

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 21 April 2010 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.55pm.

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

Also present: PCSO K Brookes (Thames Valley Police)

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Hall, R G McQuillan, Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

11.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2010 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

11.02 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session,

Ms C L Davis of Wood Lane, Kidmore End
Mr B N Gilson of Wood Lane, Kidmore End
Mr A S R Lynch of Wood Lane, Kidmore End
Mrs J Lynch of Wood Lane, Kidmore End
Mr N J Stark of Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common

asked questions or made statements about affordable housing, including the views of the tenant of glebe land at Kidmore End, the proposed housing needs' survey, the possible affordable housing scheme on that land, the possible use of other sites and the Council's conduct of the issue thus far.

11.03 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(10.04/10) The Council considered a report (09/10 -7) by Mrs SM Biggs, Dr B J Knapp and Mr J A Swift about the possible development of an affordable housing scheme on the glebe land at Kidmore End, and, more particularly recommending the distribution of a housing needs' survey and general questionnaire concerning affordable housing, to all households in the Parish.

Members discussed the proposed survey and questionnaire, recognising that the survey was not a plebiscite or referendum. Members offered comments and observations on the general questionnaire, but indicated their support, in principle, for such a venture.

By letter, the Director of the Glebe & Buildings Committee of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance sought to clarify and explain the involvement of the Board in the process of identifying land for affordable housing in the District. He was at pains to explain that the initiative did not come from the Board. The Rural Housing Enabler of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council and an officer of the District Council had met him in March 2009, when a number of sites had been discussed as possibly suitable. The Director's next involvement was when the tenant of the land in Kidmore End contacted him to report a request for planning officers to survey the land. The Director had not, until then, been aware of the detailed consideration of the land. The Director had nevertheless apologised to the tenant.

The Director went on to explain the rationale of glebe land, both historically and currently, and indicated that his Board would wish to work with the Council and the District Council in providing land for affordable housing, should it be necessary.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report of Mrs M Biggs, Dr B J Knapp and Mr J A Swift be deferred to the next meeting, but that, in the meantime, Member submit comments on the draft survey form, questionnaire and covering letter to the sub-committee.

11.04 ALLOTMENTS

(cf 10.06/10) The District Council's Head of Planning indicated, in a letter, that he was of the opinion that the creation of a new access to the allotments at Cane End did not constitute permitted development under Part 12, Class A of the Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order, as amended. Accordingly, he considered planning permission would be required, as Park Lane was a classified road. under the Highways Classification Index.

RESOLVED: That application be submitted for planning permission to create a new access and hard standing at the Cane End allotments' site.

11.05 RECREATION FACILITIES – PLAY EQUIPMENT

(cf 10.07/10) Mrs S M Biggs advised that a response to the application for a Play Builder capital grant for the refurbishment of the Kidmore End play was expected after the Parliamentary election on 6 May 2010.

11.06 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

(cf 10.15/10) The update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in March 2010, a matter consideration of which had been deferred at the last meeting, was noted.

11.07 HIGHWAYS IN SEVERE WEATHER

(cf 10.16/10) In an e-mail, the Clerk of Works at Oxfordshire Highways advised that a an acceptable site for a salt bin had been identified on the east side of the junction of Wyfold Road with Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common. A bin could be installed for £150 + VAT.

Member recalled the decision taken at the last meeting, to defer consideration of requests for salt/grit bins, 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

RESOLVED: That consideration of the offer of Oxfordshire Highways be deferred, pending the review mentioned above.

11.08 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON – PAVILION

(cf 10.17/10) The Clerk reported that the England & Wales Cricket had offered a grant of £75,000 towards the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common, and had offered a loan to the Cricket Club, in the sum of £25,000, in support of the project. The loan was not secured against the Pavilion or any property in the Council's ownership. Effectively, this delivered the sum identified by the Council in December 2009, requisite to authorise the project to proceed.

Following discussions between the architect, Richard P James Ltd, and officers of the District Council, it had become clear that, under new procedures, an application could be made for an extension of the "life" of a planning permission. Given that the permission granted for the replacement Pavilion expired in May 2010, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had authorised the submission of an application to the planning authority for an extension of the implementation period of that permission. There was every indication that that application would be approved, and thus a start on the project could be delayed to the more practical date of the Autumn of 2010.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be approved and confirmed.

11.09 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

PCSO K Brookes of the Thames Valley Police reported some statistics for crime in the Sonning Common area, which included the Parish. There had been 573 recorded for 2009/10, compared with 539 in 2008/9: she mentioned some more detailed figures, relating to particular crime.

PCSO Brookes urged residents to secure gates windows and doors and to lock tools etc in sheds. She referred to the advice on crime reduction available from Crime Reduction Officer, who was based in Henley. Finally, she asked that residents reported anything suspicious, however, insignificant, to the Police.

11.10 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £37,498.76.

(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
Update	

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, at year-end, against the approved budget for 2009/10. The report showed an underspend of £1218.

RESOLVED: That £1,000 be transferred from the general fund balance to the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee, for inclusion in the fund for the replacement of the Pavilion.

11.11 NOTICE OF AUDIT

By letter, BDO Stoy Hayward LLP gave notice that they had appointed 9 July 2010 as the day when local government electors could question the external auditor on the Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010. The Clerk advised that he intended to submit the annual accounts for 2009/10 to the Council at its next meeting, and then to ask the Council to make arrangements for the completion of the annual return.

11.12 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the application for demolition of The Bungalow and outbuildings and construction of replacement dwelling and detached garage, demolition of 2 storey extension to rear of Hillside and garage and construction of a 3 storey extension with integral garage and alterations to existing vehicular access at Hillside and The Bungalow, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common had been refused.

(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 existing hangar and replacement by 3 "T" hangars at Whittles Farm, Mapledurham (Parish of Mapledurham) (amended plan).

(iii) 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 new double garage with office above at Redholme, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green for Mr R McQuillan and for single storey timber outbuilding at Lodge Gate Cottage, Wood Lane, Kidmore End for Mrs Page.

11.13 INSURANCE

The Clerk reported receipt of the renewal documentation from Aon Ltd for the Council's insurance, for the year commencing June 2010. The quoted premium was £1998.34. The Clerk also reported an enquiry from Came & Company, brokers, who offered insurance to parish councils from Aviva. The brokers believed that they could offer insurance cover at a competitive price.

RESOLVED: That a quotation be sought from Came & Company for insurance cover commensurate with that already in place.

11.14 PROPERTY NAMING

By letter, the District Council's Head of IHR, IT & Customer Services advised that the new property in Craysleaze, Kidmore End had been numbered 11.

11.15 DISTRICT COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY REVIEW

(cf 7.16/09) The Chairman and Clerk reported receipt of the draft report and action plan relating to working with parish and town councils submitted to the District Council's Customer & Community and Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committees.

11.16 OXFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Council noted an invitation to be represented at the 90th birthday celebrations of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council to be held in Abingdon on 3 July 2010.

11.17 TOWNLANDS COMMUNITY GROUP

The Communications & Engagement Manager of NHS Oxfordshire, in a letter, advised that a meeting of the Townlands Community Group was to be held at Henley on 13 May 2010.

11.18 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

The Summer 2010 edition of the County Council's Home 2 School Newsletter was passed to Mrs S M Biggs.

11.19 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 trees, which had been damaged in the snow, behind the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, had been cut back.