

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 18 January 2012 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.35pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), R S Young (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S M Biggs, R G McQuillan, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, T M Perchard, J A Swift QC.

Also present: M H Leonard (district councillor), PCSO M Rawnsley (Thames Valley Police), Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Hall, Dr B J Knapp.

8.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2011 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

8.02 R F PENFOLD MBE

The Chairman reported that it had been announced in the New Year's Honours' List that Her Majesty the Queen had appointed R F Penfold, the Clerk, as a Member of the Order of the British Empire, for his services to local government in Berkshire and swimming in the South East. The Council applauded the honour.

8.03 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- the Localism Act 2011 demonstrated that the Government was committed to a different approach to the delivery of local services;
- the ruling group on the County Council intended to propose a budget for 2012/13 which would not lead to an increase in Council Tax, mainly by examining non-statutory services;
- the draft electoral arrangements for her Council had been published by the Local Government Boundary Commission, who had largely endorsed her Council's suggestions;
- the SC Youth Club was going from strength to strength, having secured a one-year only grant from the County Council.

8.04 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr M H Leonard, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, reported that

- GLL, his Council's leisure partners, were offering grants for talented athletes - applications needed to be submitted by 20 February 2012;
- his Council's Local Development Framework core strategy remained with the inspector, who had requested changes to the housing sites' allocation for Thame and Wallingford: his Council hoped to have the core strategy adopted by May 2012;
- the names of persons who were willing to pay their Council Tax electronically would be placed in a draw, the winner of which would have no Council Tax liability for a year;
- the Henley Police Inspector had set up a neighbourhood community safety group, as a result of which he intended that the neighbourhood watch schemes and Police personnel would work closely together: Mr Leonard asked about neighbourhood watch schemes in the Parish;
- the ruling group intended to reduce the District Council's element of the Council Tax by 2.5% , in the light of increased Government grant;

- his Council now favoured a reduction of the number of district councillors to 36, rather than 30, as reported earlier.

8.05 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

PCSO M Rawnsley of the Thames Valley Police introduced himself as the PCSO responsible for the Parish. 2 crimes had been recorded in the Parish but these were old offences admitted by a person convicted of other crimes. There had been a theft of metal at Cane End. PCSO Rawnsley urged that suspicious vehicles were reported to the Police, and that any unexpected callers to properties were requested to show their identification.

8.06 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - PAVILION

(cf 7.03/11) The Council considered the planning permission granted for the community use of the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, some of the conditions of which imposed quite specific requirements, for instance as to times of use. Members felt, however, that there was no reason to challenge those conditions.

The Clerk advised that the balance of the grant from the England & Wales Cricket Board had been paid on 21 December 2011.

The Vice-Chairman reported that snagging work on the new Pavilion was progressing slowly, as a result of which the architect's final certificate had yet to be issued. In the meantime, the Cricket Club had agreed to meet the cost of heavy duty shelving for the vehicle and equipment store, and the Playing Fields Committee would meet the cost of the baby changing shelf.

The Vice-Chairman referred again to the waterlogging of the field adjacent to the Pavilion, since the building had been erected. It was widely agreed that, because of its style of construction, the building impeded the previously free draining properties of the Ground. The problem would be best relieved by installing a land drain in front of the Pavilion, connected to the roof water soakaway in the car park. Hale Building Contractors Ltd had quoted a figure of £3,821 + VAT for the work, while AgriPower Ltd had quoted £2,485 + VAT.

Bearing in mind that the final account for the project would be £586,000 against a contract figure of £590,000, Members agreed that the drainage works should proceed.

RESOLVED: That, notwithstanding Financial Regulations 10.3 and 11.1(h), the quotation of AgriPower Ltd for undertaking land drainage works at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground be accepted.

8.07 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

(cf 7.05/11) It was reported that arrangements had been made for the Financial Risk Assessment Sub-Committee to meet on 23 January 2012.

8.08 HIGHWAY MATTERS

- (i) Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green – "Give way" sign

(cf 7.18/11) in a letter, the County Council's Highways Enquiry Team acknowledged the Council's enquiry about the fallen "Give Way" sign in Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green, near its junction with Tokers Green Lane.

- (ii) Highway enquiries

By e-mail, a Customer Service Advisor of the County Council reminded that the contact telephone

number for highway enquiries was 0845 310 1111.

8.09 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £15,262.38.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association - Subscription	£35.00
---	--------

8.10 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

2 storey extension to side and rear with garage at The Yews, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common; variation of condition 5 of planning permission P10/E0528/EX to allow less restrictive use of the sports pavilion, Recreation Ground, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common; replace existing mobile home with chalet style bungalow including 2 bedrooms and stud office at Hazelmoor Lane Farm, Hazelmoor Lane, Kidmore End; single storey rear extension at Cynisca, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;

had been permitted conditionally and that the application for demolition of existing timber bungalow, brick double garage and out buildings and replacement with a single detached 4 bedroom house at The Bungalow, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common had been refused.

(ii) Action of Plans Sub-Committee

The Council noted a copy of a letter from Mr & Mrs J Pumphrey of Hearn Lane, Gallowstree Common to the District Council, setting out their objections to the planning application for development at The Orchards, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

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 garage, stable block, storage area and outbuilding and replacement of existing buildings with new garage block, gym, storage area and enclosed log store at The Orchards, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common; single and 2 storey extensions at Highland Wood House, 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 erection of detached stable building at Cuckoos, Dysons Wood Lane, Tokers Green for Mr J Gordon.

(iv) Planning Appeal

(cf 7.10(iii)/11) Mrs S M Biggs reported on the public inquiry into the appeal about the application

for outline permission for the erection of up to 50 dwellings on land at Kennylands Road, Sonning Common, at which inquiry she had articulated the Council's support for the District Council's decision on the application.

(v) "Planning Explained"

(cf 7.10(vi)/11) Mrs S M Biggs reported on the publication "Planning Explained", about local plans and an introduction to neighbourhood plans which, she felt, contained nothing of which Members of the Council had not been aware.

8.11 HENLEY & DISTRICT CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

The Manager of the Henley & District Citizens' Advice Bureau, in a letter, requested the Council to consider making a grant to the Bureau. The Council noted that the budget for 2011/12 contained provision for a grant of £90.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £90 be made to the Henley & District Citizens Advice Bureau in the financial year 2011/12.

8.12 THAMES VALLEY AND CHILTERN AIR AMBULANCE

The Oxfordshire Fundraising Manager of the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust, in an e-mail, sought the Council's help in recruiting new volunteers to assist the Trust's fund raising activities.

RESOLVED: That the recruitment exercise of the Thames Valley & Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust be mentioned in the Parish Newsletter.

8.13 PROPERTY NAMING

By letter, the District Council's Head of HR, IT & customer Services advised that the property known as Cold Norton, Wood Lane, Kidmore End had been renamed Connemara House.

8.14 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 December 2011.

8.15 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman reported that the Playing Fields Committee had met on 11 January 2012, when, aside from issues relating to the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground referred to elsewhere in these Minutes, the Committee had agreed interim arrangements for letting the premise for non-sports' uses. The Chairman of the Committee advised, in addition, that the dog hygiene bin had been moved to a site near the pedestrian gate.

8.16 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE.

Mr J A Swift reported orally on the deliberations of the Affordable Housing Sub-Committee on the previously circulated proposals by Soha Ltd for 7 units of affordable housing on the identified site in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

The Sub-Committee acknowledged that the Register of Interest Survey report of August 2010 had identified a need for 7 homes. However, the consultation that took place in 2011 had been based on the options for a configuration of 6 homes, as put forward by Oxfordshire Rural Community Council (ORCC) and Oxfordshire Rural Housing Partnership (ORHP). The various 6 unit options had been included in the

Spring 2011 edition of the Parish Newsletter and, throughout the whole of 2011, the Council had assumed that the scheme was proceeding on that basis.

In the circumstances, and taking into account the reservations expressed by Soha Ltd about 7 rather than 6 units, and the need to press ahead without further consultation, the Sub-Committee recommended that the scheme should be for 6 units.

RESOLVED: That Soha Ltd be advised that the scheme for affordable housing in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common should comprise 6 units and that a scheme for 7 homes would not be supported.

8.17 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

Mrs S M Biggs reported orally on progress by the Transport Sub-Committee on matters referred to it, viz

- parking associated with Kidmore End School – a further meeting was imminent, some residents of Kidmore End had made their driveways available for parking and the Police had patrolled Kidmore End at crucial time;
- officers from the County Council had inspected the highway drainage leading into Kidmore End pond and had identified some remedial works;
- the Sub-Committee had yet to meet the County Council's Area Highways Steward;
- the vehicle activated speed indicator device in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common was still not functioning correctly.

8.18 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to questions, the Chairman stated that

- a he would instruct the Clerk to draw the attention of the highways authority to the posts erected on the highway verge at Oakridge Farm, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
- b he would ask the Clerk to submit a report on the Localism Act 2011 to the meeting in March 2012.