

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 22 July 2009 at 8.00 pm and concluded at 10.00pm.

Present: R S Young (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), Mrs S M Biggs, Mrs S Hall, Dr B J Knapp, Dr J D M McNie, R G McQuillan, Mrs M S Rowland.

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

Apologies for absence were received from A K Martin, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, J A Swift, R A H Peasgood (district councillor).

3.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2009 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the deletion of the name of Mrs C Y Viney as also present at the meeting and the amendment to the heading of Minute 2.20 to read "STRATEGY".

3.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, advised that her Council

- had made provision of £100,000 available to support Armed Services' personnel and their families;
- had changed its constitution to provide for honorary aldermen;
- expected to have to find more financial savings over the next 5 years.

Mrs Viney reported that the Chairman of the Police Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) would be writing to parish councils inviting nominees to serve on the NAG.

3.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

The Clerk read a report from Mr R A H Peasgood, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, which gave an update on the District Council's new waste collection service (recycling rates had increased dramatically since the introduction of the new service), the first meeting of the Young People's Panel (11 young people representing 6 schools) and the partial review of the South East Regional Spatial Strategy in connection with land-won aggregates..

3.04 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 April to 30 June 2009, 15 crimes had been recorded – 3 burglaries non-dwelling, 2 criminal damage, 6 thefts and 4 other.

3.05 POLICE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP

(cf 2.04/09) Arising from the report of the County Councillor (see Minute 3.02 above), Mrs M S Rowland advised that she would be interested in nomination to serve as a member of the Police Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG), if a call for nominations was received.

3.06 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 2.05/09) In a letter, Mr N J M Topham of Mill Lane, Kidmore End, expressed an interest in serving as a member of the Council.

RESOLVED: That Mr N J M Topham be co-opted, pursuant to Section 89 of the Local Government Act 1972, to fill the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the death of Prof T R Morris.

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

(cf 2.06/09) Mrs S M Biggs reported that the questionnaire, prepared by the South Oxfordshire Parishes Transport Innovation Group (SOTIG), about the Reading Travel-to-Work Area Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) bid had been delivered, and replies were already being received. Mrs Biggs advised that the Council's share of the cost of the consultation exercise would be c£200.

3.08 ALLOTMENTS

(cf 2.08/09) Mrs M S Rowland, the Allotments Manager, circulated a report (09/10 - 3) about the rents for the allotments at Gallowstree Common and "re-opening" the allotments at Cane End.

RESOLVED: 1 That the rents for the allotment at Gallowstree Common be increased to £15 per annum for a full plot, commencing on 29 September 2009.

2 That tenants of the allotments at Gallowstree Common be required to agree to the terms and conditions of tenancy set out in Appendix III of the report.

3 That the project to re-instate the allotments at Cane End proceed, at a maximum estimated cost of £2000.

4 That enquiries be made of the planning authority as to what permissions might be required to re-instate the allotments at Cane End.

5 That the Allotments Manager be authorised to negotiate terms for the termination of the existing tenancy of the land forming the Cane End allotments.

(Mr R S Young 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 termination of the existing tenancy of the allotments' site at Cane End. Dr J D M McNie took the Chair in his absence.)

3.09 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 2.09/09) In view of his absence, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report of Mr R C Gutteridge about the future maintenance of the duck house on Kidmore End pond be deferred to the next meeting.

3.10 REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION

(cf 2.10/09) An officer from the County Council's School Organising & Planning Team advised that the consultation phase of review of primary school provision had been completed.

3.11 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS, SUB-COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

(cf 2.12/09) RESOLVED: That consideration of the various annual appointments be deferred to the next meeting and that existing appointments be extended to the meeting on 23 September 2009.

3.12 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND - PAVILION

(cf 2.13(iii)/09) The Council considered a report (09/10 - 4) of the Clerk, advising of

- a grant offered by the District Council towards the cost of, and
- tenders received for

the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and inviting the Council to decide the next steps in respect of the project. The Clerk had also circulated, under confidential cover, a report by Richard P James Ltd on an analysis of the tenders received.

Mr R James of Richard P James Ltd reported, in a letter, on his informal discussions with officers of the planning authority about the project. He confirmed that the present planning permission for the project expired on 17 May 2010, if no works in connection with the project had been undertaken by then. If this was the case, a fresh application would need to be submitted. The officer had also advised that temporary changing accommodation would require a separate temporary planning permission. If that accommodation was to be provided on a field adjacent to the Recreation Ground, permission for change of use would also be required.

The Clerk reported receipt of a Legal Topic Note issued in November 2007 by the National Association of Local Councils about local councils and VAT.

RESOLVED: 1 That the grant offered by the District Council for the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, including the completion of the legal agreement, be accepted, although clauses 2.7, 18 and 19 of the agreement were probably otiose in respect of a grant to another local authority.

2 That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be appointed to sign the agreement with the District Council.

3 That County Construction, Hale Building Contractors Ltd and Touchstone Investments Ltd be invited to examine their costs and to report any areas for cost saving.

3.13 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £21,110.04

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

J Sheldon – Purchase of tyres for gangmowers	£156.35
W A B Grove Ltd – Internal audit fee	£103.50
Richard P James Ltd – Fees, Pavilion project	£984.80
Peppard Building Supplies – Scalpings for Pavilion driveway	£224.02

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 30 June 2009, against the approved budget for 2009/10. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £183.

3.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally

erection of games room and swimming pool at Collegewood Farm House, Cane End;

single storey front extension at Tyburn House, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common

and that the application for demolition of hangar and erection of replacement hangars at Whittles Farm, Mapledurham (Parish of Mapledurham) had been withdrawn.

(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:

single storey front extension at Tyburn, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common;
first floor extension above existing garage at Hilbre, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End.

(iii) Applications

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

The Council noted a copy of a submission by Ms D Collins of Gallowstree Common, to the planning authority, expressing her opposition to the application for development at Hilbre and The Bungalow, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

RESOLVED: 1 That no strong views be submitted on the application for first floor study extension above existing garage at Hilbre, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End for Mr P Malaperiman (amended plan).

2 That the following comments be made on the application for demolition of 2 dwellings and erection of a 2-storey terrace consisting of 5 2-bedroom units and 4 detached 4-bedroom units, formation of vehicular access and parking at Hilbre and The Bungalow, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common for Borthwick & James "Refuse – overdevelopment of site which will lead to increased traffic on already busy road, inappropriate design of houses fronting Horsepond Road".

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

(cf 2.17(vi)/09) At her suggestion, it was

RESOLVED: that the consideration of the report of Mrs S M Biggs on the draft partial review of the South East Plan in respect of gypsies, traveller and travelling showpeople be deferred to the next meeting.

3.15 ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END - CHURCHYARD

By letter, the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council asked the Council to make a contribution towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard at St John the Baptist, Kidmore End.

Members observed that it had been the Council's practice over many years to make a grant, when requested, towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard and that the approved budget for the current financial year contained provision of £1260 for such a grant, as no request had been received in 2008/9.

RESOLVED: 1 That, in principle, a contribution be made towards the cost incurred in maintaining the churchyard in 2008/9.

2 That the Parochial Church Council be requested to advise of the expenditure incurred, in the last year of account, in maintaining the churchyard.

3.16 FREE TREE SCHEME

The District Council's Head of Planning, in a letter, advised of his Council's scheme, whereby

trees (bare root whips, 40 -90cm tall) were available free of charge, to town and parish councils and local volunteer groups, to be planted in locations of benefit to the general public.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the free tree scheme be deferred to the next meeting, to enable Members to consider possible locations for planting.

3.17 REVIEW OF SPEED LIMITS

In a letter, a Senior Engineer of Oxfordshire Highways enclosed drew attention to the review, by the County Council, of speed limits on A and B class roads, in accordance with the guidance issued by the Department for Transport. He enclosed with the letter drawings showing recommended changes to speed limits on such roads in the Parish, viz.

- reduce the speed limit on the A4074 road, through Cane End, to 40mph;
- impose a speed limit of 50mph on the B481 road, from the County boundary to the vicinity of the junction with Kennylands Road.

He requested comments on the proposals by 7 August 2009.

Members expressed their support for both of the recommendations, especially that relating to the A4074 road, given its accident record, and previous proposals by the County Council to reduce the limit through Cane End. Some Members, albeit not a majority, felt that the speed limit on the A4074 road should be reduced to 30mph from the junction with Deadman's Lane to the County boundary at Caversham, although they recognised that that would not sit easily with guidance issued by the Department for Transport.

Members urged that there was more rigorous enforcement of the speed limits on the roads in question, especially the A4074 road. Members appreciated that enforcement was not necessarily a role or function of the County Council, but hoped that that Council would press the relevant agencies to increase the level and prominence of enforcement.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be advised of the support for the proposals regarding speed limits on the A4074 and B481 roads in the Parish and of the views expressed above.

3.18 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had met on 8 July 2009, when it had discussed

- waste collection from the Pavilion: the District Council had provided a full range of domestic wheeled bins for the premises, as a result of which representative of the Cricket and Football Clubs had undertaken to present the appropriate bin for collection, at the end of the entrance drive, each week;
- the condition of the Recreation Ground, as reported by a resident of Sonning Common, on the morning of 28 June 2009, following a party at the Pavilion;
- closing the gates of the Recreation Ground each evening.

It was suggested that early consideration should be given to renewing the play equipment at the Kidmore End Play Area, and the Chairman indicated that he would discuss the matter further with Mrs S M Biggs.

The Chairman reported receipt of a letter from Ian Kendrick Ltd, observing, arising from the Company's regular mowing works at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and Kidmore End Play Area, that certain remedial works would enhance each facility, eg redressing the play equipment pits with new peelings, repairing gravel boards and cutting hedges.

RESOLVED: That Ian Kendrick Ltd be requested to provide quotations for the 7 items of work

identified by the Company at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and Kidmore End Play Area.