

Minutes of Somerford Keynes Parish Council Meeting
Village Hall, 8th April 2024

Present: Cllr A. Clark (AC), Cllr H Collins (HC), Cllr G. Valentine (GV), Cllr M. Keegan (MK),

Also present: Clerk K. Holdsworth (KH), 3 members of the public attended.

1. Apologies

CC Cllr L Spivey (LS), CDC Cllr M McKeown (MM), Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), Cllr M.H-Oldland (MHO), Cllr N. Hunt (NH)

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr G Valentine, Cllr H Collins

3. Public Session

The following matters were raised:

- 3.1 Traffic was routed through the village last week when the roads in Ewen were closed. It was questioned why this routing was done.

As this was likely a one off the PC will not be following up with Gloucestershire Highways.

- 3.2 It was suggested that as the PC are seeking land for a shared green space they could also look for land where smaller properties could be built for residents who may wish to downsize.

AC stated that the Neighbourhood Development Plan describes in principle where and what type of possible development could be supported.

4. Approval of Minutes of 11th March 2024 Meeting

Proposed GV, seconded HC.

5. Report from County Cllr L.Spivey

There is no report from Cllr Spivey this month.

6. Report from District Cllr M.McKeown

There is no report from Cllr M McKeown this month.

7. Completed Actions from Previous Meeting

7.1 Road Closure Barriers and Signs

These have been removed following KH's chasing of GCC Highways.

7.2 Village Litter Pick

This took place on April 6th with over 20 participants.

The PC thanks all those who took part and KH for organising it.

7.3 Planning Application 24/00496/FUL, Copse Mere, Lower Mill Estate

A letter of concern has been sent to planning along with pictures of recent traffic congestion and an accident on the Spine Road where cars were queuing to enter LME.

7.4 LME Ecologist Programme

KH has publicised details of James Ponting's Bat Walk which will be taking place on 16th May. If you are interested please contact jponting@habitatfirstgroup.com

8. Ongoing and New Actions

8.1 LME/Mill Lane

The PC has written to LME regarding measures to avoid visiting traffic entering Mill Lane. A positive response has been received from Estate Director Lara Lymaney.

Action: GV to engage further and also invite new Estate Manager Andrew Bonner to the next PC meeting.

8.2 Build Back Better Funding

A number of items for the Village Lake were suggested to LS who has confirmed that at least some would qualify for funding.

Action: Mike Wilding and GV to submit a formal application.

8.3 Land to the South of Ashlands House Appeal

No details have yet been published by the National Planning Inspector.

The PC has engaged with those in the community who have been most actively involved in this matter.

Action: PC will continue to monitor. At the appropriate time MHO will draft our response.

8.4 Shorcote Flood Mitigation

MK has been in contact with Jason Betty on several occasions to establish what has been done but hasn't received a detailed reply

Action: MK to chase Jason Betty again, HC will contact Sam Carrier in CDC Flooding to see if he can assist.

8.5 Community Speed Camara

On April 10th the contractor came to install the pole for the speed camera but deemed that the position which had been selected by Gloucestershire Constabulary is unsuitable due to a lack of light for the solar panel.

Action: MHO to contact the Community Speed Watch team to agree a way forwards.

8.6 Active Travel Fund & Spine Road Cycle Path Missing Link

Ongoing and nothing new of significance to report.

Action: NH to continue to progress and update.

8.7 Flooding

There are few activities here.

HC has circulated the draft flooding report to those who helped with its compilation and has received feedback.

HC is also engaging with other bodies and FWAG on what might be best practice for proactive inspections and to look at options for mapping.

Action: The aim is to publish the report in May and have hard copies to distribute at the AGM.

8.8 Auditor

GV and KH have put together a detailed summary of 2023/24 finances and have approached the auditor for guidance on next steps.

Action: GV/KH have now had a meeting with the auditor and are in the process of finalising the accounts.

8.9 AGM Agenda

The AGM is on Friday 24th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

We are awaiting confirmation on whether people already invited can attend and another couple of speaker suggestions were made.

The Annual Parish Meeting is Monday 13th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Action: NH to follow up with his contacts, AC/KH to approach others.

8.10 Dog Waste Posters

There has been positive interest expressed in these.

Action: KH to follow up to see if the offer will be followed through.

8.11 Lower Mill Ecology Work

LME offered to support the community under their S106 Agreement.

Action: JW and HC are meeting with LME representative on April 16th.

8.12 Residential Pond Initiative

Ongoing

Action: HC to provide details on residential ponds initiative once further details are available.

8.13 CIL/Village Hall

A request has been made by the Village Hall Committee to help fund the installation of a new kitchen. Final numbers are to be confirmed but it is likely to be around £9,000.00

The PC see the Village Hall as an important village asset and agreed to fund this entirely from CIL money. In return the Village Hall committee should invest the money they would have spent on the kitchen to improve the heating in the hall from their own funds as this has been an issue for users throughout the winter.

Other grants have been identified which may also be used to contribute to this, as per item 10.8.

Action: AC to confirm this offer to the Village Hall Committee,

9. Planning

24/00615/FUL

Full Application for Erection of two single storey buildings to house Refuse & Recycling and Boat and Bike storage within the area of Copse Mere and associated landscaping at Copse Mere Lower Mill Lane Somerford Keynes Gloucestershire

This is associated with Planning Application 24/00496/FUL, Copse Mere, LME.

A letter of concern has already been submitted as per point 7.3.

24/00753/FUL

Full Application for Refurbishment and renovation of Kemble Mill House including reconfiguration of the internal layout, replacement of Garden Room, removal of modern porch, rationalisation of the roofscape, raising of roof above the utility and range wings, erection of flat roof link, removal of a 20th-century tennis court and swimming pool, erection of new swimming pool and pool house and associated works at Kemble Mill Poole Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6ED

No Objection

24/00754/LBC

Listed Building Consent for Refurbishment and renovation of Kemble Mill House including reconfiguration of the internal layout, replacement of Garden Room, removal of modern porch, rationalisation of the roofscape, raising of roof above the utility and range wings, erection of flat roof link, removal of a 20th-century tennis court and swimming pool, erection of new swimming pool and pool house and associated works at Kemble Mill Poole Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6ED

No Objection

10. Correspondence

10.1 Unregistered Land

The Land Registry wants all land in England to be registered by 2030. There is some unregistered land in the parish though no action is being taken at this point to identify it all.

10.2 Defibrillator Registration

A notification indicated that only one of the defibrillators in SK is registered correctly on the British Heart Foundation Circuit website.

Action: KH is looking to see how this can be addressed

10.3 King Charles Portrait

A offer was made to provide a portrait, one has been ordered which could be mounted in the Village Hall. There is no cost.

10.4 Knead on Wheels

The next visit is on 27th April 10.15 – 11.30am.

10.5 Bakers Arms

A parishioner asked whether camper vans parked in the car park and an outside bar area need planning permission.

The PC do not think this needs to be pursued.

10.6 Broken Signs

A number around the village have been reported on Fix My Street but have not been dealt with.

Action: The PC will write to GCC Highways to escalate.

10.7 Pond Survey

To be undertaken on May 30th by Fresh Water Habitats at the Village Lake as part of their 10th annual Great Crested Newt sampling.

10.8 CDC Rural England Prosperity Fund

Grants are available to support improvements to village halls.

Action: HC to attend briefing to find out more.

11. Financial Matters

Income

None

Outgoings

£59.99 Microsoft Subscription.

12. Any Other Business

12.1 MK brought up the subject of the state of the roads and what funds have GCC to repair them.

Action: PC will discuss with LS.

12.2 HC gave compliments to the owners for all their hard work in making the Sculpture Park better each year and stated how lucky we are to have this in our community.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 13th May 2024 at 7.30 pm which will be the Annual Parish Meeting.