

Minutes of Somerford Keynes Parish Council Meeting

Village Hall, 13th January 2024

Present: Cllr A. Clark (AC), Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), Cllr M. Keegan (MK), Cllr N. Hunt (NH), Hilary Collins (HC), CDC Cllr M McKeown (MM)

Also present: Clerk K. Holdsworth (KH) and one member of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr G. Valentine (GV), Cllr M.H-Oldland (MHO), CC Cllr L Spivey (LS), M Wilding (Village Lake)

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr N. Hunt (NH), Hilary Collins (HC),

3. Public Session

Nothing raised.

4. Approval of Minutes of December 9th 2024 Meeting

Proposed JW, seconded NH

5. Report from County Cllr L. Spivey

There is no report from Cllr L Spivey this month.

6. Report from District Cllr M.McKeown

Report from Cllr M McKeown is in appendix one.

We highlight that following the engagement of Gloucestershire CC (GCC) Highways by Mike and Lisa Spivey additional measures will be put in place on the Spratsgate Lane/Ewen to South Cerney cross roads. These include new signs, slow signage on Spratsgate Lane and rumble strips on the Ewen and South Cerney sides

7. Actions from Previous Meeting

7.1 Green Bins

MM was asked to look into the matter of several green bins going missing on collection days at the end of last year. He is still awaiting an answer though this seems to have gone away as an issue so the matter is considered closed.

7.2 Speed Calming Measures

NH has engaged GCC Highways and in principle they are happy for the 30mph sign to be moved further along the road away from the village when entering from the northern end. This would in theory give drivers more notice so slow earlier.

To do this necessitates a Traffic Regulation Order which costs £15k and would need to be funded by the community. A decision is needed on whether to pursue this and the PC would welcome the views of parishioners.

There is a general Highways policy of not adding additional signage so moving the current ones is the only real option. It is also not clear whether we could use CIL money for this. If not it would be unaffordable.

Highways also confirmed it would be feasible for the footpath at the northern end of the village to be extended to Field Farm. Again, this would need to be funded locally. The community could commission the work so long as a Steetworks Accredited supplier is engaged.

If this is pursued we could look to organisations such as the Sculpture Park and Field Farm hosted businesses to contribute.

Actions: Vote on the speed limit signs at the next PC meeting based on funding possibilities and resident feedback.

NH to explore the provision of quotations for extended footpath.

7.3 Bus Shelter

JW has written to The Coach House owner, produced a project summary for audit purposes and is securing costings for a notice board. A general project update is included in section 10.2.

7.4 Planning Application 24/03269/FUL

Following further investigation into this application the PC has submitted comments.

8. Flooding

8.1 Shorncote Flooding

Last November's heavy rain caused flooding in five homes and three commercial units in Shorncote. This was due to the ditches in Hills Quarry not being cleared. Sam Carrier, Flood Warden at CDC, has inspected the site and written to Hills Quarry giving them a comprehensive list of works to be carried out. Urgent works to be completed by 16th January with further works to be completed in the spring. If these works are not carried out, an Enforcement Notice may be necessary.

8.2 Kiosk at Neigh Bridge

This is in the same state as previously reported though the Environment Agency have stated they have budget to upgrade it.

Action: HC to chase EA.

8.3 Community Flood Warden

Rob Abraham, our community flood warden has resigned and we thank Rob for his volunteer service. More information for those interested can be found at <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/environment/flooding/cotswolds-flood-wardens-scheme/> and [https://www.grcc.org.uk/downloads/flood-wardens-cdc-\(a5\).pdf](https://www.grcc.org.uk/downloads/flood-wardens-cdc-(a5).pdf) It would be good to have someone (or multiple people) take on this role. The flood warden(s) will collaborate with HC, the parish council's lead on flooding.

Please contact skpcclerk@gmail.com if you are interested in this role.

8.4 Spine Road Grips

Highways had stated these would be cleared but no work appears to have been done.

Action: HC to chase Highways.

8.5 Mapping

Our current flood map cannot be upgraded so new software is needed.

Karen Mogridge has looked at alternatives and has proposed 'Parish Online'. HC is seeking feedback from CDC before progressing with a subscription of £60 per year.

Our thanks to Karen for all her work on this.

Action: HC to confirm proposal and next steps.

9. Financials and Governance

The PC has applied for a £6300 precept for 2025/2026, this is the same as last year.

We have appointed GAPTC (Gloucestershire Association of Parish & Town Councils) as internal auditors for this year's accounts.

We need to publish Standing Orders and a Code of Conduct.

Action: JW to circulate previously used versions with a view to agreeing how to progress at February's meeting.

10. Community Infrastructure Levy

10.1 Village Hall Energy and Infrastructure Upgrade

As previously minuted, the PC have agreed to provide the necessary funding not covered by the grant secured by the Village Hall Committee for this work. This includes upgrades to heating, lighting and the provision of EV chargers. The grant award is dependent on all elements being implemented and the work needs to be completed in February.

10.2 Bus Shelter and Notice Board

The bus shelter has now been ordered. JW is working with both the shelter provider and GCC (who are funding and providing the hard standing) to agree installation dates which are likely to be in the spring.

JW is also looking at quotes that could enable a new and improved notice board to be incorporated into the bus shelter.

Action: JW to continue to progress and provide updates

10.3 Swings at Neigh Bridge

CDC has confirmed that a grant award to Cotswold Lakes Trust (CLT) is an acceptable way to use CIL funds. The PC voted and agreed to progress this project.

Action: AC to write to CLT to move this forwards. We will need firm quotes from their contractors and to agree the grant wording and terms.

10.4 Church Staircase

Ongoing. The PCC have received further questions from the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

10.5 Replacement Defibrillator

As per December's minutes, the village hall defibrillator needs replacing.

A budgetary cost of £1200 had been obtained, subsequently Marcus Gibbons has acquired one free of charge from Gloucester Fire and Rescue Service.

It will need a new battery and pads, Marcus has obtained three quotes and the PC have voted to use the Defibrillator Warehouse to replace these at a cost of £502.80.

The PC would like to give our thanks to Marcus for his knowledge and help in moving this forward.

Action: KH to order battery and pads.

11. Planning

24/03412/FUL

Full Application for Expansion of decking at 67 Minety Lake Lower Mill Estate Somerford
Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire

No Objection

12. Correspondence

12.1 Google Maps Street Name

The Street has been named Arlington Drive on Google maps. It appears that edit proposals can be made on Google maps, it is suggested that parishioners who wish to do so do this.

12.2 Field Farm Planning Application

13. December Income and Expenditure

Income Interest Earned December £284.45

Total Income **£284.45**

Expenditure

CIL Expenditure £2733.60 Bus Shelter Deposit
£2778.00 Village Hall EV Charger

Total CIL Spend **£5511.60**

Petty Cash Expenditure £10.00 Village Hall Heating First Aid Course
£2.00 Village Hall Heating December PC Meeting

Transfers **None**

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Dates for AGM and Parish Litter Pick

Action: AC/KH to propose.

Provisional Dates for Diary

Village Litter Pick – Saturday 29th March 2025

Parish Council AGM – Friday 9th May 2025

14.2 Clearance Around Village Lake

Andrew Bonner at LME had offered assistance to help with such community matters.

Action: JW to contact Andrew.

14.3 Debris on Road

After the recent wind, trees and debris are straddling the edge of the road between Mill Lane and Neigh Bridge.

Action: JW to provide photos which KH will send to GCC Highways requesting they clear.

14.4 Cotswold Lakes Trust

NH reported that Matthew Millet of Cotswold Lakes Trust has asked to attend the next PC meeting to discuss the footpath at Lake 32 and Neigh Bridge. The PC welcomes this.

Action: NH to confirm date to Matthew.

Meeting closed at 9pm

Date of next meeting Monday 10th February 2025

Appendix One
Cllr M McKeown

Monthly Report: January 2025

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)

CDC Related

National Planning Policy Framework and Housing Targets

In December 2024, the government announced updates to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), introducing several significant changes to planning rules and housing targets. Of particular relevance to Cotswold District Council (CDC) is the reinstatement of mandatory housing targets, calculated using a revised standard method. Unlike the previous approach, which allowed some flexibility based on local constraints, the new rules require councils to meet these targets regardless of designations such as the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The government aims to deliver 1.5 million new homes nationally by 2030, creating increased pressure on local authorities to identify additional land for development.

Beyond housing targets, the updated NPPF introduces other policy changes relevant to CDC. These include a stronger emphasis on economic growth, with support for sectors such as renewable energy, digital infrastructure, and sustainable transport. Policies promoting brownfield development have been reinforced, requiring councils to prioritise previously developed land for new housing and commercial projects. Additionally, the NPPF includes updated guidance on climate resilience, encouraging local plans to incorporate measures for flood risk mitigation and energy efficiency in new developments. The framework also emphasises community engagement, requiring councils to ensure local voices are heard in planning decisions.

For CDC, this means reviewing its Local Plan and reassessing its housing land supply to align with the updated targets. While CDC currently has a five-year housing land supply based on the previous methodology, the new rules may necessitate recalculations that could impact its ability to maintain control over local planning decisions. Not having a five-year housing land supply significantly weakens the council's ability to refuse speculative planning applications, as developers gain more freedom to propose housing on sites not allocated in the Local Plan. It seems the government is well aware of the ramifications of this and has chosen to ignore requests for a transition period, prioritising their aim of delivering 1.5 million new homes by 2030. This approach risks leading to less controlled and potentially unsustainable development, making it increasingly challenging for CDC to balance housing delivery with its environmental protections and sustainability goals. Further guidance and updates are expected as councils work to implement the new NPPF requirements.

English Devolution White Paper

In December 2024, the government published the Local Government Devolution White Paper,

outlining its vision for devolving more powers and responsibilities to local authorities across England. The proposals aim to create new county and unitary-level combined authorities with elected mayors or leaders, offering greater fiscal autonomy and decision-making powers to address regional disparities.

For Gloucestershire, it is highly unlikely to be included in the first phase of devolution, meaning unitary elections would likely not occur before 2027, with Cotswold District Council (CDC) being absorbed into a new unitary authority in 2028. Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) has requested the government delay the 2025 local elections, a move opposed by CDC, other district councils, and most Gloucestershire MPs, including Roz. They argue this is unnecessary and antidemocratic given unitary elections are unlikely before 2027.

Discussions are ongoing about whether Gloucestershire would form one or two unitaries, potentially dividing into east and west areas. Additionally, the composition of any regional grouping involving Gloucestershire unitaries is under debate, with multiple options being considered.

The bottom line is that CDC is likely to remain in place until at least 2027 or 2028, providing time to assess the implications of devolution and ensure local interests are represented during this period of significant change.

[Kemble Ward Councillor Related](#)

[Village Halls and Community Buildings Grants Panel](#)

Installations are scheduled for the various aspects of the upgrades including improvised heating and lighting and new EV chargers, critical to meet the March end of year deadline.

[West Lane Kemble](#)

The street light remains broken, I've been chasing the developer and GCC. The developer has confirmed they have a date from National Grid for the required power connection. I've also asked GCC to look into adding more street lights on the lane, awaiting feedback.

[KCG Lease](#)

Signed by the PC and taken back to CDC.

[Cross Roads - Spatsgate Lane / Ewen / South Cerney](#)

Temporary resurfacing and lines done, another accident just before Christmas. Lisa and I continue to chase GCC highways on broader actions, the latest is they have confirmed the following

- New signs going up as soon as they are delivered
- Slow signs painted on Spratsgane Lane to alert drivers of the cross roads and encourage lower speed
- Rumble strips on the Ewen and South Cerny sides of the junction, which combined with the new signs should help draw attention to the cross roads, make it less likely cars drive straight over and make people more careful crossing it

[Kemble Wick Flooding](#)

I visited with the CDC Flood team, local residents and the PC.

Awaiting feedback from the flood team on what joined up action is

needed by Aura, Bathurst Estate, CDC, K&E-PC to minimise and direct run off from the land to drain away from Kemble Wick.

CDC News

Have Your Say on Cotswold District Council's Budget

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/have-your-say-on-cotswold-district-councilsbudget>

Cotswold District Council Improves its Council Tax Support

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/have-your-say-on-cotswold-district-councilsbudget>

Cotswold District Council Improves its Council Tax Support Scheme for 2025/26

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/cotswold-district-council-improves-its-counciltax-support-scheme-for-202526>

Council Supports Older Residents to 'Get Connected'

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/council-supports-older-residents-to-getconnected>

Cotswold District Council Reaffirms Pledge to Tackle Sewage Scandal

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/cotswold-district-council-reaffirms-pledge-totackle-sewage-scandal>