

Somerford Keynes Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 29th April 2019, 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr K. Mogridge (Chair), Cllr M. McKeown, Cllr R. Munroe, Cllr S. Powell, Cllr R. Sleeman, Cllr J Whitwell, Cllr S. Parsons (Gloucestershire County Council), Mrs. W Cartwright (Clerk) and 23 parishioners.

Apologies: Cllr M Rigby, Cllr. T Berry (CDC), Sheila Jones, Lynton Mogridge and Peter Watkins.

The Chair of the Parish Council began the meeting by welcoming and thanking parishioners for their attendance and introducing all the Councillors and Clerk.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting 2018 were approved and signed. Proposed: Chris Isherwood, Seconded: Les Jones.

Chair's Report: Report given by Cllr Mogridge attached.

Keynes Country Park report: Report given by Cllr Sleeman attached.

Village Lake report: Report given by Mike Wilding attached and formal thanks recorded to the Village Lake Committee and volunteers for their hard work in maintaining the lake so beautifully.

Neighbourhood development plan (NDP): Cllr Munroe gave a short report indicating that the second pre-submission consultation was completed in March/April. The consultation period ended on 12th April resulting in about 40 responses which gave an overwhelming support to for the Plan and its Policies. There were also some suggestions for modifications, all of which must receive a response and this document forms part of the formal submission. A report will be submitted to the next PC meeting after which, if agreed, will be posted on the website and formally submitted to Cotswold District Council (CDC). The process is then driven by CDC, a further statutory consultation period, examination by an Inspector and if approved, subject to a formal referendum of all voters in the parish. A majority vote means the Plan in approved and becomes operational. Formal thanks were recorded to all those in the NDP team.

Clerk's Financial report: A brief overview of the 2018/19 internally audited accounts was given in terms of receipts/payments. In summary, reserves were healthy (approx. £7.3K) and there had been a slight excess expenditure over income (approximately £300). A significant asset which had been purchased this year was a defibrillator for the phone box once refurbishment had been completed. Formal thanks were given to all organisations who had provided grants to the Parish Council (CDC and Village Hall Committee). In 2019/20, reserves are earmarked for improvements to the Kennel Bungalow footpath, Village Lake and completed renovation of the telephone box. It was noted that additional reserves for capital projects were available and should parishioners have any further ideas, to please contact the clerk. Copies of these statements were available.

Cotswold District Council (CDC): Cllr Berry's attached report was read out in his absence.

Gloucestershire County Council: Cllr Parsons gave an overview of how the increase in Council Tax of 4.99% will be spent (the tax expected to be the third lowest in the Country and lower than every neighbouring county). He noted the increases in investment and demand for social care for the elderly, children and Gloucestershire schools. He also commented on the increase of £150 million in budget for Highway on-going issues such as combating potholes and road resurfacing, as well as investment for the longer-term issue of the Missing Link A419. An update on the new incinerator at Javelin Park, due to be operational from the summer, was given.

Finally, formal thanks and appreciation were given to retiring Cllrs. Mogridge, Powell, McKeown and Munroe for all their many years of service to the Parish Council.

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There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.