**Minutes of the Meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC) 2nd August 2021**

Present: Cllr J. Whitwell (JW, Chair), Cllr R. Elsey (RE Vice Chair), Cllr R. Sleeman (RS), Cllr. M. Keegan (MK), Cllr G. Valentine (GV),) Cllr A Stradling (AS), Cllr M. Rigby (MR), Cllr T. Berry (TB, Cotswold District Council, CDC), K. Josey (WC, Clerk) plus 3 parishioners.

Held in the Village Hall in person.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr L. Spivey (arrived as the meeting closed)
2. **Declaration of interest:** GV and Lower Mill Estate (LME), MK planning appl. Shorncote.
3. **Minutes** of meeting held 5th July were approved. Proposed RS, seconded MR.
4. **Clerk’s report** 
   1. **Village Website:** The new Neigh Bridge incident Form is now accessible on the website.
   2. **Parish Field:** KJ has emailed Jo Pendlebury (JP Waterland) regarding the SSSI report to Natural England, but has yet had no response Action: KJ to chase
   3. **Village Lake: Report from M.Wilding -** New water level gauge installed and general clearing done during volunteer morning. Path is mowed about once a fortnight by volunteers. Work on creating a wildflower and spring bulb meadow on NW side of the lake will start in Summer. Funding from LME Section 106. The next volunteer’s morning is likely to be mid-September. No expenses.
   4. **GCC Highways/ footpaths:**
      1. **Village gateway signs:** Contact from GCC has been made regarding issues their end and they are hopeful to giving an installation date soon. Action: KJ to monitor
      2. **Footpaths:** Ian Timbrell has informed JW that the gates have arrived but is awaiting post delivery and will keep PC updated. Frank Dorrington-Ward (FW, GCC) is still awaiting a response from Thames Water to establish the precise location of the water main before new gates are installed. Action**:** RS/JW to update, as necessary.
   5. **Neigh bridge:** An Incident Form has been created to tackle the logging of any incidents reported by Parishioners regarding anti-social behaviour at Neigh Bridge. This has been sent to all parishioners on the Clerk’s distribution list and is also available to access through the village website. It was agreed that this information would be used to promote action to address these issues. Action – TB to arrange meeting with necessary parties to discuss and show this collated evidence.
      1. A parishioner also stated that the relocation of the dog waste bin to the roadside of Neigh Bridge was being used for litter and overflowing – it was suggested that it is re-sited. Action – TB to discuss relocation.
   6. **Village Hall –** The Executive Committee has investigated installing an Electric Vehicle (EV) Charger at the Village Hall, however its view is that the beneficiary is not Village Hall users, but the wider community. Concern was expressed about whether this would be within the declared aims of the Village Hall as a Charity.

**4.7 Flooding:** It was agreed to consider the village future regarding global warming and water level changes. TB stated that there may be money available to support any future village work regarding this and it was agreed that he would investigate this further. Action – TB to investigate.

**4.8 Newsletter:** It was agreed that a Summer newsletter will be written and distributed soon Action: R.E will complete the Summer newsletter.

**5. Other matters**

**5.1** **Repair of worn Flood Bund:** KJ has contacted the Environment Agency and they have stated that they will inform the P.C when and if any work is required.

**5**.**2** **Street naming** – Officially renaming The Street is expensive. The PC decided on the informal way forward. Google maps need to receive corrections from as many people as possible about The Street referred to as Arlington Drive, which is incorrect and causes confusion. This will be highlighted in the PC summer newsletter and has gratefully been highlighted in the First Edition of Somerford Keynes Chronicle.

**5.3** MR and AS had a meeting with John Searle regarding the resurgence of grass & weeds on the Kennel Bungalow footpath. It was felt that it would be a great pity to allow the footpath to deteriorate given the massive improvements made to it a couple of years ago. The Parish Council are very grateful to John Searle (JS) who has agreed that his gardener will take necessary action to maintain the overgrowth as and when necessary. The PC will provide signage to advise walkers when these maintenance works are taking place. Action – KJ to email and thank JS.

**6. Correspondence**

**6.1** KJ has written to LME and CDC Planning regarding contravening of planning laws for a Staff Parking area at LME the response stated allowance for the use of any land for any purposes for not more than 56 days in total during 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021 only. It was felt that this was nearing the 56 day limit. Action KJ to chase CDC Planning. GV to monitor usage

**6.2** KJ has written to Oberon Rogers (OR) regarding the ditches along Mill Lane towards LME requiring attention – this is yet to be actioned. Action: KJ to chase Oberon Rogers.

**6.3** Change to postal service – Mike Wilding has submitted his objection and KJ has also emailed Royal Mail on behalf of the PC in support of his objection.

**6.4** A suggestion was received about having a Somerford Keynes Fair. As the village fete couldn’t happen this year the Manor House is holding an Open Garden event on the afternoon of the 21st August.

**6.5** An email was received about the bunds blocking the entrances to the untarred road that runs to the east of Fox Covert. The PC explained the likely reasons for this.

**7. Planning applications**

**21/02741/FUL** - Application for Erection of workshop at Manor Farm Shorncote Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire – no objection

**21/02666/TCONR** - Works to trees in conservation areas for T1 - Sycamore - fell at Brockhill Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6DN – no objection

**21/02809/FUL -** Replacement windows and door at Cormorant 62 Mill Village Lower Mill Lane Somerford Keynes Cirencester – no objection

**21/02876/TCONR -** Works to trees in conservation areas for T1 - Weeping Ash (with ADB) - fell. T2 - Ash (with ADB) - fell. T3 - Conifer at end of hedge - fell. T4 - Ash (with ADB) - fell. T5 - Ash (with ADB) - fell. G1- 2 x Ash (with ADB) - fell at Croft House Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6DW – no objection

**20/04079/FUL** - Application for Erection of 4 dwellings, new road access, footpath, and associated landscaping including public open space and an attenuation / soakaway pond Land To The South East Of Ashland House Somerford Keynes – awaiting planning

**21/01517/FUL** - Seasonal yurt, food and beverage take-away outlet, LME – awaiting planning

**21/00961/FUL** - Change of use from a cycle hire facility (E (a) Use Class) to a single residential dwelling (C3 Use Class) at Tall Trees Water Lane Somerford Keynes – awaiting planning

**8.Financial Matters:**

Data Protection Renewal fee £40 – proposed MR seconded MK.

The meeting was closed at 9.00 pm.

**Date of next meeting**: Monday 6th September 2021, 7.30 pm