

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 24 March 2010 at 8.05 pm and concluded at 9.30pm.

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

Also present: Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mrs M S Rowland, N J M Topham.

10.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2010 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

10.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, advised that she had attended a meeting with her Council's relevant Cabinet Member and officers at Cane End, to discuss measures to reduce vehicle speeds on the A4074 road. She indicated that there seemed to be no prospect of the installation of average speed cameras, but other measures were under consideration.

Mrs Viney also advised that she understood that the Government had wound up the Transport Innovation Fund scheme, which was likely to be replaced by an Urban Challenge Fund.

10.03 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Mrs A D Thiam of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common requested the Council to consider the provision of salt/grit bins in The Hamlet.

Mr J I Dean of Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End and Mrs J M Williams of Wood Lane, Kidmore End asked questions about the proposed housing needs' survey, the possible affordable housing scheme on the glebe land at Kidmore End, and the views of the present tenant of that land.

10.04 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(9.05/10) In a letter, copies of which had been sent to each Member, Mr R J Hansen of the Market Garden, Wood Lane, Kidmore End, the tenant of the glebe land in Wood Lane, Kidmore End, set out his understanding of the consideration of the suggestion that part of the land be identified for an affordable housing scheme. Mr Hansen explained his opposition to the release of any of the land for affordable housing because of the lack of infrastructure in Kidmore End and the impact on his business.

Mr B Williams of Wood Lane, Kidmore End, in a letter, drew attention to policies in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan which, he considered, militated against the identification of an exception site for affordable housing in Wood Lane, Kidmore End. Mr Williams concluded by emphasising his belief that the nursery was a wholly unsuitable site for housing development.

Mrs S M Biggs and Dr B J Knapp asked the Council to note that the glebe land was not popular amongst residents of Kidmore End as a site for affordable housing. Other Members suggested that the Council should await the outcome of the housing needs' survey before reaching a conclusion on the suitability of the site. It was also suggested that the Council enquire of the diocesan authorities as to their account of the identification of the glebe land as a site for affordable housing and their longer term intentions for the land

The Council considered a draft questionnaire devised by Ms A Kennedy, the Rural Housing Enabler of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, for use as the housing needs' survey, in accordance with decisions of the Council at its meetings in January and February 2010. Various views were expressed as to content of the questionnaire, including an observation that the views of all residents should be sought on affordable housing and the site.

By an e-mail, Mr M Davis of Davis Tate indicated that his client, Mrs Pelly, wished the corner of her field on Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, beyond St Fillans and opposite to Butlers Orchard, to be considered as land for affordable housing as an alternative to the glebe land.

RESOLVED: 1 That enquiries be made of the diocesan authorities as to their approach to affordable housing and their intentions for the glebe land at Kidmore End.

2 That consideration of the housing needs' survey questionnaire be deferred to the next meeting.

3 That Mrs S M Biggs, Dr B J Knapp and Mr J A Swift consider the questionnaire further, in conjunction with Ms A Kennedy, the Rural Housing Enabler of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, with a view to recommending a survey form and covering letter to the next meeting.

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

(cf 9.06/10) Members assumed that the Reading Travel-to-Work Area Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) bid had fallen, given the withdrawal of the funding stream by the Government.

10.06 ALLOTMENTS

(cf 9.07/10) The District Council's Head of Planning advised, by letter, that he was investigating whether the insertion of a gate into the hedge, and provision of hard standing, at the Cane allotments would be permitted development.

10.07 RECREATION FACILITIES – PLAY EQUIPMENT

(cf 9.08/10) Mrs S M Biggs reported that the application for a Play Builder capital grant for the refurbishment of the Kidmore End play area had been submitted. A response to the application was expected by 20 April 2010. She advised that the consultant had promised to provide a drawing for improvements to the Gallowstree Common play area.

10.08 DOG BIN COLLECTIONS

(cf 9.14/10) The Head of Commercial Services of the District Council indicated, in letters, that invoices for emptying dog hygiene bins issued earlier in the year had been incorrectly calculated. These invoices had been cancelled and revised invoices issued, but where incorrect invoices had been paid, the District Council had reimbursed payments by BACS.

10.09 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £29,552.67.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Eye & Dunsden Parish Council – Contribution to costs of SOTIG	£142.59
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Henley & District Citizens' Advice Bureau – Grant	£90.00
R S Young – Expenses in attending meeting	£24.30
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£43.39
Arrow Fencing – Replacement of Paddick memorial seat	£499.38
Anthony Stiff Associates – Design work, Kidmore End Play Area	£2350.00
R F Penfold – Clerk's salary	£654.25

(iii) Financial Regulations

At the suggestion of the Responsible Financial Officer, it was

RESOLVED: That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 3.5, the unspent budgetary provision in the financial year 2009/10 under the following budget heads be carried forward, on 31 March 2010, into the financial year 2010/11

Clerk's expenses
 Postages
 Telephones
 Hire of accommodation for meetings
 Grant for churchyard maintenance
 Grant for Rokeby Recreation Ground.

10.10 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally

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

(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:

demolition of The Bungalow and outbuildings and construction of replacement dwelling and garage, demolition of 2 storey extension with integral garage, alterations to existing vehicular access at Hillside and The Bungalow, Horesepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
 detached outbuilding comprising carport, garage and machine store at Rose Cottage, Reades Lane, Gallowstree Common (amended plan).

10.11 FOOTPATH NO 3

(cf 8.18/10) By letter, an Assistant Rights of Way Officer of the County Council explained that her Council would make a "legal events" order, under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, to modify the definitive map and statement of public rights of way to reflect, inter alia, the Oxfordshire County Council Kidmore End Footpath No 3 Public Path Diversion Order 2009.

10.12 ST JOHN AMBULANCE

The Chairman of the St John Ambulance, Oxfordshire, in a letter, requested the Council to consider making a grant to the organisation which provided a charitable first aid service to local communities. Members observed that the budgets for 2009/10 and 2010/11 did not contain provision for such a grant.

RESOLVED: That no grant be made to St John Ambulance, Oxfordshire, in the current financial year or in 2010/11.

10.13 THAMES VALLEY POLICE

With letters, officers from the headquarters of the Thames Valley Police gave details of the Community Policing Awards 2010 and its special constabulary recruitment campaign

10.14 SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The Council noted an invitation to attend a safer communities' evening arranged by the South Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership at Thame on 30 March 2010.

10.15 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

RESOLVED: That consideration of the update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in March 2010 be deferred to the next meeting.

10.16 HIGHWAYS IN SEVERE WEATHER

In e-mails, Ms H Steddon and Mr & Mrs R March of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common asked the Council to consider seeking the provision of salt/grit bins in The Hamlet. In another e-mail, Ms P Kogel, also of The Hamlet, requested the Council to re-instate the service which she understood had operated in the past, whereby local farmers were paid a retainer to use a snowplough to clear snow from local roads.

Members suggested that it would be beneficial to review the local response of the statutory sector to the severe weather conditions of December 2009 and January 2010, and to defer consideration of the above requests until after that review.

RESOLVED: That consideration of requests for further salt/grit bins be deferred, pending a review of the local response of the highways' authority and other agencies to the severe weather conditions of the winter of 2009/10.

10.17 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON – PAVILION

(cf 7.06/09) In the e-mails mentioned in Minute 10.16, Ms Kogel and Ms Steddon commented adversely on the intended contribution of the Council to the cost of the replacement Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Common. Mr P Wellesley-Davies of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common enquired as to the effect on the parish element of the Council Tax in future years. The Clerk reminded the Council that the full year cost of a repayment of a loan of £200,000 had been included in the precept for 2010/11.

RESOLVED: That responses be sent to enquirers outlining the rationale for the Council's decision on funding for the replacement Pavilion and its impact on the precept for 2010/11 and future years.

10.18 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had met on 10 March 2010, when the principal matter of discussion had been the funding for the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. The Chairman of the Committee had visited Lords on 1 March 2010, in the company of Mr J R Sheldon of the Kidmore End Cricket Club, to discuss the application for a grant with a representative of the England & Wales Cricket Board. The response had been favourable, although it appeared that the release of any grant would be delayed until April 2011. In the meantime, the Board had urged a review of costings for the project, in the light of suggestions by their technical adviser. The Chairman of the Committee and the architect retained by the Council had

discussed these suggestions, and had identified potential savings totalling nearly £40,000, in respect of finishes, eg nearly £20,000 by specifying imported slate instead of UK sourced slate.

The Committee had been concerned to note further evidence of regular use of, or trading in, illegal substances at the Recreation Ground, after dark.

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