

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 20 January 2010 at 8.00 pm and concluded at 10.25pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), R S Young (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S M Biggs, R C Gutteridge, Mrs S Hall, Dr J D M McNie, R G McQuillan, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, J A Swift QC, N J M Topham.

Also present: Ms A Kennedy (Rural Housing Enabler, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council), R A H Peasgood (district councillor), Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor), PCSO L Wallman (Thames Valley Police).

Apologies for absence were received from Dr B J Knapp, Mrs M S Rowland.

8.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2009 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to

- the correction to the word "Customer" and the substitution of the name "School" for "Scholl" in Minute 7.12; and
- the substitutions of the words "for" for "fro" and "the" for "eth" in the first line of the second paragraph of Minute 7.14.

8.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- her Council was drafting its budget for 2010/11, and hoping to maintain funding for the Youth Service;
- she had received few complaints about her Council's response to the severe weather conditions, before and after Christmas: her Council was, nevertheless, reviewing its response, to establish if the service could be improved;
- a high number of potholes had appeared in the highways following the severe weather;
- her Council was working on its residual waste treatment contract, as one of the Council's aims was to reduce domestic waste going to landfill to zero.

Members commented on road conditions in the severe weather, noting that the County Council had refilled the salt/grit bin in Kidmore End twice during the snowy weather and commenting on the legal position of residents who cleared the snow and ice from the carriageway and/or footways of highways. Mrs Viney indicated that the County Council was looking into whether to restore the arrangements of the 20th century, whereby farmers etc were paid a retainer to clear local roads with snow ploughs.

8.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr R A H Peasgood, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, reported that his Council was working on its budget: the joint management arrangements with the Vale of the White Horse District Council were already delivering significant savings. Mr Peasgood commented that his Council's contractors had worked hard during the severe weather to restore waste collection to the usual timetable.

8.04 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

PCSO L Wallman of the Thames Valley Police introduced herself. During the severe weather, she and her colleague had been helping people to recover their vehicles and generally offering support to older residents. PCSO Wallman reported on an incident of drug abuse at the Recreation Ground, Gallowstree Common as a result of which a formal caution had been issued. She and her colleagues

visited the Recreation Ground most Sunday and Monday evenings.

8.05 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(7.02/09) The Council gave further consideration to an approach, via the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, regarding the possible provision of affordable housing on a part of the glebe land at Cold Norton corner, in Wood Lane, Kidmore End, a matter deferred from the last meeting.

Ms A Kennedy, the Rural Housing Enabler of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, reminded the Council of the offer of this land by the diocesan authorities, and explained the arrangements for affordable housing on exception sites in rural locations, both for rent and shared ownership. She went on to suggest that the next stage would be to conduct a housing needs' surveys, as the results would be a major driver for any scheme. Ms Kennedy advised that her organisation had conducted a number of such surveys, and she had templates, which could be tailored to local needs.

The Chairman, with the consent of the Council, adjourned the meeting for the Open Session, which was extended to 30 minutes, also with the consent of the Council. During the Open Session,

Mr & Mrs N D C Brown of Wood Lane, Kidmore End
Mr D T Cardin of Wood Lane, Kidmore End
Mr G J Charlesworth of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End
Mrs C L Davies of Wood Lane, Kidmore End
Mr & Mrs A S R Lynch of Wood Lane, Kidmore End
Mr A Parry of Hazelmoo Lane, Gallowstree Common
Mr G C Williams of Wood Lane, Kidmore End

made statements or asked questions about affordable housing or the proposed scheme in particular, covering aspects such as the rights of the existing tenant of the land, whether other sites were under consideration, who was likely to progress a scheme, if that came to pass, planning issues relating to exception sites, whether compulsory acquisition powers would be used, likely time scales and how and by whom decisions on the scheme would be reached. Ms Kennedy or the Council answered the questions.

The Council resumed its consideration of the matter.

RESOLVED: 1 that, in principle, the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council be requested to undertake a housing needs' survey in the Parish, on behalf of the Council.

2 That issues about the rights of the existing tenant of the land be raised with the diocesan authorities.

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

(cf 7.03/09) It was reported that members and officers of the County Council and Reading Borough Council were due to meet on 2 February 2010 to discuss the Reading Travel-to-Work Area Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) bid. It was reported that Wokingham Borough Council was likely to participate in the bid as a level 1 programme partner.

8.07 ALLOTMENTS

(cf 7.04/09) In the absence of Mrs M S Rowland, the Allotments Manager, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of "re-opening" the allotments at Cane End be again deferred to the next meeting.

8.08 RECREATION FACILITIES – PLAY EQUIPMENT

(cf 7.06(i)/09) Mrs S M Biggs reported on progress with the design of the refurbishment or replacement of the play equipment in the play areas at Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End. Arrangements were proceeding for a community engagement meeting at Kidmore End School.

8.09 OXFORDSHIRE ROAD CASUALTY REPORT, 2008

(cf 7.07/09) In view of her absence, it was

RESOLVED: That the consideration of the report of Mrs M S Rowland on the Oxfordshire Road Casualty Report 2008 be again deferred to the next meeting.

8.10 SOUTH & VALE CARERS CENTRE

(cf 6.19/09) By letter, the Manager of the South & Vale Carers Centre thanked the Council for its donation.

8.11 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

(cf 6.20/09) The Fundraising and Communications Officer of the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind, in a letter, thanked the Council for its donation.

8.12 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £27,593.76.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – Subscription	£32.00
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(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 31 December 2009, against the approved budget for 2009/10. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £676.

8.13 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:

raising of walls and roof of bungalow including front and rear dormers and front porch at Beechwoods, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common (amendment to permission P09/E07370;
raising of the roof in height to facilitate first floor accommodation, erection of 2 storey rear extension, single storey side extensions and front porch canopy at Greenacres, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;
erection of 2 storey side extension at The Old Orchard, Wood Lane, Kidmore End.

(ii) Applications

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

RESOLVED: That no strong views be submitted on the applications for erection of 2 and single storey rear extension and front porch at 10 Craysleaze, Kidmore End for ESP Homes and erection of 2 bedroom dwelling on land adjacent to 10 Craysleaze, Kidmore End (amendment to permission P08/E1163) for ESP Homes.

(iii) Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Core Strategy

(cf 10.08(iv)/09) By letter, a Senior Planning Officer of the Berkshire Authorities Joint Strategic Planning Unit advised that the Secretary of State had withdrawn the Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Core Strategy.

(iv) District Council procedures

The District Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services, in a letter, advised that her Council had changed the procedure for the automatic referral of major or minor planning applications to her Council's Planning Committee, with effect from 1 February 2010. In future, if the Head of Planning recommended refusal, but a parish council requested approval, the application would fall to be determined under officers' delegated powers. Where an officer recommendation was to approve an application, while the parish council requested refusal, if the comments of the parish council were not material to the determination of the application, the application would again be determined under delegated powers. It would, however, still be possible for ward district councillors to "call in" an application, for it to be considered by the Committee.

(v) District Council's Local Development Framework

In a letter, the Head of Planning Service of the District Council advised that his Council was undertaking a consultation in connection a green infrastructure strategy, as part of the evidence to support the Core Strategy for its Local Development Framework. The consultation ran from 4 January to 1 February 2010 and comments could be submitted via the District Council's website. The District Council was particularly keen to identify "green ways", in order develop a network of multi-functional greenspace.

8.14 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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

8.15 NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

By letter, PS G Pink of the Thames Valley Police reminded that the Council that previously there had been a [Police] Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) covered the neighbourhoods of Sonning Common, which included the parish, and the neighbourhoods of Goring & Woodcote and Nettlebed. Because of the area covered, the NAG had not been entirely successful, so the South Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership had approved a trial by which, inter alia, the policing priorities for Sonning Common neighbourhood would be settled at a more local level. The Police were keen to involve parish councils in the priority setting exercise. Therefore, PS Pink would be seeking a meeting to explain the process in more detail.

8.16 FLY TIPPING

The Council noted an information pack about combating fly-tipping, issued by the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership.

8.17 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

The Council noted the Spring 2010 edition of the County Council's Home 2 School Newsletter

8.18 FOOTPATH NO 3

(cf 4.19(ii)/09) With a letter, a Rights of Way Officer of the County Council enclosed a notice indicating that his Council had confirmed the Oxfordshire County Council Kidmore End Footpath No 3 (part) Public Path Diversion Order 2009 on 16 December 2009.

8.19 PROPERTY NAMING

By letter, the District Council's Head of HR, IT & Customer Services advised that the property known as 37 Halls Cottages, Wood Lane, Gallowstree Common had been renamed Hall House.

8.20 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the meeting arranged for earlier in January 2010 had been cancelled because of the adverse weather conditions. In the meantime, he reported that the outcome of the application, to the England & Wales Cricket Board, for funding for the project to replace the Pavilion, was not yet known. He had had a favourable response from SEEDA in respect of the expression of interest he had lodged for funding from LEADER sources.

8.21 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to a question, the Chairman indicated that he would ask the Clerk to approach the County Council about the installation of a highways' grit bin at the junction of Horsepond Road with Wood Lane and Wyfold Road, Gallowstree Common.