Minutes of the Meeting of Somerford Keynes Parish Council 6th March 2023

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

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

Also present: Clerk K. Josey (KJ), and 8 members of the public

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

**2.Declaration of interest: none**

**3.Public Session**

Member of the public No1 approached the PC regarding a Village House Map which would help villagers, visitors, and delivery drivers with property locations. The PC agreed to support this at this early stage and invited the parishioner to acquire costings which could be considered.

Member of the public No2 approached the PC regarding Ashlands development and further reports that have been made to CDC Planning Dept. It was agreed that the PC would submit another objection in light of the new report.

Member of the public No 3 approached the PC regarding work at Footpath 18. Cllr Whitwell had already taken action regarding this, and the PC is awaiting an update (see below) The member of the public also noted that any works should not impede the County Ditch.

**4. Nick Hunt Cotswolds Brew Co.**

Nick Hunt and Mike Berry from Field Farm/Cotswold Brew Co. attended to offer their ideas and proposals for the site and business prior to submitting a planning application. The plans were shown to the Parish Council and involved possible expansion of the current site with Lavender Fields, Eco-Camping and a Farm Shop. The Cotswold Brew Co also informed the PC that they will be hoping to commence brewing from the site.

**5.Report from Cllr L.Spivey**

**County Council Report March 2023**

Since we last met, the Full Council met on the 15th February to set next year’s budget.

I outlined the challenges in my previous report.

I am pleased to say that the administration accepted all of the amendments made by my group and the other opposition groups which has meant increased spending in key areas for your community – notably the introduction of a scheme for grit bins to help during the cold snaps to keep vital infrastructure like schools open, increased spending on foot paths so that we can more easily transition to active methods of travel, additional spend on road safety, including looking at 20mph zones and measures for early intervention in the public health sphere focusing on alcohol consumption which has increased since the pandemic.

These are of course, a drop in the ocean, and the critical demand led services – children’s social services and adult social care – still take up the vast bulk of the £560million budget and until those services are adequately dealt with at an early enough stage, all other departments will face a squeeze. This is especially true for Highways which I know affects many of you directly.

I hope that the increased spending in Children’s care will see some positive results over the next year.

I was appalled, but unsurprised to see the state our local roads were left in after the heavy rainfall in January – literally roads disintegrating before our eyes and under our wheels.

Whilst most areas have now been addressed, I was disappointed to see that many of the repairs were of a very temporary nature and we will no doubt see further degradation as we move to spring and beyond.

I will continue to lobby for far more substantial work to be carried out in this area. The piecemeal approach is not delivering good quality roads and must inevitably, cost us more in the long run.

The County is beginning to look closely at its transport decarbonisation strategy which will be challenging in our area of the County. The likelihood is that we will need to reduce all car journeys by 25% and of the remaining 75%, at least one third should be on public transport – fine if you have it!

I am part of a bus improvement working group and will be using that platform to lobby for huge increases of services in our area. This will require investment from central government and/or entirely new ways of travelling. I’d be interested to know if you have any ideas about what is needed.

If you have any specific questions or issues, please contact me on

Email – lisa.spivey@gloucestershire.gov.uk

Tel – 01285 653405

**6.Report from Cllr T.Berry**

Cllr Berry had made a site visit to Kemble MIll with regards to their planning application. He plans to have further contact when the homeowner is present. There are no further updates at present from CDC Planning Department.

The Council budget for 23/24 has been approved.

TB re-iterated that voter photo ID will be required for the upcoming elections.

**7.Approval of Minutes** of the meeting held on 6th February Proposed AS Seconded RE

**8. Clerks Report and Matters Arising.**

KJ informed that PC that The LakeFest will not be going ahead at Lake 32

KJ reported that the Village Litter Pick went well on Saturday and she thanked everyone involved.

KJ informed the PC that Richard Gray (Highways) has been contacted regarding flooding in Water Lane at the request from a parishioner.

Cllr J Whitwell informed the PC that James Spicer (Environment Agency) had been asked about trimming the hedge which borders the ditch by the bund. He had clarified that his suggestion would be to leave the hedges as much as possible as the shade provided by the overhanging vegetation hinders weed growth in the channel below, which in turn benefits conveyance. He also advised against using heavy machinery there as it may damage the bund. When the EA carry out maintenance, they will cut overhanging vegetation back from within the channel using powered tools.

KJ informed the PC that regarding the Shorncote drains/|Cullimore french drain, there has not been any update.

**9. Village Lake**

**Report from Mike Wilding**

"Just one event to report and that was the annual bonfire held on 18 Feb. 7 volunteers turned out to help, on a cold but dry morning. The Lake Management Committee will be meeting in early March".

**10.Planning Items**

Updates on outstanding planning applications

Ashlands – PC to submit a further planning objection

Details of new planning applications

**23/00291/FUL** - Full Application for Erection of single storey side extension with associated works at 2 Spinney Lake Lower Mill Lane Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire – no objection

**23/00371/FUL** - Erection of 4 Bay Barn to replace previously permitted 4 Bay Barn at

Minety Lake Lower Mill Estate Somerford Keynes Gloucestershire – no objection

**23/00494/FUL** - Erection of entrance canopy, addition of rooflight and extension to rear balcony with replacement balustrade and spiral staircase at The Somerford Lodges 1 Lower Mill Estate Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire – no objection

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

There has been an update on the cycleway to Neigh Bridge, and CDC have confirmed that they hope to commence work between the 13th and 31st March.

A parishioner had contacted the PC regarding work at Footpath 18. Cllr J Whitwell has contacted Frank-Dorrington Ward at CDC to query the work. FDW confirmed that he is meeting with the landowner and will update the PC.

A parishioner contacted the PC with regards to the hedge which borders the highway by the Sculpture Park. KJ has contacted Highways to determine responsibility. The parishioner has also highlighted the lack of footpath down to the play area at Neigh Bridge. This has been discussed previously and Councillor Hastie-Oldland agreed to contact Councillor Spivey about the possibility of GCC funding a footpath there.

**12**. **Financial Matters** -Clerks Salary £763.80, McAfee Subs £64.99, Microsoft Subs £59.99, ( £200 agreed by PC to contribute to Coronation activities.) Proposed MR Seconded M H-O

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

Cllr M.Keegan highlighted concerns of many of the residents of Shorncote regarding a property selling vehicles and the large trailers using the country lanes. Cllr T.Berry agreed to look into this.

Cllr A.Stradling mentioned the leaves which are covering the yellow lines on the road out of the village from Water Lane towards the Water Park and Beach. KJ will contact R.Gray Highways.

Cllr J Whitwell again highlighted the hope that Parishioners apply for the upcoming vacant Parish Councillor roles. A member of the public suggested a flyer. It was noted that often word of mouth and the personal touch helps with recruitment.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on the evening of Friday 19th May at 7.30 pm in the village hall – more details will follow.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday 15th May at 7.30 pm. This will be the first meeting of the newly elected 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****) or CDC.**

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 3rd April 2023 7.30pm