

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 18 March 2009 at 8.05 pm and concluded at 9.45 pm.

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Dr J D M McNie, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mrs M S Rowland, R A H Peasgood (district councillor).

10.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2009 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correction of the heading of Minute 9.17 to read "... WASTE ...".

10.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, reported on a proposal to seek the adoption of a green belt on land immediately to the north of the Borough of Reading, which might help thwart the Reading Council's long term territorial ambitions and influence decisions regarding the Reading Travel-to-Work Area Transport Innovation Fund bid.

Mrs Viney advised that the Kidmore End Primary School had received a good report from OfSTED, following an inspection, and reported on issues relating to the allocation of places in secondary schools in southern South Oxfordshire.

10.03 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 9.03/09) The Clerk advised that he had given public notice of the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the death of Professor T R Morris. The Clerk had not heard from the District Council that an election had been called to fill the vacancy. Accordingly, it was in order for the Council to fill the vacancy by co-option. However, no-one had expressed an interest in serving as a parish councillor.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the filling of the vacancy for parish councillor be deferred to the next meeting.

10.04 READING TRAVEL TO WORK AREA TRANSPORT INNOVATION FUND (TIF) BID

(cf 9.06/09) Mr J A Swift reported that he would attend the meeting of representatives of the southern South Oxfordshire parish councils on 19 March 2009 concerning the Reading Travel to Work Area Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) bid. He understood that the relevant Lead Councillor from Reading Borough Council would attend, supported by a senior officer. Mrs S M Biggs and Mrs S Hall indicated an interest in attending the meeting: Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor, had advised that attendance was not limited.

10.05 UNDERSTANDING RURAL ISSUES

(cf 9.15/09) In view of her absence, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report of Mrs J E O'Sullivan on the District Council stakeholder workshop about rural issues be deferred to the next meeting.

10.06 WASTE COLLECTION

(c f9.16/09) The Chairman reported on the presentation he had attended concerning the new waste collection and street cleansing service. The District Council would provide receptacles for waste, which would be collected on a schedule of food waste and mixed recycling in one week and food waste and non-recyclable waste the second week, with effect from 8 June 2009. The new bins were likely to be delivered to residents of the Parish in the period 27 April to 10 May. The waste from all villages in the Parish would be collected on Wednesday when the new service started. Every household would receive a leaflet about the new service.

Members commented that it would be preferable for waste collections not to be undertaken around the beginning and end of the school day, given the traffic congestion in Kidmore End at those times.

10.07 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £15,693.45.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

NALC – Subscription for “Local Council Review”	£13.50
R F Penfold – Clerk’s salary	£646.00

(iii) Financial Regulations

At the suggestion of the Responsible Financial Officer, it was

RESOLVED: That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 5.2, the unspent budgetary provision in the financial year 2008/9 under the following budget heads be carried forward, on 1 31 March 2009, into the financial year 2009/10:

Clerk’s expenses
Postages
Telephones
Hire of accommodation for meetings
Grant for churchyard maintenance

(iv) Precept

(cf 7.12/08) By e-mail, Mr T Garrett of Elm Road, Tokers Green sought information about the “Parish Rate” which he had noted, from his Council Tax bill, had doubled. He had been unable to find any information about the increase on the Council’s website.

Members acknowledged that, although the minutes of meetings were available, there was no statement on the website about the Council’s budget for 2009/10, or its precept, as the late Prof T R Morris had been acting as website correspondent. They felt that the relevant paragraphs from the Chairman’s report to the Annual Parish Meeting, which would appear on the website, provided the best explanation of the rationale for the Council’s precept.

RESOLVED: That an apology be extended to Mr T Garrett that no statement appeared on the website, and that he be provided with the relevant paragraphs from the Chairman’s report to the Annual Parish Meeting

10.08 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

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

erection of single storey extension and front entrance porch at Hollywood House, Tokers Green;
2 storey side extension and porch on front elevation at 2 Craysleaze, 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:

erection of PVCU conservatory at Silver Trees, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
2 storey side extension and porch to front elevation at 2 Craysleaze, Kidmore End;
demolition of existing semi-detached dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling at 1 Bardolph's Close, Chazey Heath;
single storey rear extension at Holly Tree Cottage, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End;
demolition of garage and roof of dwelling, erection of first floor to form 2 storey dwelling, 2 storey side extension and new chimney at The Old Orchard, Wood Lane, Kidmore End (amendment to permission P08/E0629);
raising of the roof to create first floor, erection of front and rear gable extensions, dormer windows to rear and chimney at Beechwood, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common.

(iii) Applications

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

RESOLVED: 1 That the following comments be made on the application for single and 2 storey extension to dwelling at The Old Chapel, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common for Mrs K Ferris "No strong views, but laurel boundary hedge should be protected during construction".

2 That no strong views be submitted on the application for raising of the roof to create first floor, erection of front and rear gable extensions, dormer windows to rear and chimney at Beechwood, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common for Mr A Bowley (amended plan).

(iv) Berkshire Joint Minerals & Waste Core Strategy

(cf 4.08(ix)/08) A planner of the Berkshire Joint Strategic Planning Unit, in a letter, advised that the Berkshire authorities had submitted their joint Minerals & Waste Core Strategy to Secretary of State on 27 February 2009. An inspector would now consider the core strategy during an Examination in Public.

10.09 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in February 2009. The Clerk had circulated the update to Members electronically, and he enquired of Members whether they would prefer further circulation by this means. A majority of those present supported electronic distribution, but some Members requested hard copies. The Clerk undertook to bring some hard copies of future updates to meetings.

10.10 PLAYBUILDER GRANT

The update from the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils contained details of the application

process for Playbuilder Schemes. It was suggested that the Scheme could provide support for a refurbishment or replacement of the equipment at the Kidmore End Play Area. The closing date for applications was 23 March 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Vice-Chairman and Mrs S M Biggs be authorised to submit an application under the Playbuilder Scheme for the renewal of the equipment at Kidmore End Play Area.

10.11 LITTER TIDY-UP

In a letter, the Clean and Green Officer of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership drew attention to the Partnership's litter tidy up in March 2009. Materials and equipment were available for groups who wished to organise clean-up activities. Members observed that, while they would be covered for litter clearing activities under the Council's insurance, other volunteers would have no such cover. In the circumstances, and given that the support of volunteer residents was essential for a successful exercise, Members felt there was no scope for organising a litter clearing exercise or exercises in the Parish.

10.12 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) A4074 road, Greendene Bottom

(cf 8.10/09) By letter, the County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport responded to the Council's observations about the efficacy of the works undertaken on the A4074 road in Greendene Bottom during 2008. He advised that trees on the public highway which were considered a danger had been removed and trees overhanging the carriageway had had their crowns lifted. No work had been undertaken by his Council's contractors to trees in the ownership of other landowners – Mapledurham Estate or Vines Farm. Only relatively minor improvements to signing were proposed, and implemented: this had not, for instance, included the replacement of reflective marker posts.

The Cabinet Member went on to observe that there had been a significant reduction in the number of accidents on the stretch of road. While a number of factors could have led to that reduction, he felt the admittedly modest works might have helped.

Members expressed some scepticism about the validity of the latter statement and commented that their understanding had been that the proposed works were more extensive than had been the case.

(ii) Wyfold Road, Gallowstree Common – Hedge

Mr J R Edmunds of Woodford Close, Caversham had, in a letter, drawn attention to the overgrown hedge on the east side of Wyfold Road, Gallowstree Common, in the vicinity of Common Farm, which hedge, he claimed, posed a danger to cyclists. He enquired of the Council's stance on such issues.

The Clerk advised that he had referred Mr Edmunds' letter to the Area Engineer of the County Council. Oxfordshire Highways had indicated that Mr Edmunds' concerns would be investigated.

RESOLVED: 1 That the action of the Clerk be approved and confirmed.

2 That Mr Edmunds be assured that the Council shared his concern about obstructions affecting free and safe passage on highways.

10.13 COMMUNITY POLICING AWARDS, 2009

The Council noted a letter from an officer in Corporate Information at the Thames Valley Police concerning the Community Policing Awards 2009, a competition designed to highlight the contribution various staff of the Police made to communities.

10.14 CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND

The Chairman of the Henley & Mapledurham District of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, by letter, invited the Council to consider taking membership of the Campaign, which took a special interest in rural planning issues. The annual subscription was £29.

Members, whilst generally supportive of some of the aims of the Campaign, felt that taking membership was not commensurate with the role and purpose of a local authority.

RESOLVED: That the invitation to join the Campaign to Protect Rural England be declined.

10.15 MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

John Howell MP, with a letter, enclosed posters giving details of his surgeries for constituents, requesting the Council to help publicise the sessions.

10.16 BUS STOPS AND BUS SHELTERS

In an e-mail, a member of the County Council's Public Transport Development Team advised that his Council would upgrade the bus stops near the Abbey RFC ground in time for the introduction of the revised bus service (presently route 137/138) between Reading and Sonning Common.

The Head of Transport of the County Council, in a letter, advised of revisions to his Council's bus shelter grants' scheme, under which parish councils could secure assistance towards the cost of new shelters.

10.17 DOGS TRUST

The Council noted a letter from the Secretary and Chief Executive of Dogs Trust about the organisation's Canine Care Card scheme, whereby the organisation would look after a dog following the death of its owner.

10.18 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had met on 11 March 2009, when discussion had been dominated by the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

10.19 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND – PAVILION

The Council considered a report (08/09 - 6) of the Clerk, seeking approval to the next stage of the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: 1 That, in accordance with Financial Regulation 11.1(a)(ii), Richard P James Ltd be retained as architect for the final pre-contract stage of the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

2 That, notwithstanding the provisions of Financial Regulation 11.1(b), tenders be sought from the contractors listed below for demolition of the existing Pavilion and associated structures and the erection of the replacement Pavilion building, on the basis of the specification adopted by the Pavilion Project Group:

County Construction Ltd, Abingdon
Hale Building Contractors Ltd, Hillingdon
M C Robins Ltd, Stoke Row
Touchstone Investments Ltd, Gerrards Cross

F J Williams Building Ltd, Henley-on-Thames.

3 That, notwithstanding Financial Regulations 11.1(b) and (d), the tenders be invited by, and returned to, Richard P James Ltd.

10.20 CANE END ALLOTMENTS

(cf 7.23 /08) In the absence of Mrs M S Rowland, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the “re-opening” of the Cane End allotments be deferred to the next meeting.

10.21 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to questions, the Chairman advised that

- a he had not been aware of the swift action of Oxfordshire Highways to alleviate flooding in Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common;
- b he was pleased to hear that Oxfordshire Highways had cleaned the silt traps draining into Kidmore End pond.