

## Minutes of the meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC), 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Present: Cllr R. Sleeman (RS, Chairman), Cllr M. Rigby (MR), Cllr G. Valentine, Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), W. Cartwright (WC, clerk), Cllr T. Berry (TB, Cotswold District Council (CDC), Cllr S. Parsons (SP) (Gloucestershire County Council, GCC) and 0 members of the public.

Held by Zoom conference due to the coronavirus

**1. Apologies:** Cllr. M. Keegan (MK), Cllr A. Stradling (AS),

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

**3. Minutes** of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August were approved. Proposed JW, seconded MR.

### **4. Clerk's report**

**4.1 Keynes Country Park (KCP):** Victoria Hadnett (VH, Planning Solutions Ltd (PSL), General Manager, Cotswold Country Park and Beach) had previously informed SKPC that due to issues surrounding the Covid-19 crisis, the permissive paths had to be closed due to health and safety reasons. VH had discussed with Jo Pendleberry (JP, Waterland) a compromise to enable villagers to continue to have access to walk around the lake would be to enter via the Waterland entrance during this period. MR/RE had a meeting in August with Waterland, and JP had indicated a permit system could be introduced for villagers (to be administered by Waterland) which would mean access to the lake via their gates as well as additionally parking cars for villagers at Waterland. MR was trialling the system and had applied for a permit, but which had not yet arrived. VH had subsequently indicated that the installed iron gates were to be removed in the next few days. Action: WC to check whether iron gates were removed and to write to PSL accordingly. MR to chase JP.

**4.2 Village lake:** The Village Lake Management Committee (VLMC) had a zoom meeting on September 3<sup>rd</sup> to restart improvement projects which had been postponed due to Covid-19. The boardwalk handrail project kindly funded by Helen Sweet (HS) had been completed on 5<sup>th</sup> September which involved a volunteer morning to thread the rope and unveiling of the plaque in John Sweet's memory. It was a highly enjoyable morning, with community spirit and thanks were again given to HS. The floating bird nesting platform (funded by the Calor grant) was due for delivery. There was a need for maintenance of the boardwalk to be cleaned, oiled and weather proofed, and quotes had been sought. A local young adult had quoted which was highly reasonable, and it was agreed to offer him the work. Proposed JW, Seconded RS. All agreed in favour. Action: VLMC to continue to provide updates.

**4.3 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 (as a result Covid-19 and unacceptable use of the lake), OR had put forward to the landlord the idea of a restricted access to the lake for local villagers. This would be on a controlled permit basis for walking, jogging and dog walking (but not on a commercial basis). Whilst the landlord was less keen on this idea, an alternative suggestion had been to allow Somerford Keynes residents free access to another part of the estate which had previously not been given. It also appeared there had been some vandalism to the locks of the gates by a local villager (seen on CCTV). Their identity was unknown, nor could SKPC offer any ideas on identification. Action: MR/AS to write regarding our inability to identify the villager and continue to update on progress on permitted walking routes in the estate.

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

**4.5 Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP):** The NDP had successfully met its next milestone and was now ready for the referendum stage and an excellent achievement. The NDP which had been carried out by the Parish Council (specifically previous Councillors Sarah Powell/Ron Munroe) had met with extremely positive feedback and congratulations and thanks were passed to them from the Parish Council and Cotswold District Council. Action: SP/RM to continue to update.

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

### **4.7 GCC Highways/footpaths:**

WC had met Richard Gray (RG) and Gillian Portlock (GP) from Highways on 2<sup>nd</sup> September for updates on outstanding issues.

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: Previous remedial work had worked successfully to date, nothing further to report.

Water Lane potholes: This was a worsening situation, but it was explained that currently the potholes do not meet the depth criteria for immediate repair. However, RG indicated that a request for resurfacing Water Lane had been placed in his 20/21 budget. Action: WC to maintain awareness of the situation.

Cycleway: Barriers would continue to be placed at the damaged path, but no timescales could be given on repair at this stage as it was considered a low priority.

Repainting Double yellow lines: These had been completed in Water Lane and those faded in the Quiet Lane by Neighbridge were on the schedule to be repainted.

“The Street” footpath damage: This was due for repair on September 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> by Highways and gratitude expressed.  
Action: WC to maintain awareness and thank on completion of the repair.

Kennel bungalow footpath: Nothing further to report.

Other footpaths: Nothing further to report. Action: RS to contact Mike Barton (MB, GCC, Footpaths) in due course.

**4.8 Parish Field:** A successful meeting had occurred between MR/RE and Jo Pendleberry (JP, Waterland) and MR/RE on 13<sup>th</sup> August, and all was agreed to be in order. A main issue was allowing walking access to the lake for villagers via Waterland, particularly when PSL need to close access and install gates for health and safety reasons (see 4.1 for discussion and actions). Action: MR/RE to continue to pursue permit system for villagers under these circumstances.

**4.9 Neighbridge:** The concerns previously identified at Neighbridge (e.g. road parking, swimming, littering) have been reducing due to the cooler weather and school return. There had been one complaint from a parishioner on litter, although some Parish Council members had walked the site recently and thought that the condition of the site was good. SP (GCC) suggested that a note of thanks be sent the Cotswold Water Park Trust (CWPT) for their hard work given their limited resources. The Multi-Agency Group for the Water Park virtual meeting which JW had attended had been useful, and it was agreed that that representation by SKPC should be made at any further future meetings. A resident had identified a rather usual plant on the bridge of Neighbridge with concerns of a potential invasive nature. JW had managed to identify it as an invasive flowering plant Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) which dies back in the winter exposing bare soil which can then lead to erosion, especially on river banks. He also noticed it was growing extensively on the bank of the Thames as it borders Neighbridge. It was agreed that WC would inform Shaun Shackelford (Environment Agency) and Ben Welbourn (CWPT). Action: WC to write a note of thanks to CWPT. All to maintain awareness and monitor issues.

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

**4.11 Second defibrillator:** Karen and Lynton Mogridge (LM) had now fully completed renovation of the telephone box and replaced and repaired the internal light not working, and thanks were given for an excellent job. Whilst not needed to be used, the defibrillator had been recently required on standby for a parishioner whilst emergency services were called, and its accessibility had been highly appreciated.

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

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

**4.14 Training courses:** Nothing further to report.

**4.15 Website:** Two parishioners (Mike McKeown and Jon Lunn) had kindly volunteered for taking over from Peter Watkins (PW) for his excellent on-going website support. The Parish Council expressed its thanks to all involved, and extremely appreciated the enthusiasm shown by the new volunteers for developing the new website. Action: WC to maintain communication and awareness of progress.

**4.16 Other matters:**

Roadside parking outside Elemental Sculpture Park: Nothing further to report.

Village Hall: Nothing further to report.

Village Noticeboard: JW had cut a second set of keys and reviewed the current information on the notice board.

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.

Action: To discuss this issue fully at the next meeting.

Parish Charities Representatives: Judy Monger (JM)/John Haywood were informed and thanked on their approved roles as the village representatives for charities, and JM had sent helpful information on what it entailed.

Church: The church had made a request for donations to parishioners as funds had been severely depleted following Covid-19 and the lack of fundraising. It was agreed that £40 which had been found in fields and not been claimed should be donated to the church. Action: WC to donate to the Church.

Foodbank update: Sophie King had finished her collections in August which totalled 73 bags and was thanked.

Fly tipping: A parishioner had informed the SKPC of an incident which had been reported directly to CDC.

Climate action planning meeting: A meeting was being held on October 10<sup>th</sup> and it was agreed no representation would be made by SKPC.

South Cerney draft NDP: No comments.

Consultation on white paper changes to planning procedures: No comments

Policing update: A letter had been received which updated on local policing system: No comments.

**4.17 Chairman resignation:** At the end of the meeting RS formally resigned as Chairman and was thanked for all his extremely hard work in his role. RS has served the Parish Council for nearly 40 years (in November) and is keen to reach this milestone, after which he will be considering full retirement from the Parish Council. RS kindly expressed his continued offer of support to offer technical advice in the future if needs be. It was agreed that the first item on the agenda at next meeting will be to appoint a new Chair.

## **5. Planning matters:**

20/02660/TCONR - The Dower House; No objection

20/02128/FUL - Jetty, LME; No objection

20/02788/FUL - Erection of single storey side extension, insertion of dormer window to front and rendering walls at Greystones, The Street; No objection

20/02500/FUL - Erection of timber fishing cabin/private pedestrian bridge over watercourse, 47 Mill Village, LME: Many objections had been submitted to CDC from LME residents on numerous grounds and also copied to the Parish Council. The Landlord also indicated objections would be made. The Parish Council would be adding further objection, primarily on the fact it was outside the development boundary of LME and does not comply with our emerging NDP. Action: WC to write a letter of objection from the Parish Council. TB (CDC) indicated that the planning application was likely to be refused. As to other on-going building concerns which had been raised by some LME residents, TB (CDC) suggested that residents contact the CDC and register their complaints which will then be investigated by the enforcement department. Action: WC to write to relevant residents and suggest this action.

19/04270/FUL - Land to The South East of Ashland House The Street, Somerford Keynes. The revised plan of the development had been circulated to parishioners. It was agreed to send a letter to the applicants to request for an update on the stage of the planning process, and that more consideration would be given by SKPC once any formal application is made. TB (CDC) indicated that the revised plan did have a higher chance of success as the applicants had made efforts to address previous objections. As a result, TB suggested that the Parish Council might want to consider with applicants the registering of green space, or whether any land could be donated to the village. Action: WC to write to the applicants and continue to update parishioners as any further information becomes available.

20/00268/BCN - Breach of planning conditions at Yew Tree Farm; A parishioner who had contacted CDC directly informed SKPC that creosoting the gate black had breached planning conditions. TB (CDC) indicated that the enforcement department would become involved and therefore no further action was required by the Parish Council.

## **7. Financial Matters:**

7.1 Expenditure; Clerks salary – £673.20, £37.20; Stamps £9.12; Telephone kiosk expenses (light) - £57;

Village Lake bird nesting platform - £948; Village Lake – Boardwalk handrail £380.17, £60.28

Agreed *en bloc* Proposed JW, Seconded MR.

## **8. AOB/Questions:**

SP (GCC) indicated that there would be a full County Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September which was considering the issue of unitary councils based on the Government White Paper. Action: SP (GCC) to report back on outcome.

TB (CDC) indicated that there was a CDC meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September discussing the issue of commercialisation. Action: TB (CDC) to report back on outcome.

TB (CDC) indicated that there was a Keep Britain Tidy campaign on 26/27<sup>th</sup> September if SKPC were interested and wish to borrow any equipment from CDC. Although it was recognised this initiative was a good one, with current timescale and Covid-19, it was not considered to be one to pursue at this time.

JW raised the issue of format of monthly meetings and the current national advice is still to continue with virtual meetings, and it was agreed this would be the case at least until the end of 2020.

**Next monthly meeting date of the Parish Council:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.