

Minutes of Somerford Keynes Parish Council Meeting

Village Hall, 14th April 2025

Present: Cllr A. Clark (AC), Cllr M. Keegan (MK), Cllr G. Valentine (GV), Hilary Collins (HC), CDC Cllr M McKeown (MM),

Also present: Clerk K. Holdsworth (KH), M Wilding (Village Lake)

1. Apologies

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

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr G Valentine (GV), Cllr H Collins (HC)

3. Public Session

Nothing raised.

4. Approval of Minutes of February 10th 2025 Meeting

Proposed GV, seconded HC

5. Report from County Cllr L. Spivey

No report from Councillor Spivey this month.

6. Report from District Cllr M.McKeown

A home energy efficiency talk will be hosted by Cotswold District Council at Kemble Village Hall on 27th May at 7pm. Further details will be provided nearer the time.

7. Actions from Previous Meeting

7.1 Extending Footpath at North End of Village

NH is still awaiting a further quote from a second provider. General view amongst councillors in attendance is that the costs in relation to community benefit combined with the project's complexity probably makes it unconvincing to pursue.

7.2 Lower Mill Direction Sign at top of Mill Lane

We are still awaiting the sign for Mill Lane, it was offered a little while ago.

Action: KH to write to Lower Mill Group CEO.

7.3 Tree Debris on Verge Between Mill Lane and Neigh Bridge

This has still not been cleared despite it being raised with Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) Highways a couple of times.

Action: KH to write to Gill Portlock to chase and ask them to confirm land ownership and associated responsibility.

8. Matters Discussed

8.1 Finance and Governance

KH & GV are finalising the end of year accounts to send to the Auditor.

8.2 Flooding

8.2.1 Shorncote Flooding

MK walked the ditches of Shorncote with Sam Carrier (SC, CDC Flood Warden) and Gill Portlock (GCC Highways).

Hills Quarry have cleared some ditches but have blocked an overflow from the Ewen ditch which they put in place in 2009. SC is going to try and persuade them to open this up again even though it is not a dedicated water course.

Action: MK to retain a watching brief.

8.2.2 Mapping Software

HC has signed up to Parish Online for a free three month trial.

Action: HC to work on transferring existing information to this.

8.2.3 Spine Road

GCC Highways said this would be addressed. HC reported that a couple of drains are being put in on the Spine Road near Neigh Bridge

Action: HC to ascertain the extent of this work.

8.3 Village Litter Pick, March 29th

This was well attended and a great success. It was reported that there didn't seem to be as much litter around the parish as previous years.

Thanks to all those who participated.

8.4 AGM

This will be held on Friday 9th May. Along with a report from the Parish Council we will have guest speakers from CDC (Joe Harris, Council Leader), the Sculpture Park (Tadd Hartland) and Thames Head Energy (Mike McKeown).

To help us with numbers for refreshments please could you let skpcclerk@gmail.com know if you would like to attend.

9. Community Infrastructure Levy Projects

9.1 Village Hall Energy and Infrastructure Upgrade

Internal works are complete, the brightness of the new lights was noted!
Insurance for the EV charging points is being finalised and they will be available for public use shortly.

9.2 Bus Shelter and Notice Board

The main body of the bus shelter has been installed and is ready for use. Glass panels and a notice board will be added.

Nice to see lots of positive comments regarding this on the village WhatsApp group which is appreciated.

All credit should go to John Whitwell who has enthusiastically driven this project to completion.

9.3 Swings at Neigh Bridge

Having voted to approve the funding of this and gained approval that awarding a grant is an effective route to use we find that Cotswold Lake Trust's (CLT) preferred contractor is fully booked for the summer though if they get a cancellation they may be able to fit this project in.

Action: AC to write to CLT to confirm status.

9.4 Church Staircase

The PC voted to approve the funding of a second report by the Church Architects. We await feedback from the PCC on whether this project can progress.

9.5 Village Lake

MW is obtaining quotes for a shelter to cover one of the benches.

10. Planning

25/00660/FUL

Full Application for Erection of single storey extensions on front and rear elevations and extension to existing balcony to include addition of spiral staircase at 121 Howells Mere Lower Mill Lane Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire

No Objection

25/00852/TCONR

Works to trees in conservation areas for Re-pollarding back to growth points of two Ash trees, one at the gateway and one in the main garden of Old Manor Barn at Old Manor Barn Shorncliffe Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire

No Objection

25/01098/FUL

Full Application for Variation of Condition 18 (occupancy) of permission 03/01400FUL -
Change of design for Unit 15 (permitted Clearwater application) at Somerford Villa 15
Clearwater Village Lower Mill Lane Somerford Keynes Cirencester

No Objection

11. March Income and Expenditure**Income**

Interest Earned March 25 £259.21

Total Income

£259.21

Expenditure

GAPTC Membership Renewal	£193.36
Security Software	£23.51
Microsoft Subscription	£84.99
Refreshments Litter Pick	£20.30

Total Expenditure

£322.16

Village Lake

Replacement Tree	£54.00
Bat boxes	£148.34 (BBB Grant)
Cart	£69.11 (BBB Grant)
Flower Seeds	£193.29
Clips	11.26
Paint	£6.48
Bulbs	£59.88

VL Total Expenditure

£542.36

CIL Expenditure

VH Lighting	£2371.50
VH Heating	£4612.50
VH Electric Upgrade	£5708.42

Total CIL Spend

£12692.42

VH Grant Reimbursement to PC

£10,000.00

Transfers

None

Petty Cash Expenditure

VH Heating March PC Meeting £2.00

12. Any Other Business

None

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

Date of next meetings;

Friday May 9th at 7pm, Annual General Meeting

Monday May 12th at 7.30pm, Annual Council Meeting