

## Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020

Present: Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), (Chairman), Cllr R. Elsey (RE, Vice Chairman), Cllr M. Rigby (MR), Cllr. M. Keegan (MK), Cllr R. Sleeman (RS), Cllr A. Stradling (AS), Cllr G. Valentine, W. Cartwright (WC, clerk), Cllr T. Berry (TB, Cotswold District Council (CDC), Mike McKeown and Jon Lunn.

Held by Zoom conference due to the coronavirus

**1. Apologies:** Cllr S. Parsons (SP) (Gloucestershire County Council, GCC)

**2. Declaration of interest:** GV and LME.

**3. Minutes** of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October were approved. Proposed MK, seconded MR.

**4. Website presentation:** Mike McKeown (MM) and Jon Lunn (JL) presented a “mock up” of the new website under development to give Councillors the opportunity for comment. The new website would have the same address, and the current website would continue until the switch over and all relevant documents copied over. There would be a one-off charge of £80 and a monthly hosting charge (under £10). Councillors were extremely positive about the features and design of the new website and thanked MM and JL for all their hard work and agreed that work continue to progress to completion. Action: MM/JL to keep SKPC updated.

### **5. Clerk’s report**

**5.1 Keynes Country Park (KCP):** A meeting had been arranged for MR/RE to meet Victoria Hadnett (VH, Planning Solutions Ltd (PSL), General Manager, Cotswold Country Park and Beach). Due to imminent lockdown, this meeting was now needing to be postponed and RE/MR to provide new dates for December. MR had received a permit from Waterland which would mean access to the lake via their gates as well as additional car parking for villagers at Waterland. It was agreed that MR to write to Waterland and ask whether more permits could be sent directly to WC and whether it could be possible (or easier) for the Parish Clerk to administer/distribute permits. Action: WC to write to PSL and re-arrange a meeting. Action: MR to write to Waterland regarding permits.

**5.2 Village lake:** Mike Wilding (MW) had sent a brief update regarding village lake activities, indicating that nearly all of the Calor Gas funded projects had now been completed. Calor Gas has also requested to film the improvements which have been made with the projects. JW had stepped down as a Parish Councillor representative on the Village Lake Management Committee (VLMC) and replaced by GV. Action: VLMC to continue to provide updates.

**5.3 LME private lake:** Following the previous meeting with MR/AS and Oberon Rogers (OR, LME) on the issue of locked gates at the LME private lake, an alternative suggestion had been to allow Somerford Keynes residents free access to another part of the estate which had previously allowed. GV had reminded OR to contact MR, although as yet no further update had been received. Action: GV to recontact OR.

**5.4 LME cycleway:** Nothing further to report.

**5.5 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP):** Nothing further to report.

**5.6 Flooding:** Nothing further to report.

### **5.7 GCC Highways/footpaths:**

Village gateways signs: In progress, although timescales for work unclear at this stage. It was recommended that closer to installation, a further meeting should be instigated with AS. Action: WC to maintain contact with RG.

Spine Road flooding: Nothing further to report.

Water Lane potholes: Nothing further to report.

Cycleway: Nothing further to report.

Repainting Double yellow lines: Nothing further to report.

Fallen road sign: A fallen road sign had been reported to Highways and its replacement was being addressed, and RS indicated there were others at Chestnuts. Action: WC to maintain contact with Highways.

Footpaths: WC had contacted Mike Barton (MB, GCC, Footpaths) to seek clarification on signs which had been placed up regarding the public rights of way on Margaret Timbrell’s fields. MB had explained that this was a formality, and nothing was changing with current footpaths. MB also indicated he would be retiring at the end of the year.

**5.8 Parish Field:** Nothing further to report.

**5.9 Neighbridge:** The Environment Agency had responded extremely promptly to remove a tree down in the Thames at Neighbridge and were thanked. The on-line multi-agency meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October had been attended by JW who indicated that there was a consensus that Neighbridge has specific problems which need real focus. A shared traffic warden between sites had been suggested and JW would continue to attend further meetings and circulate any minutes. Action: JW to continue to update SKPC.

**5.10 Road speed limits:** Nothing further to report.

**5.11 Second defibrillator:** Nothing further to report

**5.12 Cotswold Community site:** Nothing further to report.

**5.13 Trees/hedges/verges:** Nothing further to report.

**5.14 Training courses:** Action: JW to attend a chairmanship skills training course on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

**5.15 Website:** See Section 4 (website presentation).

**5.16 Other matters:**

G4/G5 Broadband: Peter Burrows had drawn attention to its importance given that homeworking was now being increasingly done due to Covid-19, and the possibility of a mast being erected in the Parish Field was considered. It was noted that Open Reach had done recent work in the village. Action: To discuss this issue fully at a future meeting.

Fly tipping: Further incidents had been reported and promptly cleared which had been appreciated.

Triathlon: WC had written to Graeme Hardie (113 events) regarding the noise complaint from one parishioner and who had apologised and considered steps to avoid this issue for next year.

White barns: A parishioner had rewritten a complaint regarding the colour and presence of the units (being previously given planning permission in 2012, 2015). The Councillors had recently visited near the sites and queried the increased size of the units. It was agreed that TB (CDC) would follow up with the enforcement department to take a closer look at the original planning applications and visit, and report back to SKPC. Action: TB (CDC) to contact the enforcement department and report back to SKPC.

Pizza van visits: Two pizza van visits had taken place (every 2 weeks) and it was hoped that this service will be appreciated and regularly used by the village.

New villager welcome letter: It was noted that there were a number of new parishioners moving into the village, and whether it would be useful to write an introduction letter from the SKPC. Action: WC to draft a letter.

LME Ditch: A parishioner had noted that the Mill Lane ditch was currently clear, but that the LME side may need clearing in due course.

Ownership of land query: A query had been received regarding ownership of small portion of land at LME, although Councillors could not shed any light on ownership. Action: WC to respond to enquirer.

Village Hall Meeting: AS to attend next meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November. Action: AS to provide an update to SKPC.

**5. Planning matters:**

19/04270/FUL - Land to The South East of Ashland House The Street, Somerford Keynes. AS/MR/JW had met with the applicants on-site on 30<sup>th</sup> October to seek further clarification on current plans which had been further revised (not submitted). It was agreed that WC contact Emma Wilsdon (EW) and request that these revised plans be circulated to parishioners along with notes made by AS during the meeting. TB (CDC) indicated that the revised plan did have a higher chance of success as the applicants had made efforts to address previous objections. Action: WC to contact EW for permission to circulate re-revised plans to parishioners.

20/03046/FUL - Erection of a new dwelling, associated access/landscaping at Croft House, Somerford Keynes – TB (CDC) indicated that Heritage department have objected and consequently undergoing further consultation.

20/03121/FUL – Jetty, LME; No objection

20/03355/FUL - Erection of 1 no. agricultural storage building at Old Manor Farm, Shorcote; No objection

20/03319/FUL - Erection of single storey front extension at The Weighbridge Cabin, the Paddocks, SK; No objection, provided that the accommodation remains a holiday let.

**6. Financial Matters:**

6.1 Income: Cil Grant – First payment of £742.61 received. Action: Councillors to consider what future project to fund as the grants accumulate.

**7. AOB/Questions:**

Cirencester car parking: TB (CDC) was organising a petition against scrapping cash payments for town car parking machines.

Poppy appeal: Jenny Swaffer (JS) wished to thank all parishioners who had dropped in donations to her and which she knows will be gratefully received.

**Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council:** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.