

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 22 April 2009 at 8.05 pm and concluded at 10.05 pm.

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

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

11.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2009 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the substitution of the word "that" for "than" in the third line of Minute 10.03.

11.02 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 January to 31 March 2009, 3 crimes had been recorded – 1 burglary dwelling, 1 autocrime, and 1 theft. The total number of crimes recorded in the Parish for the year ended 31 March 2009 was 35, the lowest annual total since the statistics had been made available, starting in 2005.

11.03 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 10.03/09) Members indicated that they had heard that 2 residents were interested in serving as parish councillors, but the Clerk reported that he had received no written expressions of interest from qualified persons.

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

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

(cf 10.04/09) Mr J A Swift and Mrs S M Biggs advised that they had attended 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. The meeting had been attended by the relevant Lead Councillor from Reading Borough Council, who had given a presentation, supported by a senior officer.

A steering group of councillors from the relevant parish councils had been established, with a view to developing a common approach, if that was practicable, to ensure that the proposals in the TIF bid, when they emerged, fully took into account the interest of residents of the parishes. Mr Swift had been appointed to the steering group, and Mrs Biggs to the executive committee of the organisation.

11.05 UNDERSTANDING RURAL ISSUES

(cf 10.05/09) 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 again deferred to the next meeting.

11.06 PLAYBUILDER GRANT

(cf 10.10/09) The Vice-Chairman and Mrs S M Biggs reported that they had compiled, and submitted, a bid, on behalf of the Council for a Playbuilder Grant in respect of the

refurbishment/replacement of the equipment at Kidmore End Play Area. The application, one of 32 submitted, had not been successful. However, the project might qualify for a grant in the sum of £2,000 for design assistance, later in the year.

The Vice-Chairman paid tribute to the work undertaken by Mrs Biggs in the development of the application.

11.07 BUS SERVICES

(cf 10.16/09) The Clerk reminded the Council that new service 2, operated by Reading Buses between Peppard Common and Reading (and beyond) in place of former services 137 and 138, had commenced on 20 April 2009.

11.08 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND – PAVILION

(cf 10.19.09) The Clerk reported that the Pavilion Fund Raising Group had met on 21 April 2009, when it had further discussed the accumulation of funds to enable the project to proceed. Aside from the monies agreed in principle by the Council, and the sums pledged by the Cricket and Football Clubs, it was hoped to raise c£500,000 from funding agencies.

At this stage, the Group saw the key potential donors to be the South Oxfordshire Community Fund and the England & Wales Cricket Board, to whom applications had already been submitted. Once grants from one or both of these were secured, it would be possible to approach businesses and the residents again. Applications would then be submitted to Sport England and the Football Foundation.

However, the Group felt that funding would not be available to allow works until November 2010, rather than the Autumn of 2009. In this connection, it was observed the planning permission expired in May 2010, and would need to be renewed.

11.09 CANE END ALLOTMENTS

(cf 10.20/09) In the absence of Mrs M S Rowland, it was

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

11.10 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £29,532.68.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

R S Young – Expenses in delivering grant application	£18.40
Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Subscription	£227.19
Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – Subscription	£20.00
R F Penfold – Clerk’s salary: arrears	£7.00
R F Penfold – Expenses 2008/9	£166.84
Allianz Insurance plc – Premium	£1848.07
Kidmore End Parish Room – Hire of accommodation for meetings	£132.00

(iii) Financial Regulations

(cf 10.07(iii)/09) The Clerk reported that, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 3.5, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had, on 31 March 2009, approved the carry forward, to 2009/10, of the budget provision for the financial year 2007/8 in respect of a grant to Mapledurham Parish Council.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be approved and confirmed.

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, at year-end, against the approved budget for 2008/9. The report showed an underspend of £1,126.

RESOLVED: That £1,000 be transferred from the general fund balance to the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee, for inclusion in the fund for the replacement of the Pavilion.

11.11 NOTICE OF AUDIT

By letter, BDO Stoy Hayward LLP gave notice that they had appointed 24 July 2009 as the day when local government electors could question the external auditor on the Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009. The Clerk advised that he intended to submit the annual accounts for 2008/9 to the Council at its next meeting, and then to ask the Council to make arrangements for the completion of the annual return.

11.12 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

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

2 storey extension and alterations at Summer Cottage, Cane End;
erection of single storey side extensions, chimney and detached car port at Littlecroft, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
erection of PVCU conservatory at Silver Trees, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
single storey rear extension at Holly Tree Cottage, 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;
raising of roof to create first floor, erection of front and rear gable extensions, dormer windows and chimney at Beechwood, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common.

(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:

front garage extension, garage conversion, first and single storey side extensions and replace flat roof with pitched at Conecroft, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
removal of existing timber shed, construction of 2 single storey extensions to form kitchen and single garage and relocation of vehicular access at Rokeby Hall, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;
first floor extension over garage to create additional bedroom at 23 Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
2 storey side and rear extension at Kemp Wood, Cane End;
proposed remedial works and entrance gate flank walls at Ingle House, Park Lane, Cane End;
single and 2 storey extensions to dwelling and replacement garage at The Old Chapel, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common (amended plan).

(iii) District Council's Planning Committee

The Chairman advised that an invitation, to make representations at the meeting of the District Council's Planning Committee on 22 April 2009, about the application for demolition of existing semi-detached dwelling and construction of replacement detached dwelling at 1 Bardolphs Close, Chazey Heath (in the Parish of Mapledurham), had been declined.

(iv) Chilterns Buildings Design Guide

The Planning Officer of the Chilterns Conservation Board enclosed, with a letter, a copy the draft version of the Chilterns Building Design Guide which had been published for consultation. Comments were requested by 13 May 2009.

RESOLVED: That the consultation draft of the Chilterns Buildings Design Guide is referred to Mrs S M Biggs, and that Mrs Biggs be authorised to respond to the consultation on behalf of the Council.

(v) South Oxfordshire Local Development Framework

(cf 8.16 (iii)/09) Members were reminded that the District Council had, in March 2009, published "Your Place Your Future", the consultation document on the preferred options for its Core Strategy, the key policy document in its Local Development Framework (LDF). Members had been advised about exhibitions and 2 public workshops about the core strategy. The District Council had arranged a parish council workshop to be held at Crowmarsh on 20 April 2009: Mr R G McQuillan had attended that workshop.

Members were further reminded that the closing date for the consultation was 1 May 2009.

Mr McQuillan reported on the workshop and the core strategy.

On the proposal of Mr McQuillan, it was

RESOLVED: That the following comments be submitted to the District Council on the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework:

"We support the overall approach to housing growth.

We generally support the preferred strategy for rural communities.

Housing allocation in small villages

SODC do not need to be more proactive in housing allocation in small villages but we would like to reinforce that new developments respect the character and scale of the development especially in regard to table 17.1.

Green Belt

We do agree with the modification of green belt to accommodate development at Wheatley/Berinsfield.

AONB

We do agree with the modification of the AONB to accommodate developing Henley College at Halls Farm.

We agree that the 3rd Thames crossing would be harmful overall, and adversely affect local communities."

(vi) Consultation on planning applications

(cf 9.09(ii)/09) The Council noted an invitation from the Head of Planning of the District Council to a demonstration on electronic paperless planning consultations at Crowmarsh on 24 April 2009.

11.13 SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

The County Council's Director for Children, Young People & Families, in a letter, requested parish councils to assist with providing information, in local areas, about his Council's children's centres which provided playtime, activities and help for those with young children.

11.14 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in March 2009.

11.15 CLERK'S SALARY

(cf 6.16/08) The Clerk advised that, as a result of the concluded final national negotiations, his salary had increased to £2,591 per annum with effect from 1 April 2008.

11.16 COMMUNITY WASTE VEHICLES

The District Council's Head of Commercial Services advised, by letter, that, whilst the Oakley Wood waste recycling centre was closed, community waste vehicles would be stationed in town centres, including Henley and Wallingford, on Saturday mornings.

11.17 KIDMORE END POND

In a letter, Mrs J I MacGregor of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green referred to the duck house at Kidmore End pond, which had become detached from its moorings. She enquired whether the Council would take responsibility for its maintenance.

Members were reminded that the Council had hitherto eschewed responsibility for maintenance of the duck house. It was noted that a resident of Kidmore End had re-anchored the duck house, and it was understood that Mr R C Gutteridge intended to examine the duck house.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the future maintenance of the duck house on Kidmore End pond be deferred pending a report by Mr R C Gutteridge as to the condition of the duck house.

11.18 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

With a letter, the Information Commissioner enclosed a DVD setting out the Council's responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

11.19 REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION

(cf 9.12/09) The Director of Children, Young People & Families of the County Council advised, in a letter, that his Council was continuing its in-depth review of primary school provision. The next locality for review was the Henley/Sonning Common/Woodcote and Wallingford area. The Council was invited to be represented at a stakeholder meeting, in Wallingford, on 21 May 2009.

RESOLVED: That, subject to his willingness and ability to attend, Mr R C Gutteridge be appointed to represent the Council at the stakeholder meeting on 21 May 2009.

11.20 TOWNLANDS HOSPITAL, HENLEY

(cf 9.12/09) The Council noted a newsletter on the Henley Hospital & Community Services project.

11.21 CALOR OXFORDSHIRE VILLAGES OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

The Council noted an invitation via the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council to enter the Calor Oxfordshire Villages of the Year Competition.

11.22 EQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The Equality & Human Rights Commission enclosed, with a letter, a leaflet explaining public bodies' obligations under the current race, disability and gender equality duties.

11.23 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council.

The Chairman reported a conversation with Mrs T Beddis of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common, earlier that day, when she advised him that, in addition to the normal Tuesday evening cricket training, there had also been a football match at the Recreation Ground on 21 April 2009. The Ground and The Hamlet had been "awash with cars", even parked along the service road to the older persons' bungalows. Mrs Beddis considered that no emergency vehicle would have got through. She had taken photographs and suggested that the situation was identical to that which she had reported to the Council during 2008.

Members were concerned to hear the Chairman's report.

RESOLVED: That the Kidmore End Cricket and Football Clubs be notified formally of the Chairman's report about, and the Council's concern at, the situation at the Recreation Ground on the evening of 21 April 2009.

11.24 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to a question, the Chairman advised that he would raise with the Wells Manager whether remedial works were required to the Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End wells.