

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 21 September 2011 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.50pm.

Present: R S Young (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), Mrs S M Biggs, Mrs S Hall, Mrs S J Hunter, Dr B J Knapp, T M Perchard.

Also present: R Simister (district councillor), Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from R G McQuillan, A K Martin, J A Swift QC.

4.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2011 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

4.02 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr R Simister, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, reported

- about an event for young people about local government, arranged by his Council, to be held in October 2011;
- on the draft proposals arising from the review of parliamentary constituencies, under which the Henley constituency would be enlarged by incorporating areas to the north east and north west of the existing constituency;
- on the South Oxfordshire Leader funding project.

Mr Simister was asked questions about the determination of planning applications for significant development in Sonning Common.

4.03 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, reported that

- The Boundary Commission had published its draft proposals arising from the County Council electoral review;
- The transfer of the management of the youth club at Chiltern Edge School, away from the County Council, was underway;
- There had been a public meeting about the future of Sonning Common Library earlier in the month and that she would be supporting improved funding for that branch.

Reference was made to the proposed future arrangements for maintenance of locally funded highway salt bins and to the correspondence with the County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport (see Minute 4.16). Mrs Viney reported that she had raised the concerns expressed by this Council and others with the County Council's management. She was expecting soon to attend another meeting on the subject.

4.04 OPEN SESSION

During the open session:

- Mrs A D Thiam of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common asked whether the Council was supporting the use by children in the Parish of the Sonning Common branch library and about the ownership of the salt bin adjacent to the highway in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common: the Clerk indicated that the Council had neither requested nor paid for the bin in question,

- Mr & Mrs R Wyatt of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green commented in response to observations they understood had been made by a neighbour concerned their (Mr & Mrs Wyatt's) planning application for development at their home.

4.05 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(cf 3.05/11) Following the last meeting, Mr H R Wates of Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common had requested a response to the points set out in his letter, or a copy of the report of the Affordable Housing Sub-Committee, both considered at the last meeting. The Clerk had sent Mr Wates a copy of the Sub-Committee's report.

4.06 REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER

(cf 3.06/11) In the absence of any expressions of interest from qualified persons, it was again

RESOLVED: That consideration of the co-option of a further suitably qualified person to serve as a parish councillor be deferred to the next meeting

4.07 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - PAVILION

(cf 3.07/11) In an e-mail, copies of which had been supplied to each Member before the meeting, Mrs A Vorster of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common raised questions about the last meeting of the Council and the foul sewerage system at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, which she summarised as follows:

"I would like to request four things:

1. That you circulate this email to all councillors.
2. That I receive a formal apology for the defamatory comments made towards me at the meeting of 20th July.
3. That the situation regarding the planning permission for the septic tank is clarified.
4. That the council keep me informed of the information they receive regarding the security of the tank and any action they intend to take as a result".

The Council considered the minutes of its meeting held on 20 July 2011, and Members rehearsed their individual memories of what had been said during that meeting. Members had no recollection of any statement that accused Mrs Vorster of theft or any defamatory statements about her, and Members had not been aware that any had been intended. Members regretted that Mrs Vorster appeared to have misinterpreted what was said during the Council's discussion of the issue.

Members recalled Condition 5 (relating to foul drainage) of the planning permission granted for the Pavilion, and took the view that the provisions of the condition have been discharged.

Mr R James of Richard P James Ltd had confirmed that details of the installation had been submitted to the planning officer and, in particular, revised details, where the design had been changed due to the as-found dense clay subsoil conditions, which meant a change to the ground dispersal arrangement. A license to discharge had been sought from, and issued by, the Environment Agency, concerning the ground discharge via a deep borehole. The Kingspan klargestor nitrification unit had been installed, tested and commissioned in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and to comply with the current Building Regulations.

The Chairman reported that he had approached the manufacturer of the nitrification unit concerning its safety in a publicly accessible position. The manufacturers had not recommended any additional security arrangements.

The Clerk reported the informal views of a safety officer from a principal local authority. He had commented that the device, with its lid on, was not unsafe, on the assumption that the lid was capable of resisting, for instance, the normal abuse of someone jumping up and down on it. He had continued that, ultimately, it should be no more unsafe than a normal septic tank or inspection chamber, which could be found in all sorts of public open spaces. The moving parts were unlikely to have sufficient speed or torque to do any damage. Therefore, so long as there was a process in place regularly to check that the lid was intact and secure, he took the view that there were no causes for concern.

Members had contemplated erecting a fencing compound around the klargester, but, in the light of advice received, and having assessed the risks, decided to leave the installation as it was.

The Clerk reported that the England & Wales Cricket Board had made a further payment of £12,670 towards the cost of the project, since the last meeting. That represented the final grant payment, save for retentions. Further payments had been received from HM Revenue & Customs, refunding VAT paid. It had, as a result, been possible to pay the balance of the "last" account to the contractor on 29 July 2011 and to repay the temporary loan of £13,500, as authorised at the last meeting, on 24 August 2011

The Chairman reported that Mr James had had informal discussions with a planning officer at the District Council about the for the possible variation of the condition of the planning permission for the Pavilion, in order that it may for a wide range of community event. The Chairman advised that he and the Clerk were further to discuss the matter with Mr James.

Member recalled that the Pavilion had been opened officially by Councillor. Janet Carr, the Vice-Chairman of the District Council, at a ceremony on the evening of 29 July 2011. Members expressed disappointment that the event had not been covered by the local media, particularly the "Henley Standard". In addition to the official opening, the Cricket Club had celebrated the new premises on 28 August 2011, with a cricket match and other attractions at the Recreation Ground, an event to which all Members had been invited. Over 200 people had attended.

It was reported that the Playing Fields Committee had, as requested at the last meeting, reviewed the arrangements for parking at the Recreation Ground. The Committee had been content with the arrangements, which provided for "overflow" parking on the football pitch during the cricket season, when larger numbers of persons resorted to the Ground.

RESOLVED: That no apology be offered to Mrs A Vorster and that she be advised as set out above in respect of the issues she had raised concerning the foul sewerage system at the Recreation Ground.

4.08 CANE END ALLOTMENTS

(cf 3.10/11) In an e-mail, originally sent in April 2011 but not received by the Clerk until August, Mr M Bilinski of Park Lane, Cane End observed that the entrance to the allotments in Cane End was not as the furthest northerly point of the site, and asked the Council to consider enhancing his privacy from the allotments by strengthening the hedge on the boundary between the allotments and his property.

Members took the view that the gate to the allotments has been installed in accordance with the planning permission granted. Certainly, the local planning authority had not expressed any concerns about the siting of the gate.

A number of Members, including the Allotments Manager, reported that they had visited the allotments and commented that, through the actions Mr Bilinski had already taken on his land, the privacy of his property would not be invaded by the tenants of the allotments, merely by their presence on the allotments.

Mr Bilinski had also asked about the tenancy conditions, which Members expected to be the same as those in force at the allotments in Gallowstree Common.

Consideration was given to the rent to be charged to the tenants of the Cane End allotments, with effect from Michaelmas 2011. Members favoured the same figure as that charged for the Gallowstree Common allotments.

RESOLVED: 1 That no action be taken at this time to strengthen the hedge between the allotments at Cane End and the neighbouring property.

2 That the rents for the allotments at Cane End be £15 per annum per plot, with effect from Michaelmas 2011.

4.09 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £18,741.98.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Ian Kendrick Ltd – Turf for pavilion	£359.28
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£11.66
Hale Building Contractors Ltd – Pavilion project: stage payment	£4547.93
South Oxfordshire District Council – Charge for uncontested election	£115.00
YorHost – Hosting website	£35.99

4.10 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reminded Members that he had circulated, shortly after the last meeting, Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2011, with a request that they notify him of any concerns by 5 August 2011. Although one Member had raised an issue with the Clerk, he had been able satisfactorily to answer the point in question. Accordingly, the Chairman had signed Sections 1 and 2 of the Return on 5 August.

RESOLVED: That the action taken in respect of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2011 be approved and confirmed.

4.11 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Clerk reported 4 decisions of the planning authority on applications relating to the Parish and that he intended to submit a compendium of decision taken by the District Council, since March 2011, to a future meeting.

(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 porch and erection of 2 storey and single storey extensions at rear of Holly Tree Farm, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End (amended plan);
erection of replacement staff accommodation at Cane End House, Cane End;
single storey kitchen extension at Old Well Cottage, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End (and listed

building consent)

demolition of existing modern garages and porch, erection of new extension to eastern block and internal and external alterations at Cane End House, Cane End (and listed building consent); demolish existing outbuildings and garage/workshop and erect new garage/workshop at Greenwood, Mill Lane, Kidmore End.

(iii) Applications

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

RESOLVED: That no strong views be submitted on the application for extensions to roof to provide 2 bedrooms and bathroom plus extension to kitchen at rear at Hadley, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green for Mr R Wyatt.

(iv) Planning appeals

Letters from the Head of Planning and Building Control of the District Council advised that appeals had been lodged against

- the failure of the District Council to determine the application for outline permission for the erection of up to 50 dwellings on land at Kennylands Road, Sonning Common; and
- the refusal of the District Council to grant planning permission for raising the roof height in order to provide first floor accommodation and 2 single storey extensions at side and back at Red Roof, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green.

The appeal about land at Sonning Common would be heard at a public enquiry while that relating to the house in Tokers Green was to be decided on the basis of an exchange of written statements and a site visit by an inspector.

(v) Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Plans

By e-mail, a Planning Policy Officer of the County Council advised that her Council would consult on the draft minerals and waste planning strategies between 5 September and 31 October 2011. Copies of the draft documents could be downloaded from her Council's website.

(vi) Reading Borough Council Local Development Framework

The Head of Planning & Building Control at Reading Borough Council, in a letter, had sought views, by 2 September 2011, on her Council's Revised Parking Standards and Design Supplementary Planning Document, which would form part of her Council's Local Development Framework.

(vii) 201 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common – Possible Development

A representative of Linden Homes Thames Valley indicated, in a letter, that his Company was working on proposals to redevelop the site of 201 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common, a site on the boundary of the Parish, with 11 new homes. The Company sought discussions with the Council on the project.

The Chairman had asked Mrs S Hall, as the member of the Plans Sub-Committee resident closest to site, to lead on any response to the Company. Mrs Hall advised that she had met representatives of the Company, when she had expressed the view that 11 new homes represented overdevelopment of the site and could lead to the closing of the "gap" between Emmer Green and Sonning Common.

(viii) Highdown School, Emmer Green - Floodlights

In an e-mail, Mr I Fletcher (address not given) enquired whether the Council had been consulted

by Reading Borough council on a planning application for 15m tall floodlights at Highdown School, Emmer Green, which, he suggested, would impact on the setting of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, further urbanise the edge of Reading and increase sky glow. The Clerk advised that the Council had not been consulted by the Borough Council, and Members were not inclined to comment on the application.

4.12 CAR PARKING

The District Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services enclosed, with a letter, documents relating to the her Council's proposed order regulating use of its off-street parking places – in other words, car parks. Views had been requested by 18 August 2011. The nearest car parks operated by the District Council were in Goring, Henley and Wallingford.

4.13 ELECTORAL REVIEW

(cf 10.09/11) By letter, the Review Officer (Oxfordshire) of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England advised that the Commission had published its draft recommendations for the electoral arrangements for the County Council. The draft recommendations provided for a reduction in the number of councillors from 74 to 63 and grouped the Parish with Checkendon, Goring, Goring Heath, Mapledurham, South Stoke, Stoke Row, Whitchurch and Woodcote in an electoral division to elect one councillor. Comments were invited on the draft proposals by 10 October 2011.

RESOLVED: That no observations be made on the proposed reduction in the number of county councillors, but that the proposed geographical composition of the electoral division covering the Parish be welcomed, given the affinity with the residents of the communities concerned.

4.14 KIDMORE END WELL

A Mr P J Lewis had reported, by e-mail, that a portion of the roof to Kidmore End well had fallen in his presence on 24 July 2011. The Clerk had alerted the Wells Manager to the incident, and had suggested that the Manager contact Miles & Co, the contractors probably best placed to undertake any repairs.

4.15 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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

4.16 SALT BINS

In an e-mail, the County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport advised

"Your existing salt bins will be filled in advance of this years winter period, additionally all Parish and Town Councils will each receive a 1 tonne bag of salt and have the option of buying an extra bag for £100 each to be delivered at the same time. Additional salt bins will be available for approximately £250 each including the first fill.

"There will be no deliveries of additional 1 tonne salt bags available after this time.

"We will shortly be sending out a snow leaflet which will explain things in more detail but in the interim would ask Parish and Town Councils to identify a dry storage for a 1 tonne bag of salt".

Following discussion with Transport Sub-Committee, the Chairman of the Council had responded to the Cabinet Member urging a review of the proposed arrangements, given that it was considered most unlikely that the Council would be able to identify a site where 1 tonne of salt could be kept dry, and find a

person prepared to transport the salt from that site to the bin at Kidmore End. No substantive response had been received from the Cabinet Member by the date of the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Chairman be approved and confirmed.

4.17 REVIEW OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES

An Assistant Passenger Transport Officer of the County Council announced, in a letter, that his Council would review the subsidised bus services in the Henley and Wallingford area early in 2012, and was seeking views on those services by 24 December 2011. The only route in the Parish affected by the review was service 145 between Woodcote and Henley, operated by Whites Coaches, as the X39 and X40 services, along the A4074 road, were operated commercially by Thames Travel. Members had no knowledge of route 145.

4.18 JOHN HOWELL MP

The Council noted a newsletter from John Howell, the Member of Parliament for the Henley constituency, about key issues from Westminster and in his constituency in August 2011.

Members also noted the arrangements for Mr Howell's visits to villages in his constituency – he had visited 2 villages in the Parish on 20 September 2011

4.19 OXFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Council noted that the annual general meeting of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council would be held in Chalgrove on 3 October 2011.

4.20 PROPERTY NAMING

By letter, the District Council's Head of HR, IT & Customer Services advised that the property known as Charris, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End had been renamed Waters Edge.

4.21 EMERGENCY PLANS

The Business Continuity Manager of the County Council, in an e-mail, enquired whether the Council had adopted an emergency plan. The Clerk had responded that it had not. The Manger had subsequently enquired whether the Council intended to adopt such a plan, and whether there would be interest in attending seminars on the subject.

It was reported that some Members had contemplated the development of a plan to deal locally with some emergencies.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the development of an emergency plan be deferred to the next meeting.

4.22 CHILTERNES CONSERVATION BOARD

In a letter, the Chairman of the Chilterns Conservation Board asked the Council to consider providing financial support for the Board, given the reduction of the latter's funding from Government.

Members observed that the Board was a statutory body and could expect Government to support its role, or otherwise provide access to funding. They noted that the Council had not made provision for a grant to the Board in its budget for the current financial year.

RESOLVED: That no financial contribution be made to the Chilterns Conservation Board in the financial year 2011/12.

4.23 TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL FORUM

By letter, the Leader of the District Council announced that her Council's town and parish council forum would be held on 22 November 2011 at Crowmarsh

4.24 COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

The District Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services enclosed, with a letter, a briefing note which she had circulated to district councillors, concerning the register of councillors' interests, declaring such interest and participation in meetings when a councillor had a prejudicial interest. The Clerk provided each Member with a copy of the note.

4.25 OCTABUS DIAL-A-RIDE SERVICE

In a letter, an Assistant Public Transport officer of the District Council advised that his Council was considering the extension of the Octabus dial-a-ride service into South Oxfordshire: the service was not currently provided in the District, because the District Council had not provided financial support. The County Council was further reviewing the operation of the service generally, and sought views, as part of the review, by 30 September 2011.

Given the coverage locally which was presently available from the FISH service from Sonning Common and from Readibus, Members felt that the extension of Octabus into southern South Oxfordshire might well prove otiose. Against that background, Members felt that there was no benefit in responding to the consultation.

4.26 PHARMACY IN PANGBOURNE

The Council noted correspondence from the Thames Valley Primary Care Agency, under the NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005, about a proposal for a pharmacy to be opened in Pangbourne.

4.27 BROADBAND AND MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE

(cf 1.15/11) By e-mail, the Deputy Leader of the County Council forwarded the August issue of the OxOnline newsletter about the work of his Council to improve broadband speeds and mobile coverage in the County.

4.28 OXFORDSHIRE PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

.The Council noted the arrangements for the annual general meeting of the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association: the Chairman indicated that he might be interested in attending that meeting.

4.29 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman reported that the Playing Fields Committee had met on 14 September 2011, when it had discussed the issues reported at Minute 4.07 above. The Committee had decided to arrange a trade waste collection service for the Pavilion.

4.30 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to questions, the Chairman

- a advised that he would, given the support indicated by Members, instruct the Clerk to write to the County Council supporting the retention of the Sonning Common branch library with adequate professional resources;

- b noted that 2 of the telephone kiosks were showing signs of damage;
- c indicated that he had noted the article in the Parish Newsletter about local residents who were First Responders.

4.31 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the public be excluded from the meeting, pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, during consideration of the following item on the grounds that exempt information, under paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Act shown below, would be discussed:

Item	Paragraph
Part 2 Minutes of meeting held on 20 July 2011	3

4.32 PART 2 MINUTES

The Part 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2011 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.