

## KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 21 October 2009 at 8.00 pm and concluded at 9.35pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), R S Young (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S M Biggs, Dr B J Knapp, Dr J D M McNie, R G McQuillan, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mrs M S Rowland.

Also present: R A H Peasgood (district councillor), Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Hall, J A Swift QC.

### 5.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2009 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 5.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- the Henley [Police] Neighbourhood Action Group was to be revised, as it was felt to cover too large an area;
- her Council's relevant Cabinet Member would attend the meeting of the South Oxfordshire Parishes Transport Innovation Group on 12 November 2009;
- her Council's adult social care services were assessed, after inspection, to have a promising future;
- her Council had received a Community Rail Development Award, in respect of the Cotswold Line;
- her Council's budget exercise would be difficult, in that 500 posts would need to be removed, but not from front line services;
- potholes were now filled in a different way, designed to provide a more lasting solution.

Reference was made to potholes in Wyfold Road, Gallowstree Common. Enquiries were made as to whether the County Council had recouped the funds invested earlier in Icelandic banks. Mrs Viney undertook to report back on that point.

### 5.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr R A H Peasgood, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, reported

- on the savings accruing to his Council as a result of its integrated management with Vale of the White Horse District Council;
- that unemployment in the District was lower than the County as a whole, which, in turn was lower than elsewhere in the region and the country;
- that different size refuse and recycling bins would be available from January 2010, a development welcomed by Members;
- that the Secretary of State had approved increased toll charges for Whitchurch Bridge;
- on the good results his Council obtained in the annual Residents' Survey: the public considered the Council to be improving.

Mr Peasgood enquired whether Members had any feedback on the refuse and recycling collection arrangements. Members commented favourably on the flexible approach of the contractor's employees.

Mr Peasgood referred to the documents obtained by South Oxfordshire Parishes Transport Innovation

Group arising from a study in 2007, which showed 3 possible park and ride sites north of Reading in Oxfordshire. A site on the A4155 road between Reading and Henley was thought to be the most likely first to be pursued.

#### 5.04 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

Although there was no report from the Police, the Chairman rehearsed for Members his experiences in seeking to report a crime at his home.

#### 5.05 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 4.04/09) In view of his absence, it was

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.

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

(cf 4.05/09) Mrs S M Biggs observed that all of the matters relating to the South Oxfordshire Parishes Transport Innovation Group and the Reading Travel-to-Work Area Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) bid had been discussed arising from the reports of the county and district councillors.

#### 5.07 ALLOTMENTS

(cf 4.06/09) Mrs M S Rowland, the Allotments Manager, advised that she had contacted persons whose names were on the waiting list for allotments, to ascertain interest in allotments at Cane End. Only 4 of those persons were interested in an allotment at Cane End. Mrs Rowland was minded, therefore, to recommend that the project to re-open the Cane End allotments should be deferred, but would await any later expressions of interest arising from an article in the Parish Newsletter.

Mrs Rowland referred to enquiries from existing allotments holders regarding sheds at the Gallowstree Common allotments: she had advised enquirers about the Council's previous decision on the subject.

Finally, she advised that the former allotment holder whose tenancy had expired had cleared the accumulation of glass bottles on his former plot

#### 5.08 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 4.07/09) In 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.

#### 5.09 RECREATION FACILITIES

##### (i) Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground - Pavilion

(cf 4.10.09/09) The Clerk reported receipt of the agreement, in duplicate, for execution, in respect of the grant offered by the District Council towards the cost of the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. He expected the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, in accordance with the authority granted at the meeting in July 2009 (Minute 3.12 refers), to sign the agreement after the meeting.

##### (ii) Play Equipment

(cf 4.17/09) Mrs S M Biggs reported that she had submitted an application, in the name of the

Council, for a play design grant for the refurbishment of the Kidmore End Play Area and the play area at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

#### 5.10 ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END - CHURCHYARD

(cf 4.11/09) The Secretary of the Parochial Church Council, in a letter, thanked the Council for its contribution towards the cost of the maintenance of the churchyard at St John the Baptist, Kidmore End in 2008.

#### 5.11 COUNTY COUNCIL'S COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES

(cf 4.18/09) In view of her absence, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report of Mrs S Hall on the Annual Report 2009 of the County Council's Countryside Service be deferred to the next meeting.

#### 5.12 OXFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS

(cf 4.20(ii)/09) In view of her absence, it was.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report by Mrs S Hall on the Oxfordshire Highways Annual Report 2008/9 be deferred to the next meeting.

#### 5.13 CHILTERN CONSERVATION BOARD

(cf 4.23/09) At their request, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report of Mrs J E O'Sullivan and Mrs M S Rowland on the Chilterns Conservation Board Annual Review 2008/9 be deferred to the next meeting

#### 5.14 FINANCE

##### (i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £29,998.20.

##### (ii) Accounts for payment

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

BDO Stoy Hayward LLP – Audit fee	£155.25
Vines Farm – Cutting hedge at allotments, Gallowstree Common	£57.50

##### (iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 30 September 2009, against the approved budget for 2009/10. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £517.

#### 5.15 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

(cf 2.16/09) BDO Stoy Hayward LLP gave notice that the audit of the Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009 had been completed. The Partnership reported that, on the basis of its review, in its opinion the information contained in the annual return was in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and no matters had come its attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

The partnership had, however, submitted a report on other matters, not affecting their opinion, which they wished to draw to the attention of the Council. These related to a review of the Council's fidelity guarantee cover, which appeared, to the Partnership, to be insufficient in light of the bank balances held at 31 March 2009 and the amount of precept received on 1 April. The Responsible Financial Officer suggested that the fidelity guarantee cover be increased from £20,000 to £30,000.

RESOLVED; That enquiries be made of the Council's insurers as to the premium cost of increasing fidelity guarantee cover from £20,000 to £30,000.

#### 5.16 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

##### (i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally

retrospective consent for change of use to B1(c) and B8 on 6 units at Wood Edge, Vines Farm, Cane End;  
erection of porch and rear extension to create additional living accommodation, demolition of shed at Myrtle Cottage, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;  
single storey rear kitchen/dining room extension at Byways, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;

and that the application for raising of roof to form first floor accommodation plus single storey rear extension at The Acorns, Beech Road, Tokers Green had been refused.

##### (ii) Town and parish councillor planning training

(cf 4.15(iv)/09) The District Council's Head of Planning Services indicated, in a letter, that the planning training for town and parish councillors was to be held at his Council's offices in Crowmarsh on 2 November 2009. No Member present expressed an interest in attending the session.

RESOLVED: That enquiries be made of Mr R C Gutteridge as to whether he wished to attend the training session.

##### (iii) Tree preservation order

With letters, the District Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services enclosed a copy of the South Oxfordshire District Council (Kidmore End Area) Tree Preservation Order No 143/2009 relating to trees in the garden at Beryspytle, Horsepond Road, Cane End and a copy of the revocation order for the South Oxfordshire District Council (Kidmore End Area) Tree Preservation Order 15/2001 which had related to the same site.

##### (iv) South Oxfordshire Local Development Framework

(cf 2.17(v)/09) The Head of Planning Services of the District Council, in a letter, advised that his Council was reviewing the Statement of Community Involvement, part of its Local Development Framework. He invited comments on possible changes, to reflect government guidance, by 28 October 2009.

##### (v) Reading Borough Council's Local Development Framework

(cf 6.11(iv)/09) By letter Director of Environment, Culture & Sport of Reading Borough Council advised that her Council was in the process of producing its Sites Allocation Document, a document that identified sites for development, for protection and for other designations. A number of sites had been suggested for inclusion in the document, and comments were invited on those sites by 13 November

2009. Of particular interest to the Council was the identification, for possible development, of part of the Reading golf course, in Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green, not far from the boundary with the Parish.

#### 5.17 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CAMPAIGN

A Communications Officer of the Thames Valley Police enclosed, with a letter, publicity material in respect of the force's anti-social behaviour campaign, starting with Alcohol Awareness Week (19 - 23 October) and taking in Halloween week and Not in my Neighbourhood week (2 – 6 November).

#### 5.18 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

By letter, the Project Liaison Officer of British Telecommunications plc pointed out that the 3 public telephone kiosks in the Parish had had little usage in the past 12 months, which indicated to the Company that they were no longer required by the community as a means of communication. The letter inferred that the Company intended to remove the telephony equipment, as it offered the kiosks for sale to communities for £1 each. In such circumstances, the ownership of the kiosk(s) would transfer to the Council. The kiosks concerned were at Cane End (17 calls in 12 months), Chalkhouse Green (7 calls) and Crayleaze, Kidmore End (5 calls).

Members reluctantly acknowledged that, given the low usage, there was little prospect of maintaining telephony services from the kiosks. Members felt that there would be value in retaining the kiosks, as a cultural icon, although it was recognised that the maintenance of the kiosks might become a financial burden in future years.

The District Council's Head of Planning Services enclosed, with a letter, a questionnaire about the "adopt a kiosk" scheme.

RESOLVED: That interest be expressed in adopting the public telephone kiosks at Cane End, Chalkhouse Green and Kidmore End.

#### 5.19 ROAD SAFETY

The Road Safety Officer of the County Council advised, in a letter, of the availability of her Council's road safety mobile information unit for use at exhibitions, fetes etc.

#### 5.20 SUE RYDER CARE – NETTLEBED HOSPICE

By letter, the Community Fundraiser of the Sue Ryder Care – Nettlebed Hospice requested the Council to consider making a donation to the facility. Members noted that there was no provision for such a grant in the budget for the financial year 2009/10.

RESOLVED; That consideration be given to making a grant to Sue Ryder Care – Nettlebed Hospice when setting the budget for the financial year 2010/11.

#### 5.21 OXFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Council noted an invitation to an extraordinary general meeting and adjourned annual general meeting of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, to be held on 9 November 2009, when revised Memorandum and Articles would be submitted for approval.

#### 5.22 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

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