

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 23 April 2008 at 8.00 pm and concluded at 9.50pm.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Dr J D M McNie, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mrs C Toms, Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

11.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2008 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

- the insertion of the word "to" in the second line of Minute 10.02(i)
- the correction of the name "Rowland" in resolution1 to Minute 10.16.

11.02 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 January to 31 March 2008, 10 crimes had been recorded – 3 burglary dwelling, 1 burglary non-dwelling, 2 autocrime, 1 theft and 3 other. In total, there had been an 18% reduction in recorded crime in the Parish in 2007/8, compared to 2006/7.

11.03 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Mr M Thompson of Glebe Cottage, Kidmore End referred to the planning appeal lodged by the Henley & District Housing Trust against the decision of the District Council to refuse planning permission for development at Felix Cottage, Wood Lane, Kidmore End, and suggested that the submission by the appellants contained a number of inaccuracies.

11.04 FISH VOLUNTEER CENTRE

(cf 10.01/08) By letter, the Co-Ordinator at the FISH Volunteer Centre, Sonning Common, acknowledged that the organisation had a healthy bank balance, but indicated that this was due to prudence on the part of the Hon Treasurer, and the recognised need to purchase a replacement vehicle in due course: the last vehicle cost £28,500 in 2006. She also pointed out that modest travelling allowances were paid to those volunteers who used their own vehicles to transport users of the services, and postage costs were kept to a minimum through judicious delivery arrangements.

Mrs M S Rowland volunteered to represent the Council at the Annual General Meeting of the Centre on 28 April 2008. .

11.05 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) A4074 road, Cane End

(cf 10.02(i)/08) The Area Traffic Engineer of the County Council enclosed, with a letter, a copy of a notice of temporary traffic order, under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, for closing the A4074 road in the Parish and in Mapledurham, to allow essential carriageway surfacing and tree felling work to take place. The temporary order would operate from 31 May 2008 and be in force for 3 consecutive weekends – Saturdays and Sundays. The signed alternative route between Wallingford and Reading would be by way of the A4130 and B481 roads, ie via Nettlebed and Sonning Common.

(ii) Vehicle activated speed indicator device

(cf 10.02(ii)/08) By letter, the County Council's Area Traffic Engineer agreed that there should have been a firm agreement on the final price for vehicle-activated sign in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, before the sign was ordered. He had, in the circumstances, cancelled the invoice for £5,000 + VAT already raised, and had asked for another to be raised in the sum of £3,000 +VAT. Members greeted the news with pleasure.

(iii) Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green – Traffic calming

(cf 10.02(iii)/08) The Clerk advised that Mrs C Toms had replied to comments by Ms C Embling of Elm Road, Tokers Green, about the speed of vehicles in Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, setting out the Council's attempts to influence the highways authority to take action on a variety of traffic calming measures.

11.06 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 10.04/08) The Clerk advised that he had not heard from the District Council that an election had been called to fill the vacancy caused by Mr R M Naish ceasing to be a Member of the Council. Accordingly, it was in order for the Council to fill the vacancy by means of co-option.

In this connection, the Clerk circulated details of 2 persons who had indicated an interest in serving as parish councillors:

Dr B J Knapp of St Fillans, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End
Mr J A Swift QC of Orchard Hill, Chalkhouse Green.

Neither of the persons had been able to attend the meeting.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the co-option of a person to fill the vacancy for the office of parish councillor vice Mr R M Naish be deferred to the next meeting.

11.07 TOWN AND PARISH FORUM

(cf 10.05/08) Mrs S Hall reported on the report of the District Council's 2007 Town and Parish Council Forum, and on the main subjects discussed at the Forum, viz water resources, parish plans and parish councils working together in clusters.

11.08 CLERK'S TRAVELLING EXPENSES

The Chairman suggested that the Council review the travelling expenses paid to the Clerk, viz 12p per mile. The Clerk suggested that the outcome of any review be introduced no earlier than 1 April 2009.

11.09 AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS

(cf 10.14/08) No Members had raised points relating to the proposed changes to airspace over parts of London southern and eastern England, as set out in the leaflets circulated at the previous meeting.

11.10 NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

(cf 10.16/08) It was suggested that the deployment of the police community support officers at Kidmore End School, to deal with the parking issues, should be encouraged.

RESOLVED: That the above suggestion be passed on to the Thames Valley Police.

11.11 NATIONAL CONCESSIONARY BUS PASS SCHEME

(cf 10.17/08) The Assistant Chief Executive of the District Council advised that 12,500 national concessionary bus passes had been issued to residents of the District by 1 April 2008, but a further 1,000 passes had been delayed. 2,800 residents would be issued with travel tokens.

11.12 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £20,874.38.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Allianz Insurance plc – Premium	£1703.86
NALC – Subscription to “Local Council Review”	£13.50
Kidmore End Parish Room – Hire of accommodation for meetings	£132.00
R F Penfold – Clerk’s expenses 2007/8	£170.69

(iii) Financial Regulations

The Clerk reported that, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 3.5, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had, on 31 March 2008, approved the carry forward of the following budget provision for the financial year 2007/8:

Pavilion maintenance	£500
Clerk’s expenses	£26
Postages	£78
Telephones	£52
Hire of accommodation for meetings	£28
Grant for Churchyard maintenance	£600

RESOLVED: That the action of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be approved and confirmed.

(iv) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 31 March 2008, against the approved budget for 2007/8. The report showed an underspend at year end of £2,105.

11.13 NOTICE OF AUDIT

By letter, BDO Stoy Hayward LLP gave notice that they had appointed 1 August 2008 as the day when local government electors could question the external auditor on the Council’s accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008. The Clerk advised that he intended to submit the annual accounts for 2007/8 to the Council at its next meeting, and the annual return, for completion by the Council, to the meeting in June 2008.

11.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally

single storey front extension, replacement pitched roofs to the dormer windows and alteration to garage front at Treetops, Elm Road, Tokers Green;
erection of two-storey extension and replacement roof to existing conservatory at Common Farm, Gallowstree Common;
conversion of storage space to staff accommodation and insertion of 2 roof lights at Cane End House, Cane End;
rear 2 storey and side single storey extensions at Chauste, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;
2 storey side and single storey rear extension, erection of garage with storage room at 10 Craysleaze, Kidmore End;
erection of 2 storey extension to north elevation and single storey extension to west elevation at Walnut Cottage, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;
raising of roof to form first floor with dormer windows, rear and side extensions and enlargement of garage at Sundown, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
single storey side extension and pitched roof over existing flat roofed areas at Mariners, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
erection of detached replacement dwelling at Kerak, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End

and that the application for erection of replacement garaging/ancillary accommodation at Lavendar Cottage, Reading Road, Cane 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:

erection of first storey front extension at Woodside, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;
proposed replacement dwelling at Beechwoods, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
erection of 2-storey extension to north elevation and single storey extension to west elevation at Walnut Cottage, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End (amended plan);
2 storey extension to rear and side creating new family room, bedroom, bathroom and en-suite at 11 Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green.

(iii) South Oxfordshire Design Guide

(cf 10.11(v)/08) Mr R G McQuillan reported on the District Council's draft revised Design Guide, and the workshop he had attended on that subject. He considered the draft guide well written and comprehensive, with a strong focus on sustainability, although it was possibly rather idealistic. Mr McQuillan advised of the response he had sent to the District Council, on line, on behalf of the Council, broadly along those lines. He commented that, at the workshop, others had expressed disappointment that the draft guide was not available in hard copy.

(iv) Reading Central Area Action Plan

(cf 10.11(vi)/08) Prof T R Morris reported on the Reading Central Area Action Plan. He did not consider that the Plan contained any issues which directly affected the Parish.

(v) Planning appeal

A letter from the Head of Planning of the District Council advised that an appeal had been lodged

against the refusal of the District Council to grant planning permission for one pair of single storey semi-detached houses at Felix Lodge, Wood Lane, Kidmore End. The appeal was to be decided on the basis of an exchange of written statements and a site visit by an inspector.

RESOLVED: That the objections submitted to the District Council in respect of the above planning application be restated to the Planning Inspectorate.

(vi) District Council's procedures

(cf 7.10(v)/08) The District Council's Head of Legal & Democratic Services, with a letter, enclosed a copy of the report to be considered by her Council at its meeting on 17 April 2008 setting out the results of the consultation about discontinuing the automatic referral of major and minor applications to the Planning Committee where a parish council recommended approval against an officers' recommendation for refusal. 19 parish/town councils had supported the proposal and 25 had not.

(vii) Chilterns Conservation Board – Training for parish councillors

The Planning Officer of the Chilterns Conservation Board gave details, with a letter, about planning training sessions for parish councils in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The sessions had been arranged to be held on 3 dates at different venues in the AONB.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman, Mrs S M Biggs and Mrs S Hall be appointed to attend the training session arranged by the Chilterns Conservation Board at Lewknor of 13 June 2008, and that attendance be an approved duty for the purposes of allowances

11.15 EXTERNAL AUDITORS

(cf 9.10/08) The Manager, Audit Policy & Practice at the Audit Commission confirmed the appointment of BDO Stoy Hayward LLP as the Council's external auditors for the financial years 2007/8 to 2011/2.

11.16 MOBILE LIBRARIES

In a letter, the Head of Cultural & Adult Learning Services of the County Council advised that some mobile library timetables were to be adjusted with effect from 2 June 2008. From that date, the mobile library would visit Chalkhouse Green between 1415 and 1430, Kidmore End between 1435 and 1445 and Tokers Green between 1335 and 1400 on Tuesdays, fortnightly.

11.17 REGIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY

The Chairman of the South East England Regional Housing Board enclosed, with a letter, a copy of the South East England Regional Housing Strategy 2008-11. The strategy built on the region's existing strategic priorities, and was a framework for targeting resources.

RESOLVED: That the South East England Regional Housing Strategy 2008-11 be referred to Mrs S Hall for consideration and report.

11.18 CHANGES TO POST OFFICE NETWORK

The Chairman, Community Liaison of the Chiltern Society enclosed, with a letter, a note setting out actions which the Society suggested should be followed to mitigate the effect of possible closure of post offices in Chilterns villages.

11.19 REVIEW OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES

With a letter, the Director for Environment & Economy of the County Council enclosed a bulletin

outlining decisions taken by his Council's Cabinet Member for Transport in respect of subsidised bus services in the Henley, Wallingford and Didcot areas, which decision would take effect from 1 June 2008. In so far as they affected the Parish, there would be a new late evening journey from Reading to Peppard Common on route 137 on Fridays and Saturdays and route X40 would become Oxford/Wallingford to Reading via Woodcote, on a revised timetable.

11.20 PROPERTY NAMING

By letter, the District Council's Head of Public Amenities advised that the property known as Chauste, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green had been renamed Red House.

11.21 INFLUENZA PANDEMIC PLANNING

The Council noted a letter the Director of Social & Community Services of the County Council advising of a workshop about influenza planning to be held at Kidlington on 30 April 2008.

11.22 TOWNLANDS HOSPITAL, HENLEY

The Director of Commissioning of the Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust advised that his Trust was making plans to reprovide services in the community of Henley. To this end, he invited the Council to be represented at a meeting in Henley on 13 May 2008 to discuss public consultation on the proposed services.

RESOLVED: That Mrs S M Biggs be appointed to attend the meeting about reproviding [health] services in the Henley and that attendance be an approved duty for the purposes of allowances.

11.23 COUNTY COUNCIL

The Chairman reported receipt of a letter from the Leader of the County Council about post office closures, changes in planning law, the primary schools' review and school attainments.

11.24 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council. He reported that the repair of the seat at the Kidmore End Play Area (which had been damaged) was in hand and on the work of the group seeking to raise funds for the replacement Pavilion.

11.25 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

The Chairman reported that he and the Clerk had attended a training session about the revised code of conduct for local authority members on 3 April 2008 in Henley.

11.26 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to questions, the Chairman advised that he would ask the Clerk to

- a request the County Council to replace the missing "Tokers Green" sign, in Tokers Green Lane, north of Bardolph's Wood; and
- b remind the District Council about the enquiry regarding responsibility for the maintenance of Coopers Pightle.