

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Tuesday 30 June 2009 at 8.05 pm and concluded at 9.45pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), R S Young (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S M Biggs, R C Gutteridge, Mrs S Hall, R G McQuillan, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mrs M S Rowland.

Apologies for absence were received from Dr B J Knapp, Dr J D M McNie, J A Swift.

2.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual meeting held on 20 May 2009 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

2.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

It was noted that Mrs C Y Viney had been re-elected as the county councillor for the Sonning Common division.

2.03 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

In a letter, PS G Pink of the Thames Valley Police introduced himself, as the officer responsible for neighbourhood policing in Henley and the surrounding villages. The dedicated police team for the area and Parish comprised:

PC B Taylor – neighbourhood specialist officer
PC Wheway and PC Greenough – neighbourhood officers
PCSO K Murray and PCSO J Smith.

PS Pink suggested that primary contact should be via PC Taylor or the PCSOs.

2.04 POLICE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

(cf 1.04/09) In view of the absence of Mrs C Y Viney, it was

RESOLVED That consideration of the report of Mrs C Y Viney as to the criteria for appointment as a member of the Police Neighbourhood Action Group be deferred to the next meeting.

2.05 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 1.06/09)The Clerk advised that no-one had contacted hlm, expressing an interest in serving as a parish councillor. Mrs M S Rowland mentioned a resident of the Parish who might be interested in so serving.

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

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

(cf 1.07/09) Mrs S M Biggs showed Members present the questionnaire produced by the South Oxfordshire Parishes Transport Innovation Group (SOTIG) concerning the Reading Travel-to-Work Area Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) bid: she had previously circulated the details to Members electronically. Members indicated their willingness to distribute the questionnaire to each household in the Parish: a "freepost" licence had been arranged for the return of the forms. Mrs Biggs advised that the total cost of the exercise, covering all the participating parishes was c£400, plus the cost of postage on the replies.

The estimated cost to the Council would, on that basis, be in the range £50 to £90.

2.07 UNDERSTANDING RURAL ISSUES

(cf 1.08/09) Mrs J E O'Sullivan reported on the District Council stakeholder workshop about rural issues, which she had found interesting. Lots of relevant statistics had been reported and the break-out sessions had been lively. That said, there was no expectation of an outcome from the workshop.

2.08 CANE END ALLOTMENTS

(cf 1.09/09) Mrs M S Rowland, the Allotments Manager, reported orally that, following discussions with the Vice-Chairman, she believed that the cost of "re-opening" of the Cane End allotments would be in the region of £1,500 to £2,000, to cover, for instance, provision of an access and hard standing, installation of a water supply and general site preparations. Mrs Rowland also reported that there were presently 6 persons on the waiting list for an allotment.

Notwithstanding that the Council did not own the allotments, given the economic circumstances prevailing, the general policy thrust to reduce "carbon footprints" and the demand for allotments, Members felt that the project ought to be examined further, in more detail.

RESOLVED: That the Allotments Manager submit a report to the next meeting setting out in more detail a proposal for "re-opening" of the Cane End allotments.

2.09 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 1.10/09) Mr R C Gutteridge requested that consideration of the future of the duck house at Kidmore End pond be again deferred to the next meeting.

Members observed that the willows at the pond should be cut down or coppiced before the growing season in 2010.

The Clerk reported an approach from Oxfordshire Highways enquiring as to the Council's reaction to the provision of further traffic signs in the vicinity of Kidmore End pond. A resident of Sonning Common had contacted Oxfordshire Highways requesting the provision of duck warning signs. 3 signs would be required, hopefully mounted on existing poles.

While some Members were supportive of the suggestion, most were opposed, arguing that there were already a significant number of road signs in the area, and the proposed signs would have little impact on the behaviour of the majority of drivers.

RESOLVED: 1 That consideration of the future maintenance of the duck house on Kidmore End pond be deferred to the next meeting.

2 That Oxfordshire Highways be advised that there was little support for the erection of "duck" warning signs near Kidmore End pond.

2.10 REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION

(cf 1.11/09) Mr R C Gutteridge advised that he had attended the stakeholder meeting about provision of primary schools, on 21 May 2009, but felt that there was little to report thereon.

2.11 WELLS

(cf 1.13/09) Mr R C Gutteridge reported that he had undertaken light remedial work, eg weeding, at the wells at Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End.

2.12 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS, SUB-COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

(cf 1.14/09) RESOLVED: That consideration of the various annual appointments be deferred to the next meeting and that existing appointments be extended to the meeting on 22 July 2009.

2.13 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND

(i) Cricket practice nets

(cf 1.15(ii)/09) The Clerk reported that Kidmore End Cricket Club had made the promised contribution towards the cost of replacement matting for the cricket practice nets at the Recreation Ground, Gallowstree Common.

(ii) Helicopter flight

It was reported that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had considered a request from Mr J M Ducker of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common for a helicopter to land at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, in connection with the celebration of a significant family event, on 18 June 2009. As a matter of urgency, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had acceded to the request, subject to Mr Ducker providing the following undertaking:

- to restore any damage to the Recreation Ground caused by the activity;
- to avoid use of the cricket square for the activity;
- to ensure that the activity does not take place when other legitimate activities, eg matches or club-arranged practice, were underway,
- to assess any risks, and to take appropriate action to minimise those risks, including marshalling any public legitimately on the Ground at the time of the activity;
- to indemnify the Council completely against any claims which might arise from the activity.

Mr Ducker had given the requested undertaking.

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

(iii) Pavilion

(cf 11.08/09) The Chairman advised that he understood that the District Council would make a grant of £200,00 towards the cost of the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

The Clerk reported that the Chairman and Dr J D M McNie had opened tenders for the project, in his presence, on 12 June 2009. 4 tender submissions had been received from the companies invited to tender – one fixed price tender and 3 budget cost tenders. They had ranged between £728,000 and £590,000: an earlier quantity surveyor's estimate had been for £670,000. Build periods ranged from 31 to 52 weeks.

At the suggestion of Richard T James Ltd, the architects retained for the project, the Chairman had authorised an invitation to those companies who had submitted budget cost tenders to submit fixed price cost breakdowns, to allow further comparison and analysis. Thereafter, a final recommendation would be made to the Council for contractor appointment.

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

2.14 FOOTPATH NO 3

(cf 1.19/09) By letter, a Rights of Way Officer of the County Council noted that the Council had no objections be raised to the proposed diversion of footpath no 3 at Park Lane, Cane End

2.15 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £21,757.79

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

R F Penfold – Clerk's salary	£647.75
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2.16 ACCOUNTS, 2008/9

The Council considered a report (09/10 -2) of the Clerk, being the draft annual return for the year ended 31 March 2009.

RESOLVED: That the return for the year ended 31 March 2009 be approved.

2.17 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

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

proposed remedial works and entrance gate flank walls at Ingle House, Park Lane, Cane End;
alterations and extensions including detached garage at Mayfield, 5 Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
raising the roof to facilitate first floor accommodation and internal alterations at 7 Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
replacement of existing detached dwelling and detached garage at Leawood, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green.

(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:

demolition of utility and partial demolition of ancillary building, 2 storey side extension at Old Yews, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End (amended plan);
extension to garage at Rose Cottage, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common;
demolition of hangar and erection of replacement hangars at Whittles Farm, Mapledurham (Parish of Mapledurham).

(iii) Applications

The Council considered an application referred to it since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That no strong views be submitted on the application for erection of games room

and swimming pool at Collegewood Farm House, Cane End for Mr I Rivers.

(iv) 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 demolition of existing semi-detached dwelling and construction of replacement detached dwelling at 1 Bardolphs Close, Chazey Heath (in Parish of Mapledurham). The appeal was to be decided on the basis of an exchange of written statements and a site visit by an inspector.

(v) South Oxfordshire Local Development Framework

(cf 1.17(v)/09) The Council noted a report of the workshop, arranged by the District Council and held on 20 April 2009, for smaller parishes in connection with Core Strategy Preferred Options in connection with that Council's Local Development Framework. Members recalled that Mr R G McQuillan had attended, and reported on, the workshop.

(vi) South East Plan – Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

(cf 5.12(iv)/08) With a letter, the Chairman of the South East England Partnership Board enclosed a copy of the draft partial review of the South East Plan in relation to gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople, which draft had been submitted to the Secretary of State. The revision would be subject to an Examination in Public in February 2010, and in the meantime, comments could be submitted, to the Planning Inspectorate, by 1 September 2009.

RESOLVED: That the draft partial review of the South East Plan in respect of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople be referred to Mrs S M Biggs for consideration and report.

2.18 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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

2.19 PROPERTY NAMING

By letter, the District Council's Head of HR, IT and Customer Services advised that the property known as Stirrups, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green had been renamed "Hollybank".

2.20 BUS STRATEGY

(cf 5.20/08) With a letter, an Assistant Public Transport Officer of the County Council enclosed a copy of his Council's revised Bus Strategy, containing the detailed published policies of that Council in relation to public transport services.

2.21 READIBUS

The Council noted an invitation to the Annual General Meeting of Readibus on 2 July 2009.

2.22 RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Council noted an invitation to an information and training event about affordable rural housing, organised by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, to be held at Marcham on 17 September 2009.

2.23 KIDMORE END CEMETERY

(cf 4.03/08) In an e-mail to the Chairman, Rev G Foulis-Brown drew attention to the deteriorating condition of the surface of the path from the Church to the Kidmore End cemetery, behind the houses and gardens in Tokers Green Lane. Mourners were finding the path increasingly difficult to use.

Members recalled that neither the County nor District Council had accepted responsibility for maintenance of the path.

RESOLVED: That approaches again be made to the District Council, urging that Council to accept responsibility for the safety of the path from Tokers Green Lane to the cemetery, a facility owned and managed by the District Council.

2.24 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

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

2.25 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

It was noted that most paths were in good order.

Reference was made to the request submitted to the County Council in October 2008, concerning the soft area on footpath 8 (the Church Path) in the woods.

RESOLVED: That enquiries be made of the County Council about its intentions regarding the condition of footpath no 8