

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 29 September 2010 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.15pm.

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, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mrs M S Rowland, J A Swift QC.

Apologies for absence were received from R C Gutteridge, Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

4.01 MINUTES

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

4.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The Clerk read a report from Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, covering:

- the reduction in grants received by the County Council from government, towards capital expenditure in respect of children's and early years' facilities, although funding had been received for the children's centre at Chiltern Edge School and the pre school at Sonning Common Primary School;
- examination successes at Chiltern Edge School;
- the intention of government to devolve public funding to neighbourhood or local levels and co-ordinate spending in an area across all public services;
- her actions following the fatal road traffic accident in Greendene Bottom on 25 September 2010, particularly to request the urgent signing of the 40mph speed limit through Cane End and calling for more effective policing of speed limits on the A4074 road.

4.03 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, which was, with the consent of the Council, extended to 30 minutes:

Mr B J Williams of Wood Lane, Kidmore End and Mr A S R Lynch of Wood Lane, Kidmore End were critical of the role of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council in respect of the possible use of part of the glebe land in Kidmore End for affordable housing;

Mrs Lynch of Wood Lane, Kidmore End indicated that she was, in principle, in favour of affordable housing and commended the work of the Council's Affordable Housing Sub-Committee;

Mrs J M Williams of Wood Lane, Kidmore End enquired as to the next steps in respect of affordable housing;

Ms P D Kogel of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common referred to the resiting of the dog hygiene bin at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, the approval of the planning authority to outstanding issues in respect of the conditions attached to the planning permission for the replacement pavilion at the Recreation Ground, the works to install a new water main from Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End to Tokers Green and damage to trees, by squirrels, in New Copse, Gallowstree Common;

Mr N D C Brown of Wood Lane, Kidmore End asked about trees available, free of charge, from the District Council and the horse chestnut tree which had been felled near the Palm Tree Restaurant, Cane End.

4.04 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(3.04/10) The Council considered the following reports:

- a the register of interest report by the Rural Housing Enabler of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, arising from the housing needs' survey authorised by the Council in June 2010 (report 10/11-4), and
- b a report of the Affordable Housing Sub-Committee (10/11-5),

the latter having been introduced by Mr J A Swift.

A letter from Mr B N Gilson, of Wood Lane, Kidmore End, enclosing the results of his survey of residents of the Parish concerning the possible provision of affordable housing on the glebe land in Wood Lane, Kidmore End, had been circulated to Members in August 2010.

After full discussion, the recommendations of the Sub-Committee were each put to the vote, and all declared carried.

RESOLVED: 1 That the Council confirms to the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council and the District Council that it fully supports national and social policy in respect of affordable housing and recognises that Kidmore End will play its part in the implementation of such a policy.

2 That the Council accepts the findings of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council that there is a proven need for the 7 homes as identified in Section 8 of register of interest report.

3 That the Council does not accept the recommendation of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council that there should be a public meeting at which the merits of locating the 7 homes as between the glebe land and other sites should be discussed.

4 That the Council supports the clear majority of those responding to question 14 of the survey that the glebe land is not a suitable location for affordable housing.

5 That the Council will work together with the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council and the District Council in taking forward for consideration other locations within the Parish of Kidmore End for the purposes of accommodating the proven need and will seek information and assurances as to the future plans of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council and the District Council, if any, in respect of the use of Kidmore End for affordable housing generally.

6 That the Council authorises the Affordable Housing Sub Committee to engage in the discussions contemplated at resolution 5 above.

4.05 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(i) Pavilion

(cf 3.05(i)/10) By letter, a civil servant from the Strategy, Revenue and Capital Division of the Department for Communities & Local Government advised that the Secretary of State had, in pursuance of his powers under Schedule 1 of the Local Government Act 2003, approved the demolition and construction of the pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground as a purpose for which the Council could borrow an amount not exceeding £200,000. The authority was valid for 6 months from 17 August 2010, and any loan drawn had to be repaid within a period no greater than 50 years.

The Clerk reported that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had exercised the authority granted to them by the Council at the last meeting to

- a sign the contract for the works to replace the Pavilion, with Hale Building Contractors Ltd, on 20 September 2010: the contract was in the form of the 2007 version of the minor works' building contract adopted by the Joint Contracts Tribunal; and

- b appoint, on the recommendation of the architect, and to satisfy, in the main, legal requirements, the following consultants, under Financial Regulation 11.1(a)(ii) in each case:
- Scancross Environmental Services Ltd, for an asbestos survey of the existing premises;
 - Kelly Associates as CDM co-ordinator for the project;
 - Milnes Associates as structural engineers for steelwork in connection with the project.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had also agreed with the contractors that the vehicular access to the Recreation Ground would be locked shut at night, whilst the contractors had possession of the site and that the Vice-Chairman would act on behalf of the Council, as client, in the event of any complaints or disputes raised about the works. The Vice-Chairman had distributed a letter to residents of the Hamlet, Gallowstree Common setting out the above information, and providing his contact details.

(ii) Play equipment

(cf 3.03/10) In a letter, Mrs A D Thiam of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common drew attention to repairs required to the play equipment, and its compound, at the Recreation Ground. In response to the points made by Mrs Thiam, the Vice –Chairman advised that he had, in the previous week, repaired the wendy house at, the catch on the pedestrian gate into and the fence around, the play equipment. He also advised that the fence had subsequently been damaged, and that he would arrange for its repair again. Another Member of the Council had the repair of Thomas the Tank in hand.

4.06 OXFORDSHIRE NATURE CONSERVATION FORUM

(cf 3.06/10) Mrs M S Rowland reported on Biodiversity News 2010, which she had found interesting, and the work of the Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum, although none was near the Parish.

4.07 HEALTH NEWS

(cf 3.07/10) At her request, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report of Mrs J E O'Sullivan on Health News be deferred to the next meeting and that the July 2010 edition of publication be referred to her for consideration and report.

4.08 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

(cf 3.09/10) The Council noted updates for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in July and August 2010: consideration of the July edition had been deferred at the last meeting.

4.09 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £30,261.12.

(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	£46.59
Vines Farm Partnership – Hedge trimming at allotments	£58.75
Web Mania Ltd – Domain and hosting renewal for website	£56.39
BDO LLP – External audit fee	£344.88

R F Penfold – Clerk's salary

£654.25

4.10 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

(cf 2.16/10) BDO LLP gave notice that the audit of the Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010 had been completed. The Partnership reported that, on the basis of its review, in its opinion the information contained in the annual return was in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and no matters had come to its attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

4.11 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

proposed new single garage to replace existing at Amber Cottage, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
single storey extension to form living room at Brickies, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green

had been permitted conditionally, and that the application for detached garage at Greenacres, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green 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 with 3 smaller hangars at the airstrip, Whittles Farm, Mapledurham (in Parish of Mapledurham);
demolition of existing detached dwelling and erection of a new 3 storey detached replacement dwelling at May Lodge, Park Lane, Cane End;
single and 2-storey extension under pitched roofs with entrance porch including bay window to front at Fernbank, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
erection of new oak framed garage with games room above, demolition of existing stable building and erection of new stables at The Old Orchard, Wood Lane, Kidmore End.

(iii) Applications

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

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made on the application for change of use of redundant barns to residential use (2 dwellings), retention of 1 barn for garage use at Withy Copse, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common for Mr D Manns & Miss J Coppen "Refuse – conversion of building to rear of house is tantamount to backland development".

(iv) Planning appeal

A letter from the Head of Planning and Building Control of the District Council advised that an appeal had been lodged against the refusal of the District Council to grant planning permission for demolition of The Bungalow and outbuildings, construction of replacement dwelling and detached garage, demolition of 2 storey extension to rear of Hillside and garage, construction of a 3 storey extension with integral garage, and alteration to existing vehicular access at Hillside and The Bungalow, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common. The appeal was to be decided on the basis of an exchange of written statements and a site visit by an inspector.

(v) District Council's Local Development Framework

(cf 2.15(iv)/10) With a letter, the Head of Planning Services of the District Council enclosed a summary booklet and CD about his Council's leisure facility strategy, as part of the work on the Local Development Framework. The aim of the strategy was to ensure that his Council's plans assessed existing leisure provision to be retained and identified needs for further provision. The strategy was the subject to consultation until 5 November 2010.

The Clerk reported that the strategy inferred that there was need for significantly increased sports changing accommodation at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, at an estimated cost of £900,000. Members were puzzled at the genesis of this suggestion.

RESOLVED: That the District Council's leisure facilities strategy be referred to the Vice-Chairman, and that the Vice-Chairman be authorised to respond on behalf of the Council.

4.12 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

A Fundraiser for and the Communications Officer of the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind requested, in a letter, that the Council consider making a grant to the Association. The Council recalled that the budget for the financial year 2010/11 contained provision of £35 for a grant to the Association.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £35 be made to the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind in the financial year 2009/10.

4.13 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End

A Traffic Technician of the County Council enclosed, with a letter, a notice indicating that temporary road traffic order would be made to close Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End, either side of its junction with Hazelmoor Lane, for up to 5 days some time after 23 August 2010, to facilitate essential water main construction works.

(ii) Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green

In an e-mail, Mr T Perchard of Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green sought the Council's support for the representations he had made to Oxfordshire Highways about the condition of Rokeby Drive. Mrs M S Rowland undertook to obtain more details from Mr Perchard about his concerns.

4.14 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

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

4.15 TOWN AND PARISH FORUM

The Leader of the District Council, in a letter, gave advance notice of her Council's Town and Parish Council Forum, to be held at Crowmarsh on 10 November 2010. No Member expressed in interest in attending the Forum.

4.16 ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END - CHURCHYARD

By letter, the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council asked the Council to make a contribution towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard at St John the Baptist, Kidmore End. Expenditure on maintenance of the churchyard had amounted to £1,179, in 2009.

Members observed that it had been the Council's practice over many years to make a grant, when requested, towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard and that the approved budget for the current financial year contained provision of £1,260 for such a grant, as no request had been received in 2009/10.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £590 be made to Parochial Church Council towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard of St John Baptist, Kidmore End in 2009.

4.17 OXFORDSHIRE WOODLAND PROJECT

The Council noted an invitation from the Project Manager of the Oxfordshire Woodlands Project seeking financial support for the project, which sought to provide free support and advice to those seeking to improve their environment by planting trees.

4.18 OXFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Chief Executive of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council enclosed, with a letter, a copy of the book "Celebrating Community Life in Rural Oxfordshire", compiled to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the formation of the Council.

The Council noted an invitation to be represented at the Annual General Meeting of the Council on 8 October 2010 in Oxford.

4.19 OXFORDSHIRE BIG DEBATE

By letter the Chief Executive and the Leader of the County Council gave details of the Oxfordshire Big Debate, devised by their Council to provide opportunities for residents, stakeholders and employees to share their views, ideas and opinions on how the Council could make significant reduction in its budget.

4.20 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

(cf 2.09/10) In an e-mail, the Commercial Field Officer for the South West of BT Payphones reminded of the telephone kiosk adoption scheme, by which parish councils could take over the responsibility for redundant red telephone kiosks, at a cost of £1 per kiosk. For the time being, the power supply to adopted kiosks would remain, paid for by the Company, and any withdrawal of the supply would be at Company's expense.

Members felt that the 3 identified kiosks in the Parish should be retained, as part of the street scene in each location.

RESOLVED: That an application be made to adopt the telephone kiosks at Cane End (presently telephone number 0118 972 3874), Chalkhouse Green (0118 972 3875) and Craysleaze, Kidmore End (0118 972 2499) when the kiosks are declared redundant by British Telecommunications plc,

4.21 REVIEW OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES

The Director for Environment & Economy of the County Council, in a letter, referred to the review of supported bus services in the Wheatley, Thame and Watlington area. One of the supported services under review – the present contract expired on 4 June 2011 – was Motts Coaches' M1, from Stokenchurch to Reading, which served Gallowstree Common, Kidmore End and Chalkhouse Green. Formal consultation would start in October 2010, with a closing date, for comments by parish councils, of 24 December 2010.

4.22 PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES

The County Council's Business Continuity Manager extended, in an e-mail, an invitation for the Council to be represented at "Emergency Planning – A Community Approach" events, one of which was to

be held at Crowmarsh on 5 October 2010.

4.23 "NO NEED FOR NUCLEAR"

The Council noted a letter from the Campaign Co-Ordinator of No Need for Nuclear, about a House of Commons Early Day Motion calling for an enquiry into whether or not new nuclear power stations were needed.

4.24 TOWNLANDS HOSPITAL, HENLEY

The Council noted Newsletter 10 from the Henley Community Hospital Project Group, indicating that the business case to redevelop the Townlands Hospital at Henley would be considered by the Board of NHS Oxfordshire in September 2010.

4.25 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had met on 9 September 2010. It was expected that that would be the last meeting of the Committee to be held in the present Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. Arrangements were then made for the Pavilion to be cleared by 27 September: this had been achieved. The tractor and gangmowers had been taken into storage at Vines Farm for the duration of the rebuilding project for the Pavilion. Arrangements had been made for a pictorial record of the demolition of the existing building and its reprovision.

4.26 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to questions, the Chairman

- a indicated that, in the light of enquiry made in the Open Session, he would request the Clerk to enquire of the owners of the Palm Tree Restaurant at Cane End whether they intended to replace the horse chestnut tree on the highway verge north of their carpark, which tree, planted to commemorate the coronation of Her Majesty the Queen, had recently been felled;
- b asked the Vice-Chairman to seek quotations for the cutting back, thinning or coppicing of the willow trees at Kidmore End pond;
- c noted that the noticeboard at Cane End could now be repaired, the fallen tree there having been removed;
- d urged that any necessary planning application soon be submitted for bringing the allotments at Cane End back into operation.