

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 19 May 2010 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.00pm.

Present: Mrs S M Biggs, A K Martin, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mrs M S Rowland, N J M Topham, R S Young.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Hall, Dr B J Knapp, Dr J D M McNie, R G McQuillan, J A Swift QC.

The outgoing Chairman, Mr A K Martin, took the Chair.

1.01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Mr A K Martin be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

(Mr Martin signed a declaration of acceptance of office following the meeting.)

1.02 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Mr R S Young be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

1.03 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2010 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

1.04 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, reminded the Council of the result of the recent Parliamentary election. She predicted that the country faced difficult times, economically, but hoped that any reductions in expenditure would not impact too heavily on the County Council and its services.

Mrs Viney reported that the Chief Constable had attended a meeting of the relevant scrutiny panel of the County Council. Mrs Viney had sought, at that meeting, further information about the future arrangements for [Police] neighbourhood action groups (NAGs): further discussions were expected locally.

Finally, Mrs Viney indicated that the speed limit on the A4074 road had been reduced to 40mph, but there would be no enforcement of the new limit until the necessary signage had been installed.

1.05 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, which was extended to an hour with the consent of the Council,

Ms P D Kogel of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common
Mr & Mrs J Maclean of Bury, Lancashire
Mrs H Steddon of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common
Mrs C Thomas, of Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green
Mr H R Wates of Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common

asked questions, which Members, or the Clerk, sought to answer, or made statements about the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, including the size, cost and funding of the replacement premises, the use of the replacement premises, whether temporary facilities would be

required during the construction phase and comparison with the new pavilion constructed by Henley Cricket Club. Some speakers suggested that the Council should review its support for the project in its present form.

1.06 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(11.03/10) The Council considered further the report 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 the proposed housing needs' survey and general questionnaire, the consideration of which had been deferred at the last meeting. The report had been amended by way of

- a revised general survey form, circulated electronically by the Clerk, at the request of Mrs Biggs, on 30 April 2010;
- a revised version of the covering letter sent electronically by Mr Swift to the Chairman on 13 May 2010;
- a further revised questionnaire, incorporating views of Members, circulated electronically by Mrs Biggs on 16 May 2010.

RESOLVED: That the report of Mrs M Biggs, Dr B J Knapp and Mr J A Swift be received and the recommendations contained therein adopted, as amended by the circulated documents mentioned above.

1.07 ALLOTMENTS

(cf 11.04/10) The Clerk indicated that he had yet to submit an application for planning permission to create a new access and hard standing at the Cane End allotments' site.

1.08 RECREATION FACILITIES – PLAY EQUIPMENT

(cf 11.05/10) 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 unsuccessful. She was, as a result, investigating other sources of finance to support a refurbishment of the facility.

1.09 HIGHWAYS IN SEVERE WEATHER

(cf 11.07/10) In e-mails, Ms H Steddon and Ms E Miles, both of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common, identified possible sites for salt/grit bins in The Hamlet – at the well and in the entrance to the Recreation Ground. Members recalled that it had been decided to defer consideration of sites for bins, pending the 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 Ms Miles and Ms Steddon be advised of the above decision.

1.10 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON – PAVILION

(cf 11.08/10) By e-mail, Ms H Steddon of The Hamlet Gallowstree Common commented that she was shocked that cost of the replacement Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground had risen to £650,000, argued that the cost was unjustifiable in the current economic climate, contrasted the proposed premises with the new pavilion erected by Henley Cricket Club and suggested the proposed building was too large. Mr R Mundy of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End requested an overview of the cost of borrowing etc to finance the Pavilion, and asked other questions about the project, for example the start date.

In letters, Mr R James of Richard P James Ltd, reported on the outcome of his further negotiations with the 2 remaining tenderers for the project, County Construction Ltd and Hale Builders Ltd. As a result of his negotiations, County Construction Ltd offered an adjusted contract figure of £610,636 and a contract period of 36 weeks. Hale Builders Ltd's price was £590,000 and the proposed contract period, 31 weeks.

Mr James recommended issuing a letter of intent to Hale Builders Ltd.

It was reported that it had been intended that the contract should start on 4 October 2010, assuming the planning permission had been extended, and funding remained in place. Following discussions within the Playing Fields Committee, it was now intended that the contract should start on 27 September. In this connection, the Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that he had approached Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council about the possibility of Kidmore End Football Club playing its matches on that Council's ground during the 2010/11 football season.

RESOLVED: 1 That a letter of intent be issued to Hale Builders Ltd, indicating that, subject to the District Council approving the extension of time to execute the planning permission for the new Pavilion, the contract for the erection of the premises will be awarded to the Company, in the contract sum of £590,000, with an intended contract start date of Monday 27 September 2010.

2 That Ms H Steddon be advised of the above decision and reminded that the replacement Pavilion would be a community asset, used for both cricket and football.

3 That Mr R Mundy be advised of the information about loans etc considered at the meeting in December 2009.

1.11 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS, SUB-COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

RESOLVED: That consideration of the various annual appointments be deferred to the next meeting and that existing appointments be extended to the meeting in June 2010.

1.12 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £34,744.87.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – Subscription	£30.00
Playing Fields Committee – Contribution towards Pavilion Fund	£1000.00
Grant, 2010/11	£840.00
Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments	£82.81
NALC – Subscription to “Local Council Review”	£13.50
Staysure Ltd – Puncture repair for tractor	£99.88
Royal British Legion – Wreath	£40.00
Kidmore End Parish Room – Hire for meetings	£146.00

1.13 ACCOUNTS, 2009/10

The Council considered a report (10/11 – 1) of the Responsible Financial Officer, being the summary income and expenditure accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010.

RESOLVED: That the accounts presented be received.

1.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Action of Plans Sub-Committee

RESOLVED: That the action of the Plans Sub-Committee in respect of the following application, as set out in the register of action, be approved:

extension of time (P07/E0410 – demolition of existing pavilion and construction of new pavilion building) at the Recreation Ground, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common.

(ii) Applications

The Council considered an application referred to it since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That no strong views be submitted on the application for a stable block at Collegewood Farmhouse, Cane End for Mr I Rivers.

1.15 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in April 2010.

1.16 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

(cf 5.18/09) In a letter, Mr R Hora of Eastern Avenue, Reading advised that he was undertaking a survey of rural telephone kiosks in Berkshire and South Oxfordshire. He had found widespread neglect by British Telecom, with failed kiosks not repaired for long periods. This would, he argued, distort usage statistics. He urged the Council to reject any proposals for the adoption of kiosks from the Company, and enquired whether any kiosks had been offered. Members recalled that they had considered this matter in October 2009 (see Minute 5.18).

RESOLVED: That Mr R Hora be advised of the Council's decision at its meeting in October 2009.

1.17 OXFORDSHIRE NATURE CONSERVATION FORUM

The Community Officer of the Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Council enclosed, with a letter, a copy of Biodiversity News 2010 and reminded the Council of its duty under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to have regard for conserving biodiversity when discharging its functions.

RESOLVED: That Biodiversity News 2010 be referred to Mrs M S Rowland for consideration and report.

1.18 PROVISION OF ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPPING

With a letter, the Head of HR, IT & Customer Services of the District Council enclosed copies of a contractor licence between the Council and the District Council for the use of Ordnance Survey data. Completion of the contract would enable the Council to be supplied with mapping data, solely for its own business use, at discounted prices. The Clerk understood that the draft licence had been sent following discussions between Dr B J Knapp and officers of the District Council.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the contractor licence be deferred to the next meeting.

1.19 HEALTH NEWS

RESOLVED That Health News, published by NHS Oxfordshire, be referred to Mrs J E O'Sullivan, for consideration and report.

1.20 CHILTERN CONSERVATION BOARD

The Council noted an invitation to a Commons Network site meeting on 14 June 2001, at Turville, and a letter about the Annual Chiltern Awards (for wildlife and landscape, understanding and enjoyment and outstanding people), both issued by the Chilterns Conservation Board.

1.21 CHILTERN WAY

(cf 9.13/10) The Council noted a programme, circulated by the Chiltern Society, of walks to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Chiltern Way. None of the walks featured paths in the Parish.

1.22 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had met on 12 May 2010, when the principal issue had been the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. There had also been discussion about the continuing problem of dogs fouling the Recreation Ground.

1.23 DATES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED: 1 That meetings of the Council be held on the following Wednesdays at 8pm:

23 June 2010	17 November 2010	16 February 2011
21 July 2010	15 December 2010	23 March 2011
22 September 2010	19 January 2011	20 April 2011
20 October 2010		

2 That the Annual Meeting of the Council be held on 18 May 2011 at 8pm.

1.24 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to questions, the Chairman

- a indicated that he would ask the Clerk to discover the ownership of land at Cane End from which the tree had fallen on the noticeboard for that settlement;
- b suggested that Members consider how the Council might respond to the apparent perception of residents that the Council's decision making was not transparent.