

Somerford Keynes Parish Council

NEWSLETTER 9

19th July 2020

Clerk: Wendy Cartwright 861517 www.somerfordkeynes.org.uk skpcclerk@gmail.com

Councillors Richard Elsey, Mandy Keegan, Michele Rigby, Roger Sleeman (Chair), Angela Stradling, Graham Valentine, John Whitwell

The Parish Council holds its monthly meetings normally on the first Monday of the month (on-line), and the agenda and minutes can be accessed on the village website. If you have issues for us to address, please contact the Parish Clerk Wendy. We also meet informally during the Corona crisis (again on-line) on a regular basis. Please let us know if you have an urgent issue for us to address.

Neighbridge.

Neighbridge Lake continues to cause problems for the village. Because of the lack of open access to other lakes in the Water Park without either membership or paying, it does act as a focus for those wishing to exercise. It is primarily a lake devoted to nature conservation it has however recently become a focus for antisocial behavior, littering and swimming. Over the last few years the large car park has required payment which many people seem to resent and, as a result, have taken to parking on the roadside just outside the lake and, at times, outside houses into the village. The lake is owned by GCC and administered by the CWP Trust. Both bodies are aware of the problems being created and are trying to find solutions with the police carrying out more visits, and the Trust deploying Rangers and carrying out litter picks. What is needed is a long-term solution. The Parish Council will continue to bring pressure to bear on those relevant bodies (GCC, the Trust and the Police) but it is important that local people also contribute by making their views clear.

Footpaths

You will be pleased to note that the growth impeding walking on the footpaths from the village towards the Thames Trail have now been mowed. They are part of an environmental scheme for nature conservation and under rules involved could not be cut until mid-July. The only

exception is the field by Church Lane which will be cut soon for a hay crop. Our thanks to the Timbrell farm for the action and information.

Triathlon

113 Events are holding a Triathlon on Sunday 2nd August which as usual will route through the village. It will route along the by-pass, through Neighbridge, into the village and along Water Lane and return back to KCP. As a precaution the field of runners will be reduced from the usual 1100 athletes to a maximum of 400 and strict Covid-19 precautions will be taken. No spectators will be allowed and social distancing enforced. Please let us have any feedback as a further event is planned on September 20th.

Other Matters

The Village Hall Committee is investigating a “limited” opening for commercial letting but it will depend on strict Covid-19 Rules. They are holding their on-line AGM on Thursday, 30th July at 7.30pm. Please see separate email.

Development of the parcel of land behind Ashland House which caused controversy earlier in the year still has not disappeared. A new suggestion is for a revised plan for a number of bungalows in line, they claim, with the proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan. This has not yet been submitted to Planning and is in depth and not “in-line” with the Plan.

Now that lockdown is being eased The Village Lake Committee are implementing the improvements already planned and are anticipating a re-opening with a Barbeque event.

There are plans being considered to hold church services inside All Saints Church. Currently it is planned to hold a Morning Service at 11am on Sunday 9th August with Covid-19 rules being applied.

The “foodbank” at the Church has donated an amazing 54.45Kg of food. Our thanks to Sophie King for organizing this and to all who contributed. Donations will not be collected after Aug 1st when lockdown ceases.

Stay Safe,

Roger Sleeman, SKPC