

Somerford Keynes Parish Council

NEWSLETTER 11

21st September 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.

Lockdown

At the time of writing we are awaiting the latest word on the Coronavirus situation. As a community we seem to have coped well with the pandemic but things are changing rapidly. We may have to move to a second lockdown, we will try to keep you informed.

Neighbridge.

Now that the summer is drawing to a close the problems at Neighbridge seem to have quietened down. The Parish Council will continue to discuss with the relevant authorities as to the future. Please keep us informed if you encounter any problems.

Keynes Country Park

The barriers that were erected on the paths around KCP to prevent public access we are assured have been removed. The ongoing Corona situation is moving rapidly and there may be further issues but we now have good contact with both the operators at KCP and the Trust so hopefully future problems should be overcome. Please keep us informed if you encounter any problems.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

Movement at last with the NDP. It has passed the penultimate stage in its adoption and now requires acceptance from the Parish in a referendum to make it a legal document. This cannot happen until the present Coronavirus situation has been resolved. However the CDC assure us that the objectives laid out in the document will carry weight in any decisions to be made in planning matters. It has been a tremendous achievement over many years led by the team directly involved in its production, Sarah Powell, Ron Munroe and the late John Sweet. Our thanks to all involved, the document will assist in future development in Somerford Keynes Parish.

Village Lake

The team led by Mike Wilding, assisted by Nick and Chris Cartwright, have recently installed a “floating island” in the lake for nesting waterbirds. The Rope handrail (donated by Helen Sweet in memory of her husband John) along the wooden walkway between the lakes has now been installed. The Lake is a credit to all involved and a tremendous asset to the village. Please make the effort to go and see what has been achieved.

Chair

After nearly 40 years as a Parish Councillor I have decided to stand down on being the Chair. The current team have taken on the role with tremendous enthusiasm and are a credit to the Parish with all its problems. My thanks go to all who have served with me over the years, it is a privilege to serve the community we all live in. I am sure whoever is elected to the role of Chair at the next meeting will serve the Parish well. I will continue as a Councillor for a short while to aid the Parish through the current crisis.

Stay Safe,

Roger Sleeman, SKPC