

Minutes of Somerford Keynes Parish Council Meeting

Village Hall, 9th June 2025

Present: Cllr A. Clark (AC), Cllr H.Collins (HC), Cllr M.H-Oldland (MHO), Cllr M. Keegan (MK), Cllr N.Hunt (NH), Cllr J Whitwell (JW), CDC Cllr M McKeown (MM),

Also present: Graeme Hardie (113 Events) and two members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr G.Valentine, Clerk K.Holdsworth

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr G Valentine, Cllr Hillary Collins

3. Public Session

Nothing brought up though a parishioner later mentioned the matter of an overgrown entrance to a footpath by a short bridge leading to Tall Trees' land. It's not clear who is responsible for maintenance so JW has sent a photo to Frank Dorrington-Ward of Gloucestershire CC (GCC) and asked for his advice.

4. Approval of Minutes of 14th April 2025 Meeting

Proposed JW, seconded MK

5. Graeme Hardie, 113 Events

Following some complaints around the triathlon on June 1st GH asked to attend the meeting.

GH apologised for the incidents (which included some anti social parking and noisy supporters at a particular point) and explained actions to try and avoid any future repetition.

Going forwards they will put 'no event parking' signs around Neigh Bridge and Water Lane, ask supporters not to watch in residential areas and will ensure marshals patrol such areas to move people on if necessary. Additionally, they will remind marshalls of the existing guidelines that they should not stop traffic and will continue with the existing post event litter sweep.

This year there were more spectators than there have been previously and official car parks became full. They are seeking more spaces for next year.

The Parish Council (PC) is supportive of the event (which has been running for 28 years) and appreciates the efforts Graeme takes to provide briefings to the community and to make himself available to engage with all who wish to do so.

6. Report from District Cllr M.McKeown

MM's report is in Appendix One.

7. Actions from Previous Meeting

7.1 Parking at Neigh Bridge

AC met with Ben Welbourn of Cotswold Lakes Trust to discuss this. Fees from this car park are at least £10k per annum. The financial challenges of the Trust (as previously minuted) mean that they cannot afford to forego this, nor can the PC cover it.

Given that yellow lines are not easily viable and are not wanted by many (again, as minuted previously) there isn't really a solution to this. Whilst the street parking may not be liked it isn't illegal and there isn't an acceptable and realistic way of changing that.

7.2 Footpath Map

KH sent a map of local paths to Lower Mill Estate management for their distribution and hopefully to encourage walkers to stick to paths. Thanks was received from them. It was suggested that a copy be placed in the new notice board.

Action: KH to add map to notice board.

7.3 Tree Debris on Verge Between Mill Lane and Neigh Bridge

KH has sent PC correspondence to Highways to LS to escalate.

Action: KH to chase LS to see if it has been established who has responsibility for clearance work, depending on the outcome AC and JW will approach landowners.

7.4 Parish Field Contract

We are in year three of a five year contract. Lake 32's lease covers a further eight years, they are happy with the current arrangement with the PC so the likelihood is that we will at some point agree an extension which aligns to the end point of Lake 32's lease.

Action: MK to engage again later in the year to agree the details.

8. Matters Discussed

8.1 Finance and Governance

Notice of Public Rights, Annual Governance Statement 24/25 and the Accounting Statements for 24/25 are now signed and on the parish website.

Accounts have been submitted to the auditor, their subsequent clarification questions have been answered.

The Annual CIL Report has been completed and signed off by the PC and will be submitted to Cotswold District Council.

A new insurance policy has been taken out providing better cover at a lower rate from the existing provider.

8.2 Shorncote Flooding

Clearance work by Hills was supposed to have started on May 23rd but has still not commenced. MK continues to engage with Sam Carrier (CDC Flood Warden) to progress, latest is that work is now due to start on Friday June 13th. Given the amount of work needed there is concern that it will not be completed in time for the potential wetter weather in the autumn.

Action: MK to continue to monitor.

9. Community Infrastructure Levy Projects

9.1 Village Hall EV Chargers

Paperwork agreed in principle between the PC, Village Hall Committee (VHC) and Thames Head Energy which, once signed, will enable the EV chargers to be made active. With the VHC for final approval.

Action: MHO to continue to oversee for PC

9.2 Swings at Neigh Bridge

We await confirmation from the Lakes Trust on timings based on the availability of their contractor.

9.3 Church Staircase

The PCC are awaiting the results and associated feedback from the latest survey.

9.4 Village Lake

MW has been working with Made in Oak to provide a shelter over one of the benches. Final quotes will be submitted to the PC for approval.

There is also repair work on the boardwalk required for which MW will obtain costings and submit to the PC for approval for CIL funding.

9.5 North of Village Footpath Extension

MHO is submitting a bid to the Active Travel Fund for money towards this. Note that success in this process does not guarantee that the work will be commissioned.

Actions: MHO to update on bid progress whilst NH continues to seek other quotations for the work.

10. Planning

25/01490/LBC

Listed Building Consent for Erection of extension to swimming pool plant outbuilding, installation of air conditioning in Coach House, installation of Starlink dish and repositioning of planning approved ASHPs at Somerford Keynes House Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6DN

No Objection

25/01489/FUL

Full Application for Erection of extension to swimming pool plant outbuilding, installation of air conditioning in Coach House, installation of Starlink dish and repositioning of planning approved ASHPs at Somerford Keynes House Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6DN

No Objection

5/01181/FUL

Full Application for Installation of a Fujitsu 10KW wall-mounted air-conditioning unit to exterior wall of north elevation. at 4 The Somerford Lodges Lower Mill Lane Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire

No Objection

25/01588/FUL

Full Application for Variation of condition 20 (Occupation of holiday units) of permission 02/01741/FUL - 90 holiday units, six pools, pool pavilions and two tennis courts at The Augusta House 18 Clearwater Village Lower Mill Lane Somerford Keynes Cirencester

No Objection

11. Correspondence

11.1 Footpath BSK 18 Parking Neigh Bridge

Update on work received from Tim Holland-Martin which has been distributed.

11.2 Tree Fallen at Neigh Bridge

Details of path blockage reported to Cotswold Lakes Trust and now resolved.

11.3 Triathlon Related Incidents

Covered in section six

11.4 Damaged Bridge on Footpath near Thames Path, north west of village

JW reported to Frank Dorrington-Ward of GCC who has generated a work order for a contractor to repair.

12. May Income and Expenditure

Income

Interest Earned May 25 £252.29

Total Income £252.29

Expenditure

£78.30	AGM Refreshments
£17.00	AGM Refreshments
£4.90	Printer Paper
£12.98	Printer Ink
£241.00	Insurance

Total Expenditure £354.18

Village Lake

VL Total Expenditure None

CIL Expenditure

Total CIL Spend None

Transfers None

Petty Cash Expenditure None

13. Any Other Business

None

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Date of next meeting Monday 14th July 2025

Monthly Report: June 2025

Prepared by Mike McKeown (mike.mckeown@cotswold.gov.uk)

Councillor for the Kemble Ward

Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Digital

Cotswold District Council (CDC)

Kemble Ward Related

Kemble Wick Flooding

Laurence (CDC's Flood Risk Officer) has now submitted a formal bid to the Lead Local Flood Authority for funding to deliver the agreed drainage and flood prevention design study. We are currently awaiting feedback on this bid and will keep residents informed as soon as there is news.

Kemble–Cirencester Cycle Path

Progress remains challenging: Sustrans' detailed feasibility work continues to be held up by one landowner who, despite repeated attempts from Sustrans, CDC, and the Kemble & Ewen Parish Council, is currently refusing to engage. I will be attempting direct contact and our MP is also writing to encourage their participation. If engagement remains unsuccessful, we will need to explore alternative, likely more costly, route options.

Highways and Road Safety

- The Spratsgate Lane / Ewen Lane crossroads have received new road signage, with Highways promising "SLOW" painted on the road surface and rumble strips for Ewen Lane. We are still awaiting confirmation of the installation date.
- West Lane has had resurfacing and pothole work on the road and footpath. A resident recently raised concerns about dying Ash trees (directed to FixMyStreet) and about vehicles failing to stop at the school crossroads; I've advised reporting worn markings and explained that while Stop signs can be seen

Mike McKeown – Monthly Report 2

- hotspots.
- The old railway bridge flooding issue remains unresolved. Ownership appears to be with a third party (possibly GWR), which complicates installing new signage—GCC would need formal permission to proceed.

Community Facilities

Somerford Keynes Village Hall - The new electrics, lights and heating are all complete. The physical installation of new EV chargers is now complete. Activation is pending asset transfer from Somerford Keynes Parish Council to the Village Hall and finalisation of an operational agreement (including insurance) with Thames Head Community Energy, who are contributing £2,500 towards the project via grant funding.

Community Engagement & News

- The Home Energy Efficiency event at Kemble Village Hall on 22 May was well attended (16 residents), with lively discussion and several households requesting follow-up home energy assessments.
- At the request of Top Farm residents, I am pursuing an additional dog bin or more frequent emptying with CDC.

No further updates to report on the KCG lease (awaiting CDC CFO feedback). Mike McKeown –
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Cabinet Portfolio – Climate Change

Home Energy Retrofit Programme

Our Home Energy Retrofit Programme continues to expand across the district. Following the well-attended event in Kemble, similar in-person sessions have taken place in other Cotswold communities, with a major in-person and online district-wide event planned for the autumn. The new partnership with Furbnow is now fully launched, offering residents free home energy assessments, professional advice, and project management support to help reduce bills and carbon emissions. Residents interested in the programme can now access tailored support at: furbnow.com/gloucestershire.

Cotswold Home Solar

Our flagship solar and battery initiative, Cotswold Home Solar, continues to make significant progress. As of June, 32 homes have already been installed with solar and battery systems, with a further 22 scheduled for installation and more residents in active discussion. The scheme has delivered measurable environmental and financial impact:

- **25 tones** annual estimated carbon reduction from installed homes
- **£32,854** annual estimated financial saving of installed systems

EV Charging

All but one of the new council car park EV chargers are now installed, with the final batch in Cirencester due shortly following grid connection delays. This further accelerates our transition to cleaner transport.

National Climate Policy Influence

I continue to contribute to the Liberal Democrat national climate policy working group. Our updated policy proposals will be presented at the party conference in autumn 2025, ensuring the Cotswolds' priorities are reflected at national level. Mike

Cabinet Portfolio – Digital Services

This May, I was appointed as Cabinet Lead for the newly created Digital Services portfolio. This role brings renewed focus on using digital transformation to both improve council services and drive greater efficiency across the organisation. Work is already underway to identify opportunities for smarter processes, digital innovation, and effective use of AI to support service delivery and ensure value for residents.