

## KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 21 January 2009 at 8.00 pm and concluded at 10.10 pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), R S Young (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S M Biggs, R C Gutteridge, Mrs S Hall, Dr B J Knapp, Dr J D M McNie, R G McQuillan, Mrs M S Rowland J A Swift.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J E O'Sullivan.

### 8.01 MINUTES

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

### 8.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, reported that her Council's Cabinet had adopted the following resolution, in respect of the Reading Travel-to-Work Area Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) bid, at its meeting on 20 January 2009

- “(a) to agree that the Cabinet Member for Transport should represent Oxfordshire County Council on Reading Borough Council's TIF Partner Authority Members' Liaison Group;
- “(b) that the Council is opposed to congestion charging per se and only supports a third Thames crossing for public transport vehicles;
- “(c) subject to (b) above, to support the principle of the TIF bid by Reading Borough Council to secure traffic improvements provided there is appropriate evidence to justify such improvements but acknowledging that this does not commit this Council to support any of the measures set out in the TIF bid.”

Members thanked Mrs Viney for arranging the meeting for parish councils at Dunsden Village Hall, on the subject of the TIF bid.

Mrs Viney also reported that the number of pupils cycling to school was the highest percentage of any county in the country. She advised that her Council's budget plans were likely to increase the Council Tax by 3.875%.

### 8.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

The Chairman commented on reports in the broadcast media that the wheeled refuse bins acquired by the District Council for its new waste collection were equipped with “chips” which would enable monitoring of the contents of the bin. Mrs Viney advised of her understanding that although the bins were so equipped, the District Council had no intentions for the activation of the technology.

### 8.04 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 October to 31 December 2008, 13 crimes had been recorded – 2 burglary non-dwelling, 2 autocrime, 3 criminal damage, 3 theft and 3 other.

8.05 PROF T R MORRIS

(cf 7.02/08) The Chairman regretted that he had no further news about the health of Prof T R Morris.

8.06 HENLEY & DISTRICT CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

(cf 6.17/08) The Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Henley & District Citizens' Advice Bureau thanked the Council for its grant.

8.07 SOUTH & VALE CARERS CENTRE

(cf 6.18/08) The Manager of the South & Vale Carers Centre thanked the Council for its grant.

8.08 ESTIMATES, 2009/10

(cf 7.12/08) The Responsible Financial Officer advised the Council that the District-wide average parish and town precept had been £63 per band D property in the financial year 2008/9.

8.09 ROAD CASUALTY REPORT

(cf 7.15/08) Mrs M S Rowland reported on the Oxfordshire Road Casualty Report 2007. She observed that the publication was largely statistically based and that the statistics demonstrated that the target for the reduction in road traffic accidents by 2010 should be achieved. However, Mrs Rowland commented that the accident statistics seemed to contradict the statement that the County Council was deploying engineering solutions to reduce accident rates. She also advised that South Oxfordshire as a district suffered the seconded highest total of accidents in the County and had the highest number of serious accidents.

8.10 A4074 ROAD, GREENDENE BOTTOM

Arising from discussion of the Road Casualty Report (see Minute 8.09 above), the Council observed that a significant proportion of the accidents in South Oxfordshire would have occurred on the A4074 road, between the junction with Deadman's Lane and the Pack Horse public house.

Members recalled that some works were to have been undertaken, by the County Council, on the A4074 road through Greendene Wood, to attempt to reduce the danger of the road to its users. Trees bordering the carriageway were to have been felled, the road surface on the bend in the bottom was to be distinctively coloured, and the carriageway edge markers were to be restored/improved. The road had been closed for 2 weekends to facilitate this work.

Members reflected on this work in the context of the Casualty Report. They commented that, aside from the coloured, textured surface on the bend in the dip, it was difficult to detect what other works had been undertaken. There were still trees close to the carriageway, and there was no evidence of improved reflective edge markers.

RESOLVED That the attention of the County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport Implementation be drawn to the disappointment of the Council at the outcome of the work in Greendene Bottom, particularly recognising that the road was closed for 2 weekends and in the light of the continuing accident rate on roads in South Oxfordshire.

8.11 CHILTERN AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008 – 2013

(cf 7.17/08) At his suggestion, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report of the Chairman on the Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2008 – 2013 be deferred to the next meeting.

#### 8.12 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – PUBLICATIONS SCHEME

(cf 7.18/08) The Clerk reminded the Council that he had circulated to Members the model publications' scheme produced by the Information Commissioner, as adopted at the last meeting, and the guide to information available under the scheme, as approved by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. (Copies of the documents are attached to the Minutes to be signed.)

#### 8.13 NEW COPSE, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 7.21/08) The Clerk reported on his research into the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) certification which was being sought by UPM Tilhill in respect of New Copse, Gallowstree Common. UKWAS was an independent certification standard for verifying sustainable woodland management. It was designed to provide a single common standard for use within forest certification programmes, providing a way to assure buyers and users that wood and wood products come from sustainable managed woodlands.

Members were interested to know how certification would affect the woodland, an amenity very much enjoyed both visually and physically by the residents of Gallowstree Common.

RESOLVED: That, subject to the provision of the information mentioned above, UPM Tilhill be advised that the Council doubts there would be any comment by local residents on the present management of the woodland, or the future management, provided that they may continue to enjoy the present level of access to the wood.

#### 8.14 ALLOTMENTS

(cf 7.23/08) At the suggestion of Mrs M S Rowland, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the possible restoration to use of the allotments at Cane End be deferred to the meeting in March 2009.

#### 8.15 FINANCE

##### (i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £16,459.74.

##### (ii) Accounts for payment

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

Ian Kendrick Ltd – Works at Kidmore End Play Area	£55.20
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£22.18
Chiltern Society – Membership subscription	£25.00

##### (iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 31 December 2008, against the approved budget for 2008/9. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £409.

## 8.16 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

### (i) Decisions

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

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; 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; display of illuminated and non-illuminated signage at the Fox Inn, Cane End; single and 2-storey extension to rear of Arenal, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End

and that the application for erection of canopy to the front entrance of the Fox Inn, Cane End had been refused

### (ii) Planning appeals

(cf 5.12(iii)/08) A copy letter from the Planning Inspectorate indicated that the inspector, appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, had allowed the appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the erection of replacement garaging/ancillary accommodation at Lavender Cottage, Reading Road, Cane End.

### (iii) South Oxfordshire Local Development Framework

(cf 9.08/08) By letter, the Head of Planning Services of the District Council advised that his Council had prepared a revised Local Development Scheme, with a new timetable for the preparation of the Local Development Framework documents. This had been submitted to the Government Office for the South East for approval. His Council was currently focussing on the Core Strategy, having now analysed the comments to the consultation in 2008: the results were available on his Council's website. He enquired whether there were any further issues which should be addressed in the Core Strategy.

## 8.17 LOCAL AUTHORITY PUBLICITY

With a letter, the Deputy Director, Local Democracy at the Department for Communities and Local Government enclosed a copy of a consultation paper on the content of the code of recommended practice on local authority publicity. Comments were requested by 12 March 2009.

## 8.18 CAMPAIGN AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

The County Council's Director for Community Safety, by letter, drew attention to his Council's campaign against domestic abuse, the purpose of which was to increase early reporting of abuse and publicise widely the new range of services provided by his Council and its partners to help people experiencing abuse, their families and friends. Various leaflets and posters were included with the letter, which materials were distributed by the Clerk to Members present.

RESOLVED: That reference to the campaign, and contact details for relevant agencies, be included on the Council's website.

## 8.19 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in December 2008, and referred particularly to information about the Oxfordshire Playbuilder grants.

## 8.20 POLICE STATIONS

The Clerk distributed, to Members present, leaflets, supplied by the Thames Valley Police, about police station front counter opening times for 2008/9.

## 8.21 CANE END – BUS STOP

An officer from the County Council's Public Transport Development Team, in an e-mail, advised of a request from the new proprietor of The Fox public house at Cane End to rename the bus stop in Cane End: the stop was shown in timetables as "The Fox, Cane End". Given the imminent rebranding of the premises, the officer enquired whether the Council had any suggestions for an alternative name for the bus stop.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be advised that the bus stop at the premises previously known as "The Fox" be named "Cane End" in timetables.

## 8.22 HOME TO SCHOOL TRAVEL

The Council noted the Spring 2009 edition of "Home 2 School Newsletter", published by the County Council.

## 8.23 CHILTERN BUILDINGS DESIGN AWARDS 2009

With a letter, the Planning Officer of the Chilterns Conservation Board enclosed a brochure about, and nominations forms for, the Chilterns Buildings Design Awards 2009.

## 8.24 ARCHIVES

An Archivist at the Oxfordshire Record Office gave, in a letter, details of the updated catalogue of the Council's records held at the Record Office, eg the minute books from 1894 to 1984.

## 8.25 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Chairman reported an approach from the Hon Secretary of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils, advising of a project to help small parish councils improve their use of information technology. The Association was leading a bid for funding to provide computing equipment, training and support to parish councils. The Hon Secretary had asked whether the Council wished to participate.

The Chairman had responded indicating that 11 of the 12 councillors professed to have access to the internet and e-mails, that the Clerk owned a PC and laptop, and had access to the internet at home and at his [whole time] employment and that the Council operated a website. The Chairman had wondered, therefore, whether the Council was a suitable target for the scheme.

## 8.26 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman reported that the Playing Fields Committee had met on 14 January 2009, when concerns had been expressed about the condition of the interior of the Pavilion and the appearance of the Recreation Ground at Gallowstree Common in general. The Cricket and Football Clubs had been asked to undertake appropriate remedial action.

The Committee had also noted the very poor condition of the Recreation Ground entrance road. The Chairman of the Committee submitted a quotation from Acorn Services for repairing the drive, by raking and then rolling in scalpings, in the sum of £480, to which would need to be added the cost of scalpings (c £210) and the hire of a roller.

The Chairman of the Committee also reported on progress on the project for the replacement of the

Pavilion. The Project Team was taking the matter forward, swiftly, in terms of the specification for the new building, and was currently discussing issues relating to sustainable heating.

RESOLVED: That a contract for the repair of the entrance road to the Recreation Ground be let to Acorn Services in the sum of £480, plus the cost of materials and the hire of a roller.

#### 8.27 READING TRAVEL-TO-WORK AREA TRANSPORT INNOVATION FUNF (TIF) BID

Members discussed further the meeting of parish councillors from southern South Oxfordshire, held at Dunsden, on 15 January 2009: 4 Members had attended the meeting. They observed that there would be value in collaboration between the councils in reacting to the proposals which might be included in the Reading Travel-to-Work Area Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) bid.

RESOLVED: That the concept of the relevant parish councils acting collaboratively in respect of the Reading Travel to Work Area TIF bid be supported and that Mr J A Swift be appointed to represent the Council at any meetings of parish councils arranged in that connection.

#### 8.28 PARISH NEWSLETTER

Mrs M S Rowland advised that it might not prove possible, due to illness and holidays, to publish an edition of the Parish Newsletter in the Spring of 2009

#### 8.29 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to a question, the Chairman agreed that, if necessary, the contractors undertaking the pipelaying works in Rokeby Drive, Chazey Heath and Tokers Green should be requested to restore the triangle of grass on the south side of the junction of Rokeby Drive and Tokers Green Lane, when their works were completed.