

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 16 February 2011 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.20pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), R S Young (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S M Biggs, R C Gutteridge, Mrs S Hall, Dr J D M McNie, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, T M Perchard, N J M Topham.

Apologies for absence were received from Dr B J Knapp, J A Swift QC.

9.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2011 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record

9.02 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

The Clerk reported an approach from PCSO M Bellamy, who had been appointed as PCSO for Kidmore End and Mapledurham.

9.03 OPEN SESSION

During the open session, Ms H Edgar of Chalkhouse Green asked whether the Council would meet the cost (£200) of a quotation from Thames Water Utilities Ltd for installing a water supply to the allotments at Cane End, requested that the access to the allotments, the subject of a planning application, be for vehicle as well as pedestrians and enquired when the Council anticipated spraying and laying out the plots at the allotments. Members indicated that they would seek to address the questions later in the meeting.

9.04 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - PAVILION

(cf 8.06/11) The Council noted that, as at 14 February 2011, works completed on the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground included brick and blockwork walls, steelwork and the timber roof structure. The Vice-Chairman observed that the project remained about 3 weeks behind schedule.

The Vice-Chairman advised of 2 complaints by the same residents of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common, one concerning the siting of the electricity supply pole, by the utility company, at the Recreation Ground and the other about damage to the rear fence to the property, occasioned, they alleged, by the contractor.

The Clerk reported that Kidmore End Cricket Club has forwarded a cheque in the sum of £10,800, being the grant from the Greaves Trust towards the cost of the project.

The Shared Grants Officer of the District Council advised, by e-mail, that he had received all the information necessary to confirm his Council's grant award for the project. Accordingly, the District Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services had, with a letter, forwarded a copy of the completed grant agreement. A claim had been submitted to the District Council for a first draw adown against the grant, and the Grants Officer had met the Chairman and Vice-Chairman on site, on 14 February 2011.

The Clerk reported an exchange of correspondence with the Public Authorities Team of HM Revenue & Customs concerning the reclamation of VAT paid in respect of the project to replace the Pavilion.

9.05 REVIEW OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES

(cf 8.07/11) The Chairman advised that he had sent a copy of the Council's observations about the possible options for the future of the service M1, by Motts Travel, between Watlington and Reading, to

the County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport. The Cabinet Member, by letter, had acknowledged receipt.

In a letter, Miss J E T Neale of Chalkhouse Green urged the Council to make representations for the retention of the service, which she used at least once or twice a week, to visit Emmer Green, Caversham or Reading. The Clerk indicated he would send Miss Neale copies of the letters already sent to the County Council about the future of the bus service.

9.06 ALLOTMENTS, CANE END

(cf 8.10/11) Members considered the questions posed in the Open Session, concerning the allotments at Cane End. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: 1 That clarification be provided to the planning authority that the planning application for the access to the allotments at Cane End be for both vehicles and pedestrians.

2 That a quotation be sought from Thames Water Utilities Ltd for the installation of a water supply to the allotments.

3 That the Allotments Manager, Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to mark out the allotments.

4 That the Allotments Manager contact the residents of Clervaux, Cane End, who had enquired of the planning authority as to the intended use of the land in question.

9.07 HENLEY & DISTRICT CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

(cf 8.12/11) In a letter, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Hanley & District Citizens' Advice Bureau thanked the Council for its grant.

9.08 ELECTORAL REVIEW

(cf 8.18/11) Pending discovery of further information about the electorates of other parishes, it was

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

9.09 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £147,100.12.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers, Oxfordshire – Grant	£35.00
Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments	£84.74
Richard P James Ltd – Fee for submission of planning application: allotments	£135.00
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£11.42
The Chiltern Society – Subscription	£25.00
Ian Kendrick Ltd – Trimming hedge in play area at Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground	£114.00

Milnes Associates – Pavilion project: structural engineer's fees	£1080.00
Hale Building Contractors Ltd – Pavilion project: stage payment	£49415.70

9.10 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the application for extensions to the south and east at ground floor level to enlarge living room, create study and provide integral garage, alterations to 1st floor to provide 2 additional bedrooms at Cherry Trees, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green had been permitted conditionally and that the application for single storey rear and side extension at Woodside Cottage, 1 Woodside Lane, Gallowstree Common had been withdrawn.

(ii) Applications

The Council considered applications referred to it since the last meeting.

The Council noted a letter from Dr & Mrs C W Bradford of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, setting out the comments they had submitted, largely about potential overlooking of their garden, to the District Council in respect of the planning application for development at Willow House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End.

RESOLVED: 1 That it be suggested that the application for the relocation of field gate access to existing paddock off Park Lane, Cane End for Kidmore End Parish Council be approved.

2 That the following comments be made on the application for proposed rear single and second storey extension at Willow House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End for Mr I Macmanara “No strong views – provided bathroom window is a top-opening vent”.

9.11 FISH VOLUNTEER CENTRE BUS

By e-mail, the Bus Manager of the FISH Volunteer Centre, Sonning Common advised of services offered in terms of journeys on the minibus, or in cars, to, for example, the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading. Those persons who had bus passes could use them for trips on the FISH minibus. He enquired whether there were 10 or more older people in the Parish who would use a monthly service to Reading or Henley.

RESOLVED: That information about the FISH Volunteer Centre transport services be publicised in the Parish Newsletter.

9.12 SUE RYDER – NETTLEBED HOSPICE

A Community Fundraiser from Sue Ryder – Nettlebed Hospice advised of an urgent appeal for funds to help replace the current reclining chairs for patients. The cost of the 16 chairs would be £26,680 and the Fundraiser requested the Council to consider making a contribution towards that cost. Members observed that the budget for 2010/11 contained no funds for such a project, but felt that the cause was worthy of support, given that a number of former residents had been patients at the Nettlebed Hospice.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £100 be made to the Sue Ryder – Nettlebed Hospice, towards the cost of replacing reclining chairs, in the financial year 2010/11.

9.13 OXFORDSHIRE PLAY SPACE SURVEY 2011

The Play Pathfinder Manager of the County Council, by letter, drew attention to the Oxfordshire Play Space Survey 2011, which had been commissioned by his Council and the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association. The survey aimed to collate information about all play areas, playable spaces, playing

fields and recreation grounds in the County. The Clerk undertook to complete the survey, in respect of the Parish.

9.14 CAVERSHAM CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES

By letter, Mr H Thresher of Tokers Green advised that his period of office as the Council's nominated trustee of the Caversham Consolidated Charities had expired, but he had been invited to attend a meeting of trustees on 5 March 2011.

RESOLVED: That the nomination of a trustee of the Caversham Consolidated Charities, vice Mr H Thresher, be deferred to the Annual Meeting in May 2011.

9.15 HIGHSPEED BROADBAND

(cf 7.08/11) The Council noted a newsletter from the Deputy Leader of the County Council about his Council's project to roll out fast broadband and mobile phone coverage to the whole of the County.

9.16 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

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

The Vice-Chairman reported that Mr W Howard of Gallowstree Common, trading as Arrow Playground, had provided a quotation of £2172 +VAT to construct and install a replacement "steam engine" play item at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the quotation of Arrow Playground be deferred, pending investigation of the cost of similar items from volume play ground equipment suppliers.

9.17 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE

The Development Manager of Soha Housing Ltd enclosed, with an e-mail, plans of 3 alternative schemes, designed by an architect hired by the Company, for affordable housing on a potential rural exception site on Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common. In each case, the mix of housing units met the recommendations in the report by the Rural Housing Enabler arising from the register of interests completed as part of the Housing Survey undertaken in the summer of 2010. Copies of the drawings had been sent to each Member.

RESOLVED: That, pending a report from the Affordable Housing Sub-Committee, consideration of the plans be deferred to the next meeting.

9.18 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

It was reported that the barrier, designed to prevent use of the path by motorcyclists, on footpath 8 (the Church Path), near its entrance to the wood, was damaged. The Council was reminded that it had installed the barrier during the 1970s or 1980s.

Reference was made to the replacement of stiles by kissing gates on footpath 11, which path had been restored to its correct route, as on the Definitive Map.

RESOLVED: That quotations be obtained for the repair of the barrier on footpath no 8 and that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to let the contract for the repair of the barrier, on the basis of the quotations received.

9.19 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

Reference was made to the fixed speed camera on the A4074 road at the Palm Tree restaurant, Cane End, which apparatus had been demolished as a result of vehicle impact.

9.20 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 23 March 2011 at 7.30pm

9.21 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to questions, the Chairman

- a enquired of Mr R C Gutteridge as to progress with the repair of the duckhouse at Kidmore End pond. Mr Gutteridge indicated that, while the superstructure was in reasonable condition, significant repairs were required beneath the water line. He and Mr N J Topham had the repair in hand, although some materials would need to be purchased;
- b observed that about 50% of the potholes in the highways in the Parish had been repaired;
- c advised that he would instruct the Clerk to request the County Council to undertake remedial works to reduce the incidence of flooding in Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green, near the boundary with Reading;
- d advised that he did not know the decision of the County Council as to the future of the library in Sonning Common;
- e indicated that he was aware of the decision of the manager of the New Inn, Kidmore End, to deny access to the car park at the public house, to the parents of pupils at Kidmore End School, when delivering or collecting their children from school.