

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 23 January 2008 at 8.00 pm and concluded at 9.45pm.

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from A K Martin, Mrs C Toms.

8.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2007 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the deletion of the numeral "9" in the resolution to Minute 7.03(i).

8.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- expected to set a budget entailing a Council Tax rise of 3.875%, which was lower than in recent years, despite a reduction in Government grants;
- was involved in a streamlining of services offering housing advice;
- had mounted a campaign about the use of smoke alarms;
- was keen to ensure that the local development frameworks of district councils in the County took account of the impact on County Council provided services.

8.03 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

The Clerk reported statistics, produced by one of the volunteers at Sonning Common Police Station, relating to recorded crimes in the Parish. In the period 1 October to 31 December 2007, 14 crimes had been recorded – 1 burglary dwelling, 1 burglary non-dwelling, 1 autocrime, 4 criminal damage, 3 theft and 4 other.

8.04 HIGHWAYS MATTERS - A4074 ROAD, CANE END

(cf 7.03(i)/07) Mrs C A Viney advised that she had no news to report about any measures to improve the road safety record of the A4074 road, but that she was in dialogue with the relevant Cabinet Members of the County Council about the matter.

8.05 TOKERS GREEN POND

(cf 7.04/07) Mr D Saunders of Tokers Green, by e-mail, indicated the pruning work which volunteers were carrying out at the Tokers Green pond. He sought clarification of the insurance cover for volunteers while working at the pond.

Members noted that the Council's insurance policy covered the councillors and the Council's employees, in terms of employers' liability and personal accidents. Members felt that the Council could consider volunteers acting on its behalf, and working on its property, as employees. However, it was felt that the Council would need to be able to demonstrate that it was "employing" the volunteers in question.

RESOLVED: That Mr D Saunders be requested to supply the names and addresses of the persons working as volunteers at Tokers Green pond, so that the Council may pass a resolution recognising those persons as "employees" of the Council.

8.06 CHANGES TO POST OFFICE NETWORK

(cf 7.05/07) The Village Shops Development Worker of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council indicated in a letter that the outcome of Post Office Ltd's area review of post offices in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire would be published on 5 February 2008. The Community Council had arranged a meeting on 14 February at Steeple Aston for communities affected by the outcome of the review.

8.07 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON – PAVILION

(cf 7.06/07) It was reported that the Pavilion Fund Raising Group had met on 3 January 2008, when it had elected Mr J D Sheldon as its Chairman. A number of initial tasks had been allocated to members.

8.08 ACCOUNTS, 2007/8

(cf7.09/07) The Clerk reported that, acting under the powers conferred on them by the Council at its meeting on 19 September 2007, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had appointed W A B Grove Ltd, of Emmer Green, as the Council's internal auditor for the year ended 31 March 2007.

8.09 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

(cf 7.10/07) The Council considered County Circular 2/2007 from the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils, a matter deferred at the last meeting, and, in particular, paragraph 2.3, concerning public participation sessions at council meetings.

RESOLVED: That no change be made to the order of business at meetings of the Council, but that, henceforth, as the Council has adopted paragraph 12(2) of the Model Code of Conduct, the public participation sessions shall be incorporated in the minutes of meetings and the identities of those who make comment during the sessions shall be recorded in the minutes.

8.10 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

The Clerk advised that the Chairman of the Council had received the resignation of Mrs J A Appleton earlier in January 2008. The Clerk had given notice of the vacancy caused by the resignation. If no election was called to fill the vacancy, the Council could co-opt a qualified person at the next meeting.

The Clerk reminded the Council of the provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972. He reported that Mr R M Naish had last attended a meeting of the Council on 18 July 2007. Mr Naish had, however, attended a meeting of the Playing Fields Committee, as a representative on the Council, on 12 September 2007.

RESOLVED: That Mrs J A Appleton be thanked for her service to the community, as a Member of the Council, since March 2006.

8.11 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £16,221.05.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Acorn Services – Felling and removal of trees at Tokers Green pond	£130.00
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Ian Kendrick Ltd – Repairs to slide, cutting hedge, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground	£117.50
W A B Grove Ltd – Internal audit fee	£94.00

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 31 December 2007, against the approved budget for 2007/8. The report showed a predicted underspend at year end of £769.

8.12 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally

conservatory to replace existing rear extension at 6 Gaskells End, Tokers Green;
erection of 2 stables at Field View Barn, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
2-storey side and rear extension and conversion of garage attic at 2 Woodside Cottage, Woodside Lane, Gallowstree Common;
erection of single storey rear extension at Collegewood Barn, Cane End;
erection of roof extension to facilitate first floor accommodation, 2 storey side extension a single storey rear extension, front entrance porch and new pitched roof on existing garage at Weston, Reades Lane, Gallowstree Common;
erection of replacement rear conservatory and bay and oriel windows to existing rear extension at Rowan Trees, Beech Road, Tokers Green;
new softwood gazebo to provide smoking shelter at Reformation PH, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;

that a certificate of lawful use or development had been issued in respect of garden room at Collegewood Farm, Cane End, and that the application for 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 had been withdrawn.

(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:

first floor extension over garage to provide one additional bedroom at Westdene, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
raising of roof to form first floor with dormer windows, rear and side extensions and enlargement of garage at Sundown, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
alterations and additions including raising part of existing roof plus new detached garage with room above at Stonecliffe House, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green (and amended plan).

(iii) Applications

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

During the Open Session, Mr G Martin spoke in support of the planning application relating to Oak House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End. The Council noted a copy of a letter to the District Council from Mr & Mrs P Nolson objecting to that application.

RESOLVED: That no strong views be submitted on the applications for

erection of a conservatory in the rear garden at Wood Avens, Reades Lane, Gallowstree Common for Mr & Mrs Stamford;

demolition of detached garage to rear, construction of single storey rear extension at Oak House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End (amended plan) for Mr & Mrs G Martin.

(iv) South Oxfordshire Local Development Framework

(cf 7.10(vi)/07) Further consideration was given to the District Council's core strategy – issues and options document, a matter deferred at the last meeting. It was noted that the Plans Sub-Committee had drafted a response on behalf of the Council to the document, although Members had already submitted individual replies to the District Council.

Members discussed certain aspects of the core strategy and how the Council might respond to the document by the closing date, 1 February 2008.

RESOLVED: That Mrs S Hall draft a response, to be circulated to all Members, and that the Vice-Chairman be authorised to settle the response to the District Council on the basis of comments from Members on the draft.

(v) Reading Borough Council's Local Development Framework

By letter, a Principal Planner of Reading Borough Council advised that her Council was preparing the first stage of its Site Allocations Development Plan Document, as part of its Local Development Framework. She invited the submission of details of sites within the Borough which might be considered as potential candidates for development or re-use.

(vi) Validation of planning applications

The District Council's Head of Planning reported that the Government was changing the way in which planning applications were to be submitted, from 5 April 2008. A new, electronic, application form was to be used from that date. There would be a series of national requirements for information and accompanying documents, and local planning authorities could specify additional local requirements. A checklist of the proposed local requirements was available on his Council's website.

8.13 KIDMORE END CEMETERY

(cf 6.23/07) In a letter, the Head of Environmental Services of the District Council advised that she had arranged for the title deeds of Kidmore End Cemetery to be examined, to ascertain her Council's responsibilities in respect of the maintenance of Coopers Pightle and the footpath from Tokers Green Lane to the Kidmore End Cemetery.

8.14 HOME TO SCHOOL TRAVEL

The Clerk was requested to pass Home 2School Newsletter Spring 2008, published by the County Council, to Mrs C Toms.

8.15 THE DOROTHEA VANDERSTEGEN TRUST

By e-mail to the Chairman, the Rev G F Foulis-Brown referred to the Dorothea Vanderstegen Trust, the only eleemosynary charity relating to the Parish. The trustees were finding it increasingly difficult to find beneficiaries – the charity provided for coal for elderly women, and the sum available for dispersal was limited. The trustees were minded to amalgamate the charity with another: the Rev Foulis-Brown suggested FISH in Sonning Common, which incorporated SCOPE (Sonning Common Old People's Enterprise).

Members, whilst noting that the Council had no locus in the matter, appreciated the difficulties facing the Trustees.

RESOLVED: That no objection be raised to the Trustees of the Dorothea Vanderstegen Trust seeking the consent of the Charity Commission to amalgamate the charity with another with broadly similar objects, like, say, the FISH charity in Sonning Common.

8.16 CONDUCT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS

With a letter, a civil servant in the Department for Communities and Local Government enclosed a copy of a consultation paper seeking views on the detailed arrangements for a revised, more locally based, regime for considering complaints against councillors.

8.17 COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY, 2008-11

The Chair of the South Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership enclosed, with a letter, a copy of the draft community safety strategy and invited comments thereon by 19 February 2008.

8.18 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman reported that the Playing Fields Committee had met on 16 January 2008, when the Committee had noted progress with the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. The Committee was becoming increasingly concerned at the lack of engagement with Kidmore End Football Club in matters relating to the Recreation Ground or the work of the Committee.