

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 18 July 2007 at 8.00 pm and concluded at 9.40pm.

Present: R S Young (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), Mrs J A Appleton, R C Gutteridge, Mrs S Hall, Dr J D M McNie, R G McQuillan, Prof T R Morris, R M Naish, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mrs M S Rowland, Mrs C Toms.

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

Apologies for absence were received from A K Martin, R A H Peasgood (district councillor).

3.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2007 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record

3.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, reported on further investigations, with the county councillor for the Woodcote division, into measures to improve the safety of the A4074 road. In this connection, she understood that a number of trees were to be felled from land adjoining the carriageway. The Chairman indicated that he had been in discussion with officers of the County Council about felling from Cane End southwards. He gathered that there would be significant felling in Greendene Bottom and that a temporary closure of the A4074 might be arranged to facilitate the work.

Mrs Viney reported on other issues relating to her Council.

3.03 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

The Clerk circulated statistics, produced by one of the volunteers at Sonning Common Police Station, relating to recorded crimes in the Parish. In the period 1 April to 30 June 2007, 5 crimes had been recorded –1 burglary non-dwelling, 1 criminal damage, 1 theft and 2 other.

3.04 REPORT OF RETURNING OFFICER

(cf 2.05/07) At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed Mrs J E O'Sullivan as a member of the Council.

3.05 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 2.06/07) In a letter, Oxfordshire Highways acknowledged the Council's order for the supply of a salt bin in the vicinity of Kidmore End pond.

3.06 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND - PAVILION

(cf 2.07/07) By letter, Mr R James of Richard P James Ltd confirmed that he would be pleased to continue to work on the project for the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, to the submission of an application under the Building Regulations. His fee for the work would be £2,730 plus expenses.

3.07 CODE OF CONDUCT

(cf 2.08/07) The Council noted details of a conference, organised by the National Association of Local Councils, to be held in Birmingham on 19 July 2007, about the new ethical regime for parish councillors.

3.08 MAP OF FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

(cf 2.09/07) Dr J D M McNie reported further on the proposed size, style and siting of a display map of the rights of way in the Parish. He advised that the Chiltern Society was content for its map to be used as the base for the display map, and that the landlord of The New Inn, Kidmore End would be happy for the map to be sited on his premises. Members made further suggestions as to the marking of the map, eg with an arrow showing where it was sited, and how it might be made and mounted.

3.09 FOOTPATH 5

(cf 2.10/07) The Council noted a copy of a letter from the County Council's Senior Highways Procedures Officer to Mr D Ramm of Woodley, advising that investigations were in hand as to the width of the highway verge in the vicinity of the junction of footpath 5 with the A4074 road, at Cane End. These investigations were designed to establish whether there had been any encroachment onto the highway.

3.10 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS, SUB-COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

(cf 2.11/07) Mrs J E O'Sullivan confirmed her willingness to serve as Transport Representative.

3.11 GLASS RECYCLING FACILITIES

(cf 2.21/07) The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the landlord of the Reformation public house about the restoration of the bottle bank there. The landlord had, apparently, been happy to have the facility restored, but that appeared to have been difficulties with the supply of a skip.

3.12 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common – Footway

(cf 2.22(i)/07) Members noted that the vegetation overgrowing the footway on the north side of Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, had been cut back.

(ii) Road Signs

Attention was drawn to the damaged "bends" sign in Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, south of its junction with Mill Lane. The Clerk indicated that he would advise the County Council of the damaged sign.

(iii) Roadside Hedges

Members remarked upon the number of roadside hedge which were growing out over the highways at various locations in the Parish. The Chairman referred to the guidance given to farmers and landowners about hedge maintenance, and the impact on flora and fauna.

3.13 STREET NAMEPLATES

(cf 2.23/07) In a letter, the Head of Environmental Services of the District Council advised that the damaged street nameplates in Wyfold Road, Gallowstree Common and Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End would be examined and repaired or replaced, as necessary.

3.14 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £12,177.19.

(ii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 30 June 2007, against the approved budget for 2007/8. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £126.

3.15 ACCOUNTS, 2007/8

(cf1.16/07) The Council considered a report (07/08 - 4) of the Clerk, being the draft annual return for the year ended 31 March 2007.

RESOLVED: That the return for the year ended 31 March 2007 be approved.

3.16 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following application had been permitted conditionally

conversion of integral garage into living area at Greenwich Cottage, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End.

(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 rear extension and chimney to side elevation at Hazeldene, Beech Road, Tokers Green (and amended application);

conversion of storage space to staff accommodation and insertion of 2 roof lights at Cane End House, Cane End;

2 storey side extension extension and detached garage at 7 Craysleaze, Kidmore End;

loft conversion with insertion of 3 dormer windows and 4 rooflights at Collegewood Farmhouse, Cane End.

(iii) Applications

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

RESOLVED: That no strong views be submitted on the application for a rear conservatory at Orchard Hill, Chalkhouse Green Road, Chalkhouse Green for Mr & Mrs J Swift.

(iv) Land at Collegewood Farm, Cane End

(cf 2.14(iii)/07) Members noted that the sale of land, by plots, at Collegewood Farm, Cane End was apparently being reorganised as some sort of collective investment scheme.

(v) Oxfordshire Minerals & Waste Development Framework

(cf 2.14 (iv)/07) Mr R M Naish reported on the Oxfordshire Minerals Sites Proposals and

Policies Development Plan Documents and Options Consultation Paper. The consultation paper contained a long list of possible sites for minerals' extraction, none of which were in the Parish, although there was a listed 60ha site at Chazey Court Farm, in the Parish of Mapledurham. Mr Naish stressed that the listed sites were not proposed by the County Council, and that Council's preferred options would be published in November 2007. Mr Naish had seen no point in commenting on behalf of the Council.

(vi) South East Plan – Provision of caravan sites for gypsies and travellers

By letter, the Chairman of the Oxfordshire Gypsy and Traveller Steering Group (which comprised members from all the principal councils in the County) sought views on the provision of caravan pitches for gypsies and travellers in the County. The exercise was to help the Oxfordshire Councils give advice to the South East England Regional Assembly, in connection with the South East Plan. The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment undertaken by ACTVaR suggested that some 58 additional pitches would be required in the County between 2006 and 2011, of which 28 were required in South Oxfordshire.

Members noted the distribution suggested by ACTVaR, and that the Oxfordshire authorities were seeking to test whether that assessment was robust. Members shared the scepticism evident in the letter that the number of pitches required in the County was as high as 58.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be advised that

- if demand for additional pitches can be demonstrated, then those pitches should ideally be provided by extending existing sites;
- if, in extremis, it does not prove possible to accommodate the requirement for the additional pitches in this way, then the Council concedes that new sites will be required;
- such sites should, however, not be established within areas of outstanding natural beauty, and should be in locations where the whole range of services – shops, schools, medical facilities etc – and employment opportunities are already available.

3.17 HOUSENAMING

By letter, the District Council's Head of Public Amenities advised that the property known as Crispins Way, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green had been renamed Prospect House.

3.18 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

By letter, the Director of the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind requested the Council to consider making a contribution towards the services provided by the Association to many clients. The Council recalled that its budget for 2007/8 contained provision of £30 for a grant to the Association.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £30 be made to the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind in the financial year 2007/8.

3.19 MIGRANT WORKERS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES

In a letter, a Community Development Worker of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council advised of a project to identify where voluntary and community groups were serving marginalised or isolated individuals and groups in rural areas, including migrant workers and people from different ethnic or faith groups. To that end, she enquired whether there known to be such persons in the Parish. Members were not aware of any.

3.20 NATIONAL BUS PASS SCHEME

The Assistant Chief Executive of the District Council, by letter, advised that the national bus pass would be introduced with effect from 1 April 2008. The pass would enable holders to travel free on local bus services anywhere within England. The scheme would replace the present local concessionary travel scheme. Existing bus pass holders would be asked to submit a request for a new pass. Application forms for new passes would be available in due course.

3.21 "YOUR PLACE, YOUR FUTURE"

The Council noted an invitation from the Chief Executive of the District Council to be represented at workshops, being arranged to help inform his Council's Sustainable Community Strategy, Corporate Plan and Local Development Framework.

3.22 ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF RURAL ROADS IN THE CHILTERNNS

With a letter, the Chilterns Conservation Board enclosed a copy of its draft guidelines for the management of rural roads in the Chilterns. Comments were invited by 31 July 2007.

RESOLVED: That the draft guidelines for the management of rural roads in the Chilterns be referred to Mrs C Toms for consideration and report.

3.23 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had met on 11 July 2007. The Committee had observed that the Recreation Ground at Gallowstree Common was in good order, although some "housekeeping" needed to be undertaken. There had been a full discussion about funding the replacement Pavilion. The Committee had been under no illusions as to the scale of the task, which would prove a significant challenge.

Reference was made to saplings growing at the Kidmore End Play Area. The Chairman undertook to ask the mowing contractor to remove them.

3.24 TRAFFIC CALMING SUB-COMMITTEE

Members noted that a post had been erected in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, which post, they presumed, was for the vehicle activated speed indication sign.

3.25 WEBSITE

The Website Liaison Councillor reported on recent discussions with the webmaster as to improvements to the Council's website – www.kepc.info: he intended to report further at the next meeting. He advised that the site experienced 1 to 4 "hits" per day.