

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 20 October 2010 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.40pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), R S Young (Vice-Chairman), Dr J D M McNie, R G McQuillan, J A Swift QC, N J M Topham

Also present: R A H Peasgood (district councillor),

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S M Biggs, Mrs S Hall, Dr B J Knapp, Mrs J E O'Sullivan,

5.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2010 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5.02 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr R A H Peasgood, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, reported that

- the Henley Hub youth provision had opened;
- there was a link on his Council's website to a schedule of imminent decisions;
- his Council was supporting community hydro-electric schemes;
- his Council was reducing its carbon footprint, eg by the use of more fuel efficient refuse freighters;
- the provisions of the Equalities Act had recently been brought into force;
- the Community Safety Partnership was consulting on its priorities;
- his Council was consulting on aspects of its Local Development Framework.

Mr J A Swift was critical of the short time given to parish councils to respond to the consultation on the adjustment to the Local Development Framework. Mr Peagood outlined the issues the subject of the then current consultation, which issues he felt were not major.

5.03 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(cf 4.04/10) Mr J A Swift reported that, in pursuance of resolutions at the last meeting of the Council, the Affordable Housing Sub-Committee had arranged a meeting with the Rural Housing Enabler from the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, a planning officer from the District Council and a representative of Soha Ltd, to discuss further the possible provision of affordable housing in the Parish. The meeting was arranged for 15 November 2010.

In the meantime, the Rural Housing Enabler had, by means of an e-mail, advised the Sub-Committee of the views of officers from the highways and planning authorities in respect of the suitability of sites, the owners of which were understood to be willing to release for affordable housing – on the north side of Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, and opposite Butlers Orchard in Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End. The consensus of the officer view was that the Gallowstree Common site was the preferable site. The Kidmore End site was not supported because of a lack of footways in the vicinity and because affordable housing would be too dense in relation to the character of the detached houses situated in large plots next to the site.

5.04 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - PAVILION

(cf 4.05 (i)/10) The Vice-Chairman reported that works on the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground had commenced. The various previous buildings had been demolished and the site cleared. The site had been laid out for the replacement building and the trenches

for the foundations of that building were expected to be dug on 2010 October 2010.

The Vice-Chairman advised that he had received one complaint associated with the project. That was from a resident of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common who was concerned at the relocation of the final post on the overhead electricity supply, which was carried through from The Hamlet. The Vice-Chairman had been able to satisfy the complainant.

In a letter, the Grants Officer of the District Council pointed out that a number of documents needed to be supplied to his Council to satisfy the conditions of the Community Investment Fund grant awarded by his Council. The Clerk indicated that he expected shortly to be able to provide a copy of the final grant award letter from the England & Wales Cricket Board, a copy of the building regulations' consent for the project, and a cash flow forecast compiled by the contractor. He would not, however, be able to confirm that the loan approved by the Secretary of State had been drawn down.

Members were puzzled by the requirement now to draw down the loan, given that evidence had been provided that consent for a loan had been granted under Schedule 1 of the Local Government Act 2003. Member expressed reluctance actually to activate the consent until such time as the monies were physically required to fund the project. Members observed that there was the prospect of further donations towards the project. Such donations, if received in significant value and in time, would be used to reduce the requirement to borrow.

The Grants Officer also asked whether the written advice of HM Revenues & Customs had been sought as to the recovery of VAT incurred. The Clerk indicated that he had made such an enquiry.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be requested to reconsider the apparent requirement now to draw down the loan approved by the Secretary of State.

5.05 HEALTH NEWS

(cf 4.07/10) In view of her absence, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report of Mrs J E O'Sullivan on 2 editions of Health News be again deferred to the next meeting.

5.06 TOWN AND PARISH FORUM

(cf 4.13/10) The Council noted the programme for the District Council's Town and Parish Council Forum, to be held on 10 November 2010.

5.07 REVIEW OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES

(cf 4.21/10) The Director of Environment & Economy of the County Council enclosed, with a letter, a report about his Council's contract PT/S 25, for the M1 bus service operated by Motts Coaches (Aylesbury) Ltd, between Stokenchurch and Reading and serving Gallowstree Common, Kidmore End and Chalkhouse Green. The contract provided for one journey each way each day, on Mondays to Saturdays. The report indicated that usage was low, with no passengers boarding in Kidmore End and Chalkhouse Green on the 8 occasions that the route had been surveyed. The report inferred that, because of such usage, the service could be reduced from 6 journeys per week, or not serve the villages in the Parish at all.

The contract was due to expire in June 2011, and the County Council had requested views and comments on the future of the service by 24 December 2010.

Mr J A Swift reported that he and Mrs S Hall, as the Transport Representatives, would report back on the proposals to the next meeting.

5.08 TOWNLANDS HOSPITAL, HENLEY

(cf 4.24/10) The Council noted from Issue 11 of the Newsletter from the Henley Community Hospital Project Group that the board of NHS Oxfordshire had approved the business case to redevelop Townlands Hospital, Henley, on its present site

5.09 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 4.26b/10) The Vice-Chairman submitted a quotation from Acorn Services of Goring Heath to cut down and remove for disposal the regrowth from the willows on the west side of Kidmore End pond, and lifting the weeping willow to approximately 6 feet above water level, in the sum of £300.

RESOLVED: That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 11.1(h), the quotation of Acorn Services for the cutting down and trimming of the willow trees at Kidmore End pond be accepted.

5.10 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £40,850.86.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Oxfordshire Association for the Blind – Grant	£35.00
Parish of Kidmore End & Sonning Common – Maintenance of churchyard	£590.00
Scancross Environmental Services Ltd – Pavilion: asbestos survey	£470.00
Hale Building Contractors Ltd – Pavilion project: stage payment	£9691.54
Kelly Associates – Pavilion project: CDM fees (part)	£881.25

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 30 September 2010, against the approved budget for 2010/11. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £1139.

5.11 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

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 extensions under pitched roofs with entrance porch including bay window to front of Fernbank, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common

had been permitted conditionally.

(ii) District Council's Local Development Framework

(cf 4.11(iv)/10) The Vice-Chairman reported that he had responded to the District Council's leisure facility strategy, part of the Local Development Framework. He explained that the strategy was arranged by hierarchy, starting in Didcot, then covering the main towns, before addressing the rural hinterland. The Vice-Chairman had, in his response to the District Council, expressed surprise at the

suggestion for further sports' changing accommodation at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

By letter, the Head of Planning Services of the District Council referred to review work being undertaken by his Council on the core strategy for its Local development Framework, as a result of the revocation of the regional planning framework. In particular, views were sought on some key areas

- retaining the housing figures from the South East Plan but redistributing them across the District on a proportional growth basis;
- the inclusion of housing "windfalls" in the calculation of housing supply;
- the introduction of a density policy.

Views were requested by 29 October 2010.

RESOLVED: That no comments be submitted to the District Council in connection with the review of aspects of the core strategy to the Local Development Framework.

5.12 PROPERTY NAMING

By letter, the District Council's Head of HR, IT & Customer Services advised that the property Newholme, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End had been renamed Lilacs.

5.13 MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

In a letter dated 30 September 2010, Mrs M S Rowland had resigned as a member of the Council.

The Clerk advised that he had given notice of the vacancy for the office of parish councillor, caused by the resignation of Mrs Rowland. If no election was called to fill the vacancy, the Council could co-opt a qualified person at the next meeting.

The Council considered the vacancies for offices caused by the resignation.

RESOLVED: 1 That Mrs M S Rowland be thanked for her service to the community as Member of the Council since May 1999.

2 That the offer of another member of the Plans Sub-Committee, Dr J D M McNie, to take responsibility for planning application relating to Tokers Green, be accepted.

3 That consideration of the vacancy for Allotments Manager be deferred to the next meeting.

5.14 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

(cf 2.21/10) In an e-mail, a Principal Policy Lead (Local Transport Plan) of the County Council reminded that views and comments had been invited on his Council's draft Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2030, the closing date for observations being 9 January 2011.

RESOLVED: That the Transport Sub-Committee consider the draft Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2030 and recommend comments thereon to a future meeting.

5.15 ELECTORAL REVIEW

A Review Officer of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England announced, in a letter, that the Commission had formally commenced an electoral review of the County Council, because of imbalances in the levels of electoral representation. As a first stage, the Commission was seeking views, by 22 November 2010, about the number of county councillors. Thereafter, there would be consultation on electoral division boundaries, with draft recommendations published in July 2011.

5.16 AIRCRAFT MOVEMENTS

(cf 6.21/09) In a letter, the Consultation Team of NATS (En Route) plc advised that there would be no further consultation on revised airspace design for "Terminal Control North", because of the general downturn of air traffic levels resulting from the economic situation.

5.17 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 a group of residents continued to look into the possibility of replacing the play equipment at the Kidmore End Play Area and the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

5.18 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Members observed that most of the footpaths and bridleways in the Parish were in good condition.