**Minutes of the Meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council 9th January 2023**

**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), District Cllr T. Berry (TB), Cllr M. Rigby (MR)

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

**1.Apologies:** -Cllr L. Spivey (LS), Cllr G. Valentine (GV), Cllr M. Keegan (MK)

**2.Declaration of interest: none**

**3.Public Session**

A member of the public attended to ask whether the Parish Council has considered any plans regarding the upcoming Coronation of King Charles. The PC agreed that they had not considered this but would send an email out to ask residents for their suggestions. It was noted that at the time of the Coronation many of the current councillors will be standing down.

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

Not received

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

There is nothing to report on planning applications.

CDC continue to support residents within the district with the Cost of Living Crisis.

**6.Approval of Minutes** of the meeting held on December 5th Proposed AS Seconded MR

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

Flooded stile footpath BPK8 – this has been reported to Frank Dorrington Ward – however it is recognised that the water levels have increased significantly in the meantime and therefore unlikely to be addressed.

EA update on Flood Defences – KJ has written to the Environment Agency for an update on the Village Flood Defences and has received a report back highlighting the repairs which have been carried out to the pumping station. The general maintenance schedule is currently in progress and a site visit is being arranged for Cllr J Whitwell, Cllr M.Hastie-Oldland, and Mr J Spicer (EA).

**8.Planning Items**

Updates on outstanding planning applications

**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 – **KJ CONTACTED PLANNING TO ADD COMMENTS**

Details of new planning applications

**22/04289/AGFO** - Agricultural or Forestry Notification for Prior notification for the erection of a polytunnel (amendment to 22/02442/AGFO) at Field Farm Somerford – no objection

**22/04118/TCONR** - Works to trees in conservation areas for T1 - Cherry - 1m overall crown reduction at 2 School Cottages Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6DJ – no objection

LME

**22/04241/FUL** - Application for Removal of condition 4 (Occupancy Jan) to allow for the all-round holiday occupancy of Plot 01 Spinney Lake of permission 14/00472/FUL - Erection of four detached holiday units at 1 Spinney Lake Lower Mill Lane Somerford Keynes Cirencester – no objection

**22/04413/DMPO** - Application to Discharge or Modify a Section 106 Agreement The Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) The Town and Country Planning (Modification and Discharge of Planning Obligations Regulations 1992) so that the occupancy restriction no longer applies at 72 Howells Mere Lower Mill Lane Somerford Keynes Cirencester – no objection

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

**REPORT FOR JAN 23 MEETING:**

1.**Anti-skid treads on boardwalk:** Bad weather in December has pushed this work back to January. Treads have all been strung out along the Boardwalk in readiness. (Since writing this report the anti-skid treads have been installed).

2. **Wildflower and bulb meadow:** The essential maintenance work of flailing and raking the new wildflower meadow and the wildflower strip between the two young weeping willows, further along the N side, was carried out by Cotswold Estates & Gardens in December. After that yellow rattle seed was sown by volunteers, and trampled in by walkers. This seed is a parasite on grass and keeps the grass from overwhelming wildflowers until they are well established.

3. **Volunteer mornings:**  These will commence when weather improves - no dates set yet

The PC would like to review the VL expenditure at the next meeting and to invite Mike Wilding to join the discussion.

**10. Community Energy Update.**

Fundraising has now closed for the initial stage of the process, further updates as progress is made.

**11.** **Correspondence.**

Cllr M-Hastie-Oldland has completed the triage forms for the VAS Speed Scheme.

The PC were contacted by a Lower Mill Estate resident regarding flood risk at their property. This has been dealt with by LME Management.

A parishioner has asked if a small group of volunteers could be formed to help maintain the hedge/green corridor in Water Lane. This wouldn’t be heavy work. Periodic pruning is required to prevent encroachment onto the footpath. If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk.

Following concern, raised by a Mill Lane resident, about the state of the ditch on the south side of the Spine Road, the LME staff cleared it, which was much appreciated.

**12**. **Financial Matters** - £25.00 Councillor Training, £360 + £58.75 Village Lake.Approved AS, Seconded MR.

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

It was noted that the majority of the members of the current Parish Council will not be standing for re-election in May. The PC hope that there will be applicants from within the village to continue the work of the Parish Council.

**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 8.45pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 6th February 2023 7.30pm