**Minutes of the Meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council 5th September 2022**

**7.30pm - Held In the Village Hall**

Present: Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), Cllr R. Elsey (RE), Cllr M. Rigby (MR), Cllr G. Valentine (GV), Cllr M. Hastie-Oldland (M.H-O), District Cllr T. Berry (TB),County Cllr L. Spivey (LS)

Also present:: Clerk K. Josey (KJ), and 4 members of the public

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

**2.Declaration of interest:** None

**3.Public Session**

A member of the public no.1 requested that when a councillor is co-opted in the future the parish is informed about this person. In response the PC confirmed that this was done at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Member of the public no.2 complained about the minutes of the last meeting which referred to building materials being delivered to Tall Trees. KJ responded that it had already been agreed to redact them.

Member of the public no.3 questioned the PC on planning applications 22/00647 and 22/01322 as to consideration of parishioners objections – the PC considers that it has responded adequately to those concerns.

Member of the public no.3 questioned whether the PC had considered using the applicants who were not successfully appointed for the Councillor vacancy in April. KJ confirmed that she had contacted Electoral Services to requested whether there was any option to appoint more than one person and allow them to be part of the Parish Council (possibly on a rolling rota). Sarah Dalby Electoral Services Manager confirmed that this would not be acceptable practice.

Member of the public no.3 wondered whether Monday was the most convenient evening for PC meetings as it was August 2021 when the PC last had a complete attendance. Cllr Spivey assured the meeting that no date change would enable her to attend meetings and the Parish Council should not change their day of meeting in order to secure her attendance. It was noted that the Parish Council has continually been quorate as well as having additional meetings in August.

Member of the public raised the matter of the water lane hedge. In response the PC feel that the section that was re-layed by the LME ground staff was well done and the section that wasn’t makes a useful green corridor for wildlife. The PC will reconsider this at the next meeting.

Member of the public no. 3 expressed dissatisfaction with the Public Session on the restructured agenda.

**4.Report from Cllr L.Spivey**

Cllr Spivey reported that the cost of living crisis was high up on her agenda, and the Council are looking at Warm Spaces.

The recruitment and retention of staff continues to be a concern for all Councillors.

Access to NHS Dentistry continues to be high on the agenda.

VAS Speed Scheme is being backed by Cllr Spivey. She has agreed to attend the meeting between the Scheme co-ordinator and the PC if she is available.

Cllr Spivey reiterated that the Build Back Better Scheme is still in operation and funds will be available until 2025.

Cllr Spivey confirmed that no real progress had been made with regards to the parking at Neigh Bridge.

**5.Report from Cllr T.Berry**

TB found out that the person in CDC who has knowledge about mobile phone mast installation is Phil Measures.

Regarding Fly tipping TB is waiting to hear from Kevin Lee C.D.C about his investigations with our Council on the use of cameras.

The Cotswold Lakes Trust and Juliet Layton (Cabinet Member responsible for the Water Park), have confirmed that they will not be replacing rubbish bins at Neighbridge.

TB also informed the PC regarding:-

- Crowd Funding and Corinium Museum have both won awards

-  Adult training at Cirencester College.

-   Update on short term letting and holiday letting (not Lower Mill).

**6.Approval of Minutes** of the meeting held on 1st August 2022 – it was noted that under Planning Applications Update the comment regarding Tall Trees is removed. Proposed G.V Seconded M.R

**7. To receive the Clerks Report**

KJ informed the PC that their request for planning considerations had been submitted to C.D.C Planning Dept in reference to 22/00647 and 22/01322

KJ reported that she had recieved the invoice for the Parish Field Lease. MR reported that this follwed her report that the Parish Field Lease has been signed by both parties and is with Tanners solicitors for completion.

KJ reported that the footpath fingerpost was in hand with Frank Dorrington-Ward (FDW). KJ also reported that she had also requested a replacement handrail - this is also in hand with (FDW).

JW reported that the wooden sign at Keynes Country Park has now been removed.

**22/02515/FUL** - Removal of Conditions 03 (samples) and 04 (use) and variation of

condition 05 (lighting) relating to planning permission 21/04062/FUL

at Land Parcel known as The Lane Garden Ewen Road Somerford Keynes – Cllr M.Hastie-Oldland to complete a site visit.

**22/01515/FUL** - Replace main entrance gates and field gate at Kemble Mill Poole

Keynes Cirencester – for info only. – No PC decision required.

**9. Village Lake Report** – received from M.Wilding.

1.  The water level in the Lake is the lowest recorded since we installed the gauge, being 87.18 m above mean sea level.  This is the general ground water level at the Lower end of the village. The water level is recorded during the monthly Lake inspections.

2.  With the dry weather little mowing of the path has been required over the summer, just trimming of overhanging brambles.  There have been no known visits to the Lake by the Neighbridge crowds, during the hot weather, so this doesn't seem a problem to us.

3. Volunteer mornings will restart late September/early October as there is quite a bit of clearance of the open vista areas and copses to be done, together with maintenance of the wildflower areas.  This will culminate in our annual bonfire (for which we have Natural England approval ! ) in Nov/Dec

4. Next Lake committee meeting will be in late September, when expenditure of the small amount of Calor grant money still left and the remainder of our SKPC budget for 22/23 will be planned out

**10**. The PC agreed to pay up to £100 for materials required in the repair of the wooden kissing gate.

**11**. The PC agreed to pay for a Defibrillator Training course.

**12**. Fly Tipping, M.H-O raised his concerns regarding this issue. It was agreed that this is a wide-ranging problem. TB agreed to ask Kevin Lea C.D.C to contact M.H-O.

**13**. Parking on Spratsgate Lane, M.H-O has been approached by parishioners regarding the parking on Spratsgate Lane. Families with pushchairs have been forced on to the road as a result of illegal parking. LS said that enforcement is a problem due to a lack of staff.

**14**. Correspondence, KJ has received an email requesting an update on the Cycleway from Neighbridge to connect with the Spine Road. KJ reported that this is currently progressing through Hannah Fountain, Sustainable Transport Officer C.D.C

**15. Financial Matters -** GDPR £40.00, Clerks Salary £703.80

**16. Any other business for discussion, not requiring a decision, subject to the Chairman’s approval.** Cllr Valentine reported that a new manager is in place at Lower Mill and when he has settled in a meeting with the PC would be useful.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 3rd October 7.30pm