

## KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 19 January 2011 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.00pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), R S Young (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S Hall, Dr B J Knapp, Dr J D M McNie, R G McQuillan, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, T M Perchard (from Minute 8.09 ), J A Swift QC.

Also present: R A H Peasgood (district councillor), Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S M Biggs, N J M Topham.

### 8.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2010 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correction of the year "20010" to "2010" in Minute 7.20 and to the deletion of the name of Mrs J E O'Sullivan as present at the meeting and adding it to the list of those apologising for absence

### 8.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, referred to the possible closure of the Sonning Common Library and the possible withdrawal of funding for the youth club at Sonning Common, assuring the Council that she was doing all that she could to save both activities from closure, and urged the Council to do what it could to encourage residents of the Parish to support the petition to save the library, an issue to which the "Henley Standard" had given significant publicity.

In answer to questions, Mrs Viney said that she would check on the Council's proposals to deal with the serious safety issues arising from the potholes in Mill Lane, the removal of the manhole covers on the A4074 road and her Council's declared policy to deactivate fixed speed cameras. On the latter point, Mrs Viney assured the Council that the Police would ensure that the cameras were deployed throughout the County.

### 8.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- there would be elections for district councillors in May 2011, but that he would not be seeking re-election;
- the District Council's budget settlement, in terms of grant from central government, had been unexpectedly harsh, representing a 27% reduction over the next 2 years, but his Council hoped, nevertheless, to protect important public services;
- the cost of parking at Henley Station had become cheaper;
- responsibility for concessionary bus passes would transfer to the County Council on 1 April 2011;
- holders of passes experienced some difficulties when using them on buses operated by Stagecoach.

### 8.04 OPEN SESSION

During the open session, which was extended to 20 minutes with the consent of the Council,

- Mr P Bowles of Chalkhouse Green (on behalf of persons on the allotments' waiting list) made 7 points including proposals for the most effective use of the site and also offered their assistance in respect of matters of design, allocation and ground preparation. It was suggested, in connection with the provision of a water supply to the site, that sources of

funding beyond that to be provided by allotment holders or the Council should be explored;

- Mr T M Perchard of Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green asked whether the Council could give any explanation as to the reasons for the electricity “black out” in Tokers Green before Christmas: no one present could;
- Mr M Sas-Bilinski of Park Lane, Cane End, whose home was adjacent to the site of the allotments in Cane End, said that he had no objection to the reinstatement of the allotments but that he was concerned with the potential for serious noise and loss of amenity, if the entrance were at the southern extremity of site, as proposed at the last meeting of the Council. The Chairman and Vice Chairman responded with explanations as to why that site had been selected and that the Council would be asked to take Mr Sas-Bilinski's concerns into account later, when it considered the next steps to be taken in respect of the allotments' site;
- Mrs A D Thiam of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common asked whether the Council would be supporting the petition to save the Sonning Common Library, remarked that there appeared to be no justification for the latest change in position of the grit container on Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common and informed the Council that dogs were getting through holes in the fence to the play area at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. The Vice Chairman said that he would have the latter issue rectified.

#### 8.05 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common – Salt/grit bin

(cf 7.03/10) The Clerk reported a telephone conversation with the County Council's Area Highways Representative, when the latter had indicated that the salt/grit bin in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common would be moved closer to the junction with Wyfold Lane. Members observed that the bin had been so moved, but now impeded the sight lines for drivers turning out of Wyfold Lane.

RESOLVED: That the above observations be notified to the Area Highways Representative.

(ii) Clearance of snow and ice

(cf 7.15(i)/10) The County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport enclosed, with a letter, a copy of a leaflet issued by his Council explaining the law about the clearing of snow and ice from pavements and public spaces and offering advice on clearing snow and ice safely. The leaflet also outlined what the County Council would be doing to assist communities.

(iii) Oakridge Farm, Wood Lane, Kidmore End – Trenches

(cf 7.23a/10) It was noted that the trenches outside Oakridge Farm, Wood Lane, Kidmore End, mentioned at the last meeting, had been filled.

(iv) A4074 road – Trees

An Assistant Arboricultural Officer of the County Council attached, to an e-mail, copies of orders and plans for works to most of the trees bordering the A4074 road in the Parish and the Parish of Mapledurham. The works were not expected to cause too much disturbance to traffic. Members observed that, although the e-mail suggested that the works would commence in February 2011, they were already underway.

(v) Horsechestnut tree at The Palm Tree, Cane End

(cf 4.26a/10) The Vice-Chairman reported that an officer of the County Council had advised him that the felling of the horsechestnut tree, on highway waste adjacent to the A4074 road at Cane End, had been arranged by his Council, as the tree was diseased. The County Council intended to plant a

replacement tree.

#### 8.06 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - PAVILION

(cf 7.04/10) The Council noted that, as at 7 January 2011, works completed on the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground included underground drainage, heating ground boreholes and external walls. The Vice-Chairman observed that the project was about 3 weeks behind schedule.

By letter, Mr B Havill of the England & Wales Cricket Board advised that it was the Board's final decision to recommend a grant of £75,000 for the project, subject to the terms and conditions set out in the offer letter and its standard award terms and conditions: a copy of the letter was provided for each Member. The Clerk advised that he had already supplied some of the information requested by the Board.

The Council addressed the outstanding issues in the conditions precedent set out in the letter:

- the acceptance form.
- a child protection policy and an equal opportunities policy, noting that the Council had but one employee, and was not the provider of services, although it was the provider of facilities, eg the recreation ground, to which the public had access. In terms of an equal opportunities' policy, the Council was a public body as defined by the Equality Act 2010, and, therefore, had to exercise the public sector equality duty.
- a licence agreement between the Council and Kidmore End Cricket Club regarding the use of the recreation Ground, noting that the Club had used the Ground since its acquisition in 1948 and that, in December 2003, the Council had adopted a resolution to grant a formal licence to the Club.

RESOLVED: 1 That the grant offered by the England & Wales Cricket Board be accepted, and that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to sign the acceptance form, on behalf of the Council.

2 That the Board be advised that the Council wished to rely on the child protection and equal opportunities policies adopted by the Kidmore End Cricket Club, in the first instance.

3 That the Board be advised of the Council's decision in December 2003 to grant a formal licence to the Club in respect of its continued use of the Recreation Ground.

#### 8.07 REVIEW OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES

(cf 7.05/10) The Council reviewed the possible options for the future of the service M1, by Motts Travel, between Watlington and Reading, and serving 3 of the villages in this Parish, as reported at the last meeting.

Members noted the County Council officers' suggestion of extending support for a dial-a-ride service to settlements in the Parish, but observed the use of off-peak travel concessions for older residents and those with disabilities was not permitted on such services. Members understood the rationale for the County Council to support a lower service frequency on the route, although Members noted that this would offer users of the service less choice of visits to Reading.

Members were opposed to the suggestion that Chalkhouse Green be omitted from the service, which would cut residents of this settlement off from Emmer Green, the nearest place where they could shop, visit a post office or attend a doctor.

RESOLVED: That the above views be conveyed to the County Council.

#### 8.08 MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

(cf 7.06/10) The Council considered the co-option of a person to fill the vacancy for the office of parish councillor vice Mrs M S Rowland, a matter deferred at the last meeting.

The Clerk had circulated details of 2 persons who had indicated an interest in serving as parish councillors, viz:

Mr T Bloch of Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green  
Mr T M Perchard of Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green.

Mr Perchard was present, and the meeting was adjourned, briefly, to enable him to address the Council.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That Mr T M Perchard be co-opted, pursuant to Section 89 of the Local Government Act 1972, to fill the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the resignation of Mrs M S Rowland.

(Mr Perchard thereupon signed a declaration of acceptance of office.)

#### 8.09 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

(cf 7.07/10) The Chairman reported that he had sent a copy of the Council's response in respect of the draft Local Transport Plan 2011 -2030 to the County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport, who had acknowledged receipt thereof.

#### 8.10 ALLOTMENTS, CANE END

(cf 7.11/10) The Clerk reported that an application had been submitted to the District Council for planning permission to install an entrance to the site of the allotments at Cane End, at the southern end of the road frontage.

Members referred to the comments made by Mr M Sas-Bilinski during the open session. Mr Sas-Bilinski had set out similar concerns in a letter sent to the Chairman. Members sympathised with Mr Sas-Bilinski regarding the siting of the entrance to the proposed allotments.

RESOLVED: That the planning application for the entrance to the allotments be amended, to provide for the entrance from Park Lane to be at the northern end of the site.

#### 8.11 SOUTH & VALE CARERS CENTRE

In a letter, the Manager of the South & Vale Carers Centre thanked the Council for its grant.

#### 8.12 FINANCE

##### (ii) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £177,274.16.

##### (iii) Accounts for payment

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

Henley & District Citizens' Advice Bureau – Grant	£90.00
R F Penfold – Planning application fee (access to Cane End allotments)	£85.00
Richard P James Ltd – Pavilion project: fees	£3,907.72
Hale Building Contractors Ltd – Pavilion project: stage payments	£36,516.32
Acorn Services – Tree removal at Cane End allotments	£375.00

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 31 December 2010, against the approved budget for 2010/11. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £1,814.

#### 8.13 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

proposed swimming pool building to rear of existing house over existing swimming pool at Tanners Farm, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;  
single storey timber outbuilding at Field View Barn, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green

had been permitted conditionally and that the application for erection of garage with private gym above at 7 Craysleaze, Kidmore End 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:

single storey side and rear extensions at 1 Woodside Cottages, Woodside Lane, Gallowstree Common;  
replacement dwelling and garage at Leawood, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;  
extension of time for implementation of planning permission P08/E0299 (proposed replacement dwelling) at Beechwood, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;  
extension of time for approval P07/E1386 (demolition of garage, construction of single storey rear extension) at The Oak House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End.

(iii) District Council's Local Development Framework

(cf 5.11(ii)/10) Mr J A Swift reported on the District Council's proposed submission core strategy in connection with its Local Development Framework. He felt that the document was a helpful summary of the planning authority's expectations, but felt that there were no issues obviously requiring comment by the Council.

#### 8.14 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

(cf 4.20/10) With an e-mail, the Commercial Field Officer for the South West for BT Payphones sent further details about the process for transfer of redundant public telephone kiosks to parish councils, including details of the conditions of transfer and the agreement for sale and purchase of telephone kiosks. Copies of the draft agreement had been sent to each Member of the Council.

The Clerk reminded the Council that it had, in September 2010, decided to apply to adopt the 3 kiosks in the Parish if and when they were declared redundant by BT. He reported a brief visual survey of the kiosks on 15 January 2011. The kiosk at Chalkhouse Green had 2 missing windows and a missing glazing bar, that at Kidmore Ends was in good order and that at Cane had a broken window and an ill-fitting door, which appeared to be made of wood rather than cast iron.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to complete the agreement with British Telecommunications plc to purchase the telephone kiosks at Cane End, Chalkhouse Green and Kidmore End for £1 per kiosk.

#### 8.15 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in January 2011:

#### 8.16 "GREAT POPPY PARTY WEEKEND"

The National Chairman of the Royal British Legion, by letter, drew attention to the poppy parties the Legion was encouraging individuals and groups to arrange over the weekend 10 -12 June 2011, in celebration of the Legion's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Members commented that they anticipated that the local branch of the Legion would organise a local celebration.

#### 8.17 RYDER-CESHIRE VOLUNTEERS

In a letter, the Branch Chairman of Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers, Oxfordshire asked the Council to consider making a donation to the organisation, to enable it to continue to help people with a physical disability to access opportunities for leisure and learning. The Council noted that the budget for 2010/11 contained provision for a grant of £35 to the organisation.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £35 be made to the Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers, Oxfordshire in the financial year 2011/11.

#### 8.18 ELECTORAL REVIEW

(cf5.15/10) A Review Officer of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England announced, in a letter, the first consultation stage on division patterns in the electoral review of the County Council. The Commission was minded to recommend 64 elected members for the County Council in future, compared to the existing 74 councillors. Views on the new divisional arrangements were requested by 3 April 2011.

Members felt that, assuming that there would be a change to the electoral divisions in the south of the County, it would be beneficial for the Parish to be included in a division largely rural in nature.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the electoral review of the County Council be deferred to a future meeting.

#### 8.19 CHILTERN BUILDINGS DESIGN AWARDS

The Planning Officer of the Chilterns Conservation Board enclosed, with a letter, a brochure about the Chiltern Buildings Design Awards 2011.

#### 8.20 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had met on 12 January 2011, when there had been a very full discussion about the management of the new Pavilion, once it was handed over by the contractor, particularly in terms of roles and responsibilities by "resident" clubs and other users. The significant issues for the future were the cleaning/supervision of cleaning of the premises, and the disposal of the refuse. In the latter connection, the Committee was minded to arrange for a trade waste collection service.

The Committee had also discussed possible additional local users of the new Pavilion.

The Committee had decided to seek quotations for the repair of the Thomas the Tank play equipment at the Recreation Ground and had been advised of a bid submitted for funding towards the replacement of the equipment at both the Recreation Ground and the Kidmore End Play Area.

#### 8.21 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE

It was noted that the Affordable Housing Sub-Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council.