

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 19 November 2008 at 8.00 pm and concluded at 9.30 pm.

Present: R S Young (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair) Dr B J Knapp, Dr J D M McNie, Prof T R Morris, J A Swift.

Also present: R A H Peasgood (district councillor), Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S M Biggs, Mrs S Hall, R G McQuillan, A K Martin, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mrs M S Rowland.

6.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2008 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

6.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, reported that her Council was presently discussing its budget for 2009/10: no cuts to front line services were envisaged. Her Council was supporting a "Keep Trade Local" campaign, which, given the deteriorating economic situation, would feature, inter alia, her Council paying accounts from small businesses quickly.

Mrs Viney advised that the intended meeting for members of parish councils in southern South Oxfordshire, about the Reading Travel-to-Work Area Transport Innovation Fund bid, was likely to be held at Eye & Dunsden Village Hall in January 2009.

6.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr R A H Peasgood, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, reported on grants available from or via his Council in respect of climate change issues, that parking in his Council's car parks would be free on Saturday afternoons for the run up to Christmas 2008, about the "My South Oxfordshire" portal and a children's rights' website.

6.04 MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

(cf 5.07/08) The Clerk reported that Dr B J Knapp had consented to be co-opted as a Member of the Council, and had signed a declaration of acceptance of office. At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed Dr Knapp to the Council.

6.05 WEBSITE

(cf 5.09/08) It was reported that the Chairman, Mr R C Gutteridge and Professor T R Morris had met the webmaster and the Clerk on 6 November 2008, to discuss further the development of the Council's website, www.kepc.info. It was noted that the number of visits ("hits") to the site had increased, on a daily basis. It had been agreed at the meeting to include further information from the Council, and further links to other authorities, and other suggestions had been made which required the consent of the Council, viz the inclusion of the Members' biographies and their portraits and, to add topicality, a report of decisions taken could be loaded on the website shortly after each meeting. Prof Morris had offered to write the articles.

There had also been discussion about the rationale for the website, when it had been recognised, certainly for the short-term, that the principal purpose of the website was to provide access to the functions of the Council, rather than carrying more general community information or features.

RESOLVED: 1 That the website www.kepc.info include biographies and portraits of the Members of the Council.

2 That, for a trial period of 3 months, a report of the meeting, written by Prof T R Morris, be made available on the website shortly after each meeting of the Council, and that this trial be reviewed in March 2009.

6.06 TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FORUM

(cf 5.16/08) In view of their absence, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report of the Chairman and Mrs S M Biggs on the Town and Parish Council Forum be deferred to the next meeting.

6.07 PRIMARY CARE TRUST

(cf 5.16/08) In view of their absence, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report of Mrs S M Biggs and Mrs J E O'Sullivan on the Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust Strategy 2008-2013 be deferred to the next meeting.

6.08 BUS SURVEY

(cf 5.24/08) By e-mail, an employee of Customer Services at Reading Buses acknowledged receipt of the Council's suggestion about the extension of the Company's services 137 and 138 to Gallowstree Common.

6.09 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £20,045.65.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments	£39.43
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£45.34
BDO Stoy Hayward LLP – External audit fee	£158.63
Ian Kendrick Ltd – Mowing, works at Gallowstree Common play area	£1660.78
Web Mania Ltd – Hosting website	£29.36

(iii) Precept, 2009/10

In a letter, the District Council's Head of Finance, requested, by 9 January 2009, information as to the Council's precept for the financial year 2009/10.

RESOLVED: That the Responsible Financial Officer submit draft estimates for the financial year 2009/10 to the next meeting.

6.10 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

(cf 3.10/08) BDO Stoy Hayward LLP gave notice that the audit of the Council's accounts for the

year ended 31 March 2008 had been completed. The Partnership reported that, on the basis of its review, in its opinion the information contained in the annual return was in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and no matters had come to its attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

6.11 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

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

detached oak framed garage and store at Glebe Cottage, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
demolition of existing lean-to conservatory, erection of new hardwood orangery at Rokeby, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
construction of all weather playground with 3m high fence at Kidmore End CE (Aided) Primary School, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End.

(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:

new tennis court, new building for games room, changing facilities and au pair accommodation at Collegewood Farm House, Cane End (and 2 amended plans):
2 storey and single storey extension to the side elevation (south side) and erection of replacement garage at The Old Chapel, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
erection of single storey rear extension, raising roof to create first floor accommodation with 3 dormer windows to front and rear elevations, erection of detached garage to rear at Bramble Cottage, Cane End;
replacement signage, illuminated and non-illuminated, at The Fox Inn, Cane End;

(iii) Applications

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

The Council noted a copy of a letter from Dr J D M McNie of Butlers Orchard Kidmore End, to the planning authority, expressing his opposition to the application for development at Arenal, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End.

RESOLVED: 1 That the following comments be made on the application for single and 2 storey extension to rear of Arenal, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End for Mr & Mrs Watts "Refuse – unneighbourly and overbearing".

2 That no strong views be submitted on the application for removal of non-load bearing stud partitions and replacement of an existing window with french doors at The Coach House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End for Mr M Cooper-Smith.

(Dr J D M McNie 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 on the application relating to Arenal, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End.)

(iv) Reading Borough Council's Local Development Framework

(cf 1.13(v)/08) With a letter, the Director of Environment, Culture & Sport of Reading Borough Council enclosed further consultation documents in respect of her Council's Local Development Framework – a Sites' Allocation document, identifying locations for development and conservation and a

Development Management document, which would provide more detailed policies for dealing with planning applications. The Borough Council sought views on whether these documents covered the right topics and sites, by 12 December 2008.

RESOLVED: That the Reading Borough Council's Sites Allocation and Development Management documents be referred to Prof T R Morris, and that Prof Morris be authorised to comment thereon, on behalf of the Council, to Reading Borough Council.

6.12 CODES OF CONDUCT

The Deputy Director, Local Democracy in the Department of Communities and Local Government enclosed, with a letter, a consultation paper inviting views on proposals for revising the code of conduct for councillors and introducing a model code of conduct for local government employees. Views were invited by 24 December 2008.

6.13 FOOTPATH NO 3

A Rights of Way Officer of the County Council, by letter, advised that his Council was considering an application by the occupiers of May Lodge in Park Lane, Cane End to divert footpath no 3, under Section 199 of the Highway Act 1980, from its present line through the garden of the property to a proposed route from Park Lane around the paddock to Withy Copse. The County Council sought comments on the proposal by 1 December 2008, before deciding whether or not to make an order.

Members recalled that the Cane End pond, which had been registered as common land, lie close the present line of footpath no 3.

RESOLVED: That no objections to raised to the proposed diversion of Footpath 3 through May Lodge, Cane End, but that the County Council be requested to use the possible diversion of the path as an opportunity to secure public access to the Cane End pond

6.14 WASTE COLLECTION

With a letter, the Head of Environmental Services of the District Council enclosed a note about the new contract which her Council was arranging for waste collection, with effect from June 2009. This would include

- weekly separate food waste collections in kerbside bins;
- fortnightly residual waste collections in wheeled bins;
- at least fortnightly collections for dry recyclables (including glass);
- continuing with the garden waste service in wheeled bins (charged for service).

Final decisions about container types and sizes would be agreed once the new contractor was appointed at the end at the end of 2008.

6.15 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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

6.16 CLERK'S SALARY

The Clerk advised that, as a result of recently concluded national negotiations, his salary had increased to £2,584 per annum with effect from 1 April 2008.

6.17 HENLEY & DISTRICT CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

The Treasurer of the Henley & District Citizens' Advice Bureau, in a letter, requested the Council to consider making a grant to the Bureau. The Council noted that the budget for 2008/9 contained provision for a grant of £90 for such a grant.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £90 be made to the Henley & District Citizens Advice Bureau in the financial year 2008/9.

6.18 SOUTH & VALE CARERS CENTRE

By letter, the Manager of the South & Vale Carers Centre requested financial assistance from the Council. The Manager reported that 2 carers from the Parish had been supported in the past year. Members observed that the budget for 2008/9 contained provision for a grant of £35 to the Centre.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £35 be made to the South & Vale Carers Centre in the financial year 2008/9.

6.19 OXFORDSHIRE CARERS' FORUM

The Chairman of the Oxfordshire Carers' Forum, in a letter, requested the Council to consider making a financial contribution towards the cost of his organisation, which sought to support unpaid carers. Members noted that the budget for 2008/9 did not contain provision for a grant to the organisation.

RESOLVED: That no grant be made to the Oxfordshire Carers' Forum in the financial year 2008/9.

6.20 KIDMORE END SCHOOL – TRANSPORT

(cf 4.13/08) In a letter, the Headteacher of the Kidmore End CE (Aided) Primary School thanked the Council for the information concerning the possible use of the bus transport provided by the County Council by pupils resident in Caversham.

The Headteacher recognised the difficulties faced by residents of Kidmore End village, given that only 10% of pupils lived in the immediate vicinity of the school and the concerns of parents living further afield about pupils walking or cycling to school. To this the end, the School had taken a number of actions to alleviate the transport and parking issues, including

- encouraging car sharing;
- encouraging considerate parking, including discussion with persistent "offenders" and the involvement of the Police;
- allowing parents to drop pupils at both the front and rear gates;
- encouraging the parents of pupils living in Tokers Green to use the bus.

In addition, discussions continued with both the County Council and Reading Borough Council about children from Caversham being provided with a school bus and the parents of Reading-resident pupils had been surveyed about paying for a school bus.

6.21 CLIMATE CHANGE

The Council noted an invitation to the South Oxfordshire Climate Change Community Networking event, "Joining the Dots", at Crowmarsh on 20 November 2008.

6.22 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman reported that the Playing Fields Committee had met on 5 November 2008. The

Committee had noted that there was £12,000 in the fund for the Pavilion replacement, while the Cricket Club had accumulated £8,000 towards the project. An application was shortly to be submitted to the South Oxfordshire Community Fund, following which an application would be submitted to the National Lottery. The Project Group was developing the final specification for the new building, which it was hoped to submit to the Council for approval early 2009.

Turning to the existing Pavilion, the Chairman reported that the premises had been broken into during October 2008 and that the maintenance costs of the premises were rising.

The Chairman advised that the Kidmore End Pre-School was advising about replacement equipment at the Kidmore End Play Area.

6.23 TRAFFIC CALMING SUB-COMMITTEE

Reference was made to works underway on the A4074 road in the Parish, eg replacement “cats’ eyes”.