Minutes of Somerford Keynes Parish Council Meeting Village Hall, 9th September 2024

Present: Cllr A. Clark (AC), Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), Cllr N. Hunt (NH), Cllr G. Valentine (GV), CDC Cllr M McKeown (MM),

Also present: Clerk K. Holdsworth (KH), and 3 members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr M. Keegan (MK), Cllr M.H-Oldland (MHO), Cllr Hilary Collins (HC), CC Cllr L Spivey (LS), Mike Wilding (MW Village Lake),

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Hilary Collins, Cllr N Hunt

3. Public Session

The following matters were raised;

- 3.1 The spillway which runs into Lower Mill Estate needs clearing before winter as it has a role in village flood protection.
 - **Action:** HC to engage with Lower Mill Estate Team and/or the Environment Agency to establish who is responsible and best placed to address.
- 3.2 Footpaths BSK18 and BSK22 are both very overgrown. A parishioner has written to Frank Dorrington-Ward at Gloucestershire County Council to request they be cleared.

 There is no further action the Parish Council (PC) need take, the PC thanks the parishioner for taking the initiative to contact Frank direct.
- 3.3 Suggestion of other measures aside from a speed camera that could be used to address the issue of speeding vehicles, with the intention of preventing speeding which would hopefully negate the need to catch speeders. Visibility and placement of signage could be looked at and a couple of villages were cited which were deemed to have more visible warnings and displays.

This matter is covered further in 9.2.

4. Approval of Minutes of 8th July 2024 Meeting

Proposed AC, seconded JW.

5. Report from County Cllr L. Spivey

Report from Cllr L Spivey is in Appendix One

6. Report from District Cllr M.McKeown

Report from Cllr M McKeown is in Appendix Two

7. Report from Mike Wilding, Village Lake Committee

Report from Mike Wilding is in Appendix Three

8. Completed Actions from Previous Meeting

- 8.1 KH has written to the Village Charity nominating Clare Baker as a trustee.
- 8.2 HC is working with Annie McKeown to put the flooding report on the village website.
- 8.3 KH has claimed back VAT for 2023/24 of £198.44.
- 8.4 AC wrote to Thames Water's (TW) CEO regarding ongoing low pressure issues. This resulted in a visit to the Whelan's property on July 23rd where some tests were run. This was then pursued with the Chief Executive to understand what was to be done as a follow up to that. In response a report was received which has been previously distributed and states that the case is closed.

This problem for parishioners is that whenever TW have run tests pressure levels have exceeded their minimum guaranteed levels.

As such there is no more the PC can do at this stage. It was discussed with MM whether our new MP Roz Savage could assist. The conclusion reached is that we would engage her if parishioners can provide sufficient evidence of reported issues to TW.

Action: Parishioners to send detail of incident references where they reported issues to TW, detailing what they reported and the response they got. There needs to be a reasonable number of these if we are to give Roz a tangible audit trail of issues to take forwards.

- 8.5 KH is undertaking Parish Clerk training.
- 8.6 JW has contacted Ashton Keynes PC regarding the rerouting of a footpath on Kings Water Estate. They are unaware of changes and feel any are unlikely given the regulations around changing path routes.

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: GV to contact LME Estate Director Lara Lympaney to discuss.

9.2 Community Speed Camera

Previous minutes set out the history of this.

The latest is that following a visit to SK on July 12th by Gloucestershire Constabulary and the Speed Watch team only one viable site was identified for a camera. This was opposite Yew Tree Farm in The Street. Given the proximity to a ninety degree bend and the feedback of immediate residents this is not deemed to be a problematic area for speeding. As such, the decision is taken not to pursue the speed camera installation.

However, the PC do recognise that speeding has been raised as an issue by parishioners. Parked cars, narrowing of roads (for example by the village hall and at the western end of Water Lane), sharp bends and the like provide a level of control of speed in much of the village. The biggest issue is felt to be entering from the northern end so the PC agreed to look at what can be done there in terms of warnings, signage and so on.

Separately but related, KH wrote to Gloucestershire Highways concerning a worn 30mph sign in The Street near Mill Lane which led to it being replaced.

Action: NH to investigate possibilities.

9.3 Active Travel Fund & Spine Road Cycle Path Missing Link

See point 10.2.6

9.4 Flooding

HC is progressing several action items in the flooding report and updating the report as needed as well as working through the Annual Flood Workplan items to initiate actions.

Action: HC to update at next meeting and invite flood warden Rob Abraham to October meeting.

9.5 New Parish Notice Board

See point 10.2.5

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

The parish accounts are in good shape and we are receiving interest on the higher interest account.

10.2 CIL Investment

10.2.1 Village Hall Kitchen

This is now complete, ready to use and looks very good.

The Parish Council would like to thank Richard and Lex Goldman for all their hard work on this, particularly painting work, moving everything in and out of the kitchen and putting all the crockery (there is quite a lot) through the new dish washer.

10.2.2 Village Hall Other Projects

The Village Hall Committee with the help of Thames Head Energy have been looking at other possible works to improve the hall. In addition to Village Hall funds and CIL money, the Village Hall Committee have applied for an additional grant from CDC to finance such work. A decision should be made on this by mid September.

Action: Nick Cartwright will attend PC meeting next month to discuss status.

10.2.3 Church Staircase

The PCC have obtained quotes and had a survey completed for the planning of this work. They are currently awaiting approval to proceed from the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches. All being well final permissions will be gained around the start of December.

10.2.4 Neigh Bridge Swings

A popular request in the Community Survey was for a play area for younger children, with swings being the favoured equipment. As there is no such location for this in the village we have approached Cotswold Lakes Trust to see if they would be happy to have some swings at Neigh Bridge if we provide funding for the installation from our CIL money. They are awaiting quotes for this from their contractor.

10.2.5 Bus Shelter/Notice Board

The PC were asked by school children to look at providing a bus shelter. It was agreed it would be good to combine a new larger notice board into the shelter.

JW has received quotes from two potential suppliers and has also engaged with Jonathan Roberts from Gloucestershire Highways to look into the best location.

The children have been involved in selecting a preferred design, next steps are to engage further with one of the suppliers to firm up pricing and details of location, including engagement with immediate residents.

The PC welcome the involvement of younger members of the community in this project and encourage further suggestions and engagement.

Action: JW to progress as described above.

10.2.6 Missing Link Cycle Path

This is progressing slowly and is difficult due the number of councils and landowners involved. The main contact at Bewley Homes has changed with the new incumbent seeming less interest in dialogue, though part of Bewley's planning permission involved a requirement to build a path across their land. Ashton Keynes PC haven't really engaged either.

Do not expect quick progress on this one!

In related activity NH is also looking at unadopted land in SK and potential extension of the footpath at the north end of the village.

Action: MM is meeting with Wiltshire CC this week and will discuss. NH to progress from the Gloucestershire side with support from Lisa Spivey and will continue to pursue and update.

11. Planning

24/02096/TCONR

Works to trees in conservation areas for Mature Cherry in rear garden. Fell to near ground level at 2 School Cottages Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6DJ **No Objection**

24/01994/FUL

Full Application for Variation of condition 2 (Plans) of planning permission 21/04567/FUL - Demolition of existing garage and erection of a two storey side extension with associated amendments to parking and landscape areas at 1A Waters Edge Spinney Lake Lower Mill Estate Somerford Keynes

No Objection

24/02193/TCONR

Works to trees in conservation areas for G1 - Beech trees - Clear back from building by approx. 2.0m.

- 1 Cherry pollard ay 5.0m
- 2 Cherry stem fell.

G2 - Beech - Clear back from building by approx. 2.0m at The Dower House Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6DN

No Objection

12. Correspondence

12.1 Speed Camera

See 9.2.

12.2 Fly Tipping

MM has previously provided details on a CDC initiative on this topic. New signage has been put up on the road to Ewen and there are also cameras available which will be moved around the local area.

As well as fly tipping itself being illegal, individuals have a duty of care to ensure that anything they dispose of doesn't end up being fly tipped.

Any incidents (there has been one this week) should be reported to CDC who have in the past been very quick and effective in tidying up.

12.3 Footpath - BSK18

See 3.2.

12.4 Bakers Arms – Pizza Sign

It was felt that whether one likes or doesn't like such a sign is not a PC issue and parishioners should contact the Bakers Arms with any comments themselves should they have a particular view.

12.5 Dog Fouling

Most people would accept that this is anti social and know that fines can be imposed if they don't pick up after their dog. But it goes on. So difficult for the PC to affect though we have issued further notices following land owner correspondence.

If any parishioners would like to design some fun posters reminding people to clean up after their pets the PC will be happy to laminate and distribute them.

12.6 Build Back Better Fund

Good news! We have been successful in our application. £1994 will be received this month which will be spent on items for the Village Lake.

12.7 Noise from Tap Room

Three complaints were received on this topic.

As previously minuted, AC, MM and NH (in his Cotswold Lakes Brew Co capacity) met to discuss this in June. As a follow up from that Cotswold Lakes Brew Co (CLBC) have confirmed that they are looking at commissioning a noise/acoustic assessment.

The PC will look to maintain an open dialogue with CLBC, balancing support for an initiative and facility enjoyed by some parishioners with the concerns others have expressed.

In terms of specific noise complaints there is nothing further beyond this the PC can do so any issues should be reported to CDC

Action: AC to write to CLBC asking whether they would share any insight from the acoustic assessment and any other plans with the PC.

12.8 Dog Incident

An email was received about a dog incident. It's not for the PC to comment on the specifics of the allegation but we would remind owners that they have a duty of care in controlling their animals in public areas.

Parishioners should report such incidents on the Gloucestershire Police 101 non-emergency number.

13. Income and Expenditure

Income Interest Earned July 24 £326.24

Interest Earned August 24 £264.57 VAT Reclaimed for 2023/24 £198.44

Total Income £789.25

Outgoings HMRC £197.36

Parish Clerk Wages £827.45

ICO Renewal £40.00

Village Lake Mower Repairs £95.00

Village Lake Shed Deposit £350.00 (BBB Funds)

CIL Spend Village Hall Kitchen Balance £6909.06

Church Stairs Survey £234.00

Village Hall Kitchen Whitegoods £655.00

Village Hall Kitchen Tiles £610.26

Total Spend £9918.13

Transfers None

14. Any Other Business

14.1 KH reported that the screen on the parish laptop has developed a fault and needs replacing. The laptop is approaching seven years old and next year Microsoft will no longer support Windows 10. This leaves us vulnerable to security breaches so the PC decided that it should be replaced.

Action: KH to investigate quotes for replacement.

14.2 Correspondence received on domain names from GAPTC.

Action: KH to assess whether this is something we need to consider.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Date of next meeting Monday October 14th 2024

Appendix One Cllr L Spivey

Cotswold District Council

Crowdfund Cotswold

Having reached the milestone of raising over £1million for a huge range of brilliant community projects including playground refurbishments in Down Ampney, Poulton, Ampney and Meysey Hampton early in the summer, the Autumn round of funding for projects will launch at a creator workshop on the 17th September at 4pm. For more info and joining instructions, see below:

https://www.spacehive.com/movement/crowdfundcotswold

Latest projects also include the electric mower for Poulton Cricket ground and solar panels for Ampney Crucis village hall. Great use of the scheme in the Ampneys!

Flood Warden Scheme

Are you interested in helping your community prepare for, respond to and recover from flooding events?

We are looking to recruit Flood Wardens as part of our Flood Warden scheme with the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC).

Full training and support will be provided.

For more information, or to register your interest, please email rachels@grcc.org.uk

Unsung Heroes

The Council is launching its Unsung Hero award scheme. We are keen to recognise those amazing members of our communities who always go above and beyond, often without any fuss or fanfare. Find out more below with a link to nominate someone in your community

 $\underline{https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/local-heroes-to-be-recognised-for-their-contributions-to-the-community?mc_cid=0022bb1e92\&mc_eid=be184b2790$

Fly tipping

We're recruiting volunteer 'Fly-tipping Guardians' to help us reduce environmental crime in our beautiful district. Fly-tipping is the dumping of waste illegally and continues to be a problem in our rural district.

Fly-tipping not only causes significant blight to our beautiful countryside, but also poses serious environmental hazards and endangers local wildlife.

Find out more here:

https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/council-awarded-over-gbp-38-000-to-combat-fly-tipping

Town and Parish Council Forum

The next Town and Parish Council will be on the 10th October at 6pm. The focus for this meeting will be the Cost of Living and speakers include Citizen's Advice Bureau and the Food Network. Online joining options available.

Local Plan and National Planning Policy Framework Consultation

The government has launched a nationwide consultation on its proposed changes to the National planning Policy Framework. The council is preparing its own response which has to be submitted by the 24th September, but any parish council, or individual residents can respond.

Gloucestershire County Council

Build Back Better

Last call for any projects that could use Build Back Better funding. I have a small amount of money to allocate before the scheme ends in January 2025, so please get in touch is your community could do with some extra funding for a specific, community enhancing project.

Highways Local

I have allocated most of the money from my annual highways local budget to a variety of small issues across the division, but if there is anything you think that could do with fixing, please let me know. Ahead of "pothole season", I have been in contact with Gill Portlock, our local highways manager about trying to ensure that our local road network doesn't disintegrate, and she is trying to deal with localised flooding issues in Somerford Keynes, Down Ampney, Ampney Crucis, Cerney Wick and other places which saw flooding last year.

CQC Inspection of Adult Social Care

The Council hosted a team of CQC inspectors last week who were looking at how the Council operates this service. This is the Council's biggest area of spend with just over £230million spent each year on supporting adults from 18 to end of life across a diverse range of services. The Council has already completed a self assessment process and knows where there are areas which require improvement so it is hoped that the CQC full report will reflect what the Council has already established

Firestation Roundabout

Just wanted to make it clear that the improvement works happening at the fire station/Midland road roundabout are part of the Steadings development were required by GCC as part of the Section 106 agreement. Once completed in early 2025, these works will make huge improvements to the area, but Bathurst Development Ltd have acknowledged that whilst the work is happening, it is a big disruption for those going in and out of Cirencester.

I hope that these generic updates provide some info on what is happening at the councils. For all specific case work, planning matters or localised issues, please email me directly and I will assist where I can.

Best wishes, Lisa

<u>Lisa.spivey@cotswold.gov.uk</u> <u>Lisa.spivey@gloucestershire.gov.uk</u>

Appendix Two

Monthly Report: September 2024
Prepared by Mike McKeown
(mike.mckeown@cotswold.gov.uk)
Councillor for the Kemble Ward
Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability
Cotswold District Council (CDC)

Kemble Ward Councillor Related

Ashlands Appeal

No News. Awaiting an update from the national inspector.

Air Pollution Investigation in Kemble

Working with a Kemble resident suffering from asthma, along with Roz the MP, Lisa our GCC councillor, and the parish council to investigate and find solutions to possible air pollution near the main road. CDC planning to do monitoring from start of 2025, I understand my suggestion to purchase a hand held air quality monitor is being implemented which will allow some data gathering in advance of the official monitoring.

Village Halls and Community Buildings Grants Panel

I sit on the panel that awards village halls and community buildings grants to improve the buildings and the services they offer to the community, focusing on climate change. Thirteen applicants submitted for the final round. The first three were assessed and all given grants, with the remaining ten to be assessed soon. Nick Cartwright and I, as Thames Head Energy, helped Somerford Keynes village hall, submit an application for infrared heating, LED lighting, and EV chargers. Panel will meet 13 September. Obviously, I will recuse myself from deciding this one! Sept 2024

Thursday 25 July 2024 13:41

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Cabinet Member of Climate Change and Sustainability Related. Retrofit Program Launch

Following a successful grant award from the Southwest NetZero Hub to CDC, Cheltenham Borough Council, Forest of Dean District Council, and Climate Leadership Gloucestershire, we will be launching a retrofit program in the autumn. More details coming soon.

We have made and had acceptance for a retrofit officer to undertake this, she will start in October. She will be doing events in village halls across the Cotswolds, including in the Kemble Ward as well as online events and an event at CDC in March. This will focus on encouraging and supporting homeowners to fit improved insulation, heat pumps and solar to cut their energy costs and CO2 footprint.

Sustainable and Public Transport - Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding

A number if bid to the CIL fund were approved which will progress sustainable transport, such as cycle paths and public transport:

Bid 1 – Kemble to Steadings Greenway (Sustrans)

Bid 2 – Cirencester to Kemble Cycle Link (GCC)

Bid 3 – Bourton-on-the-Water Interchange Hub (GCC)

Bid 4 – Footpath in Moreton-in-Marsh (GCC)

Bid 5 – The Forum Interchange Hub (GCC)

Bid 7 – Sherborne Big Nature, Better Access (National Trust)

Note: Bid 6 – Moreton-in-Marsh Transport Hub / Interchange and Station Improvement Works was rejected and encouraged to resubmit once additional local consultation on the design was completed

For the Kemble ward this means the cycle path between Kemble and Cirencester (bids 1 and 2) have taken an important step forward. Completion of these studies will be used to bid for funding to construct the cycle path, notably GCC, along with Sustrans, were the bidder for this, essentially the split responsibility for the path between them. This gives a good indication that GCC is committed to this important cycle path.

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Nick Hunt (SKPC) and I are working on a feasibility study for a cycle path "missing link" that would connect Somerford Keynes to the cycle path at North End Crossroads, taking advantage f the Kings Water development which is along the route and is required to construct a cycle path along its frontage. We have a proposal from Sustains for this. Nick is talking to Ashton Keynes PC and I to Wiltshire Council to get their support and discuss routing options.

Community Energy Related Community Energy Solar Farm Funding:

Following a successful grant application to the Southwest NetZero Hub, we, Thames Head Energy, which I co-founded, were awarded £40,000 for a small community solar farm to be located somewhere in the Cotswold District or South Cotswolds Constituency. As a not-for-profit, the benefits will come back to the community.

We have recently started working with a consultancy company on searching for locations, including two locations with a local landowner who engaged based on the first round of funded search. The solar farm consultancy company we are working with have found 30 potential locations and we have short listed 10 to engage with SSEN on to understand grid connection for each before engaging with landowners.

We also have an agreement to work with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) to explore agrivoltaics at the chosen sites. In simple terms this involves maintaining a level of agricultural use at the solar farm sites.

CDC Related

National Planning Policy Framework Consultation

The new government has issued a consultation on the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which are in essence the national planning permission rules and policies:

Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

CDC is responding to this as can anyone else. Consultation closes n 24 September and its expected the new NPPF will come into force before the end of this year.

the national planning permission rules and policies:

Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

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This incorporates the governments commitment to 1.5m homes over the next 5 years.

The current allocation to CDC dramatically increases the district new house building targets from 504 to 979. Clearly this would have a big impact on local house building.

Part of CDCs feedback is the increase is too high considering that ~80% of the district is in the Cotswold National Landscape (formally called the AONB) which is extremely limited on development.

Much of the revised NPPF is positive, reflecting feedback CDC and others have provided on improving access to affordable housing, raising building standards to be more green, particularly on climate change, and speeding up renewable energy.

Council awarded over £38,000 to combat fly-tipping!

Council awarded over £38,000 to combat fly-tipping! | Cotswold District Council News

Cotswold District Council has been successful in their government bid and has been awarded £38,341 from the 'Fly-tipping Intervention Grant Scheme' to be spent between April and October 2024

Tickets are on sale for the brand-new Cirencester History Festival

Tickets are on sale for the brand-new Cirencester History Festival | Cotswold District Council News

Local site manager wins regional award!

Local site manager wins regional award! | Cotswold District Council News Latest round of funding for hyperlocal projects launched (Crowdfund Cotswolds)

Latest round of funding for hyperlocal projects launched | Cotswold District Council News

The Cotswold Community Wellbeing Team is going on tour!

The Cotswold Community Wellbeing Team is going on tour! | Cotswold District Council News

Wear Not Waste campaign encourages us to reuse and re-wear

The Cotswold Community Wellbeing Team is going on tour!

The Cotswold Community Wellbeing Team is going on tour! | Cotswold District Council News

Wear Not Waste campaign encourages us to reuse and re-wear our old clothes

Wear Not Waste campaign encourages us to reuse and re-wear our old clothes | Cotswold District Council News

Appendix Three

Mike Wilding Village Lake Report

Over the summer, there have been the following activities at the Lake:

- 1. Village Pond Day on 13 July, which was held in the morning at the village hall and in the afternoon at the Lake. Attendance was good with the insects from pond dipping identified by the experts in attendance
- 2. **Deer Park (Kemble) Scouts held their AGM** at the Lake on 26 June, with activities organised by LME ecologist at Lower Mill Estate as well as our Lake
- 3. **Moth trapping** was carried out on 2 August, by Nick Cartwright and Mike Wilding, using the Lake's trap that was purchased in kit form, last year. Many species identified but no early morning village viewers to watch!

Maintenance: The warm wet summer has produced a lot of grass growth and brambles growing out over the path, so both mowing and cutting back has been carried out at regular intervals by the committee members, together with their monthly inspections

Fishing: We have had one incident of carp fishing from the boardwalk, and associated dog mess as their dogs were presumably let loose. The culprits were known to a villager, who had a word in the right ear. Thank you villager. No further incidents have occurred

Wildflower areas, particularly on the Lakeside strips, have done well this year, if late due the cold spring. Many different species identified

There are two volunteering mornings planned for 21 and 28 Sept, and these will be advertised shortly. Plenty of autumn work to do including trimming back, bonfire, wildflower area maintenance, and boardwalk cleaning

BUILD BACK BETTER grant: The grant money from our successful bid to Gloucestershire CC for work at the Lake, is now in SKPC's bank account, so the committee will start work shortly on purchasing the items that we listed in our application, a few months back

Mike Wilding 3 September 24