



Summer Newsletter 12

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

The Parish Council holds its monthly meetings normally on the first Monday of the month, and the agenda and minutes can be accessed on the village website and the village noticeboard. If you have issues for us to address or wish to attend the next meeting, please contact our Parish Clerk, Kristy.

Upcoming Parish Council Meetings:

- Date of next meeting Monday 4th October 2021

Somewhat extraordinarily we are still in the grip of the corona virus pandemic. This has been tempered by the excellent local roll out of vaccinations, but several of our villagers are still understandably anxious about catching the illness which can make one poorly even if fully vaccinated. Therefore, a continuation of the great community spirit and goodwill shown throughout the last 18 months will, we are sure, continue. This late summer edition of the newsletter contains important local issues and some of the important items raised at the Parish Council meetings which have now resumed in the village hall on the first Monday of each month at 7:30. Parishioners are very welcome and encouraged to attend but please let us know in advance by contacting the clerk, on the above email address, at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Neighbridge

Cotswold Lakes Trust have proposed several positive actions in the Spring to try and alleviate the problems that have been caused by the influx of visitors who sadly have created an increase of litter and some antisocial behaviour. The village and the Parish Council are dismayed by the number of cars parked each side of the road by the entrance to the somewhat underused fee-paying carpark which creep further into the village. None of the proposals have yet been implemented, but we hope this is just a matter of time. As a positive action parishioners can complete an incident report and forward it to the Parish Clerk to be collated and used to inform the appropriate bodies. As Cotswold Water Trust is a charity and have no funds to police or patrol the area, the community police and council are acutely aware of the problems. The Parish Council have attended the multiagency meetings scheduled at least twice yearly.

Village Lake

The Village Lake is a huge success and asset for the Village, and we are extremely grateful to Mike Wilding and his committee for their unceasing commitment to this project. Please

take time to take a stroll down to see all the care and effort and new projects carried out over the last 24 months.

The following is a list of some of the improvements on this ever-changing project :-

General cutting back and creation of 'Lake Vistas' to improve the aesthetics of the lake, and removal of as many obstacles to ease access for the majority of parishioners.

Calor £5000 grant has allowed a number of highlights such as the floating island, pond dipping platform, water gauge to check water levels, and an equipment shed.

Grant to fund bulb and wildflower section on the north side of the lake.

Dog Fouling

Dog fouling has been highlighted as an unpleasant and anti-social problem in the fields and footpaths around the village, many of us own dogs and we also have many visitors who walk along our footpaths. Parasites found in dog waste can cause abortion of calves and significant financial losses to the agricultural industry. They can also lead to human illness, particularly in children. Therefore, we encourage people to pick up waste and dispose of it properly in bins or at home.

Flooding

Somerford Keynes is always at risk of flooding and there are homes in Water Lane that have difficulty with drains every year. We are fortunate that the village has been spared major problems since the Thames Bund was installed. This is due for repair at present, but we would be grateful if any flooding incidents are formally reported either to district or county to ensure that we are on the radar for any help. The Government has promised very significant further funding for flood defences in this Parliament. There is a website "fix my street" which may facilitate reporting.

Village Hall

The Village Hall is once again open for business and has recently been painted and has upgraded WiFi. The Village Hall Committee is of course still conscious of the advice associated with indoor meetings and has instigated sensible covid measures meaning there is a maximum occupancy of 40, installed electronic hand sanitisers and has a new cleaning regimen. If anyone wishes to book the hall, please contact the village hall clerk – Des Sheen on 01285 860469.

Playgroup

There is now an Under 5s playgroup in the village hall at 9:30am on Tuesday's. This is a great new addition for the village. Please do pop along for a hot drink and to meet other families, new and old, and for playing, singing, story time and crafting! £2 per family.

Open Garden

The Locks very generously hosted the successful Open Garden event on Saturday 21 August at the beautiful Somerford Keynes Manor House and garden and despite the truly awful weather the afternoon was a remarkable success with the Somerford Keynes community spirit on show. A sizable sum was raised towards the upkeep of Somerford Keynes church, and it was a good opportunity to meet old and new friends in a lovely setting buoyed up by great tea and cake.

General Points

We would like to pass on our thanks to John Searle for his help in maintaining the refurbished footpath from Main Street to the fields to the west of the village by Neigh bridge. We would also like to welcome those who have moved into the village in the last year and hope that they are settling in and enjoying our lovely part of the Cotswolds!

If anyone would like to be added to the Clerks distribution list then please email Kristy skpcclerk@gmail.com for updates on Parish Council Meetings, Minutes, and general village info.

The Parish Council would be grateful if there is anyone with appropriate accountancy skills and time who could act as our Internal Auditor once a year due to the very sad loss of Roger Duckett who so kindly performed this role for many years. Please contact Kristy if you can help!

Stay safe and well,

Your Parish Council