

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 18 April 2007 at 8.00 pm and concluded at 9.20pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), R S Young (Vice-Chairman), Mrs J A Appleton, R E Bayliss, Mrs S G Hall, Dr D J M McNie, R G McQuillan, Prof T R Morris, R M Naish, Mrs C Toms.

Also present: Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Dr R J Potter, Mrs M S Rowland.

11.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2007 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

- (a) the replacement of the word "Are" with the word "Area" in the resolution to Minute 10.14
- (b) the first word in the title of Minute 10.17 reading "CELEBRATING"
- (c) the insertion of the word "met" in the first line of Minute 10.19.

11.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, reported on

- events to mark 1,000 years of Oxfordshire;
- the receipt of awards for the refurbished Oxford Castle/Prison;
- a proposal to institute 40mph speed limits on the A4074 in places between Woodcote and Caversham, on a trial basis.

Most members expressed support for the reduced speed limits, although some were sceptical about the results which would be achieved.

In response to questions from Members, Mrs Viney undertook to raise with relevant officers the many reported potholes in roads in the Parish, and the standard of workmanship where these had been repaired.

Mrs Viney advised that she was resigning as a member of the Thames Valley Police Authority.

11.03 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

With a letter, one of the volunteers at Sonning Common Police Station enclosed statistics relating to recorded crimes in the Parish. In the period 1 January to 31 March 2007, 12 crimes had been recorded – 1 burglary dwelling, 1 burglary non-dwelling, 1 autocrime, 2 criminal damage, 4 thefts and 3 other.

11.04 WEBSITE

(cf 10.03/07) The Chairman reported that Dr R J Potter had agreed to pass on the role of webmaster to a resident of Gallowstree Common, who had made some adjustments to the website, which now had a "contact us" feature. Members commented on the improved appearance of the website.

11.05 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 10.04/07) By letter, the County Council's Highways Enquiry Team acknowledged the request for the provision of a salt or grit bin near Kidmore End pond. During the Open Session, Mrs S Biggs of Kidmore End commented on the time taken to progress this request.

11.06 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND

(cf 10.05/07) The Chairman advised that he, the Vice-Chairman and Mr R E Bayliss had yet to inspect the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. The Vice-Chairman reported completion of the works to the trees on the south-western boundary of the Recreation Ground.

11.07 CODE OF CONDUCT

(cf 10.06/07) With a letter, the Deputy Director, Local Democracy, at the Department for Communities and Local Government enclosed a copy of the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007, which had been laid before Parliament on 4 April 2007 and would come into operation on 3 May. The revised code applied to all local councillors, consolidating and replacing 4 separate codes, for principal authority members, parish councillors etc.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the new model code of conduct be deferred to the next meeting.

11.08 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

(cf 10.08/07) The Vice-Chairman reported that the works at Kidmore End Play Area were under way.

11.09 MAP OF FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

(cf 10.09/07) At the suggestion of Dr D J M McNie, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the provision of a display map of the rights of way in the Parish be deferred to the next meeting.

11.10 REGIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY REVIEW 2007

(cf 10.13/07) At his request, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report of Mr R G McQuillan on the draft review of the Regional Housing Strategy be deferred to the next meeting and that Mr McQuillan be authorised to respond to the South East Regional Housing Board on the draft, on behalf of the Council.

11.11 HORSEPOND ROAD, GALLOWSTREE COMMON – SPEED LIMIT

(cf 10.14/07) In a letter, the Highways Enquiry Team of the County Council acknowledged receipt of the enquiry about the enforceability of the speed limit in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

11.12 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

(cf 10.14/07) The Clerk reported that the statement of persons nominated for election as parish councillors, issued by the Returning Officer on 5 April 2007, contained 5 names – Mrs S G Hall, Mr A K Martin, Dr D J M McNie, Mrs M S Rowland and Mr R S Young. The Returning Officer advised, by letter, that he had received 3 further nominations, after the closing date for nominations. The Clerk pointed out that the 5 persons validly nominated would be elected without contest on 3 May 2007.

The Clerk indicated that the Council would be able to co-opt persons to fill the 7 vacancies, without further notice, under the provisions of Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act 1985.

The Chairman reported that Mr R E Bayliss and Dr R J Potter had indicated that they would not seek re-election as members of the Council. Members applauded the service Mr Bayliss and Dr Potter had rendered to the Parish.

RESOLVED: That the Council record its thanks to Mr R E Bayliss and Dr R J Potter for their service to the community as Members of the Parish Council, since December 1998 and December 2001 respectively.

11.13 FOOTPATH 15

(cf 10.20/07) Mr R G McQuillan reported that the replacement of the stile, with a hunting gate, where footpath 15 met Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green, had been completed.

11.14 GALLOWSTREE COMMON WELL

(cf 10.22/07) The Wells Manager urged that the wellhead trap door at Gallowstree Common well be replaced. It was felt that Mr D W H Miles of Mapledurham might be best placed to execute the work.

11.15 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £16,952.35.

(ii) Accounts for payment

RESOLVED: That the following accounts, listed in the schedule under Financial Regulation 5.2, be approved for payment:

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| Allianz Cornhill plc – Insurance premium | £1631.40 |
| Richard P James Ltd – Architect's fees | £1637.68 |
| Acorn Services – Work to stile on footpath 15 | £324.38 |
| Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Subscription | £221.16 |
| Acorn Services – Works at Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground | £390.00 |
| R F Penfold – Clerk's expenses (2006/7) | £160.59 |

(iii) Financial Regulations

The Chairman reported that he and the Vice-Chairman had, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 3.5, approved the carry forward of budgetary provision for the Clerk's expenses to the financial year 2007/8.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be approved and confirmed.

(iv) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 31 March 2007, against the approved budget for 2007/8. The report showed an underspending at year end of £930.

11.16 NOTICE OF AUDIT

By letter, BDO Stoy Hayward LLP gave notice that they had appointed 3 August 2007 as the day when local government electors could question the external auditor on the Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007. The Clerk advised that he intended to submit the annual accounts for 2006/7 to the Council at its next meeting, and the annual return, for completion by the Council, to the meeting in June 2007.

11.17 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally

erection of single storey infill extension at Mallorn, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End;
single storey conservatory extension at Pippins, Wood Lane, Gallowstree Common;

and that the following application had been withdrawn

new 2 storey extension to side elevation with repositioned entrance at 1 Well Cottages,
Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

(ii) Action of Plans Sub-Committee

RESOLVED: That the action of the Plans Sub-Committee in respect of the following applications, as set out in the register of action, be approved:

single storey and 2 storey additions to existing thatched cottage at Well Cottage, Reading Road, Cane End;
construction of detached 2-storey building providing double garage, storage, studio/darkroom and additional bedroom at Lavender Cottage, Cane End;
proposed single storey lounge extension to rear of 24 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common;
to extend existing ground floor study by 1m within existing roof overhang at 24 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common;
2 storey side extension at Helmsford, Roseberry Road, Tokers Green.

(iii) Applications

The Council considered an application referred to it since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be recommended to approve the application for demolition of existing pavilion and construction of new pavilion building at the Recreation Ground, Gallowstree Common for the Council.

(iv) Planning appeals

Letters from the Head of Planning of the District Council advised that appeals had been lodged against the refusal of the District Council to grant planning permission for erection of 2 storey side extension, increase to roof height and new 3 bay garage at Archmore, Mill Lane, Kidmore End and for single storey and 2 storey extensions at Leawood, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green. The appeals were to be decided on the basis of an exchange of written statements and a site visit by an inspector.

(v) Oxfordshire Minerals & Waste Development Framework

(cf 10.11(iv)/07) Mr R M Naish reported on the County Council's draft Waste Sites Proposals and Policies Development Plan Document. No waste sites were envisaged in the Parish, and Mr Naish had submitted no comments on the draft.

11.18 BROAD BAND

The Head of Information & Communications Technology of the District Council drew attention, in a letter, to his Council's survey to find out how many residents of the District had a problem obtaining a satisfactory broadband connection. Members commented that they were not aware of any parts of the Parish where broad band was not accessible.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be so advised.

11.19 REVIEW OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES

(cf 6.04/06) With a letter, the County Council's Director for Environment & Economy gave details of the decisions of the his Council's Cabinet Member for Transport on tenders for subsidised bus services in the Wheatley, Thame and Watlington area. In respect of service M1, from Watlington to Reading, the contract had be re-awarded to Motts Travel with effect from 3 June 2007. The service had, however, been reduced to one journey in each direction each day, continuing to serve Kidmore End.

In another letter, the Director advised that the Cabinet Member had decided that it would not be prudent to introduce more "simplified" fare structures on subsidised services.

11.20 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted details of training courses arranged by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils, viz An introduction for councillors and clerks, Getting to grips with finance, and How local councils fit into the planning system

11.21 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council. He envisaged that the Committee would commence work on a fund raising strategy for the replacement pavilion, following the consideration of the planning application by the District Council.

11.22 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

The Council noted that the County Council had erected appropriate restriction signs on the formerly CRB paths in the Parish.

11.23 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to a question, the Chairman suggested that the Kidmore End Pre School approach SOHA Ltd about the possible use of the garden of a vacant house in Craysleaze, Kidmore End, as a car park.