

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 17 February 2010 at 8.00 pm and concluded at 10.15pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), R S Young (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S M Biggs, Mrs S Hall, 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 Dr B J Knapp, Dr J D M McNie, R G McQuillan, J A Swift QC, N J M Topham.

9.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2010 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to deletion of the duplication of the words "the severe" in Minute 8.03, and the substitution of the word "for" for the word "fro" in the third line of Minute 8.20.

9.02 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- grants for sportspersons available from Greenwich Leisure, the Council's contractors;
- the savings arising from the combined management structure with the Vale of White Horse District Council;
- the review of procedures about complaints arising from alleged breaches of the code of conduct;
- facilities in the District for recycling batteries;
- Council Tax, which would not rise in 2010/11 for District Council purposes;
- a review of Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 4, concerning economic issues.

9.03 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- her Council would increase its share of the Council Tax by 2.75% for 2010/11, but had protected youth services;
- the reduction of the speed limit to 40mph, on the A4074 road through Cane End, had been approved;
- she had received many telephone calls over the previous weekend about the serious road traffic accident on the A4074 road at Cane End. As a result, she had contacted the relevant Cabinet Members of her Council, calling for increased policing of the road and better enforcement of the speed limit, perhaps by use of average speed camera equipment;
- her Council was pursuing a campaign against unauthorised moneylenders.

9.04 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, which was extended to 25 minutes with the consent of the Council, Mr N D C Brown, Mr B J Dance, Mrs J A Goodwin and Mr B J Williams, all of Wood Lane, Kidmore End, made statements and asked questions, which Members of the Council or the Clerk endeavoured to answer, about affordable housing, particularly, the possible timetable, the housing needs' questionnaire, transparency of the consideration of the approach from the diocesan authorities, exception sites, and the views of the tenant of the land in question.

Mr Brown also asked questions about the clearance of litter and other debris from highway verges and the cutting of those verges.

9.05 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(8.05/10) Consideration was given to the style of questionnaire to be used for the housing needs' survey, as agreed in principle at the last meeting. 2 types of survey form, as used elsewhere in the County by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, in the Parishes of Blewbury and Lewknor, had been distributed to Members prior to the meeting. Members favoured the style of the Blewbury questionnaire.

By e-mail, Ms A Kennedy, the Rural Housing Enabler of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, reported that her contacts at the diocesan authorities had advised that they had discussed the possible use of part of the glebe land off Wood Lane, Kidmore End, for affordable housing, with their tenant.

In a letter, Mrs J Williams of the Old Vicarage, Wood Lane, Kidmore End expressed her concern about the impact of the possible development of part of the market garden adjacent to her property for affordable housing. The possible use would affect her and her husband personally in terms of outlook, noise, disruption and possibly the value of their house and as villagers in terms of the "relaxation of protections afforded by the AONB status" of the land, the look of the village, increased demands on the village's limited infrastructure and the impact on the tenant's business and livelihood.

RESOLVED: That the housing needs' survey questionnaire be similar to that deployed in the Parish of Blewbury.

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

(cf 8.06/10) Mrs S M Biggs advised that the first phase of the Reading Travel-to-Work Area Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) bid had been submitted to the Department for Transport.

9.07 ALLOTMENTS

(cf 8.07/10) Mrs M S Rowland reported informal contact with a planning officer of the District Council, who had suggested that the Council could insert a gate into the hedge, and provide hard standing, in connection with the re-opening of the Cane End allotments as permitted development.

The present tenant of the allotments, Vines Farm, had made informal approaches concerning their tenure of the land.

RESOLVED: 1 That the planning authority be requested to confirm that the installation of a gate and hard standing at the Cane End allotments would be permitted development.

2 That Vines Farm be given formal notice to terminate their tenancy of the Cane End allotments.

9.08 RECREATION FACILITIES – PLAY EQUIPMENT

(cf 8.08/10) Mrs S M Biggs reported on progress with the project to design replacement facilities at the play areas at Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End.

The workshop for children had been successful – 8 had attended. The designer was now working on schemes for both sites. An open meeting would be held at the New Inn, Kidmore End on 27 February 2010, which meeting was being advertised in Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End

The designer had advised on the submission of an application for a PlayBuilder capital grant. She suggested that there was greater chance of success for a scheme for one site, and she recommended an application for Kidmore End, given that that play area was in the greater need for refurbishment. The closing date for grant applications was 8 March 2010.

RESOLVED: 1 That an application be made for a Play Builder capital grant for the refurbishment of the Kidmore End play area, up to maximum cost of £60,000.

2 That Mrs S M Biggs be authorised to make the application on behalf of the Council.

9.09 OXFORDSHIRE ROAD CASUALTY REPORT, 2008

(cf 8.09/10) Mrs M S Rowland reported on the Oxfordshire Road Casualty Report 2008, a matter the consideration of which had been deferred at the last meeting. Overall, casualties were at an all time low figure in Oxfordshire. However, the number of deaths from road accidents had risen, particularly motorcyclists. Speed has been a factor in 21% of fatalities. Failure to use seat belts was also a significant factor in fatalities.

9.10 ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Arising from consideration of the Oxfordshire Road Casualty Report 2008, reference was made to the serious road traffic accident which had occurred on the A4074 road at Cane End on 12 February 2010. The accident had resulted in the attendance of many ambulance and paramedic crews, including 2 air ambulances.

It was noted that much debris following the accident, notably items like apparently blood soaked blue paper and discarded latex gloves, still remained on the scene. Members commented that, in the clinical environment, such used material would be disposed of promptly, for fear of contagious or other hazards.

RESOLVED: That enquiries be made of the County Council as to the responsibility for clearing such items from the scenes of accidents, and, if that rests with the highways' authority, to request the prompt removal of the debris in question.

9.11 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £27,561.76.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Chiltern Society – Subscription	£25.00
Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments	£9.03
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£102.98

9.12 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally

erection of 2 storey side and rear extension, single storey rear extension and rear dormer window to dwelling house at Pentewan, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;
proposed single storey front and rear extensions and garage conversion at 7 The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common;
raising of walls and roof of bungalow including front and rear dormers and front porch at Beechwoods, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common;

erection of 2 storey side extension at The Old Orchard, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
 raising of the roof in height to facilitate first floor accommodation, erection of a 2 storey rear extension, single storey extension and front porch canopy at Greenacres, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;
 erection of 2 bedroom dwelling (amendment to incorporate porch and increase windows on ground floor, south west elevation) on land adjacent to 10 Craysleze, Kidmore End;
 erection of 2 and single storey rear extension and front porch at 10 Craysleaze, Kidmore End.

(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:

replace existing dwelling – part retrospective at 5 Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
 detached outbuilding comprising carport, garage and machine store at Rose Cottage, Reades Lane, Gallowstree Common.

(iii) Applications

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

RESOLVED: That observations be made as follows

Application	Observation
Demolition of the existing hangar and replacement by 3 “T” hangars at Whittles Farm, Mapledurham for Mr G Emmons (Parish of Mapledurham)	No strong views, provided that new hangars do not lead, indirectly, to an increase in aircraft movements and noise
Detached outbuilding comprising car port, garage and machine store, formation of new access at Rose Cottage, Reades Lane, Gallowstree Common for Mr M Robinson (amended plan)	Refuse – overdevelopment of front of site: combined footprint of outbuildings still significant proportion of footprint of dwelling

(iv) Development choices in Wallingford

The District Council's Head of Planning Services enclosed, with a letter, a leaflet about consultation on the choice of sites for residential development around Wallingford. Comments were requested by 24 February 2010, but Members felt inappropriate to comment on the sites.

(v) District Council's Settlement Categories

With a letter, the Head of Planning Service of the District Council enclosed an updated list of settlement categories for development control purposes. Kidmore End was shown as a small village, with 3 or 4 of the assessment criteria, while all other settlements in the Parish were shown as small settlements, with 2 or less of the criteria.

9.13 CHILTERN WAY

The Director of the Chiltern Society, in a letter, encouraged the Council to consider promoting events, like organised walks on the sections of the Chiltern Way in the Parish, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the long distance footpath.

9.14 DOG BIN COLLECTIONS

The Head of Commercial Services of the District Council, by letter, advised of changes to the dog

bin collections, so that bins were emptied as and when required, at a flat rate of £2.35 per bin per week, plus an administration charge of 15%.

9.15 NSPCC HELPLINE

The Head of the NSPCC (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) Helpline, in a letter, set out details of the campaign to promote the helpline, a free, 24-hour service that offered support and advice, by phone and e-mail, to any adult worried about a child.

9.16 COMMEMORATIVE COUNTY BOOK

The Council noted an invitation from Oxfordshire Rural Community Council to submit a contribution about the Parish to a book about the County being compiled to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council.

9.17 FIDELITY GUARANTEE

(cf 6.11/09) A schedule from Allianz Insurance plc indicated that the Company had increased the fidelity guarantee indemnity to £30,000, at no additional cost in the current year.

9.18 OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITY

By letter, the Alumni Communications Officer of Oxford Brookes University indicated that he was keen to make contact students of the former institutions now encompassed by that University. He sought publicity for this search.

RESOLVED: That an article about alumni of Oxford Brookes University be included in the Parish Newsletter.

9.18 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in January/February 2010. Particular reference was made to the Reaching Communities fund, to provide financial support for local needs identified by communities.

9.19 HENLEY & DISTRICT CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

The Manager of the Henley & District Citizens' Advice Bureau, in a letter, requested the Council to consider making a grant to the Bureau. The Council noted that the budget for 2009/10 contained provision for a grant of £90.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £90 be made to the Henley & District Citizens Advice Bureau in the financial year 2009/10.

9.20 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was noted that the Playing Fields Committee had not met since that the last meeting of the Council.

The Chairman of the Committee reported that a decision was still awaited from the England & Wales Cricket Board to the application for a grant towards the cost of the replacement Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. The Chairman of the Committee was attending a meeting at the Lords' cricket ground on 1 March 2010, with the Chairman of the Kidmore End Cricket Club, about the grant application.

9.21 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Reference was made to suggestions about a revision of the route of footpath 11 in the vicinity of its junction with Chalkhouse Green Lane, Chalkhouse Green. It was noted that the suggestions were being discussed in the first instance with the owners and occupiers of the affected land.

9.22 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 24 March 2010 at 7.30pm.