

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 23 June 2010 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.25pm.

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

Also present: Ms A Kennedy (Rural Housing Enabler, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council), R A H Peasgood (district councillor),

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Hall, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mrs M S Rowland, Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

2.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 19 May 2010 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

2.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The Clerk read a report from Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, which report was about the impact on the County Council of the reductions in grant already announced by the Government and the expected further reductions flowing from the Comprehensive Spending Review to be announced in October 2010. Her Council had already achieved £100m of savings in its medium term plan, over 5 years. The in-year grant reduction was just under £11m. The County Council's capital programme, which was funded by borrowing, Government grant, asset disposals and developers' contributions, was being comprehensively reviewed

2.03 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, which was extended to 1hr 15 minutes with the consent of the Council,

Mrs S C Brown of Wood Lane, Kidmore End
Mrs C L Davies of Wood Lane, Kidmore End
Mr B N Gilson of Wood Lane, Kidmore End
Ms P Kogel of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common
Mr & Mrs A S R Lynch of Wood Lane, Kidmore End
Ms H S Steddon of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common
Mrs A D Thiam of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common
Mr B Williams of Wood Lane, Kidmore End

asked questions, which Mr J A Swift sought to answer, or made statements, about affordable housing, the possible development of part of the glebe land in Wood Lane, Kidmore End, for that purpose, the housing needs survey and other possible affordable housing sites.

In addition,

Mr D Beddis of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common
Ms P Kogel of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common
Ms P Schmidt of Gallowstree Common
Ms Short of Gallowstree Common

asked questions, which Members sought to answer, and made statements, about a possible ban on dogs at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, as referred to in an article in the "Henley Standard", and litter at the Recreation Ground.

Mr B Williams of Wood Lane, Kidmore End asked whether there were plans to cut back the willow trees at Kidmore End pond.

Finally Mr N D C Brown of Wood Lane, Kidmore End asked a question about the publication of the agenda and minutes of meetings, which the Clerk answered.

2.04 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(1.06/10) The Council considered a report (10/11 - 2) by Mrs S M Biggs, Dr B J Knapp and Mr J A Swift summarising events about affordable housing since the meeting of the Council in March 2010 and recommending that the Chairman's letter to parishioners and the Housing Need Survey, both as attached to the Report, should be sent to all parishioners forthwith.

With a letter, Mr B N Gilson of Wood Lane, Kidmore End, who was writing on behalf of an informal group of Kidmore End parishioners concerned about the possible use of part of the glebe land for affordable housing, enclosed a copy of a letter from Mr R J Hansen, the occupier of the land, and a questionnaire about the use of that land for affordable housing. Mr Gilson advised that the letter and questionnaire would be distributed to all parishioners. Some Members commented that they had yet to receive the questionnaire.

In tendering her apologise for absence, Mrs M S Rowland had suggested liaison with parish councils where affordable housing had been provided, to gain an insight as to the process had worked for those councils.

RESOLVED: 1 That the report of Mrs S M Biggs, Dr B J Knapp and Mr J A Swift be received and the recommendation therein adopted.

2 That Mrs Biggs, Dr Knapp and Mr Swift liaise with other parish councils where affordable housing schemes have come to fruition, to learn of their experiences of the process.

2.05 ALLOTMENTS

(cf 1.07/10) A director of Savills, in a letter, confirmed that his clients, Vines Farm, had no written tenancy agreement for the land on Park Lane, Cane End. He commented that, in accordance with statutory legislation, the Council should give at least 12 months' notice of termination, and the earliest date of vacation of the site would, therefore, be 29 September 2011. However, his clients were prepared to surrender the land on 29 September 2010, and would waive any rights to compensation.

(Mr R S Young disclosed a personal interest, under Article 7 of the Code of Conduct, in respect of, and withdrew from the meeting, under Article 10 of the Code, during discussion of the above matter.)

2.06 RECREATION FACILITIES – PLAY EQUIPMENT

(cf 1.08/10) Mrs S M Biggs advised that the application for a Play Builder capital grant for the refurbishment of the Kidmore End play had been ranked 12th out of 30: insufficient social need had been demonstrated.

2.07 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(i) Pavilion

(cf 1.10/10) In a letter, Mr A McLaughlin of Wood Lane, Gallowstree Common had posed a number of questions relating to the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, raised as a result of a circular delivered around the Parish. In part, the questions related to the position of the Chairman, given his ownership of land adjacent to the Recreation Ground. The Clerk had

sent an interim reply, pending the submission of the letter to the Council. Members considered the contents of both letters.

It was noted that the District Council had extended the period of time for the execution of the planning permission for the project: work had now to start by 15 June 2013.

The Vice-Chairman reported that a grant of £26,000 had been awarded for the project under the LEADER scheme. The Garfield Weston Foundation had also made an award.

The Clerk advised that the District Council was reviewing the community grant it had awarded for the project in 2009. In informal discussions with officers of that Council, it had been hinted that the Council should already have made its application for borrowing approval. As a result, the Clerk advised the Council that he intended now to action resolution 2 in Minute 7.06(ii) of December 2009, to submit the application to the Secretary of State.

The Chairman referred to a letter, from the Chairman of Henley Cricket Club, which had appeared in the "Henley Standard", about that Club's project to replace its pavilion.

RESOLVED: That nothing be added to the interim response sent by the Clerk to Mr A McLaughlin.

(Mr A K Martin disclosed a personal interest, under Article 7 of the Code of Conduct, in respect of, and withdrew from the meeting, under Article 10 of the Code, during discussion on the letter from Mr A McLaughlin. The Vice-Chairman took the Chair in his absence.)

(ii) Dogs

(cf 1.24/10) In letters and e-mails, Mr M Hallam of Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, Ms P Kogel of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common, Mrs V March of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common and Mrs R Schmidt of Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common expressed concern about an article in the "Henley Standard" that the Council was proposing to ban dogs from the Recreation Ground, in response the reported incidence of dogs fouling the Recreation Ground, and those walking the dogs not removing the faeces. The article had included comments made by individual Members arising from the report of the Playing Fields Committee at the last meeting of the Council.

The correspondents considered that an exclusion of dogs would be an over-reaction to what they, in the main, considered to be an overstated problem. They suggested that there were other actions which could be taken to mitigate the perceived problem. Some mentioned litter and debris left at the Recreation Ground following cricket and football matches.

Members observed that while there had been mention of a ban on dogs, this was not presently the intention of the Council.

RESOLVED: 1 That Mr Hallam, Ms Kogel, Mrs March and Mrs Schmidt be advised that the Council has no plans presently to make an order under Part 6 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 to exclude dogs from the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

2 That the suggestions made by the above correspondents be referred to the Playing Fields Committee for consideration.

2.08 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS, SUB-COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

(cf 1.11/10) RESOLVED: 1 That the following appointments be made for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2011:

Allotments Manager
Wells Manager

Mrs M S Rowland
Mr R C Gutteridge

Plans Sub-Committee	Mrs S G Hall, Dr D J M McNie, Mr R G McQuillan, Mr A K Martin, Mrs M S Rowland, Mr R S Young
Rights of Way Committee	Dr D J M McNie, Mr R G McQuillan, Mrs J E O'Sullivan.
Editorial Board of Newsletter	Mr D Brown*, Dr B J Knapp, Mr A Miroso*, Mrs M S Rowland
Representatives on Playing Fields Committee	Mr R C Gutteridge, Mr R G McQuillan, Mr R S Young
Representative on Chiltern Edge Community Association	Mr J A Swift
Representative on Oxfordshire Association Local Councils	Mrs S G Hall
Transport Representative	Mrs S G Hall, Mr J A Swift
Website Liaison Councillor	Mr R C Gutteridge

* Not a member of the Council

2 That the Traffic Calming Sub-Committee be disbanded.

3 That a Transport Sub-Committee be established, to advise the Council on highways and traffic management issues, and that Mrs S M Biggs and Mr J A Swift be appointed as members of the sub-Committee for the period until the Annual Meeting in 2011.

4 That an Affordable Housing Sub-Committee be established, to advise the Council on issues relating to affordable housing, and that Mrs S M Biggs, Dr B J Knapp and Mr J A Swift be appointed as members of the Sub-Committee for the period until the Annual Meeting in 2011.

2.09 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

(cf 1.16/10) Mr R Hora of Reading, by letter, commented that the "adopt a kiosk" scheme seemed to be in abeyance. He noted that the telephone kiosk at Cane End was in working order, but observed that the branches of a fallen tree blocked the adjacent seat.

2.10 OXFORDSHIRE NATURE CONSERVATION FORUM

(c1.17/10) In view of her absence, it was

RESOLVED: that consideration of the report of Mrs M S Rowland on Biodiversity News 2010 be deferred to the next meeting.

2.11 PROVISION OF ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPPING

(cf 18/10) The Council considered the proposed contractor licence with the District Council for the use of Ordnance Survey data, a matter which had been deferred at the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Council enter into a contractor licence with the District Council for the supply of Ordnance Survey data and that the Clerk be authorised to sign the document on behalf of the Council.

2.12 HEALTH NEWS

(cf 1.19/10) In view of her absence, it was

RESOLVED; That consideration of the report of Mrs J E O'Sullivan on Health News be deferred to the next meeting.

2.13 DATES OF MEETINGS

(cf 1.23/10) In view of the prospective absence of Mr J A Swift, it was

RESOLVED: That the September 2010 meeting of the Council to be rearranged for 29 September 2010.

2.14 COUNCIL PROCEDURES

(cf 1.24/10) In presenting her apologies for absence, Mrs M S Rowlands had requested that correspondence on behalf of and to the Council, arising between meetings, be promptly copied to Members.

RESOLVED: That incoming correspondence of note be circulated to Members prior to meetings.

2.15 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £32,495.82.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

R F Penfold – Clerk's salary	£654.25
Broker Network Ltd – Insurance premium	£1570.86

2.16 ACCOUNTS, 2009/10

The Council considered a report (10/11 - 3) of the Clerk, being part 1 and 2 of the draft annual return for the year ended 31 March 2010.

RESOLVED: That the return for the year ended 31 March 2010, as submitted, be approved.

2.17 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

single storey timber outbuilding at Lodge Gate Cottage, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
erection of new double garage with office above at Redholme, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
extension of time for demolition of existing pavilion and construction of new pavilion building at
Recreation Ground, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common;

had been permitted conditionally and that the application for demolition of the existing hangar and replacement by 3 T hangars at Whittles Farm, Mapledurham (in the Parish of Mapledurham) had been withdrawn.

(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:

extension of time to planning permission P07/E0554 (2 storey extensions to side elevation at Field Close, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
replacement of conservatory to rear of property at High Thatch, Chalkhouse Green Road, Chalkhouse Green;
variation of condition of planning permission P09/E1421 for erection of 2 bedroom dwelling, re parking, at 10 Craysleaze, Kidmore End;
proposed new single garage to replace existing at Amber Cottage, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

(iii) District Council's Local Development Framework

In a letter, a Strategic Director of the District Council reported that her Council had decided, in the light of the announcement of the Secretary of State for Communities about changes to the planning system, to withdraw the core strategy of its Local Development Framework. The District Council was awaiting guidance from the Government on the system for the future. In the meantime, the existing Local Plan remained in force until the end of 2011.

(iv) Chilterns Conservation Board – Training for parish councillors

The Planning Officer of the Chilterns Conservation Board gave details, in an e-mail, about planning training sessions for parish councils in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The sessions had been arranged to be held on 3 dates at different venues in the AONB.

2.18 HIGH SPEED RAIL

The Chairman of the Chiltern Society drew attention, in a letter, to the Society's stance to the possible high-speed rail route from London to Birmingham, which might pass through the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Whilst not opposed to the concept of high speed rail, the primary objective of the Society was to protect the Chilterns and it was concerned that a precedent might be set which could be detrimental to other AONBs

2.19 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

RESOLVED: That consideration of the updates for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in May and June 2010 be deferred to the next meeting.

2.20 INSURANCE

(cf 11.13/10) By letter, Came & Co provided a quotation in the sum of £1570.86, including insurance premium tax, per annum for insurance cover, from Aviva, commensurate with, or in some cases, better than, the Council's previous cover. The Company offered a discount of 5% if the Council entered into a 3 year agreement. It also recommended additional cover for loss recovery and councillors' group legal protection, at additional premiums.

Members observed that the quoted premium compared favourably with that offered by the Company who had carried the risks in 2009/10. They did not, however, favour entering into a 3 year agreement, or arranging the additional cover mentioned.

RESOLVED: That the quotation of Came & Co, for the Council insurances in 2010/11, be accepted.

2.21 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

In e-mails, the County Council's Local Transport Plan Team referred to further consultation in connection with Local Transport Plan 3 (2011 – 2030), in this case in respect of the scenarios to be followed in the development for strategies for transport in the County.

2.22 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Mr M Foxton of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green advised, by e-mail, that, in the light of recent spate of burglaries in Tokers Green, the neighbourhood watch scheme for that village had been resurrected. Mr Foxton was the co-ordinator for scheme.

2.23 HEDGES

A consultant from ADAS Environment Group drew attention to proposed work to construct a new water pipeline on behalf of Thames Water from Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End, near its junction with Emmons Lane, to Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, just to the north of that village. The work was being undertaken because of excessive bursts in the existing pipeline on the route. The work would entail the removal of sections of field hedge, between 4m and 15m in length, at 4 locations adjacent to highways. In each case the section of hedge would be replanted with locally occurring species.

Members expressed no views on the proposed works to hedges, recognising that the water pipe needed to be replaced.

2.24 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

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

