

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 22 October 2008 at 8.00 pm and concluded at 10.15 pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), Mrs S M Biggs, R C Gutteridge, Mrs S Hall, R G McQuillan, Prof T R Morris, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mrs M S Rowland, J A Swift.

Also present: Mrs J E Bowen (Member, Henley Rural [Police] Neighbourhood Action Group), Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Dr J D M McNie, R S Young, R A H Peasgood (district councillor).

5.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2008 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- her Council had assets of £6m "frozen" in Icelandic banks: this would, however, not have any impact on front line services, either immediately or over the next 2 years;
- her Council was on target to achieve savings of £28m from the re-organisation of its management structure;
- funding was available for the promotion of "plastic bag free towns";
- prospective members were being sought for the national youth parliament;
- her Council was seeking to transform Oxford City centre, by widening pavements etc;
- officers and Member of her Council had met their counterparts from Reading Borough Council to discuss the Greater Reading Transport Innovation Fund bid;
- she was seeking to arrange a meeting for the 3 parish councils of Eye & Dunsden, Kidmore End and Mapledurham with officers and Members of her Council about the Reading transport issues.

5.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

The Clerk circulated a report sent by Mr R A H Peasgood, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, in submitting his apologies for absence. The report covered adopting BT telephone kiosks, use of CCTV in securing arrests for crimes, and the change to his Council's out-of-hours service provision.

5.04 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 July to 30 September 2008, 15 crimes had been recorded – 1 burglary dwelling, 3 burglary non-dwelling, 1 autocrime, 8 criminal damage, 1 theft and 1 other.

Mrs J E Bowen reported on the work of the Henley Rural Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG), of which she was a member, representing parish councils. Leaflets about the work of the NAG were to have been distributed, but that did not appear to have happened in the Parish. The NAG had started work in May 2008, with a pattern of activity tailored to local perceptions of problems, for example anti-social behaviour in Sonning Common, graffiti in Goring and Woodcote: some successes had been achieved.

Members were sceptical that the NAG format would necessarily be successful in a mainly rural area.

5.5 GREATER READING TRANSPORT INNOVATION FUND BID

(cf 4.02/08) The Clerk had previously circulated copies of the executive summary of the report of Reading Borough Council's Independent Transport Commission and the decisions of that Council in response to the report.

Members gave consideration to a local reaction to the measures outlined in the report, with particular reference to park and ride sites north of Reading, the desire of Reading and other Berkshire Councils for a third bridge over the River Thames in the vicinity of Reading and the possible schemes to be supported by a Greater Reading Transport Innovation Fund bid. Member felt unable to comment without further detail of what might be included in such a bid.

Mrs C Y Viney reminded Members that she hoped to arrange a meeting of affected parish councils on the subject.

RESOLVED: That further consideration of a reaction to a Greater Reading Transport Innovation Fund bid be deferred, pending the meeting to be arranged by Mrs C Y Viney.

5.06 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

(cf 4.05/08) Mr R G McQuillan reported on "Oxfordshire 2030" and "Our Place, Our Future", the sustainable community strategies. He commented that the strategies were all very commendable, but were basically "motherhood and apple pie".

5.07 MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

(cf 4.14/08) The Clerk advised that he had not heard from the District Council that an election had been called to fill the vacancy for the office of parish councillor, caused by the resignation of Mrs C Toms. Accordingly, it was in order for the Council to fill the vacancy by means of co-option.

On this occasion, no persons had expressed an interest in serving as a parish councillor. Members recalled, however, the previous interest of Dr B J Knapp of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End in so serving.

RESOLVED: That, subject to his willingness so to serve, Dr B J Knapp be co-opted, pursuant to Section 89 of the Local Government Act 1972, to fill the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the resignation of Mrs C Toms.

5.08 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND – PAVILION

(cf 4.15/08) It was reported that Mr D Thornton of Tokers Green had met the Vice-Chairman and Prof T R Morris when there had been a useful discussion about the design and finishes for the proposed replacement Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

5.09 WEBSITE

(cf 4.16/08) It was reported that the Chairman, Mr R C Gutteridge and the webmaster were due to meet on 6 November 2008, to discuss how the website (www.kepc.info) could be enhanced. The Chairman invited Members to feed any thoughts about the website to one or other of the attendees.

By e-mail, Mrs P J Bradford of Kidmore End had urged the Council to retain the website.

5.10 ALLOTMENTS, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 4.23/08) It was reported that Mr G Stark of Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common had

accepted the conditions for permission to site a shed on the allotment of which he was tenant, at Gallowstree Common.

The Allotments Manager reported all allotments at Gallowstree Common to be let, with a waiting list of 3 persons. She commented that it might be appropriate to increase the rents for the allotments. The Clerk suggested that the matter be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting in 2009.

5.11 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £20,0202.65.

(ii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 30 September 2008, against the approved budget for 2008/9. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £90.

5.12 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

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

2 storey side and rear extension, enlargement of existing conservatory and conversion of garage attic at 2 Woodside Cottage, Woodside Lane, Gallowstree Common;
Single storey side extension to existing house at Drayton Cottage, Chalkhouse Green Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
demolition of existing conservatory and replacement with single storey dining room extension, rear single storey bedroom extension and 2 dormer windows to front elevation at Sunnyside, Horsepond Road, Cane End.

(ii) Action of Plans Sub-Committee

By e-mail, Ms C Powell drew attention to the planning application for change of use to golf practice ground of land in Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green, and expressed her opposition to it.

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:

detached oak framed garage and store at Glebe Cottage, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
demolition of existing lean-to conservatory, erection of new hard wood orangery at Rokeby, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
change of main access to property from highway, alterations to driveway and parking area, change of use from paddock to residential garden at The Old Orchard, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
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 (amended plan);
erection of single storey, timber framed, glazed orangery at St Fillans, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End;
erection of dwelling on side of existing and single storey extension to rear of property (amendment of permission P08/E0093) at 10 Craysleaze, Kidmore End.

(iii) Planning appeal

A letter from the Head of Planning and Building Control of the District Council advised that an appeal had been lodged against the refusal of the District Council to grant planning permission for erection

of replacement garaging/ancillary accommodation at Lavender Cottage, Reading Road, Cane End. The appeal was to be decided on the basis of an exchange of written statements and a site visit by an inspector.

(iv) South East Plan

(cf 4.08(v)/08) Mrs M S Rowlands reported on the consultation papers on the review of the sub-regional allocation of primary land-won aggregates in the South East. She had not sent a response on behalf of the Council.

The Council considered, and noted, a report (08/09 – 2) by Prof T R Morris on the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East.

Reference was made to the review of provision of sites for gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople in the South East.

(v) Permitted development rights

The District Council's Head of Planning services, by letter, referred to the changes to the planning system, with effect from 1 October 2008, concerning the relaxation of permitted development rights in respect of householder developments. Minor extensions and alterations could be made without the need for planning permission. However, the previous regime would remain in force within conservation areas and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

5.13 BYELAWS

With a letter, a civil servant from the Department for Communities and Local Government enclosed a consultation paper on proposed new procedures which would enable authorities to make certain byelaws without the need for scrutiny by the Secretary of State and proposals for a new enforcement regime for byelaws. Comments were invited by 20 November 2008.

5.14 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted a second update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in September 2008.

5.15 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL COMMUNITIES ACT 2006

In a letter, the Farming and Land Use Officer of the Chilterns Conservation Board drew attention to the duty of parish councils, under the provisions of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to conserve biodiversity, eg by management of greenspace owned by such councils, and pointed out the pack available, on the subject, from her Board, for landowners in the Chilterns.

5.16 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) A4074/B4526 junction, Whitewood Heath – Road safety works

An officer of the County Council's Road Safety Engineering Team attached to an e-mail a plan showing works, mostly revised signage, which that Council intended to carry out in the vicinity of the junction of Deadman's Lane and the A4074 road, at Whitewood Heath, to help road safety. He asked for comments on the proposed measures. Following review of the proposals by Members, it was

RESOLVED: That no adverse comments be submitted to the County Council on the proposed road safety measures at the junction of Deadman's Lane and the A4074 road, at Whitewood Heath.

(ii) Mill Lane, Kidmore End – Carriageway maintenance

A Traffic Technician of the County Council enclosed, with a letter, notice of a temporary traffic order to close Mill Lane, Kidmore End with effect from 3 November 2008 for carriageway maintenance works, expected to last 3 days.

5.17 FLOODING

By letter, the Head of Environmental Services of the District Council advised that her Council was seeking to produce records of drains and ditches in the area, put in place an emergency plan for flooding and identify locations for the storage of sandbags. Members could not recall instances of the flooding of residential premises in the Parish.

5.18 TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FORUM

(cf 2.09/08) The Leaders of the County and District Councils, by letter, gave further details of the Town and Parish Council Forum to be held at Crowmarsh on 11 November 2008, to which the Chairman and one other Member were invited.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman and Mrs S M Biggs be appointed to attend the Town and Parish Council, Forum on 11 November 2008, and that attendance be an approved duty for the purposes of allowances.

5.19 PRIMARY CARE TRUST

With a letter, the Director of Planning & System Reform of the Oxfordshire NHS Primary Care Trust enclosed documents and details about the Trust's strategy for 2008-2013, which was under review. A series of meetings about the strategy had been arranged to be held, the most convenient one to the Parish being at Henley on 4 November 2008. The Council was invited to be represented.

RESOLVED: That Mrs S M Biggs and Mrs J E O'Sullivan be appointed to attend the meeting about the Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust Strategy 2008-2013 at Henley on 4 November 2008, and that attendance be an approved duty for the purposes of allowances.

5.20 BUS STRATEGY

(cf 2.06/08) By letter, the President of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils referred to the consultation by the County Council on chapter 3 of its Bus Strategy (considered by the Council earlier in 2008) and to the value of each parish council appointing a public transport representative. Members observed that Mrs J E O'Sullivan performed that role.

5.21 PROPERTY NAMING

By letter, the District Council's Head of Business & Information Systems advised that the converted rural building at Collegewood Farm had been named Collegewood Barn, Cane End.

5.22 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

In a letter, an officer of the District Council attention to scheme by which public telephone kiosks, particularly the red K6 kiosks, otherwise considered redundant by BT, could be adopted by parish councils. Councils could seek the retention of the kiosks, from which the Company had removed the telephony apparatus, or sponsor the retention of the pay phone service, on payment to the Company. The Clerk undertook to discover the charges to councils in each case.

5.23 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

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

5.23 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

It was reported that use the Church Path (footpath no 8) was difficult, because of a soft area in the woods, which was, for instance, deterring pupils walking to Kidmore End School by that route.

RESOLVED: That the condition of footpath no 8 be drawn to the attention of the County Council.

5.25 BUS SURVEY

(cf 2.06/09) The Council considered a report (08/09 - 3) by Mr J A Swift, setting out the results of the bus use etc survey in the Parish. Mr Swift reported that 3 further responses had been received since the drafting of the report.

Mr Swift referred to a consultation exercise by Reading Buses on that Company's services 137 and 138, which linked Reading with Sonning Common and Peppard. He felt that the Company should be approached to consider extending those services to Gallowstree Common.

RESOLVED: 1 That the results of the bus survey be noted.

2 That, as part of its review of its services 137 and 138, Reading Transport Ltd be requested to consider extending the routes to Gallowstree Common.