

Somerford Keynes Parish Council

NEWSLETTER

March 2019

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Councillors Mike McKeown, Karen Mogridge (Chair), Ron Munroe, Sarah Powell, Michele Rigby, Roger Sleeman, John Whitwell

Your Parish Council

The full list of Parish Councillors appears at the head of this newsletter and all are happy to listen to any comments or problems you may have – you can obtain their telephone numbers from the Clerk if you don't know them.

Some of these names will certainly change following the elections on May 2nd, so this is the last Newsletter you will receive from the current Parish Council. I should like to thank all those who have been Councillors for the past four years for their efforts on behalf of the Parish. If you would like to find out what has been achieved, please come to our Annual Parish meeting!

Parish Council Elections – May 2nd

Parish Councillors are the people who best know their community, both because they live there themselves and because they listen to the views of their Parishioners. It is the job of Parish Councillors to champion their community and represent its needs and wishes to higher tiers of local government. Being a Parish Councillor can sometimes be a bit frustrating - but it's also very interesting, as the PC is consulted over a number of matters so you get to see some of these processes in action and occasionally to make your mark on them.

We have prepared a short leaflet giving more details of what this entails – this is available from the Website or the Chair.

If you wish to stand as a Parish Councillor in the 2019 elections, you will need a Parish Council Nomination Paper Pack – the Clerk has some, or you can download one from <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/about-the-council/elections/current-future-elections/>. You will need to know your Nominees' electoral roll numbers – these may be obtained from the Chair, or from the front desk at CDC when you hand in the forms (but this might involve a wait).

Completed forms must be handed in **personally** at the Reception desk at CDC's offices in Trinity Road **by 4pm on Wednesday April 3rd**.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Everyone should have received a leaflet (on green paper) about the NDP, the draft of which is now on the Parish website for consultation. There will also be consultation events in the Village Hall, where displays will show the latest version of the Plan, and where it differs from the version which went to consultation in 2016. These will be on the evenings of March 28th and 29th, and on the morning of March 30th (please

see your leaflet, or the Website, for further details).

Your comments on the draft Plan are invited, and will need to be submitted in writing by April 12th either by leaving a comment at one of the consultation events, by writing to the Clerk at Loughrigg, Somerford Keynes, GL7 6EN, or by emailing ndp@somerfordkeynes.org.uk.

Annual Parish Meeting

This will take place in the **Village Hall at 7.30pm on Monday April 29th**. Please do come along to give your support to our outgoing Parish Council, and to hear what we have done during the last four years.

Annual Parish Spring Clean, Saturday March 30th 10am at the Village Hall

Everyone welcome. Pickers, gloves, bags and high-vis waistcoats will be provided, but you might find it more comfortable to bring your own gloves, and a garden rake is always useful for those hard-to-reach items.

As always, sausage baps will be provided for all participants. **Please let us know if you will be coming by Thursday March 28th so that adequate supplies can be bought.** If you would like to help but would prefer not to pick litter, could you prepare and serve the hot dogs? The shopping will be done for you, just turn up on the day. Please let Karen Mogridge know (860476) if you can help in this way.

This year you can kill two birds with one stone, as the NDP display (see above) will still be in the Village Hall. Browse the display and leave your comment whilst eating your sausage bap!

We never fail to be amazed at the amount and variety of rubbish collected from our verges and ditches each year. Please do support this worthwhile event.

Keynes Country Park

In our last Newsletter we informed you that GCC, as landowner, had dedicated the footpaths around Keynes Country Park as Public Rights of Way, thus bringing to satisfactory conclusion our many years of campaigning.

Unfortunately we have just heard that the Cotswold Water Park Trust, as leaseholder, has taken the case to judicial review 'on a legal technicality' and the High Court has found in its favour. The dedication agreement has been quashed and the footpaths have therefore been removed from the Definitive Map.

We were not aware that a judicial review had been requested, nor are we aware what action, if any, GCC is now going to take. This is very bitter news after the work done by so many people, and the promises made to us by the Trust that they supported our application to have the footpaths added to the Definitive Map.

We will continue to speak with GCC about this, and we hope to have more to say at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Village Lake

Since taking over management of the Lake, the Management Committee has held several successful mornings at which volunteers have pruned, tidied, strimmed and done other maintenance. The latest was on February 23rd, when a number of young trees were planted; and more recently they have planted 500 snowdrops.

If you would like to be notified of further volunteering opportunities, please contact Mike Willis: mikewillis123@gmail.com; or ask the Clerk to pass your details on to Mike.

Telephone kiosk

During the winter a number of volunteers have been scraping away at the telephone kiosk to remove old and flaking paint. We are more than halfway through the job, but it would be lovely to hear from some more people who would be willing to help. Please contact the Clerk or the Chair for more details.

We hope to start painting by May – sooner if more volunteers turn up!

Bakers Arms

We have succeeded in registering the Bakers Arms as an Asset of Community Value. The significance of this is that, if the owners should wish to sell it, the community will have 6 months in which to raise funds to buy it (should they wish) at the commercial rate.

Footpaths

We have met several times with GCC Highways and the landowner regarding the footpath past Kennel Bungalow, and are happy to say that the footpath is to be completely resurfaced early in the new financial year. In addition we are hoping that stiles on some footpaths (notably the one leading northwards from Church Lane) will be replaced by kissing gates.

The Parish Council will be making financial contributions to both these projects, but the main expense will be borne by GCC.

A full report on the footpaths will be given at the Annual Parish Meeting on April 29th (see above).

Dogs

We are sure that Parishioners who walk their dogs behave completely responsibly, but please can we nevertheless remind you of a few points:

- Dog waste should be bagged and **responsibly disposed of** even when you are walking a path in a field. Local landowners find dog waste just as disgusting in their fields as we

all do in our gardens. Remember – dog mess in fields can go into the food chain.

- Dogs should always be kept on leads or under close control (interpreted as being within 5 metres of the user) when walking on public footpaths through fields. If the field contains livestock, the dog should always be on a lead.

Please be aware that **the Parish Council has no power to deal with dangerous dogs**. Unfortunately, neither does CDC as it no longer has a dog warden. We are advised that, if speaking to the dog's owner does not help, you will need to contact the police if you feel that a dog is behaving in a dangerous manner.

Safari Supper, Saturday April 6th

Please contact Diana Sleeman dianamsleeman@gmail.com, 861742 or Ronnie Dunn ronwynne.66@msn.com, 861613 if you would like to take part in this – they are always such good fun. As usual, further details are on the Website.

Triathlons

The Parish will be affected by triathlons on the following dates: May 15th (evening), June 9th, June 19th (evening), July 17th (evening), August 10th, 11th and 31st: Cyclists on Spratsgate Lane southwards to Spine Road. May 25th: Cyclists from Neigh Bridge northwards along The Street. August 4th: Runners along Water Lane. Further details from the website.

Recycling collections

You may have seen in the Press that CDC will be making changes to its recycling collections, once their new fleet of vehicles is commissioned. We are told this will not be until the late autumn, at which point we will of course let you know all the details.

Dates for your diary

NDP consultation events Thursday March 27th and Friday March 28th 7.30pm – 9.00pm; Saturday March 30th 10.00am – 2.00pm; all in the Village Hall

Annual Parish Spring Clean Saturday March 30th 10.00am at the Village Hall (see above).

Safari Supper Saturday April 6th (see above).

Parish and District Council elections Thursday May 2nd.

Somerford Keynes village fete Saturday July 13th. Save the date!



Karen Mogridge, Chair

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*The unadopted minutes of the Parish Council are displayed on the Parish Notice Board together with bus and mobile library 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 1st April in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.*