

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 21 November 2007 at 8.00 pm and concluded at 10.15pm.

Present: R S Young (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), R C Gutteridge, Mrs S Hall, Dr J D M McNie, Prof T R Morris, Mrs M S Rowland, Mrs C Toms.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J A Appleton, A K Martin, R G McQuillan.

6.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2007 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

6.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- was seeking tenders for food waste disposal, with effect from 2009;
- was a top-ranked authority for traffic and transport planning;
- had made £100k available for servicemen and their families, based in the County.

Mrs Viney referred to the study by Reading Borough Council, financed from the Government's Transport Innovation Fund (TIF), to examine ways to mitigate congestion on roads. Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had circulated, on the instruction of the Chairman of the Council, notes of a meeting of the TIF local authority liaison group held on 2 October 2007, and a briefing note on the scheme drafted by County Council officers. Mrs Viney announced that her Council believed that it was being harried into consultation by the Borough Council, and had decided, therefore, not submit any views to the Borough Council's consultants.

Mrs C Toms pointed out to Mrs Viney that, although, from documents published by her Council, deaths on roads were higher in rural areas, and in South Oxfordshire, no expenditure was planned on roads in the area, with a view to improving their safety. Members observed that lower speed limits, and adequate enforcement of those limits, might serve to reduce fatalities.

Members also requested Mrs Viney to explore the possibility of pupils, resident in Reading, travelling to Kidmore End School on the bus provided by the County Council.

6.03 GLASS RECYCLING FACILITIES

(cf 5.03/07) The Clerk reported on a telephone conversation with an officer of the District Council concerning the provision of a glass recycling facility at the Reformation public house, Gallowstree Common. It seemed that the District Council was unlikely to arrange for a bottle bank at the public house, because there were concerns that the licensee might "misuse" the facility and deposit bottles from the public house in the bottle bank.

Members were surprised by this stance. They commented that the public house was central to Gallowstree Common, and had all the other prerequisites for a bottle bank site, eg hard standing and ease of access for the lifting/emptying vehicles. The Members felt that the only other sites might be at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground or the allotments. The Recreation Ground would be less convenient for residents, and the hard standing available was limited. There was no hard standing at the allotments.

Members took the view that the District Council's stated "objections" were somewhat curious, given that it was encouraging the recycling of waste, and assumed that this applied to both residents and commercial enterprises.

RESOLVED: That enquiries be made of Mr R A H Peasgood, district councillor, as whether the quoted stance represented the policy of his Council, and, if so, to urge him to seek a review of that policy

6.04 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 5.05/07) During the Open Session, Ms S Biggs of Kidmore End welcomed the installation of a salt bin near the bus stop opposite the well at Kidmore End.

6.05 CODE OF CONDUCT

(cf 5.06/07) Mrs M S Rowland reported on a paper from the Standards Board for England, relating to town and parish councils. In response to her question, the Clerk confirmed that the Council had adopted paragraph 12(2) of the Model Code of Conduct.

6.06 MAP OF FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS

(cf 5.07/07) It was noted that the laminated map of the rights of way in the Parish had been erected at the New Inn, Kidmore End.

6.07 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

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

(cf 5.08(i)/07) Mrs C Toms circulated a report (07/8-5) on the County Council's Casualty Report 2006 and Road Safety Strategy & Plan 2007/8.

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

(cf 5.08(ii)/07) In letters, Oxfordshire Highways acknowledged the Council's enquiries about hedges, both at Cane End and generally across the Parish, which matters were being investigated.

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

(cf 5.08(iii)/07) The Committee Chair of Kidmore End Pre-School enclosed, with a letter, a circular letter she had sent to residents of Craysleaze, Kidmore End seeking to assure them that the Pre-School endeavoured to keep nuisance caused by parking in connection with the Pre-School to a minimum. She asked the residents to report any instances of inconsiderate parking, so that the Pre-School might take appropriate action.

(iv) Vehicle Activated Speed Indicator

(cf 5.24/07) Members reported their observation, that the vehicle activated speed indicator sign, in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, did not always work during the hours of darkness.

6.08 REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION

(cf 5.09/07) A Trustee of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council explained, by letter, the methods to be used by the County Council for its review of primary school provision.

6.09 TOKERS GREEN POND

(cf 5.10/07) 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.

The Chairman reported that he had inspected the pond, and had observed 6 dead elm trees, which he considered should be felled. He had also noted that various shrubs required pruning or thinning out, which work, he suggested, could well be carried out by local volunteers. He suggested, however, that contractors, hired by the Council, should undertake more major works.

RESOLVED: 1 That Mr D G Saunders and other local residents be thanked for their voluntary work at Tokers Green pond.

2 That volunteers be requested to undertake routine tasks like pruning back the shrubs, and thinning out, at the pond, as necessary.

3 That contractors be appointed to fell and remove the dead elms during the winter months, and to remove silt from pond, as and when required.

4 That Mr Saunders be so advised.

6.10 FELIX LODGE, WOOD LANE, KIDMORE END

(cf 5.14(iii)/07) During the Open Session, Mrs S Biggs of Kidmore End requested the Council to write to the Henley & District Housing Trust Ltd deprecating the Company's treatment of its tenant at Felix Lodge, Wood Lane, Kidmore End. Members were advised that such action would be beyond the Council's statutory powers.

6.11 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £18,349.83

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

South & Vale Carers Centre – Grant	£30.00
Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments	£47.09
Ian Kendrick Ltd – Mowing	£1304.25
Royal British Legion – Wreath	£40.00

(iii) Precept, 2008/9

In a letter, the District Council's Director of Finance, requested, by 11 January 2008, information as to the Council's precept for the financial year 2008/9.

RESOLVED: That the Responsible Financial Officer submit draft estimates for the financial year 2008/9 to the next meeting.

6.12 CLERK'S SALARY

The Clerk advised that, as a result of recently concluded national negotiations, his salary had increased to £2,444 per annum with effect from 1 April 2007.

6.13 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally

rear 2 storey and side single storey extensions at Chauste, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;
proposed detached garage at Rokeby, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
demolition of utility and part 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;
construction of conservatory to rear of Hearn's Farm, Hearn's Lane, Gallowstree Common;

that the following applications had been refused

one bed house adjoining 10 Craylseaze, Kidmore End;
2 storey side extension and single storey rear extension and garage at 10 Craylseaze, Kidmore End;
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;

and that the application for proposed replacement dwelling at Beechwood, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green had been withdrawn.

The Council noted a letter from Ms A Russell of Kidmore End with which she enclosed copies of e-mails sent to the District Council expressing objections to the planning applications for 10 Craylseaze, Kidmore End and Felix Lodge, Wood 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:

construction of conservatory to rear of Hearn's Farm, Hearn's Lane, Gallowstree Common;
demolition of existing bungalow and double garage and construction of replacement dwelling and double garage with associated access and parking at Hillside, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
lawful development certificate for proposed garden room at Collegewood Farm, Cane End.

The Council noted a copy of an e-mail from Ms C Ashley to the District Council expressing her objections to the application relating to Hillside, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common

(iii) Applications

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

During the Open Session, Mrs C Nolson of Kidmore End expressed opposition to the application mentioned below.

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made on the application for demolition of detached garage to rear and construction of single storey rear extension at Oak House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End for Mr & Mrs G Martin "Refuse – unneighbourly to Bramley, loss of light".

(iv) A4074 road, Deadmans Lane, Cane End – Advertisements

(cf 5.25/07) By letter, the Head of Planning of the District Council advised that the advertisements opposite the junction of the A4074 road with Deadmans Lane, north of Cane End, would be investigated, to ascertain whether there was any breach of planning control.

6.14 AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS

With a letter, Mr J Swift of Orchard Hill, Chalkhouse Green enclosed copies of e-mail correspondence with the British Airports Authority concerning aircraft movements above southern South Oxfordshire, and enquiring of the Council whether aircraft noise was an issue in the Parish.

Members commented that they had not detected any increase in commercial aircraft flights over the Parish in recent months. They observed that, in their experience, some aircraft bound for Heathrow had, for at least the past 20 years, turned above the southern South Oxfordshire area, on making their final approach to Heathrow, when the wind is in the east. Members wondered, therefore, whether Mr Swift's perception of additional aircraft movements resulted in more easterly winds of late.

RESOLVED: That Mr J Swift be so advised.

6.15 PARTNERSHIP PUBLICATIONS

The Corporate Projects Officer of the District Council enclosed, with a letter, copies of 2 partnership publications – “South Oxfordshire's Councillors' Information Booklet” from the Didcot, Henley and Thame Citizens' Advice Bureaux, and “Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour: a guide for town and parish councils” from the South Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership. The Clerk circulated copies to Members present.

6.16 CHANGES TO POST OFFICE NETWORK

With a letter, the Village Shops Development Worker of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council enclosed a briefing note about changes to the post office network in rural Oxfordshire, in the light of Government plans to close up to 2,500 post offices across the United Kingdom. The note suggested that some 35 to 40 post offices might close in Oxfordshire as a result. The accessibility criteria for post offices, in connection with the review, were that 95% of urban population had a post office within 1 mile travel distance, and 95% of rural population a post office within 3 miles travel distance.

Members observed that there had not been any post offices in the Parish for many years.

6.17 HENLEY & DISTRICT CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

With a letter, the Manager of the Henley & District Citizens' Advice Bureau enclosed a copy of the Bureau's annual report for 2006-7 and requested the Council to consider making a grant to the Bureau. The Council noted that the budget for 2007/8 contained provision of £85 for such a grant.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £85 be made to the Henley & District Citizens' Advice Bureau in the financial year 2007/8.

6.18 REBUILDING BIODIVERSITY

In a letter, the Community Development Officer, Oxfordshire Nature Conservancy Forum outlined the support available from her organisation for parish councils in connection with their powers under the Natural England and Rural Communities Act 2006, to conserve local wildlife.

6.19 WEBSITE

The Clerk reported an exchange of e-mails between the webmaster and the Chairman of the Council about the content and development of the website. The webmaster suggested further information which could be held on the website, for example maps of footpaths. He observed that some of the "news" was rather dated, and hoped that Members and others might provide more topical items for the website.

Members acknowledged the points made by the webmaster.

6.20 UPPER THAMES ROWING CLUB

A member of the Fund Raising Committee of the Upper Thames Rowing Club enclosed, with a letter, a copy of a brochure produced by the Club in connection with its appeal for funding (£1m) for a new clubhouse at Remenham, near Henley.

6.21 HOUSING ALLOCATION POLICY

The District Council's Acting Head of Housing enclosed, with a letter, a copy of her Council's revised Housing Allocations Policy, in order to accommodate a choice based lettings scheme in April 2008. Comments were requested by 21 December 2007.

6.22 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had met on 14 November 2007, when the major subject of discussion had been the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. The Committee had also identified works to be undertaken to hedges and fences at the Recreation Ground.

The Clerk circulated a report (07/08-6) about a proposed approach to progressing the project to replace the Pavilion. Some Members offered to serve on the working groups proposed in the report.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report about progressing the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground be deferred to the next meeting.

6.23 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to a question, the Chairman indicated that he would instruct the Clerk to alert the District Council to the poor condition of the road in Coopers Pightle and the footway from Tokers Green Lane to the Kidmore End cemetery.