

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 17 September 2008 at 8.10 pm and concluded at 10.05 pm.

Present: R S Young (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), 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 Mrs S M Biggs, R C Gutteridge, Mrs S Hall, A K Martin, Mrs M S Rowland, J A Swift.

4.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2008 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to

- the final sentence in the second paragraph of Minute 3.06 being amended to read "The Club was seeking a solution ..."
- the substitution of the word "End" for the word "Ed" in Minute 3.11(i)
- the heading for Minute 3.14 being amended to read "KIDMORE END CEMETERY"
- the heading of Minute 3.18 being amended to read "OXFORDSHIRE BUSINESS ENTERPRISES"
- the substitution of the word "some" for the word "son=me" in Minute 3.26.

4.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, reported that officers of her Council had briefed her and fellow south Oxfordshire county councillors about the Reading bid for funding from the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF). She commented that the bid could embrace a range of possible projects - park and ride, road charging, a third Thames crossing – and mentioned some of the possible implications for Oxfordshire of these. She asked that the Council let her have any views on the possibilities.

Mrs Viney reported on her discussions with the Cabinet Member for School Improvement about transport to Kidmore End School (see Minute 4.13) and the activities of the Police Neighbourhood Action Group.

Members expressed their disappointment at the limited work undertaken on the A4074 road through Greendene Wood, whilst the road was closed for 2 weekends, with, for instance, little evidence of tree removal. Mrs Viney undertook to pursue these concerns with officers of her Council.

RESOLVED: That consideration of comments on a bid by Reading Borough Council for funding from the Transport Innovation Fund be deferred to the next meeting.

4.03 KIDMORE END CEMETERY

(cf 3.14/08) It was reported that Members of the Council had cleared the path from Tokers Green Lane to the Kidmore End cemetery. Members observed that some potholes in Coopers Pightle had been filled with tarmac.

4.04 OXFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS ANNUAL REPORT

(cf 3.15/08) It was noted that Mrs C Toms, to whom the Council had referred the first Annual Report of Oxfordshire Highways, had resigned from membership of the Council.

4.05 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

(cf 3.16/08) At his request, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report of Mr R G McQuillan on “Oxfordshire 2030” and “Our Place, Our Future” be deferred to the next meeting.

4.06 FOOTPATHS 8 & 10

(cf 3.26/08) In a letter, an Assistant Field Officer of the County Council’s Countryside Service advised that she would investigate the condition of footpaths 8 and 10 as soon as practicable.

4.07 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £17,010.03.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee – Transfer of Pavilion Fund	£3006.00
Oxfordshire Association for the Blind – Grant	£35.00
A K Martin – Travelling expenses	£15.60
Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments	£45.78
R F Penfold – Clerk’s salary	£611.00

4.08 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally:

erection of single storey rear extensions to dwelling at Sunnyside, Horsepond Road, Cane End;
proposed new balcony at Collegewood Farmhouse, Cane End;
demolition of garage and roof of dwelling, erection of first floor to form 2-storey dwelling, and single storey extension at Orchard Lea, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
repositioning garage from existing position closer to dwelling at Oldfield, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
2 storey side and rear extension at The Corner House, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;
erection of 3 bay garage building at 1 Woodside Cottages, Woodside Lane, Gallows tree Common;

and that the following applications had been withdrawn:

replacement of existing detached dwelling at Leewood, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
first floor extension over garage to create additional bedroom at 23 Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green.

(ii) Action of Plans Sub-Committee

The Council noted a copy of a letter from Mr & Mrs J Lawrie of Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End to the District Council objecting to the planning application for an all weather playground at Kidmore

End School.

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:

repositioning of garage closer to dwelling at Oldfield, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
2 storey side extension at The Corner House, Russell Road, Tokers Green;
alterations to Inisfree, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End (amended plan);
First floor extension over garage to create additional bedroom at 23 Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
erection of 3 bay garage building at 1 Woodside Cottages, Woodside Lane, Gallowstree Common;
single storey side extension to existing house at Drayton Cottage, Chalkhouse Green Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
construction of new all weather playground with 3m high fence at Kidmore End CE (Aided) Primary School, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;
demolition of garage and roof of dwelling, erection of first floor to form 2 storey dwelling and single storey side extension at Orchard Lea, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
2 storey side and rear extension, enlargement of existing conservatory and conversion of garage attic at 2 Woodside Cottage, Woodside Lane, Gallowstree Common;
demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with single storey dining room extension. rear single storey bedroom extension, removal of velux roof windows from front elevation and replacement with 3 dormer windows at Sunnyside, Horsepond Road, Cane End.

(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 proposed change of use from agricultural to golf club practice ground with new gated vehicular and pedestrian access on land adjacent to Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green for Reading Golf Club.

(iv) Open Space Sport and Recreation Study

(cf 3.11(iv)/08) The Chairman reported on the District Council's Open Space Sport and Recreation Study, which, in his view, had not contained anything of major concern

(v) South East Plan

(cf 3.11(v)/08) The Head of Housing & Planning at the Government Office for the South East enclosed, with a letter, a copy of the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East (the South East Plan), and supporting documents. The Secretary of State was proposing the changes to the draft plan, prepared by the South East England Regional Assembly, in the light of report by the Independent Panel of Planning Inspectors and the Examination in Public. The proposed changes were open for consultation until 24 October 2008.

In another letter, the Chairman of the Regional Planning Committee of the South East England Regional Assembly advised that the Assembly was consulting on a partial review of the South East Plan in respect of places to live for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople. The main issues for comment were the proposed number of new spaces and the number to be provided in each council area. Responses were sought by 21 November 2008.

In view of her absence, it was

RESOLVED: 1 That consideration of the report by Mrs M S Rowland on the consultation papers on the review of sub-regional allocation of primary land-won aggregates in the South East be deferred to the next meeting.

2 That the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East be referred to Prof T R Morris for consideration and report.

(vi) 11 Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green – Summerhouse

By letter, the Planning Manager (Eastern Area) of the District Council indicated his understanding that the summerhouse at 11 Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green was permitted development under the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995.

(vii) Tanners Cottage, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green – Works

(cf 2.08(iv)/08) The District Council's Head of Planning and Building Control, in a letter, advised that he would arrange for the works at Tanners Cottage, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green to be investigated, and would respond thereafter.

(viii) South Oxfordshire Design Guide

(cf 10.11(v)/08) With a letter, the District Council's Head of Planning Services enclosed a copy of his Council's Design Guide, which had been adopted on 10 July 2008.

(ix) Berkshire Joint Minerals & Waste Core Strategy

A Senior Planner in the Berkshire Joint Strategic Planning Unit advised, in a letter, that the Berkshire authorities had published their joint minerals and waste core strategy, which was open for comments until 27 October 2008.

(x) County Council planning applications

By letter, the Planning Support Officer of the County Council advised that her Council intended, in future, only to consult by electronic means on the planning applications it would determine.

4.9 DISTRICT COUNCIL MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

In a letter, the Leader of the District Council announced that her Council, and the Vale of the White Horse District Council had decided to merge their management teams. The rationale was to make savings in expenditure, which they estimated would be around £750,000 per annum, although there would be some short term severance costs. The Clerk advised that the 2 Councils had already appointed a joint Chief Executive – Mr D J Buckle, who had held the South Oxfordshire post. The full integration of the management teams was expected to be achieved in March 2009.

4.10 TOWN & VILLAGE GREENS AND COMMONS

Benhams, Solicitors, by letter drew attention to their services and expertise in legal issues involving town and village greens and commons.

4.11 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted updates for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in August and September 2008.

4.12 A4074 ROAD – ENFORCEMENT OF SPEED LIMITS

(cf 2.19/08) The County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport advised, by letter, that his Council was carrying out a comprehensive review of speed limits on the County's A and B road network, using the Department for Transport's advice on the setting of local speed limits. It was hoped to circulate

the preliminary assessments in the autumn of 2008. The Cabinet Member indicated that he would not be surprised that the assessment suggested at 40mph speed limit on the A4074 road through Cane End. If that was recommended, the necessary order and consultations would be put on train, with a view to implementation in 2009/10.

In the meantime, the Cabinet Member intended to raise with the Thames Valley Safer Roads Partnership (who managed speed camera enforcement) the possibility of achieving better compliance with existing speed limits.

4.13 KIDMORE END SCHOOL – TRANSPORT

(cf 2.13/08) In a letter, the Cabinet Member for School Improvement of the County Council addressed the Council's suggestion that pupils resident in the Borough of Reading might be permitted to use the transport provided by Council for those attending Kidmore End School. He pointed out that his Council would not wish to incur any additional inappropriate financial liability for the County. That said, it was intended to survey parents at the start of the new academic year to establish how many would regularly take up a place on a bus, and pay the full cost.

In another letter, the Head of Young People and Access to Education advised that there were spaces available on the transport provided to the school. She advised that Caversham residents could access this transport, provided that they were prepared to pay the concessionary rate, presently £370 per annum.

RESOLVED: That copies of the letters from the County Council be passed to the Headteacher of Kidmore End School.

4.14 MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

In a letter dated 25 August 2008, Mrs C Toms had resigned as a Member of the Council.

The Clerk advised that he had given notice of the vacancy for the office of parish councillor, caused by the resignation of Mrs Toms. If no election was called to fill the vacancy, the Council could co-opt a qualified person at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That Mrs C Toms be thanked for her service to the community as a Member of the Council since April 2004.

4.15 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND – PAVILION

(cf 1.19/08) In an e-mail, Mr D Thornton of Tokers Green offered comments on the design and funding of the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. Prof T R Morris offered to arrange a meeting between Mr Thornton and the Vice-Chairman of the Council, to facilitate discussion of Mr Thornton's observations.

Later in the meeting, the Chairman reported that local fundraising for the project was underway, and that the Project Group had been established.

4.16 WEBSITE

In his e-mail mentioned in Minute 4.14, Mr Thornton suggested that the Council's website should be publicised more, and offered suggestions as to how that might be done. It was reported that the Chairman of the Council, Mr R C Gutteridge and the webmaster were to meet, to discuss how the website could be enhanced.

4.17 HOME TO SCHOOL TRAVEL

The Council noted Home 2 School Newsletter, Autumn 2008, published by the County Council.

4.18 TOWNLANDS HOSPITAL, HENLEY

(cf 1.08/08) The Director of Commissioning of the Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) had issued an invitation to the Council to be represented at a meeting on 3 September 2008, to discuss the redevelopment of the Townlands Hospital, Henley. The Chairman of the Council had appointed Mrs S M Biggs and Mrs J E O'Sullivan to attend.

Mrs O'Sullivan reported on the meeting. The intention was to reprovide all existing services on the Townlands site. Leaflets, inviting comments on this, were being circulated and a drop-in session had been arranged in Henley on 27 September, to enable local people to see some of the ideas being formulated. Mrs O'Sullivan advised that the PCT were committed financially to proceed with the project, although no start was expected before the financial year 2010/11.

4.19 SOLDIERS OF OXFORDSHIRE

The Council noted a letter from the Chairman of the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Trust about the charity's project to find a permanent home for the county's military heritage.

4.20 STANDARDS COMMITTEE

With a letter, a Democratic Services Officer of the District Council enclosed a reminder for councillors to review their register of interests, a note about declaring interests at meetings and a notice about the changes to the process for considering complaints against councillors.

4.21 ROAD SAFETY

The Clerk circulated copies of the County Council publication "Your Guide to Road Safety in Oxfordshire" to Members present.

4.22 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had met on 10 September 2008, when there had been discussion about the replacement of the Pavilion and about the refurbishment of the children's play equipment at Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and the Kidmore End Play Area.

4.23 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

It was reported that some of the paths in New Copse, Gallowstree Common needed clearing, near the entrance from The Hamlet.

4.24 ALLOTMENTS, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

In presenting her apologies for absence, Mrs M S Rowland, the Allotments Manager, had forwarded a request from Mr G Stark of Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common for permission to site a shed on the allotment of which he was tenant, at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

Members appreciated that the Council did not own the allotments, but recognised that it had managed the facility for very many years, certainly since 1973. Given the practice at other allotments – those provided by Sonning Common Parish Council further east in Horsepond Road were cited as an example – Members felt that the Council should agree to the siting of sheds, although there was concern that any proliferation of sheds should not lead to the allotments becoming visually untidy.

RESOLVED: That there be no objection to the siting of sheds, by allotment holders, on the allotments at Gallowstree Common, in the following circumstances:

- sheds should be limited to one per allotment holder and one per full allotment;
- sheds shall not exceed 2m x 1.5m in floor area;
- sheds must be sited within the allotment of the holder;
- sheds shall be stained such colour as the Allotments Manager approves;
- a shed which, in the opinion of the Allotments Manager, is not adequately maintained shall be removed from the allotments;
- when a tenancy ends, the allotment holder shall remove any shed sited on the allotment concerned.