

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 12 December 2007 at 8.05 pm and concluded at 9.45pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), R S Young (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S Hall, Prof T R Morris, Mrs M S Rowland.

Also present: R A H Peasgood (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J A Appleton, Dr J D M McNie, R G McQuillan, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, PCSO K Brooks (Thames Valley Police), Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

7.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2007 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correction of the figure in Minute 6.12 to £2,444.

7.02 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr R A H Peasgood, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, reported on his Council's consultation exercise in respect of the core strategy for its Local Development Framework.

7.03 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) A4074 road, Cane End

The Vice-Chairman reported on a meeting he had attended, as Manager of Vines Farm, with officers of the County Council, concerning possible safety measures on the A4074 road, from Cane End to Green Dene Bottom. He advised that Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, had been unable to attend the meeting.

Members were disappointed with the tenor of the Vice-Chairman's report. While it seemed that officers of the County Council had considered a number of measures to improve the safety of the road, few were likely to go forward, because it seemed that there were insufficient funds and no unanimity as to what schemes should proceed or would succeed..

Member expressed disquiet about the apparent lack of progress with measures to ameliorate the accident record of the A4074 road. They proposed that Mrs Viney be urged to press for the County Council to make adequate funds available in the 2008/9 financial year to secure the implementation of measures which would help reduce the number of accidents.

RESOLVED: That Mrs C Y Viney be advised of the Council's disquiet about the lack of progress with measures to ameliorate the accident record of the A4074road and that she be urged to press for adequate budgetary provision in 2008/9 to enable implementation of such measures.

(ii) Vehicle Activated Speed Indicator

(cf 6.07(iv)/07) The Chairman reported that, by his observation, the vehicle activated speed indicator in Horsepoond Road, Gallowstree Common had not operated correctly at 9.10 am on 12 December 2007.

7.04 TOKERS GREEN POND

(cf 6.09/07) The Council received a quotation from Acorn Services in the sum of £130 for the felling and removal of the dead elm trees at Tokers Green pond.

RESOLVED: That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 11.1(h), the contract for the felling and removal of the dead elm trees at Tokers Green pond be let to Acorn Services.

7.05 CHANGES TO POST OFFICE NETWORK

(cf 6.16/07) By letter, the Regional Chair of Postwatch advised that the 6 week consultation period on post office closures in West Berkshire and Wiltshire commenced on 11 December 2007. The Clerk advised that Post Office Ltd proposed to close one of the 4 post offices in Caversham, that at Hemdean Road. Members felt that few, if any, residents of the Parish would be affected by the closure of that branch.

7.06 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON – PAVILION

(cf 6.22/07) The Council discussed the report about a proposed approach to progressing the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, consideration of which had been deferred at the last meeting. The Vice-Chairman reported expressions of interest in serving on the proposed working groups, and some Members present volunteered so to serve.

RESOLVED: 1 That 2 working groups – one to plan and execute the project and the other to secure funding – be established in respect of the replacement of the Pavilion.

2 That the following be appointed to serve on the working groups:

- A Project Group – Mr R G McQuillan, Mr A K Martin, Mr R S Young
- B Fund-Raising Group – Mr F R E Curzon, Prof T R Morris, Mrs J E O’Sullivan, Mr R A H Peasgood, Mrs M S Rowland, Mr J D Sheldon.

3 That the working groups be requested to report to the Council regularly as to progress.

7.07 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £17,055.67.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Henley & District Citizens’ Advice Bureau – Grant	£85.00
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£42.86
South Oxfordshire District Councils – Cost of uncontested election	£65.50
R F Penfold – Clerk’s salary (including arrears)	£640.26

7.08 ESTIMATES, 2008/9

(cf 6.11(iii)/07) The Council considered a report (07/08 - 7) of the Clerk, being draft estimates for the financial year 2009.

RESOLVED: 1 That the base estimates for 2007/08 be adopted, subject to amendments increasing the following to the figures shown:

Grant to Playing Fields Committee	£840
Grant to Parochial Church Council	£630

Grant to Parish Room Committee	£105
Grant to Mapledurham Parish Council	£105
Grant to Henley & District CAB	£90
Grant to South & Vale Carers Centre	£35
Grant to Oxfordshire Association for the Blind	£35
Grant to FISH Volunteer Centre	£55

2 That budgetary provision be made for the following project:

Replacement of Pavilion (future phases)	£3475
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3 That a precept be issued for the sum of £13,500 in 2008/09.

4 That the base estimates and additional provision in resolution 2 above be confirmed as the Council's budget for 2008/9 for the purposes of Financial Regulation 3.2.

5 That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 3.5, budgetary provision for specific projects not spent as at 31 March 2008 be "rolled forward" into the budget for 2008/09.

7.9 ACCOUNTS, 2007/8

(cf 4.09/07) The Chairman reported receipt of a letter from BDO Stoy Hayward LLP, the external auditors, giving the Council an ultimatum about the appointment of an internal auditor by 14 December 2007. The Chairman advised that he believed that he had found a local person prepared to act as internal auditor.

7.10 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the application for retention of field shelter adjoining Park Lane and field shelter adjoining woodland on land adjoining Park Lane, Cane End had been permitted conditionally.

(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:

conservatory to replace existing rear extension at 6 Gaskells End, Tokers Green;
erection of roof extension to facilitate first floor accommodation, 2 storey side extension and single storey rear extension, front entrance porch and new pitched roof to existing garage at Wingfield, Reades Lane, Gallowstree Common;
2-storey side and rear extensions and construction of garage attic at 2 Woodside Lane, Gallowstree Common;
erection of single storey rear extension at Collegewood Barn, Cane End;
new softwood gazebo to provide smoking shelter at the Reformation PH, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

(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 erection of replacement rear conservatory and bay and oriel window to existing rear extension at Rowan Trees, Beech Road, Tokers Green for Prof & Mrs T Morris.

(Prof T R Morris disclosed a personal interest, under Article 7 of the Code of Conduct, in respect of, and withdrew from the meeting, under Article 10 of the Code, during discussion of the above matter.)

(iv) District Council's Planning Committee

The Chairman advised that an invitation, to make representations at the meeting of the District Council's Planning Committee on 12 December 2007, about the application for erection of 2 stables at Field View Barn, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green, had been declined.

(v) District Council's procedures

By letter, the District Council's Head of Legal & Democratic Services indicated that her Council was consulting on a change to its procedures regarding the automatic referral of planning applications to the Planning Committee. The District Council proposed that, in future, only major and minor applications would be referred automatically where a parish council raised an objection, but officers recommended approval. District councillors would still be able to "call in" applications, for consideration by the Committee.

RESOLVED; That no objections be raised to the above proposed change to the procedures of the District Council.

(vi) South Oxfordshire Local Development Framework

The Head of Planning of the District Council, with a letter, enclosed the cores strategy – issues and options document, one of the first stages in the preparation of the Local Development Framework. The document set out options for the location of development within the District and the issues and problems to be addressed. The District Council sought views on the issues and indications of preferred options, by 1 February 2008.

The Clerk circulated copies of a questionnaire from the District Council to those Members present.

RESOLVED: That the Plans Sub-Committee propose a response to the District Council's Core Strategy – Issues and Options document for adoption at the next meeting.

7.11 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Clerk circulated County Circular 2/2007 from the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils.

RESOLVED: That consideration of County Circular 2/2007 from the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils be deferred to the next meeting.

7.12 EXTERNAL TRANSPORT POSTS

In a letter, the Director of Environment & Economy of the County Council advised that his Council had agreed to pay 50% of the costs of the external transport posts (Rural Community Transport Advisor, Oxfordshire Transport Co-Ordinator and Rural Transport Partnership Officer), subject to the district councils in the County collectively meeting the remaining 50% of the total costs.

7.13 PAINTINGS IN PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

The Catalogue Co-Ordinator of the Public Catalogue Foundation enquired, by letter, in connection with National Inventory of Oil and Acrylic Paintings in Public Ownership, whether the Council owned any oil or acrylic paintings. Members had no knowledge of any such paintings in the Parish in public ownership.

7.14 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

In an e-mail, Mr & Mrs J Ducker of Gallowstree Common expressed strong support for the idea, mentioned in the Parish Newsletter, that infilling behind existing properties being employed to provide social housing.

7.15 HOUSE NAMING

By letter, the District Council's Head of Business & Information Systems advised that the property known as White Lodge, Dysons Wood had been renamed Cuckoos.

7.16 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

The Head of Legal & Democratic Service of the District Council enclosed, with a letter, a copy of a report arising from her Council's review of polling districts and places. No changes were proposed to arrangement for the Parish.

7.17 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was noted that the Playing Fields Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council.

7.18 MOWING CONTRACT

Consideration was given to the invitation of tenders for the general mowing contract.

RESOLVED: That tenders be invited from Burley Contractors, Green & Tidy and Ian Kendrick Ltd, to undertake the general mowing in the 2008, 2009 and 2010 seasons, on the basis of 7 cuts per season.

7.19 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to a question, the Chairman advised that Mrs J A Appleton had indicated her intention to resign from the Council.