

Minutes of Somerford Keynes Parish Council Meeting

Village Hall, 8th July 2024

Present: Cllr A. Clark (AC), Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), Cllr M.H-Oldland (MHO), Cllr Hilary Collins (HC),

Also present: Clerk K. Holdsworth (KH), David Austin (SK Village Charity)

1. Apologies

Cllr N. Hunt (NH), Cllr M. Keegan (MK), Cllr G. Valentine (GV), CDC Cllr M McKeown (MM), CC Cllr L Spivey (LS), Mike Wilding (MW Village Lake)

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Hilary Collins

3. Public Session

It was asked if a copy of the village map with house names could be displayed on the village notice board to assist parishioners and delivery people.

Such a map does exist but would not fit on the current notice board. The PC is looking into replacing this and will see if this map can be included as and when a new board is in place.

4. Approval of Minutes of 10th June 2024 Meeting

Proposed AC, seconded JW.

5. Report from County Cllr L. Spivey

There is no report from Cllr L Spivey this month.

6. Report from District Cllr M.McKeown

There is no report from Cllr M McKeown this month.

7. Somerford Keynes Village Charity

One of the trustees is stepping down in August. The PC have nominated Clare Baker as a replacement and will write to the secretary of the charity to confirm this.

Action: KH to write to secretary.

Further information on the charity is included in appendix one.

8. Completed Actions from Previous Meeting

- 8.1 An application has been submitted to the Build Back Better Fund for various items for the Village Lake.
- 8.2 KH has distributed a note regarding the differences between European Hornets and Asian Hornets.

9. Ongoing and New Actions

9.1 Lower Mill Traffic in Mill Lane

This concerns traffic trying to get to LME by going down Mill Lane and then having to turn around. It is suggested that some LME signage be placed at the top of Mill Lane to point traffic towards Neigh Bridge.

Action: HC to contact LME Estate Director Lara Lymaney to discuss.

9.2 Community Speed Camera

AC has been in consultation with the Speed Watch team and Gloucestershire Constabulary (GC) regarding a new position for the camera following the decision by the installers that the location originally proposed by GC was unsuitable.

Action: HC is meeting GC and Speed Watch representatives in the village on July 12th with the aim of identifying a new location.

9.3 Active Travel Fund & Spine Road Cycle Path Missing Link

This is complex due to the number of stakeholders, landowners and local authorities (it spans Gloucestershire and Wiltshire) involved so is progressing slowly.

Action: NH to continue to progress and update.

9.4 Flooding

The flooding report is ready to be published. From here we can look at matters such as proactive inspections and mapping.

Action: HC to contact Annie McKeown to get report onto the SK website.

Action: HC to define next steps.

9.5 New Parish Notice Board

The current notice board is too small to display all the information that could be included.

Action: KH to investigate options and prices for a new and larger board. This would be funded from CIL money.

9.6 Bakers Arms/Community Asset

The previous community asset listing has lapsed.

Action: MHO to submit an application to renew.

10. Other Matters

10.1 Financial

Interest is now being earned on PC funds.

Action: KH to claim back any VAT due from 2023/24.

10.2 CIL Funds

Parish Church

The PC have agreed to pay for a new staircase for the parish church tower from CIL funds.

The PCC have obtained a quote for a number of options, the most expensive being £8995.00 plus VAT. Quotes from another supplier have been requested to ensure best value.

From the PC's perspective this is a one off transaction with the PCC responsible for ongoing maintenance and any associated insurance.

The ladder will enable parishioners to climb the tower and enjoy views across the parish. It will also ensure easier and safer access for those managing the church.

Given that surveys need to be done and approvals from the Diocese obtained it is anticipated that this work will not start until late autumn.

Action: AC to write to the PCC to confirm the terms of the offer.

Play Equipment

The Community Survey highlighted an interest in having childrens' play equipment in the village. An issue is that there isn't an obvious place to locate it. It was suggested that that we ask whether the Cotswold Lakes Trust would be interested in putting swings at Neigh Bridge if the PC offered to pay for them. Any payment would be using CIL funds.

Action: AC to write to Matthew Millett at Cotswold Lakes Trust.

11. Planning

24/01169/FUL

Full Application for conversion of equestrian building to single dwelling house at Manor Farm Shorncote, Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire

This application is made by Cllr MK who was not present at the meeting.

No Objection

24/01944/TCONR

Works to trees in conservation areas for G1 - Maple x16 - reduce crown back to previous pruning points. G2 - Apple x4 - 2.0m overall crown reduction and prune at West Manor Barn Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6DL

No Objection

12. Correspondence

12.1 Gloucestershire Highway – Get ready for Winter

No changes needed

12.2 CDC - Fly Tipping Posters

Decided not to put these up on the basis that, in general, people know already that fly tipping is antisocial and criminal.

Fly Tipping can be reported via FixMyStreet, a recent incident was dealt with very quickly.

12.3 Neigh Bridge Litter

As with fly tipping, not much the PC can do about this. Bins were removed from Neigh Bridge some while back in the hope that visitors would take their litter home. Clearly some don't, this tends to be tidied by Lakes Trust quite quickly.

12.4 Fiber Optic Cable

Information Only

12.5 Water Pressure

This has been an issue for some parishioners for a number of weeks now.

Action: AC to write to Thames Water on behalf of the village.

12.6 Training Courses – GAPTC

Interest in Clerk's course.

Action: KH to investigate course and costs

12.7 Grass Cutting – Footpaths & Verges

The road between Mill Lane and Neigh Bridge was highlighted as an issue. KH wrote to Gloucestershire Highways and this verge has now been cut.

Overgrown footpaths were also highlighted as an issue. JW reported that because of landowner subsidies the footpaths around the village will not be cut before July 15th. They are likely to be cut before harvesting to avoid long grass being taken up with any crops.

13. Income and Expenditure

Income Interest Earned May 2024 - £221.88
 Interest Earned June 2024 - £275.93

Outgoings HMRC £197.36
 Parish Clerk Wages £827.45

Incoming £30.50 refund on AGM Wine

Transfers None

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Proposed to invite the village flood warden to the next meeting.
 Action: HC to invite contact Rob Abraham.

14.2 The footpath at the entrance of the new Kings Water Estate appears to have been rerouted. This is in Ashton Keynes Parish.
 Action: JW to contact AKPC to see if they are aware and if any action should be taken.

14.3 The PC thanks Marcus Gibbons for his time in running another two First Aid courses.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

There will be no PC meeting in August
Date of next meeting Monday 9th September 2024

Appendix One

The Somerford Keynes Village Charity

This charity can help villagers, who find themselves struggling to meet an immediate financial need or pressure, by means of a grant.

Enquiries and applications for financial support for, or on behalf of residents of Somerford Keynes or Shorncote should be addressed to the Revd David Austin, in the first instance. This could be in person, by telephone on 01285 862102 or by email addressed to revdauidAustin@gmail.com

Financial requests may be for a wide range of purposes which could include

- supporting an individual's educational needs by paying for textbooks or school uniform
- the repair or replacement of essential but unaffordable household items
- heating costs and/or general household bills
- urgent health or dentistry costs
- exceptional transport costs, such as for hospital visits

The Revd David Austin chairs the biannual (and ad hoc) charity's trustee meetings where each application is considered in the strictest confidence by the board of trustees : The Privacy Notice posted on the village website provides more detail about the trustees' responsibilities in this regard. Awards are typically between £50-£200.

The trustees are village residents ; two are nominated for terms of four years by Somerford Keynes Parish Council, one by the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and another is co-opted every 5 years by the other trustees. In addition to the Revd David Austin, they are

Mrs Diane Gibbons

Mrs Ellie Tracy

Mr John Hayward

Mr Graham Shearn

The History of the Charity

George Soley Foyle died in 1839 leaving a bequest of £200 to be invested by the Minister of Somerford Keynes, Wiltshire (now Gloucestershire). He instructed that the interests and dividends should be divided amongst "such poor and indigent persons resident in the Parish of Somerford Keynes as the Minister shall think proper".

A few years later, in 1857, Joseph Mill provided an endowment "for the provision of blankets or clothing at Christmas for poor families in the Parish of Shorncote". Three further charitable endowments followed and all five were subsequently consolidated in 1967 into the single Charity we know today, its' objective being to provide grants of money or gifts for the benefit of residents in need in Somerford Keynes or Shorncote.

The Somerford Keynes Village Charity is registered and regulated by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.