

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 24 October 2007 at 8.00 pm and concluded at 10.15pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), R C Gutteridge, Mrs S Hall, Dr J D M McNie, R G McQuillan, Prof T R Morris, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mrs M S Rowland, Mrs C Toms.

Also present: R A H Peasgood (district councillor), Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J A Appleton, R S Young.

5.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2007 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to

- a the correct spelling of "GROUND" in Minute 4.05;
- b the correct spelling of the name "Toms" in Minute 4.08(iii);
- c the correct spelling of the word "DISTRICT" in Minute 4.15;
- d the correct spelling of the word "PARISH" in Minute 4.18..

5.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- that her Council was proposing to allow children over the age of 16 to stay longer in care;
- about free electric blanket testing;
- on the increased incidence of chimney fires in the County.

Mrs Viney indicated that she was pursuing the issue of the standard of surface dressing in Wood Lane, Kidmore End. In response to questions, she had no news of the possible closure of the A4074 road to facilitate tree felling or of the diversionary routes while the road was closed.

5.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr R A H Peasgood, a district councillor for the Ship lake ward, reported

- on the upgrade of his Council's revenues and benefits' computer software;
- that his Council was setting its community safety priorities;
- about a questionnaire concerning child care, which his Council was distributing on behalf of the County Council.

In response to questions, Mr Peasgood advised that his Council had received the results of its consultation on waste collection. As a result, when the present contracts came up for renewal, his Council was likely to continue with weekly collections of household food waste, and might introduce kerbside collection of glass. He advised that it was hoped that, in the meantime, a glass recycling facility would be re-introduced at the Reformation public house, Gallowstree Common.

5.04 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 July to 30 September 2007, 11 crimes had been recorded –1 burglary dwelling, 1 burglary non-dwelling, 1 autocrime, 2 criminal damage, 4 theft and 2 other.

5.05 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 4.04/07) The Chairman observed the salt bin had been installed near the bus stop opposite the well at Kidmore End.

5.06 CODE OF CONDUCT

(cf 4.06/07) The Clerk reported that he had received a register of interest form completed by Mr R C Gutteridge and had forwarded it to the Monitoring Officer of the District Council.

A paper from the Standards Board for England, relating to town and parish councils, was passed to Mrs M S Rowland.

5.07 MAP OF FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

(cf 4.07/07) Dr J D M McNie displayed the laminated map of the rights of way in the Parish, which map was to be erected on the fence at The New Inn, Kidmore End.

5.08 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) Casualty Report 2006 and Road Safety Strategy & Plan 2007/8

(cf 4.08(ii)/07) At her request, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report of Mrs C Toms on the County Council's Casualty Report 2006 and Road Safety Strategy & Plan 2007/8 be deferred to the next meeting.

(ii) Park Lane and Horsepond Road, Cane End – Hedges

Mr L Hardwicke of Reading Road, Cane End drew attention, in a letter, to overgrown hedges at the junction of Horsepond Road, and Park Lane, Cane End, which hedges, he commented, obscured vision of oncoming traffic.

Members also referred to numerous other locations where roadside hedges obscured direction and warning signs, and street name plates, and to the observation, made at a previous meeting, that farmers were discouraged from cutting back hedges on ecological, habitat grounds.

RESOLVED: That the overgrown hedges at the junction of Horsepond Road and Park Lane, Cane End, and the related issues raised by Members, be referred to the Area Engineer of the County Council.

(iii) Wood Lane and Craysleaze, Kidmore End - Parking

In an e-mail to the Chairman, Mr G Allen of Craysleaze, Kidmore End, drew attention to the blockage of the highway at the junction of Craysleaze and Wood Lane, Kidmore End, caused, he averred, by parents dropping and collecting their children from the Kidmore End Pre School. He advised that he had approached Soha Housing Ltd, the owners of the land at the entrance of Craysleaze, requesting that the company replace the posts and chains, to prevent parking on the road side verges at that location.

RESOLVED: That copy of Mr Allen's e-mail be sent to the Chairman of the Committee of the Kidmore End Pre-School.

5.09 REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION

(cf 4.13/07) Mrs C Toms reported on the review of primary school provision being undertaken by the County Council. She observed that the document referred to her set out the overview of how the review was to be conducted. She was concerned to note that there was no reference to neighbouring

local education authorities, a pertinent issue in respect of Kidmore End School.

5.10 TOKERS GREEN POND

(cf 4.17/07) The Council gave further consideration to the proposals of Mr D G Saunders of Tokers Green for works at Tokers Green pond, a matter deferred at the last meeting. While Members recognised the value of engaging voluntary support for the works, a number favoured the use of contractors for regular maintenance works. It was, in any event, recalled that the Vice-Chairman had offered to examine the pond and the proposed works.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the proposals by Mr D G Saunders again be deferred to the next meeting.

5.11 SPORT AND ACTIVE RECREATION STRATEGY

(cf 4.20/07) In presenting his apologies for absence, the Vice-Chairman had advised that he had submitted comments to the District Council in respect of the latter's draft sport and active recreation strategy.

5.12 OXFORDSHIRE PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

(cf 4.22/07) The Vice-Chairman had also indicated that he had been unable to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association.

5.13 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £13,383.21

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – Subscription	£30.00
South Oxfordshire District Council – Refund of incorrect BACS credit	£72.00
Dr J D M McNie – Laminating map	£29.38

(iii) Budget monitoring

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

5.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally

proposed single storey rear extension at The Old Crown, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common;
installation of vehicular access gates at Bramble Cottage, Cane End;

and that the application for addition of 4 dormer windows, 2 roof light windows, the modification of existing hipped end into gable end with glazed screen and balustrade as part of loft conversion at Kees, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End had been refused.

(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:

proposed detached garage at Rokeby, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green (and amended plan);
demolition of utility and partial demolition of ancillary building, 2 storey side extension at Old Yews, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End;
single and 2-storey extensions at Cedar House, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
rear 2-storey and side single storey extensions at Chauste, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;
retention of field shelter adjoining Park Lane and field shelter adjoining woodland on land adjoining Park Lane, Cane End;
erection of 2 stables at Field View Barn, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green (amended plan).

(iii) Applications

The Council considered applications referred to it since the last meeting.

During the Open Session, residents of Kidmore End expressed opposition to the application relating to land at the rear of Felix Lodge, Kidmore End. The Council noted copy letters from Mr A S R Lynch and Mr D Rowley, both of Wood Lane, Kidmore End to the planning authority objecting to the development at Felix Lodge. In a letter, Mr & Mrs R Goldman of Henley expressed support for the development at Felix Lodge.

In a letter, Mr & Mrs M Pitts of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green expressed opposition to the proposed development at Beechwood, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green.

RESOLVED: 1 That no strong views be submitted on the application for proposed replacement dwelling at Beechwood, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green for Mr D Saunders.

2 That the following comments be made on the application for construction of one pair of single storey semi-detached houses, construction of new single garage to replace existing at Felix Lodge, Wood Lane, Kidmore End for Henley & District Housing Trust Ltd "Refuse – poor access onto congested highway (because of school and pre-school), unneighbourly to Felix Lodge".

(iv) Berkshire Minerals & Waste Local Development Framework

By letter, a planner in the Berkshire Unitary Authorities' Joint Strategic Planning Unit advised that the various documents setting out the Berkshire authorities' Minerals and Waste Local Development Framework were available for consultation between 24 September and 5 November 2007.

5.15 TRAINING COURSES

The Council noted details of courses organised by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils on risk assessment and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

5.16 HOUSENAMING

By letter, the District Council's Head of Public Amenities advised that the property known as Marlowe, Elm Road, Tokers Green had been renamed End House.

5.17 PARISH PLAN

(cf 6.06/06) By letter, Chairmen of 2 parish councils, writing on behalf of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, drew attention to the benefits of parish plans in securing a shared vision of the future

for the community, and explained what services were available to the Community Council to assist with the preparation of such plans.

The Council noted that it had discussed the preparation of a parish plan in 2006, and had made budgetary provision of £500 in the current financial year to facilitate the exercise. However, Members were not convinced as to the benefit of a plan, commenting that, in the case of the Parish, with its 5 quite distinct settlements, perhaps some 5 plans were required. In the circumstances, it was

RESOLVED: That no further action be taken to produce a parish plan for the time being.

5.18 CLIMATE CHANGE

A civil servant in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs enclosed a copy of the booklet produced by the Department entitled "Ways to tackle climate change", a guide for parish and town councils to enable them to play a substantial role in the drive to combat and mitigate climate change.

5.19 REVIEW OF CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME

By letter, the Policy & Community Engagement Officer of the District Council advised that her Council was reviewing its concessionary travel scheme, due to the introduction of the national bus pass scheme with effect from 1 April 2008. Her Council currently offered an additional discretionary element to the scheme, £20 worth of travel tokens as an alternative to the bus pass. The review related to this discretionary element and to the daily start time for use of passes.

Members concluded that the tokens should be retained, as they were a valued resource by eligible persons who, by reasons of, say, mobility difficulties, were unable to use buses. The tokens were also useful for residents of areas without the benefit of regular and convenient bus services.

RESOLVED: That the above comments be passed to the District Council.

5.20 REVIEW OF LICENSING POLICY

The District Council's Head of Environmental Services, in a letter, drew attention to her Council's review of its licensing policy, requesting any comments thereon by 12 November 2007.

5.21 CHILTERNES FORUM

The Council noted information about the annual Chilterns Forum, to be hosted by the Chilterns Conservation Board, at Aston Clinton on 9 November 2007,

5.22 SOUTH & VALE CARERS CENTRE

By letter, the Manager of the South & Vale Carers Centre requested financial assistance from the Council. The Manager reported that 2 carers from the Parish had been supported in the past year. Members observed that the budget for 2007/8 contained provision for a grant of £30 to the Centre.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £30 be made to the South & Vale Carers Centre in the financial year 2007/8.

5.23 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was noted that there had been no meeting of the Playing Fields Committee since the last meeting of the Council.

5.24 TRAFFIC CALMING SUB-COMMITTEE

Members noted that the vehicle activated speed indication sign had been erected in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, and was operational.

5.25 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to questions, the Chairman

- a asked the Clerk to report on the current intentions of Reading Borough Council regarding the Reading inner distribution road;
- b advised that he would instruct the Clerk to draw the attention of the planning authority to the advertisement boards erected opposite the junction of the A4074 road and Deadman's Lane, Whitewood Heath.