes Country Park (KCP):

Footpaths: Nothing further to report. Action: WC to contact the Cotswold Water Park Trust (CWPT) and Planning Solutions Limited (PSL) to invite to a future Parish Council meeting (offer February to April meetings).

4.2 Village lake: A report by Mike Wilding (MW, Village Lake Management Committee) was presented. The next volunteer morning is scheduled for Saturday 26th January, the application for CDC grant funding for an updated environmental plan had been successful (£600 up to a further £850 if necessary) and Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC) to contribute £500. The ownership of the parcel of land is still unclear and further enquiries are being undertaken. The first quote obtained for fencing off the land was considered too expensive (£2,500) and it was agreed that obtaining quotes for a simpler fencing would be adequate, or which could be achieved at a volunteer morning. Action: Village Lake Committee to continue progress on the various projects.

4.3 Lower Mill Estate (LME) cycleway: Nothing further to report. Mike Viney (LME) had cleared the LME ditch which had needed attention. Action: WC to maintain contact and keep SKPC aware of any developments.

4.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): RM had provided a written update of the successful meeting that had occurred in early January with SP/RM accompanied by TB (CDC) and the CDC Planning/ NDP team. There had been agreement by CDC on the plan with only minor amendments, and the next step is to present to a revised draft to the NDP Task Group (meeting to be scheduled for either 21st or 28th January) where it is hoped will be accepted and the revised draft endorsed formally at the next PC meeting in February. It is then proposed to start the pre-submission consultation on the 1st March (at the latest) for a 6-week period. Action: Meeting RM/SP to complete revised draft and schedule meeting.

4.5 Flooding: Shaun Shackelford (SS, Environment Agency, EA) had inspected the riverbed at Neighbridge with RS/KM and local landowners walking up to the Old Mill in December. Following the meeting, the bund had been cleared, and the thick tree which had fallen into Neighbridge removed. RS had also requested the maintenance schedules for those sites that were responsibility of the EA including the pump maintenance and clarifying ownership of the land and responsibility of tree cutting near the pumping station. Action: WC to maintain contact with SS (EA).

4.6 GCC Highways: Public footpaths: RS had provided a written update on the meeting with Mike Barton (GCC) and improving local footpaths and access. A quote to significantly improve the footpath at Kennel Bungalow had been received (£4,650 inc. VAT) and alternative quotes were being sought. GCC had agreed to pay 50% of the cost and SKPC would contribute as well as seeking further contributions from the landowner and potentially 106 grant funding. RS discussed the current cost-effective offer of replacement of stiles by GCC and that the next step would be to approach landowners. All other identified issues were currently in-hand. Action: KM to write to Sophia Price (CDC), Tony Berry (CDC), Mike Viney (LME), Mike Barton (GCC) and John Searle regarding funding contributions. Action: RS to set up a meeting with Margaret Timbrell and MB (GCC) regarding stiles.

Spine Road flooding: A meeting had occurred in December between WC (clerk), MR, Ann Whitwell and Gillian Portlock (GP, GCC). Issues discussed included blocked and unconnected drains, potholes, spine road flooding, Spratsgate Lane junction flooding, clearing of leaves at the Spine Road cycleway and overhanging tree cutting. The drains had been immediately cleared and a detailed report was being submitted to GCC which would be sent to SKPC. GP (GCC) also noted the poor condition of the footpath in some areas of The Street. Action: WC to maintain contact with GP on progress of remedial work for identified issues.

4.7 Parish Field: Jaci Harris (GCC) had confirmed receipt of the draft PROW documentation of the southern boundary of the Parish Field. Nothing to further report.

4.8 Neighbridge: A new sign regarding car park charging had been erected, nothing further to report.

4.9 GCC Minerals Local Plan: Nothing further to report.

4.10 Road speed limits: Nothing further to report

4.11 Second defibrillator: Nothing further to report

4.12 Cotswold Community site: Nothing further to report.

4.13 Trees/hedges/verges: Nothing further to report.

4.15 Other matters:

Baker's Arm Community Asset (on-going): The form to designate the Baker's Arms as a community asset had been sent to CDC and the outcome is expected around mid-January (currently the pub remains unsold). Action: WC to maintain awareness of outcome.

Village signs (on-going): Councillors to view recent Siddington village signs and reconsider at next meeting.

Bus shelter: JW had requested whether this may be a useful asset to the village at the site between the telephone box and noticeboard. It was agreed to try to gauge village support and consider in the future.

BT Overhead cables: WC had been in contact with BT regarding the trees and overhead cables/leaning post and needs exact location in term of whether on private/public property, and the post number. Action: SP to give WC information who would further follow-up with Open Reach, BT.

Dog control: Nothing further to report.

6. Planning matters:

18/04544/FUL (Jetty at LME); 18/04805/TCCONR (Grange End); No objections

18/04642/FUL (Septic tank replacement, the Leaze); No objection; KM to write a letter of support.

There was a discussion on the increased applications for jetties on LME lakes and potentially changing their tranquil nature. It was agreed that TB (CDC) would investigate whether there are any pre-existing restriction conditions. Action: TB to report back to SKPC.

7. Financial Matters:

7.1 Budget: WC presented the 2018/19 budget of spend to date and year end estimate. The budget proposed for 2019/20 was agreed subject to minor amendments. Proposed MM, Seconded RS. Voting: Unanimously accepted.

7.2 Precept setting: Given the expenditure required for the improvement of the Kennel Bungalow footpath which would result in a balance deficit for 2019/20, it was agreed to increase the precept by £250. Proposed: JW, Seconded MR. Voting: Unanimously accepted.

7.3 Expenditure: Clerks expenses (office supplies, ink, paper, diary, stamps): £38.52 - Proposed SP, Seconded RM.

8. Questions/AOB

JW requested that the pro-forma letter "Make a Change, Become a Local Councillor" be circulated to the village email list, possibly with a covering email about the forthcoming election this Spring, the retirement of current Councillors and the need for new volunteers. Action: WC to circulate.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council: Monday 4th February 2019 7.30 pm, Village Hall.