

Minutes of Somerford Keynes Parish Council Meeting

Village Hall, 10th February 2024

Present: Cllr A. Clark (AC), Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), Cllr M. Keegan (MK), Cllr N. Hunt (NH), Cllr M.H-Oldland (MHO)

Also present: Clerk K. Holdsworth (KH), M Wilding (Village Lake), three members of Cotswold Lake Trust and five member of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr G. Valentine (GV), Hilary Collins (HC), CDC Cllr M McKeown (MM), CC Cllr L Spivey (LS)

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr N. Hunt (NH), Cllr M.H-Oldland (MHO), Cllr M Keegan (MK) & Cllr J Whitwell (JW)

3. Public Session

Nothing raised.

4. Approval of Minutes of December 9th 2024 Meeting

Proposed JW, seconded MK

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. Report from M Wilding Village Lake

Village Lake report in Appendix One.

8. Matthew Millet Cotswold Lake Trust

The following matters were raised and discussed.

- 8.1 Following a couple of summers of poor weather the Trust has been running a significant annual financial deficit. Much of their income comes from Cotswold Country Park & Beach so poor weather correlates to lower attendance and associated revenue.
- 8.2 As such they need to find additional funding sources. One they are looking at is mini golf and refreshments at Neigh Bridge. This is in the early stages of planning, the PC explained that whilst we understand the need to look at new revenue sources the community's issues with Neigh Bridge have been around parking in the road (whilst the car park remains relatively empty) and litter and asked whether these could be considered in conjunction with any additional activities.
- 8.3 The footpath running parallel to the Spine Road at Lake 32 is badly eroded and needs repairs. The Trust is seeking support from a variety of stakeholders to address this. Whilst most of this is in Wiltshire and Ashton Keynes Parish the PC agreed to support this where we can given that this section of path is widely used by our residents.
- 8.4 MK pointed out the considerable noise heard in Shorncote on busy days at Cotswold County Park & Beach which particularly comes from users of the inflatable structure on the lake.
- 8.5 Matthew was invited to the PC AGM on May 9th.

9. Actions from Previous Meeting

9.1 Extending Footpath at North End of Village

NH has engaged with several Streetworks Accredited suppliers to obtain costs for extending the footpath at the north of the village from Elm View to Field Farm. To date one quotation has been received which is around £57k for a tarmac path and £45k for a self binding gravel one.

Should this be pursued the PC would likely seek funding contributions from the Sculpture Park and Field Farm based businesses.

Action: AC to write to Sculpture Park to ascertain their level of interest.

Action: NH to continue to seek additional quotations and engage with Field Farm owners.

9.2 Defibrillator

The batteries and pads for the new Village Hall defibrillator have been installed.

9.3 Lower Mill Estate Support

JW has engaged with Andrew Bonner of LME who has agreed to do some tidying up of the Water Lane hedge as well as cutting brambles and mulch and fixing the owl box at the Village Lake. This is much appreciated.

9.4 Tree Debris

KH has written to GCC regarding the tree debris on the verge between Mill Lane and Neigh Bridge, they have responded and are looking into it

10. Matters Discussed

10.1 Speed Control at North End of Village

As previously minuted, the only option available is to pay £15k for a Traffic Regulation Order to move the 30mph sign. Parishioner feedback received is all in support of the PC's decision not to pursue.

10.2 Flooding

MK reported positive progress in that work has now started on the ditches around Shorncote by Hills Quarry. Water is now flowing freely though there are still more works to be completed.

Action: MK to retain a watching brief.

Action: HC to provide updates on Spine Road grips clearance, Neigh Bridge Environment Agency kiosk and drainage mapping software.

10.3 Finance and Governance

10.3.1 Standing Orders, Code of Conduct and Financial Regulations

These have been reviewed by the Parish Council and will be adopted.

Action: KH to have them added to SK website.

10.3.2 IT Security

KH has reviewed options and costs and the PC agreed to move Bitdefender at £17.49 pa instead of remaining with McAfee whose renewal was £79.99 pa.

Action: KH to subscribe.

10.4 Dates for Diary

The Village Litter Pick will be held on Saturday 29th March 2025

The AGM will be held on Friday 9th May 2025.

11. Community Infrastructure Levy Projects

11.1 Village Hall Energy and Infrastructure Upgrade

This is ongoing and works need to be completed in February. The EV charger is now installed.

11.2 Bus Shelter and Notice Board

Hard standing area will be installed on March 17th and the shelter will be erected during week commencing March 31st.

Three quotes have been obtained for a notice board. The PC voted to proceed with the proposal from Lance Heal Joinery as theirs was the most competitive (£1984 plus VAT) and they have experience of working with Made in Oak (who are providing the shelter).

Action: JW to continue to progress.

11.3 Swings at Neigh Bridge

The PC has confirmed to Cotswold Lakes Trust that we can fund this via the provision of a grant, their contractor may not be able to schedule the work until the autumn.

Action: NH to talk to the Trust to see whether these dates can be brought forwards.

11.4 Church Staircase

The Diocesan Advisory Committee have asked the PCC further questions so still no final approval received.

11.5 Replacement Defibrillator

This is now up and running at the Village Hall.

11.6 Village Lake

MW to look at options and costings for providing a cover on one of the benches.

12. Planning

24/03885/FUL

Full Application for Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of permission 21/02705/FUL The erection of 17 detached holiday units within Minety Lake South West (also referred to as Barberry Lake); the erection of three detached holiday units within Lakeshore Reserve West; amendments to the water's edge of Minety Lake South West; ancillary buildings, provision for new landscaping and revised ecological areas, visitor parking and vehicular access at 60 Minety Lake Lower Mill Estate Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire

No Objection

25/00044/FUL

Full Application for Erection of oak framed garden room at 1 Arlington Fields Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6BL

Applicants to send further information

25/00284/TCONR

Works to trees in conservation areas for Pine - Fell replant. at The Old School House Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6DJ

No Objection

24/03836/FUL

Full Application for Erection of a detached garage with solar panels and installation of solar panels to 2no. to dwellinghouses, residential curtilage enlargement at The Stables And The Paddocks Shorncote Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire

No Objection

13. Correspondence

Correspondence was received on the following topics;

Speed control – covered in point 10.1

Footpath North end of Village – covered in point 9.1

Spine Road Cycle Path

Access to LME Lake

Repairing road signs

Verges around parish

14. January Income and Expenditure

Income Interest Earned January 25 £274.04

Total Income **£274.04**

Expenditure

Clerks Salary (Oct/Nov/Dec) £827.45

Village Lake Generator £350.00 (Build Back Better Grant)

Total Expenditure **£1177.45**

CIL Expenditure	£233.94	EV Charger Barriers
	£790.50	Deposit Village Hall Electrical Works
	£1580.70	Deposit Village Hall Heating Installation Works
	£502.80	New Defibrillator Bundle
	£1584.00	Village Hall Excavation & Cabling Works

Total CIL Spend **£4691.94**

Transfers **None**

Petty Cash Expenditure **None**

15. Any Other Business

David Austin is interested in talking to residents who may be having issues with their septic tank. If you would like to engage please contact David at revdavidAustin@gmail.com

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Date of next meeting Monday 10th March 2025

Appendix One

Somerford Keynes Parish Council

VILLAGE LAKE REPORT FOR SKPC MEETING on 10 February 25

Summary of activities during December, January, early Feb:

1. VOLUNTEER MORNINGS:

None since last report. End March/April (likely bulb planting)

2. CONTRACTOR WORK:

J UNCLES: Our wildflower areas were cut, with a large power strimmer once all flowering had finished

D ISAACS: Forestry work (feb)

- Remove scragg & sever ivy stems to TPO sycamore near shed
- Clear scrub & fell one tree between wildflower meadow & lakeside to open full vista and allow more sunlight onto meadow
- Remove owl box from current position for resiting
- Remove two branches from tree on N side to facilitate resiting of owl box
- Cut down dead trees along boardwalk & hazel coppicing
- Strim and remove unwanted saplings from various areas around lake

3. BUILD BACK BETTER GRANT:

The committee members have been busy purchasing materials and equipment, from the list agreed with GCC, when the grant of approximately £1990 was awarded (see para 5 below for details)

4. PLANNED LAKE WORK DURING THE SPRING:

General tidying & planting snowdrops and bluebells

Resiting owl box

Installing bat boxes



5. FINANCE: (Build Back Better Grant & SKPC Budget)

Date	Item	Cost	VAT
	BUILD BACK BETTER GRANT (£1990)		
15 Aug 24	Deposit on Shed (Master Sheds Gloucester)	291.67	58.33
6 Nov 24	Shed base timbers and lock (Wickes)	28.86	5.79
6 Nov 24	3 bags MOT type 1 (J C Tye)	11.85	2.37
6 Nov 24	Pond Dipping Nets (NHBS)	176.65	35.33
9 Oct 24	Wildlife Trail Camera (Concord fotos)	139.99	28.00
27 Jan 25	Silent Generator (Adrian Collins)	350.00	nil
Nov 24	Balance on Shed (Master Sheds)	608.33	49.67
5 Feb 25	Vinyl Flooring for shed (Gardiners)	59.95	11.99
5 Feb 25	Hooks for tools in shed (Gardiners)	15.79	3.16
6 Feb 25	Gate Counter + 3 yr insurance (Amazon)	172.83	34.57
	Total expenditure so far	£1855.92	
	2024/2025 SKPC BUDGET (£1250)		
16 July 24	Mower Service (Mike Parker)	95.00	nil
13 July 24	Plant plugs (Slimbridge) Village Hall stall	20.00	nil
18 Sep 24	Strimming (J Uncles)	100.00	nil
Nov 24	Meadowmania	83.68	3.98
	Petrol mower/gene	6.99	1.40
7 Feb 24	Treework (D Isaacs)	600.00	nil
	Total expenditure so far	£905.67	