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

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

Present: Cllr J. Whitwell (JW) Cllr R. Elsey (RE) Cllr, Cllr M. Hastie-Oldland (M.H-O), Cllr A. Stradling (AS), Cllr M. Keegan (MK) District Cllr T. Berry (TB), Cllr G. Valentine (GV), Cllr M. Rigby (MR)

Also present: Clerk K. Josey (KJ), and 1 member of the public

**1.Apologies:** -Cllr L. Spivey (LS)

**2.Declaration of interest:** Cllr R. Elsey

**3.Public Session – no comments**

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

There was a Full Council meeting on the 9th November which covered a number of important debates including on ending violence towards women and girls, tackling river pollution, NHS dentistry being available to all and ensuring the County Council supports communities during the Cost of Living Crisis. There were also important questions (and answers) on a range of topics including buses (or lack there of), road safety, speeding, and home to school transport.

I attended a joint meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny and Adult Social Care and Communities Committee on the 18th of November which looked specifically at emergency care plans for the winter. There were representatives from the ambulance service, NHS integrated care, NHS hospitals, GPs, Gloucester Royal Hospital, the police and others.

To be honest, the outlook continues to be bleak as most organisations face a shortage of staff, and huge levels of stress and fatigue in the staff remaining. Recruitment and retention is a constant worry and whilst progress had been made in category 2 ambulance response times bringing them down to 45minutes from 4 hours, that is still way off the 18mins target and the Chief Exec of Gloucester Royal hospital admitted that the work that it had taken to get to this time was completely unsustainable. The police told of officers spending entire shifts with detainees in A&E waiting to be seen, and the lack of care packages for those trying to get out of hospital is leading to “bed blocking”. Measures are in place to get through the winter, but it is not a comforting picture.

On a positive note, I visited the drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre in Cheltenham and was able to find out about the fantastic service they are offering to help those with all types of additions get their lives back on track. I met a few of the service users who were trialing a new method of heroin withdrawal and they reported very positive results. It was genuinely uplifting to hear their hope for a new path.

I will also be focusing on looking at the issues mentioned regarding road safety on the main road around Lower Mill Estate, although it is proving difficult to get officer time for this at the moment as there are a number of other projects going through.

I was delighted to see that Somerford Keynes residents are leading the charge on Community energy and hope that the Parish Council will support their efforts. The need for reliable, renewable energy has ever been more urgent so it’s great to see this initiative coming from the Cotswolds.

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

C.D.C have agreed to match funding for the Hardship and Priorites Funds. The proposed to changes to ward boundaries is due for further consultation. The reports on Cricklade Water Meadows is hopefully imminent – which may have an impact on planning applications. Commencing next week Brewery Car Park, Cirencester, will have no payment by cash facility.

**6.Approval of Minutes** of the meeting held on 7th November Proposed M.R Seconded R.E

**7. Clerks Report and Matters Arising.**

Councillors agreed to the draft budget with some adjustments, and the precept setting was discussed and it was unanimously agreed that the precept would not be increased for the next financial year.

The newsletter has now been distributed and Cllr Whitwell thanked the councillors for their contributions and delivery throughout the village and Shorncote.

The Parish Council has contacted R.Gray (GCC Highways) with regards to the responsibility for the management and maintenance of the Water Lane Green corridor and trees within it. R.Gray has confirmed that Highways are responsible for maintenance.

The PC has been informed that Mr M Harris will be standing down from his position as a Co-optative Trustee of the Parish Charity after 48 years of helping the poor of this village, a highly commendable contribution to life in this village. The Parish Council offer their thanks and gratitude to Mr Harris.

The Parish Council has received information regarding the application for Community Speed Cameras. It would appear that the scheme has been inundated with applications, and some applicants may not be successful.

**8.Planning Items**

**22/03513/LBC** - Listed Building Consent for Installation of air conditioning with 5 no. internal wall mounted units and 2 no. external freestanding condenser units at The Cottage Kemble Mill Poole Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire

**22/03512/FUL** - Installation of air conditioning with 5 no. internal wall mounted units

and 2 no. external freestanding condenser units at The Cottage Kemble Mill Poole Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire – PC to ask CDC’s Heritage Officer to examine the impact on a listed building.

**22/04182/TCONR** - Works to trees in conservation areas for 2 Sycamores. Re-pollard back to original pollarding points at The Old Vicarage The Street Somerford Keynes – no objection

LME

**22/03069/FUL -** Replacement and extension of existing decking area and addition of glass balustrade at 41 Minety Lake Lower Mill Estate Somerford Keynes,Cirencester – no objection

**22/03918/FUL** -Demolition of existing canopy. Erection of single storey side

extension, storage outbuilding and other associated works at Riverbank House 49 Mill

Village Lower Mill Lane Somerford Keynes Cirencester – no objection

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

**LAKE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 22**

1.  ANTI SLIP STRIPS:  The strips have been delivered and moved round to the boardwalk, ready for James Harris Contracting to lay and fix.  JMC will also renew the gateposts and rehang the entrance gate during the same visit

2.  ANNUAL BONFIRE:  The weather has generally been too wet to have our annual bonfire, and with most of our volunteers now busy on pre-Christmas domestic duties, the bonfire will be dealt with in January, when volunteers should be available. The annual bonfire is permitted in our agreement with Natural England, our lake along with the rest of the Cotswold Water Parks, being an SSSI.

**10. Community Energy - PC Financial Support Consideration**

The PC agreed to contribute £2000 towards the Thames Head Community Energy Project’s feasibility study. This will be taken from CIL Monies that the PC have received, and which can ONLY be spent on infrastructure/development of the village. This money is NOT from any precept that the PC has received from CDC. Proposed J.W Seconded M.R

**11**. **Recycling in Gloucestershire –** Cllr Rigby had recently had some communications with CDC regarding recycling in Gloucestershire, and how it compares with other authorities. It was noted that Cotswold District is one of the best performing authorities in the country for recycling rates. This is a heartening thought as we all continue to do our best at home.

If anyone is interested regarding further details about what happens to waste and recycling there is a detailed breakdown on website (<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/bins-and-recycling/what-happens-to-your-recycling/>). There is also a video guide of the recycling site - <https://www.facebook.com/CotswoldDC/videos/recycle-week-22-cotswold/402582882083410> - which might also be of interest.

**12.** **Correspondence.**

The kissing gate posts have now been replaced and Cllr Whitwell thanked the parishioner who kindly donated the funds for this.

There will shortly be benches installed by the play area at Neigh Bridge.

Cllr M. Keegan reported that the drains at Shorncote have been reported to R. Gray, Highways.

The PC has received further information information about the proposed scheme to provide a surfaced path joining the existing foot/cycleway on Spine Road West to the car park at Neigh Bridge Country Park.

**Brief details**

The proposed scheme will provide a surfaced path linking the existing foot/cycle way on Spine Road West with the car park at Neigh Bridge. The path will enter the bottom of Neigh Bridge car park from the south, by removing a portion of the existing hedge, as shown in the attached indicative plan. In addition to the surfaced path, the following will be provided:

* A section of fencing between the new path and Spine Road outside the new pedestrian entrance to the car park. This is to prevent children etc from running out of the car park on to the Spine Road. It will also prevent vehicles trying to drive into the new pedestrian opening
* Knee high fencing along both verges between the Spine Road junction and the vehicle entrance to Neigh Bridge Country Park. This is to deter the long-standing issue of nuisance parking on these verges. Access for pedestrians will be maintained.
* Improved drainage to reduce the accumulation of surface water at/around the junction
* New cycle parking within the car park
* Replacement/renewal of existing traffic and street signs
* Possible re-surfacing of the road surface at the junction (cost dependent)

**Scheme delivery and timeframes**

This scheme is being delivered as a partnership between Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council. The works will be delivered by GCC’s contractors.

Hedgerow clearance and other preparatory work is likely to take place in March ’23, with construction work to follow at around Easter time. Exact dates will be confirmed closer to the time.

This is most welcomed by the Parish Council, who are keen to keep the parishioners informed of the progress.

**13**. **Financial Matters** - Clerks Salary £763.80, GAPTC training £25.00, Printing Newsletter £52.80proposed M.H-O seconded G.V

**14. Any other business for discussion, not requiring a decision, subject to the Chairman’s approval.**

The PC noted that residents have received letters from Acorn Bioenergy regarding a proposal for an anaerobic digestion plant on land to the west of Ashton Road, opposite the Aggregate Industries sand and gravel quarry. There is a public consultation at South Cerney Village Hall on the 12th December from 4pm - 7pm.

Cllr A.Stradling questioned the depth of water within the ditches, it was agreed that there had been very heavy rain fall but the PC would check the levels with the Environment Agency.

The PC have received election dates from CDC for the Parish elections on the 4th May 2023. All residents voting in person at the May 2023 elections will be required to show an acceptable form of ID to be able to vote. There will be vacancies within the current Parish Council. Nomination papers need to be submitted to CDC’s Returning Officer from Monday 20th March ‘23 until the deadline of 4pm on Tuesday 4th April ‘23. Anyone who is interested in the role please contact the Parish Clerk (skpcclerk@gmail.com)

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 9th January 2023 7.30pm