

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 23 September 2009 at 8.00 pm and concluded at 10.15pm.

Present: R S Young (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), Mrs S M Biggs, R C Gutteridge, Mrs S Hall, R G McQuillan, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mrs M S Rowland, J A Swift QC.

Also present: M H Leonard (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Dr B J Knapp, Dr J D M McNie, A K Martin, N J M Topham, Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

4.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2009 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correction of the name "Sonning Common" in the first line of Minute 3.04 and the substitution of the word "party" for the word "parry" in the third bullet point in Minute 3.18.

4.02 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr M H Leonard, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, reported

- on the Police Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) meeting at which there had been a demonstration by the Fire Service of vehicle crash rescue techniques;
- on progress with his Council's waste collection service. Although there had been some resistance to the new regime in Henley, up to 72% of the waste collected was recyclable and, indeed, recycled. Additional wheeled bins were available in certain circumstances, and the operatives would collect recyclables presented on kerbside in the old crates;
- that his Council was to introduce charges for pre-application planning advice;
- that Police Community Support Officers could issue fixed penalty notices for some anti-social activities/crimes;
- on the Young Achievers Awards.

Mr Leonard stressed the importance of accumulating the necessary funds to proceed with the Pavilion project (see Minute 4.10), as the District Council could withdraw the offered grant if the scheme did not proceed in a timely fashion.

The Council congratulated Mr Leonard in his election as Chairman of the District Council.

4.03 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

Although there was no report from the Police, it was observed that Police Community Support Officers had been active in the Parish, for instance issuing fixed penalty notices to persons parked inappropriately near Kidmore End School.

4.04 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 3.06/09) In view of his absence,

RESOLVED: That, pursuant to Section 83(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, Mr N J M Topham be permitted to make his declaration of acceptance of office at or before the next meeting.

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

(cf 3.07/09) Mrs S M Biggs reported orally on the results of the survey, undertaken by the South

Oxfordshire Parishes Transport Innovation Group (SOTIG), about the Reading Travel-to-Work Area Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) bid: she had circulated the results electronically to Members prior to the meeting. 1114 questionnaires had been returned, about a third of those issued, which represented a very good rate of return for surveys of this type.

No respondents had said that Reading Borough Council had consulted them about the TIF bid. Only 165 of respondents supported a new crossing of the River Thames, but, of those who did, the crossing as an extension of the A3290 road south of the river was favoured. Many respondents supported the concept of park and ride, but few would use such facilities, if provided. There was no support for the imposition of road charging in Reading, but strong support for better public transport.

Mrs Biggs indicated that SOTIG had requested a statement on behalf of the Council, in response to the survey results.

RESOLVED: That a statement be submitted to the South Oxfordshire Parishes Transport Innovation Group commenting that the survey indicated that there had been no consultation in the area by Reading Borough Council and that there was strong support for improved public transport, and that Mrs S M Biggs and Mr J A Swift be authorised to draft the statement on behalf of the Council.

4.06 ALLOTMENTS

(cf 3.08/09) In a letter, the District Council's Head of Planning Services advised that, in his opinion, planning permission would not be required for the restoration of the Cane End allotments per se. However, he considered that permission would be required for the erection of any structures on the land, the formation of any hard standings and alterations to the access. Mrs M S Rowland, the Allotments Manager, indicated that she intended to challenge the officer's view regarding the access to the site.

In the meantime, Mrs Rowland intended to contact the persons whose names were on the waiting list for allotments, with a view to ensuring that there remained demand for additional allotments in the Parish.

Mrs Rowland reported that the Clerk had, at her request, given notice to Mr S Major that his tenancy of an allotment at Gallowstree Common would not be renewed at Michaelmas 2009, because the allotment had been neglected. Mrs Rowland reported that the allotment in question contained a great number of glass bottles. It was suggested that she contact the District Council to arrange removal of the bottles.

4.07 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 3.09/09) At his request, 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.

4.08 REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION

(cf 3.10/09) An officer from the County Council's School Organising & Planning Team advised that the Council was now reviewing the outcome of the consultation phase of the review of primary school provision, with a view to identifying where capital programme works would be required to address, for instance, an insufficiency of school places.

4.09 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS, SUB-COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

(cf 3.11/09) RESOLVED: That the following appointments be made for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2010:

Allotments Manager
Wells Manager

Mrs M S Rowland
Mr R C Gutteridge

Plans Sub-Committee	Mrs S G Hall, Dr D J M McNie, Mr R G McQuillan, Mr A K Martin, Mrs M S Rowland, Mr R S Young
Rights of Way Committee	Dr D J M McNie, Mr R G McQuillan, Mrs J E O'Sullivan.
Traffic Calming Sub-Committee	Mrs S M Biggs, Mr J A Swift
Editorial Board of Newsletter	Mr D Brown*, Dr B J Knapp, Mr A Miros*, Mrs M S Rowland
Representatives on Playing Fields Committee	Mr R C Gutteridge, Mr R G McQuillan, Mr R S Young
Representative on Chiltern Edge Community Association	Mr J A Swift
Representative on Oxfordshire Association	Mrs S G Hall
Local Councils	
Transport Representative	Mrs S G Hall, Mr J A Swift
Website Liaison Councillor	Mr R C Gutteridge

* Not a member of the Council

4.10 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND – PAVILION

(cf 3.12/09) The Clerk circulated, under confidential cover, a letter from Richard P James Ltd concerning the tenders received for the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. This showed that the 3 remaining tenderers had revised their prices, on further examination, into a range between £647,250 to £649,790, with 2 of the tenderers suggesting lower prices with different specifications. Richard P James Ltd commented that it was unlikely that the potential contractors would hold their prices beyond the end of 2009.

The Chairman reported that the England & Wales Cricket Board had confirmed to the Cricket Club that the Board remained committed to the principle of financial support for the project. Sport England, however, had advised that its Rural Communities themed round had been oversubscribed, and it was not encouraging further development of the application for funding from that source.

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services of the District Council enclosed, with a letter, a copy of the draft grant agreement for approval, requested copies of documents like the planning permission for the replacement Pavilion and sought clarification about the funding arrangements for the project. The Clerk advised that the draft agreement accorded with the document considered in July 2009, amended as then suggested.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be advised as follows in respect of funding for the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground:

“The Council has thus far accumulated £13,500 towards the cost of the project, which is estimated to cost £650,000. I am advised that the Council’s partners, for example the Kidmore End Cricket Club, have collected £20,000. Your Council has offered a grant of £200,000 and my Council and its partners are seeking further funding from other potential grant and other sources. In this vein, the England & Wales Cricket Board, to whom an application has been submitted for £150,000, has confirmed its “in principle” financial support for the project. The Council has passed a resolution that it will raise £100,000, by loan, if sanction is granted, towards the cost of the project.

“The Council and its partners are confident that the necessary funds will be accumulated. However, I think it fair to say that a start on the project will be delayed until there are firm indications that the funds are in place, or promised, to meet the total cost of the exercise.”

4.11 ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END - CHURCHYARD

(cf 3.15/09) The Secretary of the Parochial Church Council, in a letter, advised that the

expenditure on maintenance of the churchyard at St John the Baptist, Kidmore End had amounted to £1,322, excluding the cost of topiary and tree surgery, in 2008.

In accordance with the decision at the last meeting, it was

RESOLVED: That a grant of £660 be made to Parochial Church Council towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard of St John Baptist, Kidmore End in 2008.

4.12 FREE TREE SCHEME

(cf 3.16/09) Consideration was again given to the District Council's free tree scheme. However, no potential sites for planting such trees were identified.

RESOLVED: That residents be invited to identify possible tree planting sites, via an article in the Parish Newsletter.

4.13 RECREATION AND OTHER SITES

(cf 3.18/09) The Council received a quotation from Ian Kendrick Ltd for the following works:

Redressing the play equipment pits at the Kidmore End Play Area and Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground - £1275
Cut hedge at play area at Recreation Ground - £95
Cut full length of western boundary of Recreation Ground - £195
Cut back around the Kidmore End Play Area - £320
Tidy up around Gallowstree Common well - £165.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the quotation be deferred, pending discussions between the Chairman and the Director of Ian Kendrick Ltd

4.14 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £20,606.04.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments	£14.22
Oxfordshire County Council – Vehicle activated speed indicator device	£3525.00
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£22.18
LexisNexis – Copy of Arnold Baker “Local Council Administration” 8 th ed	£59.05
Ian Kendrick Ltd – Tidying works at play areas	£248.40
Web Mania Ltd – Hosting of website	£28.74
R F Penfold – Clerk’s salary	£647.75
Parochial Church Council – Contribution towards maintenance of churchyard	£660.00

4.15 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally

extension to garage at Rose Cottage, the Hamlet, Gallowstree Common;
first floor study extension above existing garage at Hilbre, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;
change of use of paddock to domestic recreational at The Old Nurseries, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
raising of walls and roof of bungalow including front and rear dormers and front porch at Beechwood, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common;

and that the application for demolition of 2 dwellings and erection of 2-storey terrace consisting of 5 2-bedroom units and 4 detached 4-bedroom units at Hillside and The Bungalow, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common 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:

change of use of paddock to domestic recreational at Old Nurseries, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
raising of walls and roof of bungalow including front and rear dormers and front porch at Beechwood, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common;
erection of porch and windows and rear extension to create additional living accommodation, demolition of shed at Myrtle Cottage, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
raising of roof to form first floor accommodation plus single storey rear extension at The Acorns, Beech Road, Tokers Green (and amended plan);
retrospective consent for change of use to B1 and B8 on 6 units at Vines Farm, Cane End;
single storey rear kitchen/dining room extension at Byways, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End.

(iii) Tree Preservation Order

By letters, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services of the District Council advised that her Council had made, and subsequently confirmed, South Oxfordshire District Council (Gallowstree Common Area) Tree Preservation Order no 19/2009, relating to trees located along the north eastern and south eastern boundaries of the garden of the property known as Hillside, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

(iv) Town and parish councillor planning training

The District Council's Head of Planning indicated, in a letter, that his Council was considering holding training sessions for parish and town councillors, primarily new councillors, on planning, in November or December 2009.

4.16 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted updates for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in June, July and September 2009.

4.17 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

The September 2009 update from the Association of Local Councils (see Minute 4.15) contained details of the Playbuilder Grant scheme 2010-11 and the Play Design Grant schemes which were open to applications.

Members recalled the unsuccessful application submitted in 2008 for a grant under the scheme to refurbish the Kidmore End Play Area. They felt that another attempt should be made to secure a grant for refurbishing the Area, given that the play equipment therein was probably drawing to the end of its useful life. Mrs S M Biggs advised that she was attending a workshop about the Playbuilder scheme on

26 September 2009.

In this connection, the Head of Grants of the District Council set out an invitation to parish councils to a play exhibition open evening at Crowmarsh on 6 October 2009.

RESOLVED: 1 That an application be submitted for a play design grant for refurbishing the Kidmore End Play Area, and that Mrs S M Biggs be authorised to devise and submit the application, on behalf of the Council.

2 That, in principle, an application be submitted for a Playbuilder grant for the project in 2010/11.

3 That Mrs S M Biggs and another Member be appointed to attend the District Council's play exhibition open evening, their attendance being an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

4.18 COUNTY COUNCIL'S COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES

With a letter, the County Council's Director for Environment & Economy enclosed a copy of his Council's annual report for the financial year 2008/9.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report 2009 of the County Council's Countryside Service be referred to Mrs S Hall for consideration and report.

4.19 FOOTPATH MATTERS

(i) Footpath 8

(cf 2.25/09) The County Council's Right of Way Field Officer (South) indicated, in a letter, that he had inspected footpath 8, through the woods off Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common in December 2008 and August 2009. He had arranged for some vegetation to be cut back, particularly around the section of the path which lay wet in the winter of 2008.

It was reported that Vines Farm had arranged for additional surface material to be tipped onto the low point in the path earlier in the summer, which work, it was felt, would improve the path once it had settled in.

(ii) Footpath 3

(cf 2.14/09) With a letter, a Rights of Way Officer of the County Council enclosed a copy of the Oxfordshire County Council Kidmore End Footpath No 3 (part) Public Path Diversion Order 2009, which order, made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, would, if confirmed, divert part of footpath 3 to run generally south south west from Withy Copse to Park Lane, Cane End. Representations could be made against the Order until 25 September 2009.

4.20 HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT ISSUES

(i) Local Transport Plan

The Local Transport Plan Team of the County Council, by e-mail, advised of the timetable in respect of consultation on the Council's third Local Transport Plan, which would set the blueprint for transport in Oxfordshire from 2011 to 2030. There would be 7 phases of consultation, the next of which would be on a long list of schemes (from November to December 2009) and policies (December 2009 to January 2010). The final draft plan would be the subject of consultation in July to October 2010.

(ii) Oxfordshire Highways

With a letter, the Assistant Head of Transport (Oxfordshire Highways) enclosed a copy of the

Oxfordshire Highways Annual Report 2008/9.

RESOLVED: That the Oxfordshire Highways Annual Report 2008/9 be referred to Mrs S Hall for consideration and report.

(iii) National Highways and Transport Survey

In an e-mail, the Head of Transport of the County Council invited the Council to participate in the National Highways and Transport Survey, a trial exercise seeking views of service users, so that authorities could better understand the perception of the services they provided.

4.21 VEHICLE SPEEDS

The Henley Neighbourhood Sergeant of the Thames Valley Police advised, in a letter, that temporary mobile speed indicator devices, designed to alert passing motorists to their speed, could be made available for use by parish councils and recognised community groups on roads with a speed limit of 40mph or less.

Members observed that the Council had paid for the installation of a permanent vehicle activated speed indicator device on Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, covering east bound traffic. Members believed that the device had had some effect on speeds through that village, in that direction. Members felt that an exercise deploying the mobile speed indicator devices on westbound traffic in Horsepond Road and in Reades Lane, between Chiltern Edge School and Horsepond Road, would be helpful .

RESOLVED: That the Henley Neighbourhood Sergeant of the Thames Valley Police be asked to explore the possibility of occasional deployment of the speed indicator devices, or, indeed, enforcement devices, at the locations mentioned above.

4.22 OXFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Council noted an invitation to the Annual General Meeting of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council at Kennington on 7 October 2009.

4.23 CHILTERNNS CONSERVATION BOARD

The Clerk referred to the Annual Review of the Chilterns Conservation Board and reported receipt of an e-mail drawing attention to the vacancy for a Board Member: Mr R C Gutteridge expressed an interest in the vacancy for Board Member. Another e-mail gave details of the Annual Chilterns Forum to be held at Aston Clinton on 6 November 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Chilterns Conservation Board Annual Review 2008/9 be referred to Mrs J E O'Sullivan and Mrs M S Rowland for consideration and report.

4.24 OXFORDSHIRE PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

The Council noted an invitation to the Annual General Meeting of the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association to be held at Islip on 21 October 2009.

4.25 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had met on 9 September 2009, when, aside from the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, it had discussed the increasing problem of dog faeces being left on the playing pitches at the Recreation Ground by persons exercising their dogs.

4.26 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

The Chairman commented that farmers were being advised to erect suitable warning signs where paths passed through fields which contained farm animals.

4.27 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to a question, the Chairman advised that he had heard that the Church authorities had approached the planning authority about the development potential of the glebe land in Wood Lane, Kidmore End.