**Minutes of the Meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council (SKPC) 1st August 2022**

Cllrs Present: Cllr J.Whitwell (JW), Cllr A. Stradling(AS), Cllr M. Keegan (MK), Cllr M. Rigby (MR), Cllr G.Valentine (GV)

Present: Cllr T. Berry (TB) and 3 parishioners

Held in the Village Hall in person.

1. **Apologies:** - Cllr L Spivey (LS), Cllr M. Hastie Oldland (MHO), Cllr R.Elsey (RE), K.Josey Clerk (KJ)
2. **Declaration of interest:** GV

**3. Minutes** of the meeting held on 4th July approved AS seconded MR

**4. Village Lake/Parish Field/Neigh Bridge**

4.1 The PC are still awaiting quotes from Mike Wilding regarding the non-slip strips for the boardwalk at the Village Lake**. Action -**  KJ to contact MW

4.2 MR had contacted Jo Pendlebury (Waterland) to remind her to sign the lease. Jo apologised for the delay and said it would be done.

4.3 :- KJ had written to Tom Kiddey about the removal of the wooden sign and it transpired that Tom Kiddey has now left the Cotswold Country Park and Beach and the new general manager is Mark Johns. Mark Johns has agreed to remove the sign. **Action** – KJ to monitor.

4.4 Cllr M.Keegan had approached Mark Johns independently regarding the noise coming from the Country Park and Beach which was very loud in Shorncote and she had asked MJ to turn down the loudspeakers, which he had done. **Action** – MK to monitor

**4.5**  Parish field – there had been a suggestion from a parishioner regarding the installation of a phone mast on the parish field. Following a brief discussion it was decided to investigate further. Cllr T.Berry (TB) offered to ask how to proceed within CDC. Action - TB to investigate within CDC.

**4.6 Neigh Bridge -** We have all seen photographs supplied by a parishioner showing huge amounts of rubbish left by visitors during the recent hot spell. Some options have already been considered and tried eg., wardens, policing and a security firm. There is an ongoing multi-agency working party to try and relieve these issues across the whole of the Cotswold Water Park. The Cotswold Lakes Trust have removed the bins to encourage people to take their litter with them and this does take time to become successful. Action - TB to ask for more bins or even a small skip. Cllr J.Whitwell (JW) reported that the new playground is nearing completion.

**5. Matters Arising**

5.1 KJ has completed the application form for the VAS Speed Scheme and we await the next stage.

5.2 There have been complaints regarding the landowner’s fence, particularly the barbed wire across the top of the fence. This has now been replaced by a wooden rail close to the wooden kissing gate.

5.3 Cllr A.Stradling pointed out that the post supporting the kissing gate next to the new fencing was unstable. **Action** - KJ to contact landowner.

5.4 Cllr T.Berry (TB) reported that Kevin Lea (CDC) was trying to get cameras to prevent fly tipping and catch the perpetrators. Cllr A.Stradling (AS) asked when he thought that might happen and was told probably not before 21st September. **Action** – Cllr M.H-Oldland (MHO) to monitor.

**5.5** Cllr Stradling (AS) arranged for the Kennel Bungalow footpath to be strimmed by her husband Duncan. The PC would like to thank him for doing this work.

**5.6** The new footpath finger signpost, close to the wooden kissing gate, no longer points to the footpath which runs alongside Kemble Mill.  **Action** - KJ to contact Frank Dorrington Ward.

5.7. Cllr Stradling (AS) attended the recent Village Hall meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. JW had asked if the change to their Articles of Association might mean they could now reconsider contributing to funding the defibrillator or an electric vehicle charger. It was noted that ambulance waiting times are now very long and the defibrillator has consequently become even more important. AS confirmed that she had asked but the Articles had not materially changed the definitions relating to charitable status and thus the decisions remained unchanged and they would not be able to contribute at this stage.

A parishioner suggested that we should have CPR training sessions as these have not been carried out for some time. **Action** - KJ to contact the Community Heartbeat Trust.

5.8 The Thames Head Energy Initiative is gaining momentum and there are now several champions in the village. MHO is representing the PC in this respect. It was thought that the next stage will be to get a feasibility study or expert view on the practicalities. A parishioner asked if the PC was in control of the project. JW answered that the PC was not in overall control but was enthusiastically overseeing it.

5.9 Mike McKeown has set up a Somerford Keynes WhatsApp Group which is active and the PC hopes it will progress and be a useful channel of communication within the village.

**6. Correspondence**

6.1 Phone mast, Parish Field - see 4.5 above.

6.2 Neigh Bridge - see 4.6 above.

**7.Planning applications**

**22/02442/AGFO** - Agricultural or Forestry Notification for Prior notification for the erection of a commercial polytunnel at Field Farm Somerford Keynes Cirencester - this is a notification not an application as it is agricultural, so does not require comment.

**LME**

**22/01958/FUL** - Extend existing decking area at the rear of the property at Sandpiper Villa 21 Clearwater Village Lower Mill Lane Somerford Keynes - no objection

**22/02160/FUL** – Addition of a timber jetty and steps to the lake at 17 Minety Lake Lower Mill Estate Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire – no objection

**22/02312/FUL** - Removal of condition 9 (Occupancy) of permission 16/02241/FUL – to allow 49 Howells Mere to be used as a holiday home all year round – no objection

at Hawthorne Lodge 49 Howells Mere Lower Mill Lane Somerford Keynes Cirencester

**22/02450/FUL** - Removal of Condition 2 of permission 20/01948/FUL to allow 41 Mill Village to be used as a holiday home all year round at Stevenson House 41 Mill Village Lower Mill Lane Somerford Keynes Cirencester – no objection

**22/00949/FUL** - Extend wood decking. Installation of stainless steel and glass

balustrade at 8 Spinney Lake Lower Mill Lane Somerford Keynes Cirencester – no objection

**Planning Applications Update**

22/00647/FUL Lower Mill – It was noted that the area to be used as staff car parking is not being used at all this year, having been well used last year.

Land adjacent to Ashlands House – Cllr T.Berry (TB) said that Swindon Borough Council and Natural England were still to come to a decision regarding this application and that all Planning applications are taking a very long time at the moment because of the shortage of Planning Officers. This application has had 3 different planning officers due to staff retention.

A parishioner commented that the PC had done a great deal but they felt that the PC was losing momentum and should be more active, particularly in lobbying Natural England and the Environment Agency which the parishioner had done herself. Cllr J.Whitwell pointed out that the PC had written formal objections several times in line with revised submitted planning applications. TB pointed out that everything had been done that was possible and if the application is recommended by CDC it will go to Committee. It was a matter of process.

If the application goes to Committee, then there can be one parishioner and one member of the PC present and the objections can be re-heard.

A parishioner pointed out that more importance should be given to the NDP which had been very much community generated and this application simply did not comply. Cllr Berry (TB) stated that in some aspects, it did comply (providing bungalows). It is up to the Planning Dept to weigh up the pros and cons for all new development. However, it did not comply as some of the houses are large and the NDP is totally against back-filling. The parishioner is worried that this sets a precedent for the rest of the village as well. The flood risk was another point which has been raised and awaits the Environment Agency. There was a discussion regarding the number of residents who may be in favour of the development, as this seems to be overlooked. It was pointed out that the NDP received a 94% approval rating.

Financial Matters

V. Lake Jubilee Plaque £207.82, V. Lake £20.97, proposed MK seconded AS

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 5th September 7.30pm