

Minutes of Somerford Keynes Parish Council Meeting

Village Hall, 8th June 2026

Present: Cllr A. Clark (AC), Cllr H. Collins (HC), Cllr M. H-Oldland (MHO), Cllr N. Hunt (NH), Cllr G. Valentine (GV)

Also present: Clerk S. Pawlowska (SP), CDC Cllr M. McKeown (MM) and three members of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllr M. Keegan (MK), Cllr J. Whitwell (JW),

2. Declaration of Interest

None

3. Public Session

A question was asked of the status of the Anaerobic Digester planning application.

There has been previous correspondence from the Parish Council (PC) on this matter. Since the most recent update the main change is that the further review by Wiltshire's Strategic Planning Committee, which was expected to take place on June 16th, has been pushed back. This is likely due to their need to engage further with statutory consultees (such as Gloucestershire Highways, who have recommended refusal and raised a holding objection).

The expectation is that this will now come to their July 14th meeting.

The Parish Council and, in particular, the sub-committee focused on this continue to work hard to build a case against the application. This work has resulted in positive engagement with South Cerney PC, Lower Mill Estate Home Owners Association and local businesses which will have ongoing benefits.

4. Approval of Minutes of 9th March 2026 Meeting

Proposed AC, seconded NH

5. Report from District Cllr M. McKeown

Cllr MM's report is in Appendix Two.

6. Village Lake – Mike Wilding

As attendance has fallen at the occasional Saturday volunteer mornings the Lake Committee have formed a 'Lake Heros' group of people willing to lend a hand.

Many parishioners enjoy the Village Lake, if you are one of these and can spare the odd hour for a bit of work please contact the PC.

7. Jonathan Orton & Clare Danks from Origin3 on behalf of the North End Works Site.

Holcim UK are scaling back their works at the North End Site which is a little north of the Ashton Keynes crossroads. They will cease work there in 2027 and have sold the land.

The new owners have engaged Origin3 to explore new opportunities for the site. To this end two of their representatives joined the meeting to talk about possible options. These are likely to involve some residential development, they are also keen to retain some employment on the site.

Plans are at a very early stage but the PC welcomed their engagement and will look to retain an ongoing positive dialogue. It was agreed that a member of the public present would follow up with Origin3 and share information. HC offered to assist.

8. General Matters and Follow Up Actions

8.1 Road Signs

The road signs have now been removed.

8.2 Spring Flowers

AC emailed Bewley Homes regarding planting flowers in the village and is awaiting a reply.

8.3 Neigh Bridge Kiosk

HC has chased the Environment Agency as this work has still not been undertaken. We await a reply.

8.4 Thames Water Sewage Treatment Plant

HC has had a response from Lisa Spivey who has provided a contact name and suggested that we contact our MP Roz Savage to push her to organise a meeting.

8.5 Somerford Keynes Charity

Please see Appendix One.

8.6 Annual General Meeting

The AGM on May 15th was well attended and our guest speakers provided excellent content.

In recent years we have made a Big Thank You to someone who has made a positive difference to the community. Following previous awards to Des Sheen and Mike Wilding we were this year delighted to recognise the efforts of Marcus Gibbons.

Over the past couple of years Marcus has run a large number of first aid courses in the village hall, they are always noted for being very insightful and are delivered in an engaging way. Marcus also helps the Parish Council in other areas concerning health and safety. Thank you Marcus!

9. Community Infrastructure Levy

9.1 Village Hall - Coffee Machine and Table Tennis

The PC has agreed to fund these items. The decision on whether to have them rests with the Village Hall Committee and we await their feedback

Action: SP to email village hall committee to ascertain status.

9.2 Swings at Neigh Bridge

The Cotswold Lakes Trust have confirmed they are on track to have the swings installed in July and we await final costing.

9.3 Bleed Packs

A delivery of one Bleed Pack has arrived, and Marcus Gibbons has confirmed with the Village Hall where the installation will be.

9.4 Shorncote Parish Church Repairs

We are still awaiting more quotes from the Church Conservation Trust to ensure best value is achieved.

9.5 Bus Shelter Repair

The repair to the bus shelter following a recent incident will cost £1,134. It was voted to approve this payment.

It is thought that the damage was caused by one of CDC's contractor's refuse trucks. Whilst CDC confirm they had operatives in the area on the day of the incident they deny responsibility.

Action: SP to call Zurich insurance to see about adding the bus shelter to our insurance for the future.

9.6 Primary School Projects

The offer to help local primary schools has been well received with potential projects at Kemble, Ashton Keynes, Oakey and South Cerney. Kemble and Ashton Keynes are nearly ready for us to make payments to them.

10. Finance & Governance

The internal audit has been completed. Our Annual Governance Statement & Account Statement were signed off by AC, GV and SP.

Action: SP to publish the Annual Governance Statement, Account Statement and Notice of Public Rights on the website on June 10th 2026.

Parish Field rental is in the 4th year, MK is in contact with Jo from Lake 32 to agree an extension.

£10,000 transfer of money from high interest account to current account has been completed.

A member of the anaerobic digester subcommittee paid to have leaflets printed and placed in each goody bag for the triathlon. It was voted to approve the reimbursement of this cost of approximately £350.

Action: AC to contact the member and request a copy of the invoice.

11. Planning

26/01619/LBC

Listed Building Consent for Replacement conservatory at Pendle Cottage Somerford Keynes Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6DN

No objection

26/01618/FUL

Full Application for Replacement conservatory at Pendle Cottage Somerford Keynes, Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6DN

No objection

26/01451/FUL

Full Application for Replacement windows and doors with associated works at Foxtrot House 44 Mill Village Lower Mill Estate Somerford Keynes Cirencester

No objection

PL/2023/03359

Anaerobic Digester
See section 3.

12. May 2026 Income and Expenditure

<u>Income</u>	£180.54	Interest Earned May 2026
	£4083.56	VAT reclaim
	£5321.59	CIL
Total Income	£9585.69	
<u>Expenditure</u>		
May 2026	£750.19	KH Clerk's salary (April/May)
	£300	South Cerney PC to engage barrister
	£217.97	GALC subscription
	£241	Zurich Insurance
	£124.84	AGM refreshments
	£157.57	Mike McKeown for website hosting
Total Expenditure	£1791.57	
Village Lake	£0	
VL Total Expenditure	£0	
CIL Expenditure	£46.31	Cables for Village hall projector
	£996	Bleed Packs
	£1020	Projector
Total CIL Spend	£2062.31	
Transfers	£None	
Petty Cash Expenditure	£2	Heating for village hall at AGM
Total Petty Cash Spend	£2	

13. Correspondence

13.1 Neigh Bridge Litter

Two teenage boys have been clearing up the litter from Neigh Bridge as part of their Duke of Edinburgh volunteering. The PC thanks them for their hard work.

13.2 Community Event

The parishioner who asked for a committee to be formed to help arrange an event has had little response from the community. MHO suggested approaching the Baker's Arms for help to organise something for which the PC would provide some funding.

Action: MHO to liaise with the parishioner and the Baker's Arms.

13.3 Mower for Church Yard

The PC approved to fund a new mower for the church yard and noted that the team of volunteers do an excellent job in keeping it looking smart.

Action: SP to email the Church Yard committee asking for a quote and arranging next steps.

13.4 Anaerobic Digester

See section 3.

14. Any Other Business

- 14.1** Peggy from Cirencester Action on Buses is keen to understand how residents are finding the replacement 'on demand' services following the cancellation of the bus service through the village. Please send your feedback to cirencesteractiononbuses@gmail.com

Meeting closed at 9:20pm

Date of next meeting is Monday 13th July 2026

Appendix 1

Somerford Keynes Village Charity

The trustees of the Somerford Keynes Village Charity will be delighted to welcome new trustee, Reverend Dr Steve Bullock, to their next meeting on 29th June 2026. This follows the Revd Dr Steve's recent appointment as Priest-in-Charge of the Thameshead Benefice.

Ahead of their meeting, the Charity trustees invite applications for financial assistance for or from anyone struggling to meet an urgent need, and resident in Somerford Keynes or Shorncote. Enquiries should be made to the Revd Dr Steve, and will be handled in the strictest confidence.

Financial requests may be for a wide range of purposes which could include

- supporting an individual's educational needs by paying for textbooks or school uniform
- the repair or replacement of essential but unaffordable household items
- heating costs and/or general household bills
- urgent health or dentistry costs
- exceptional transport costs, such as for hospital visits.

More information including the charity's purpose, the application process, the Revd Dr Steve's contact details and the privacy notice can be found under Notices on the Somerford Keynes Village website.

Appendix Two
Report from Cllr Mike McKeown

Kemble Ward Monthly Report - June 2026

Prepared by: Mike McKeown
Councillor for the Kemble Ward
Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Digital Services
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Here is my latest monthly update covering ward matters first, followed by wider district work in my role as Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Digital Services.

1. Ward matters and local casework

Ashton Keynes anaerobic digester planning application

The proposed anaerobic digestion facility at Land West of Ashton Road, Ashton Keynes, remains the main local planning issue I am working on with residents, parish councils, businesses and neighbouring councillors. There has been significant further work since my May report. The application is still for Wiltshire Council to determine, but the potential impacts remain clearly cross-boundary, particularly for Somerford Keynes, South Cerney, the Cotswold Lakes, nearby leisure businesses, local roads, groundwater and the wider visitor economy.

In late May, Gloucestershire County Council submitted a formal Article 18 response as the neighbouring highway authority, raising a holding objection and recommending refusal unless further transport information is provided. This is important because much of the proposed traffic would use Gloucestershire roads and the Cotswold Lakes network.

I have also worked with parish councils, residents and technical objectors on a consolidated objection and a four-page management summary for Wiltshire Council's Strategic Planning Committee, expected on 16 June 2026. The latest evidence focuses on groundwater risk, traffic and highway safety, the Cotswold Water Park setting, noise, the visitor economy, and whether the claimed climate benefit has been overstated.

I continue to support renewable energy and low-carbon infrastructure where it is genuinely sustainable and appropriately located. My objection to this proposal is that the scale, location, traffic, groundwater risk and enforcement challenges make it the wrong site for an industrial-scale AD facility. If the application proceeds to committee as expected, I will continue to support Somerford Keynes Parish Council and other local voices so the cross-boundary impacts are properly heard.

Planning and enforcement updates

I have continued to follow up ward planning and enforcement matters raised by residents and parish councils. As always, some enforcement cases take time because the council has to establish evidence, assess whether formal action is proportionate, and often seek a negotiated solution before notices are considered. Residents wishing to report a suspected breach of planning regulations should continue to use the council's planning enforcement reporting page:

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-permission/report-breach-of-planningregulations/>

2. Climate Change and Sustainability portfolio

People's Emergency Briefing - Cirencester, 25 June

I am helping with the local People's Emergency Briefing event at the Royal Agricultural University on

Thursday 25 June. This is a community film and discussion evening linked to the National Emergency Briefing on the climate and nature crisis.

The format is intended to be practical and accessible: doors open at 7.00pm, the event starts at 7.30pm, and tickets are free but need to be booked in advance. My role is mainly as a local connector and climate portfolio holder, supporting the organisers with CDC links, practical coordination and appropriate local signposting.

The free ticket link is: <https://buytickets.at/peopleemergencybriefing/2171822>

Everything Electric WEST - Cheltenham Racecourse, 12 and 13 June

CDC has been offered a no-cost local engagement opportunity at Everything Electric WEST at Cheltenham Racecourse on 12 and 13 June, including space for a 3m by 3m gazebo and 200 free resident tickets using the code CDC.

I have been working on how this could become a simple Gloucestershire councils presence, focused on practical resident advice about home energy, retrofit, solar, heat pumps, public EV charging and council support. The aim is not to duplicate business net zero activity already being led elsewhere, but to help residents find reliable advice and take the next step.

Cotswold Home Solar

Cotswold Home Solar continues to go well, with growing orders as households look for practical ways to reduce exposure to high energy costs. The latest partner dashboard shows 68 installed systems, 54 deposits paid and a further 110 consultations scheduled.

The scheme is already showing useful resident and climate benefits: estimated customer financial savings so far are £84,847.64, with installed systems expected to save around £82,345 each year. Reported carbon savings are 65,218kg so far, with installed homes expected to reduce emissions by about 60,601kg each year.

Home energy and retrofit advice

CDC continues to promote practical advice for residents who want warmer, cheaper-to-run homes. This includes signposting to support such as Furbnow, Warm and Well, district council home energy advice, solar schemes and planning advice for listed buildings, conservation areas and sensitive locations.

Residents can also contact CDC's Home Energy Efficiency Officer, Justine Mallinson, for tailored advice at Justine.Mallinson@cotswold.gov.uk.

3. Other CDC and community updates

Waste and recycling service design

Cabinet considered a package of waste and recycling service design options on 4 June. The proposals include withdrawing CDC-provided bring banks, introducing kerbside collections of plastic bags and wrapping from 1 April 2027 in line with national Simpler Recycling requirements, reducing the standard refuse bin size from 180 litres to 140 litres on a phased replacement basis, and moving to combined paper and card collection when replacement recycling vehicles are in use.

The bring bank service now contributes around 0.7% to the recycling rate, but has become a net cost and can attract fly-tipping and graffiti. The council's expectation is that most material should be captured through kerbside services, with third-party textile and book banks able to remain where those arrangements continue.

This will need clear resident communications, especially on plastic bags and wrapping, because getting the presentation right at the kerbside will be essential.

Local Government Reorganisation

Work continues on Local Government Reorganisation across Gloucestershire. The Government is expected to decide in July 2026 which proposal for the county will proceed.

At the June Cabinet meeting, CDC considered how to respond to Government on the Structural Changes Order. This is the legal framework that will establish the new authority or authorities, set out election and warding arrangements, transfer functions, and create the transition governance needed before vesting day. The timetable is tight. MHCLG has asked for representations by 16 June 2026, earlier than expected. CDC's priority is to make sure the transition protects residents, local voice, service quality, rural communities and the district's future interests.

Corinium Museum and Abberley House roof repairs

Cabinet also considered urgent roof repairs at Abberley House and the Corinium Museum. The roof is compromised in several places, causing water ingress into occupied areas below, including the museum and upper-floor offices.

The recommendation is to expedite repair work and procure it competitively. This is important both to protect a valued cultural asset and to avoid higher costs or tenant disruption later.

Council investment properties

Cabinet considered whether to actively market three out-of-district investment properties for possible disposal. These properties were bought in 2010 to generate income, but their financial performance has weakened, especially since 2022/23.

No final disposal decision is being taken at this stage. The immediate step is to test market appetite, with any future decision returning through the council's proper governance route.

5. CDC News

Top score for Cotswold District Council as it puts nature at its heart

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/top-score-for-cotswold-district-council-as-it-puts-nature-at-its-heart>

CDC has been recognised as one of the stronger-performing councils nationally in the Nature Emergency Scorecards, reflecting the council's ecological emergency work and the importance of nature recovery across the district.

Positive progress across services as Cotswold District Council looks to the future

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/positive-progress-across-services-as-cotswold-district-council-looksto-the-future>

This update covers service performance, strong recycling performance, leisure use, financial resilience and preparation for local government reorganisation.

"We're working on a knife edge": Cotswold businesses warn of mounting pressures as

Council calls for Government action

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/news/were-working-on-a-knife-edge-cotswold-businesses-warn-ofmounting-pressures-as-council-calls-for-government-action>

CDC has written to Government about pressure on local businesses, particularly in high streets, hospitality and the visitor economy. This is relevant across the district, including businesses serving Cotswold villages and visitors.

Mike McKeown - Kemble Ward Monthly Report - June 2026

"Gems at the heart of our communities": Cotswold district councillors unite to protect local hospitals

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/>

The CDC News homepage listed this 27 May update on councillors' cross-party support for safeguarding local hospitals. Rural access to health services remains an important issue for Cotswold communities.

Election announced for the St Michael's ward following resignation of Councillor Joe Harris

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/>

The CDC News homepage listed this 26 May update. The by-election is for St Michael's ward and is not a Kemble ward election, but it is a district democratic services update.

Unburied treasure: Iron Age coin hoard coming to Cirencester's Corinium Museum

<https://news.cotswold.gov.uk/>

The CDC News homepage listed this 26 May update on Corinium Museum securing a significant Iron Age hoard, supporting the district's cultural and visitor offer.

As always, if there are local issues you would like to raise, please do get in touch.