**Minutes of the Meeting of Somerford Keynes Annual Parish Council Meeting 24th July 2023**

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

Present: Cllr G. Valentine (GV), Cllr M. Keegan (MK) Cllr N.Hunt (Vice Chair)(NH), Cllr R.Roffe (RR), Cllr A.Clark (AC)

Also present: Clerk K. Josey (KJ), Clerk K. Holdsworth, and 15 members of the public

**1.Election of Officers** – Cllr A Clark(AC) agreed to Chair this meeting. No decision has been made for a permanent ChairPerson

**2.Apologies:** -Cllr L. Spivey (LS)Cllr M.H-Oldland (M.H-O)

**3.Declaration of interest: GV (LME),**

**4.Public Session –** 3 Members of the puplic raised conerns regarding the junction at Spratgate Lane/South Cerney. There has been numerous accidents over the years and due to this there is now road furniture missing, poor road marking and possible hedge obstruction. The PC were asked if they would consider collecting data on the accidents that have occured here and writing to Highways about any improvements that can be made to the junction. It was also requested that the issue is highlighted in the upcoming Parish Survey.

Another member of the public wanted to thank the new members of the Parish Council for taking up their roles and ensuring continuation of the Parish Council.

It was also noted that a change is required to last months minutes regarding Item 10 – planning approval by Wiltshire Council not CDC.

**5.Approval of Minutes** of the meeting held on 12th June Proposed GV Seconded NH

**6.Visit of Landowner to update the PC on Footpath/Works around Lake 65** The Parish Council welcomed Tim Holland-Martin who gave some history of his ownership of Lake 65 and surrounding area. He informed the Parish Council that the errection of Otter fencing is due to the need to safeguard the Course Fishing at the lake, he did agree that this had lead to clearing of trees/shrubs. He stated that the footpath has been diverted to the Statutory Route. This will allow both a public footpath and also allow access for fishermen. He confirmed that due to his landowner responsibility for ditch maintenance (shared with other boundary owners) he has restored a ditch down the side of lake 43 which has a role in flood alleviation and flood protection for Water Lane. Mr Holland-Martin confirmed that no further work will happen until the end of August when bird nesting season ends. He agreed to restore some habitat. When asked if he would commit to following Natural England advice for habitat restoration, he stated that natural restoration would also take place. Due to time constraints it was agreed that any further questions could be sent via the PC for his written response. One parishioner questioned the loss of Nightingale habitat and whether the correction permissions been sort prior to any of the work that has been carried out, as they understood that permissions were sought after work had commenced.

**7.Report from County Cllr L. Spivey**

Cllr Spivey has informed the PC that the speed camera scheme is delayed slightly due to staff absence.

**8.Report from District Cllr M. McKeown.**

Cllr McKeown informed the PC that there are numerous support schemes in place via CDC for Parish Councils and Parishioners. The crowd fund Cotswold scheme has now opened its new year for applications. The Rural England Prosperity Bid is on-going – all details can be found via CDC or Cllr McKeown. Cirencester Leisure Centre will change its operator from 1st August 2023.

**9. Village Lake**

**Report from Mike Wilding**

**REPORT TO SKPC for 24th July 2023 MEETING**

**1 COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Currently the Lake committee consists of 4 active members (Mike Wilding – Chairman, Nick Cartwright, Lisa Willis & Jane Hayman). Prior to the SKPC election in May, there were two SKPC councilors also on the committee as required by the Terms of Reference & Zurich Insurance requirements. These requirements are rather contradictory and somewhat impractical, so in May, the Lake Committee chairman proposed that the Lake Committee should consist of the 4 current members (as named above) plus one SKPC representative, as a more practical arrangement, freeing up a second SKPC councilor for other SKPC duties. The Lake Committee Chairman proposed in May that the arrangement was notified to Zurich, and he volunteered to draft a letter/email to Zurich about the changes to the committee make up. A decision was awaited from SKPC on this matter.

The Committee met on 15 June primarily to discuss Lake work to be done during the remainder of 2023, and more immediately at the next volunteer morning. Also sound out support for a childrens’ activity morning during the first week of the school holidays, which Jane Hayman would lead.

**2 ACTIVITIES SINCE May 2023**

**2.1 MOTH TRAP:** A moth trap (in kit form) had been purchased from the 2022/23 budget, to further the ecological aims of the Village Lake. This has been assembled and put to use on the night of 22/23 June, close to the Lake but not actually Lakeside, due to power supply limitations. The survey was very successful with about 7 adults and children assembling at 7am in the morning to view the catch. Over 20 species identified! Next one is planned for later in July, Lakeside, when we would have power available.

**2.2 FLOATING ISLAND:** The island has been replanted with Iris.

**2.3 VOLUNTEER MORNING 15 JULY:**  6 people came along (Jane & Violet Haywood, Andy Clarke, Lisa Willis, Chris Isherwood & myself) and the following was achieved:

* All bramble, branches etc overhanging the path were cut back and taken to the heap. Grass was cut the previous week, after a repair to the mower (by committee member).
* Bramble, thistle and nettles removed from the new wildflower and bulb meadow. All the Yellow Rattle sown in December had germinated and would help subdue the grass growth next year.
* Positioned the new hedgehog house, built by Chris Isherwood, and Mike Wilsmer, in the NW corner

A record is kept of all volunteers attending, what tools they are using and any necessary training given

Next Volunteer morning would be in mid September primarily to cut the wildflower meadows to let the seed drop.

**3 CHILDRENS’ ACTIVITY MORNING:** This was now planned for Thursday 27th July, and would include pond dipping and leaf identification amongst other things. This first venture was very much to test if there was interest in such events

**4. MONTHLY INSPECTIONS:** These are carried out by committee members on a rota, to check everything is in order, for example, report an overfull dog waste bin to CDC via CDC website (response by CDC has been quick)

**10. Clerks Report and Matters Arising**

The new PC Clerk Mrs Karen Holdsworth has now started in role and is shadowing K.Josey.

KJ had emailed Zurich insurance who confirmed that they have no set criteria regarding the allocation of councilors for the Village Lake Comittee Ratio.

KJ confirmed that she had emailed LME regarding the mowing of the village lake path.

It was agreed that the Parish Council need to complete the SLA and send out some communication to the village regarding the proposed speed camera. Cllr N Hunt agreed to take on the admin role for collecting the information and passing to the Police.

The Parish Council confirmed that they have completed a draft survey and hope to get this out to the village by the end of the month.

The PC confirmed that they do have a vacany of a Councillor and any interested parties should contact the Parish Clark.

Cllr M Keegan informed the PC that GCC had confirmed that the Cullimore ditch work will commence next week. This is part of the Cullimore flood mitigation scheme.

Cllr M Keegan informed the PC that she will contact Cotswold Water Park regarding noise from activities there. The PC agreed that this should be looked in to.

**11.Planning Items**

**Wiltshire/Border**

**23/01552/NEI** - Neighbouring Authority Consultation for Construction and operation of anaerobic digestion facility, ancillary infrastructure and construction of new access from Ashton Road at Land West Of Ashton Road Ashton Keynes Wiltshire – the PC have submitted an objection to this to CDC

**21/00961/FUL. –** Tall Trees Change of use from a cycle hire facility (E (a) Use Class) to a single residential dwelling (C3 Use Class) (part retrospective) – CDC Planning Dept have informed the PC that this application will be approved.

Details of new planning application

**LME**

**23/01711/FUL** - Proposed timber jetty & associated steps at Cranesbill Island 22

Howells Mere Lower Mill Lane Somerford Keynes Cirencester – no objection.

**23/01824/FUL -** Removal of Condition 21 (Occupancy) of Planning Permission

20/01228/FUL (Variation of Condition 21 of 19/04111/FUL to allow all year round holiday use – no objection.

**23/01295/FUL -** Additional decking to the side and jetty with addition of air

conditioning unit at 18 Minety Lake Lower Mill Estate Somerford Keynes Cirencester – no objection.

**12.** **Correspondence** KJ has sent an email out to parishioners to keeping dogs on leads and under control in livestock fields.

**13**. **Financial Matters** – GDPR £40.00,

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

TheParish Council thanked Kristy Josey for her support in her role of Parish Clerk and wished her the very best for the future.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

**Date of next meeting: TBC**