

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 18 November 2009 at 8.00 pm and concluded at 9.30pm.

Present: R S Young (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), Mrs S Hall, Dr B J Knapp, Dr J D M McNie, R G McQuillan, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mrs M S Rowland, J A Swift QC, N J M Topham.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S M Biggs, A K Martin, Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor), PCSO L Wallman (Thames Valley Police).

6.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2009 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

- the substitution of the following sentence for the second sentence in the second paragraph of Minute 5.03 "Members commented favourably on the flexible approach of the contractor's employees";
- correcting the name of the property to "Byways, Chalkhouse Green Road", in Minute 5.16(i);
- correcting the spelling of the word "planning" in the second line of Minute 5.16(ii);
- correcting the spelling of the road name "Horsepond Road" in Minute 5.16(iii).

6.02 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

In presenting her apologies for absence, PCSO L Wallman had submitted a report, which the Clerk read to the Council. The report indicated that the Police had been visiting the Recreation Ground at Gallowstree Common regularly in the evening, and had issued a caution to a male who had been in possession of cannabis. Reference was made to an operation to reduce anti-social behaviour over the Halloween and Bonfire Night period and to a few burglaries in the rural area. Finally, PCSO Wallman advised that a Police surgery would be held outside the New Inn, Kidmore End on the afternoon of 3 December 2009.

6.03 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 5.05/09) Mr N J M Topham made his declaration of acceptance of office prior to the meeting. At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed Mr Topham to the Council.

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

(cf 5.06/09) Mr J A Swift reported that he had attended, with the Chairman and Mrs S M Biggs, a meeting of the South Oxfordshire Parishes Transport Innovation Group on 12 November 2009, which meeting had been attended by councillors and officers of the County Council. The meeting had discussed the County Council's approach to the Reading Travel-to-Work Area Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) bid, which was to be discussed by the County Council's Cabinet at a meeting on 24 November 2009.

Officers of the County Council were recommending that that Council be a participant in the TIF bid at "level 2", but seek to retain a veto over an additional bridge across the River Thames. SOTIG Members had expressed the view that the County Council's stance bore little reflection of SOTIG views, or the outcome of SOTIG's survey of residents. SOTIG intended, therefore, to be represented at the meeting of Cabinet, and address councillors concerning the SOTIG position. To this end Mr Swift had suggested that the representatives should remind the County Council that residents had not been consulted by Reading Borough Council about the TIF bid, despite Reading claims in that regard, and urging that the County Council not participate in the bid.

RESOLVED: That the Council support the stance of the South Oxfordshire Parishes Transport

Innovation Group, as outlined above, in connection with the County Council's proposed participation in the Reading Travel-to-Work Area Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) bid.

6.05 ALLOTMENTS

(cf 5.07/09) Mrs M S Rowland, the Allotments Manager, advised that, following the notice in the Parish Newsletter, there were now 8 persons on the waiting list for allotments, all of whom understood that the allotments in all probability would be at Cane End. She intended, therefore, to submit a report to the next meeting on progressing the "re-opening" the allotments at Cane End.

The Clerk advised an informal approach from a resident to purchase the site of the allotments at Cane End.

6.06 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 5.08/09) 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.

6.07 RECREATION FACILITIES

(i) Play Equipment

(cf 5.09/09) The Chairman reported that the bid for a play design grant for the play areas at Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End had been successful. Members congratulated Mrs S M Biggs, who had drafted the bid, on that achievement.

The County Council had issued an agreement for completion, in connection with the grant, which required, inter alia, certain insurance arrangements to be in place.

RESOLVED: That, subject to confirmation that the Council's insurance met the criteria set out in the agreement, Mrs S M Biggs be authorised, on the Council's behalf, to sign the agreement from the County Council for the play design grant.

(ii) Site works

(cf 4.13/09) By letter, the Director of Ian Kendrick Ltd provided a revised quotation for works at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, the Gallowstree Common well and Kidmore End Play Area, as set out in Minute 4.13 of the meeting held in September 2009. The Company would undertake the work in the total sum of £2050 + VAT, subject to a discount of 10% if the work was undertaken in January or February 2010, which would reduce the cost to £1845 + VAT.

RESOLVED: That the revised quotation from Ian Kendrick Ltd for works at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, the Gallowstree Common well and Kidmore End Play Area be accepted.

6.08 COUNTY COUNCIL'S COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES

(cf 5.11/09) Mrs S Hall reported on the Annual Report 2009 of the County Council's Countryside Service, a matter deferred at the last meeting. Ms Hall had been impressed by the work of the Service in maintaining the network of footpaths and bridlepaths, increasingly with the support of unpaid volunteers.

6.09 OXFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS

(cf 5.12/09) Mrs S Hall reported on the Oxfordshire Highways Annual Report 2008/9, a matter deferred from the last meeting. Mrs Hall had not been impressed by the report, as, aside from reference

to repairing 20,000 potholes, it seemed largely to be unduly self-congratulatory: Mrs Hall was particularly sceptical of the high rating accorded to Oxfordshire Highways in a satisfaction survey.

6.10 CHILTERNNS CONSERVATION BOARD

(cf 5.13/09) Mrs J E O'Sullivan reported on the Chilterns Conservation Board Annual Review 2008/9, a matter deferred at the last meeting. Mrs O'Sullivan indicated that she had found the document interesting, explaining how the Board supported the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and highlighting particular activities in respect of aircraft movements, building design and monitoring changes to land use.

6.11 FIDELITY GUARANTEE

(cf 5.15/09) By letter, an Underwriter of the Schemes Team at Allianz Insurance plc indicated that the Company would consider increasing the fidelity guarantee indemnity to £30,000 on completion of a proposal form. The annual premium would rise by £27.30 for the increased cover.

RESOLVED: That Allianz Insurance plc be requested to increase the fidelity guarantee cover to £30,000.

6.12 SUE RYDER CARE – NETTLEBED HOSPICE

(cf 5.20/09) The Community Fundraiser of the Sue Ryder Care – Nettlebed Hospice, in a letter, thanked the Council for agreeing to consider making a grant to the hospice in the financial year 2010/11.

6.13 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £29,819.95.

(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	£46.15
Ian Kendrick Ltd – Mowing	£1477.75

6.14 CLERK'S SALARY

The Clerk advised that, as a result of concluded national negotiations, his salary had increased to £2617 per annum with effect from 1 April 2009.

6.15 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) 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:

alterations and extensions including detached garage at Mayfield, 5 Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green (amended plan);
2 x 10mph speed limit signs at entrance to Beech Road at junction with Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green.

(ii) Mill Lane, Kidmore End – Wall

Reference was made to a wall, of about 2 metres in height, which had been built adjacent to the highway in Mill Lane, Kidmore End.

6.17 OXFORDSHIRE ROAD CASUALTY REPORT, 2008

A member of the County Council's Road Safety Team enclosed, with a letter, a copy of his Council's Casualty Report and Road Safety Plan.

RESOLVED: That the Oxfordshire Road Casualty Report 2008 be referred to Mrs M S Rowland for consideration and report.

6.18 REVIEW OF SPEED LIMITS

(cf 3.17/09) A Senior Engineer of Oxfordshire Highways enclosed, with a letter, a copy of the draft Oxfordshire County Council (A4074 Woodcote to Mapledurham Road) 40 and 50 Miles per Hour Speed Limit) Order 20** which, if made, would impose a speed limit of 40mph on the A4074 road through Cane End, extend the 50mph speed limit on the road to north of the junction with Exlade Street, in the Parish of Checkendon, and retain the 50mph speed limit south of Cane End to the County boundary. He requested expressions of support for, or objections to, the proposed order by 20 November 2009.

Members expressed disappointment at 2 aspects of the draft order. The first was that the speed limit was not being reduced at the junction of Deadman's Lane with the A4074 road, given the significant turning movements at that junction. The second was that the speed limit was not being reduced to 40mph through Chazey Heath. Many residents of Tokers Green, in the Parish, used the junction of Rokeby Drive with the A4074 road. The junction was considered by many to be dangerous, and had a record of injury and fatal accidents.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be advised that the proposed order is supported, as it applies to the length of the A4074 road in the Parish, that the reduction of the speed limit through Cane End to 40mph is welcomed but that consideration should be given to reducing the speed limits at the 2 sites mentioned above.

6.19 SOUTH & VALE CARERS CENTRE

By letter, the Manager of the South & Vale Carers Centre requested financial assistance from the Council. The Manager reported that 3 carers from the Parish had been supported in the past year. Members observed that the budget for 2009/10 contained provision for a grant of £35 to the Centre.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £40 be made to the South & Vale Carers Centre in the financial year 2009/10.

6.20 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

A Fundraiser for the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind requested, in a letter, that the Council consider making a grant to the Association. The Council recalled that the budget for the financial year 2009/10 contained provision of £35 for a grant to the Association.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £35 be made to the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind in the financial year 2009/10.

6.21 AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS

(cf 11.09/08) In a letter, the Consultation Team of NATS (En Route) plc advised that there would

no further consultation on revised airspace design for "Terminal Control North" until September 2010, not the least because of the general downturn in air traffic levels resulting from the economic situation.

6.22 FIRE AUTHORITY'S INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTATION ACTION PLAN 2010 – 2011

By letter, the County Council's Cabinet Member for Community Safety and the Chief Fire Officer and Director for Community Safety and Shared Services advised that the Oxfordshire Fire Authority's Integrated Risk Management Consultation 2001-11 had been issued, with the consultation period ending on 31 January 2010. The document provided details of the strategic direction for future fire and rescue provision and highlighted a shift in emphasis to preventing fires and other emergencies before they occurred.

6.23 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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

6.24 FREE TREE SCHEME

(cf 4.12/09) Mr D Brown of Kidmore End suggested, by e-mail in response to an article in the Parish Newsletter, that trees be planted on the land at the entrance to Craysleaze, opposite the Parish Room. Members suggested other sites, viz, to strengthen the hedge on the east side of Kidmore End Road, Chalkhouse Green at the entrance to the former refuse tip and on the land on the south east side of the junction of Wood Lane with Hosrpeond Road, Gallowstree Common.

RESOLVED: That approaches be made to the owners of the above-mentioned sites for their consent to plant trees thereon.

6.25 THAMES VALLEY CRIMESTOPPERS

The Chairman of Thames Valley Crimestoppers drew attention, by letter, to the work of the organisation to help reduce crime and the fear of crime.

6.26 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had met on 11 November 2009, when the principal issue had been slow progress to amass the funds necessary to allow the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground to start.

6.27 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to questions, the Chairman

- a advised that he would inspect the notice board at Cane End, which had been damaged;
- b noted that the Editorial Board of the Parish Newsletter expected to publish the Winter edition in December 2009;
- c noted with interest the intention to record, by video, events in the Parish and the recollections of older residents.