

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 22 February 2012 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.30pm.

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

Also present: PCSO T Forrest (Thames Valley Police), R Simister (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Hall, A K Martin, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, J A Swift QC, Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

9.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2012 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

9.02 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

PCSO T Forrest of the Thames Valley Police advised that there had been no crimes reported in the Parish, although criminal activity had been reported in neighbouring areas, mostly at or from unoccupied buildings. He gave some advice about protecting property against burglary, which advice, Members felt, should be repeated in the Parish Newsletter. In addition, he indicated that the Police would visit premises, by invitation, to give advice.

PCSO Forrest passed on a request from Sergeant Pink of the Police that the information about contacting the Police on the website – www.kepc.info – be amended. PCSO Forrest was encouraged to contact the webmaster direct about this.

9.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- his Council intended to seek a reduction in the number of district councillors, under the imminent review of electoral arrangements;
- the core strategy of the Local Development Framework was still under examination.

In response to a question, Mr Simister undertook to look further into the ownership and maintenance of the footpath between Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, near the Church, and the cemetery.

9.04 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - PAVILION

(cf 8.06/11) It was reported that, following further negotiations between the Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee and the Company, Agripower Ltd had reduced the quotation for the land drainage works at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground to £2,300. The contract had been awarded in the latter sum and the work would be undertaken "during the next dry spell". In the meantime, the concrete path had been laid to the pedestrian access to the field.

The Clerk advised that the Cricket Club had made a further donation of £1,000 towards the cost of the racking in the equipment store at the Pavilion, rather than pay direct for the installation.

Some "snagging" works were still outstanding, and, as a result, the final certificate in respect of the Pavilion contract had yet to be issued.

In presenting his apologies for absence, the Chairman of the Council had circulated an e-mail to Members suggesting that, as final completion of the project to replace the Pavilion would be achieved during 2012, the name of the pavilion be changed to "The Diamond Jubilee Pavilion", in recognition of the diamond jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. Members noted that the only direct cost of renaming would be erecting a replacement sign on the building, estimated, with equipment hire, to be £400.

RESOLVED: That, in principle, the Pavilion be renamed The Diamond Jubilee Pavilion in recognition of the diamond jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

(Mrs S J Hunter disclosed a personal interest, under Article 7 of the Code of Conduct, in respect of the possible replacement sign for the Pavilion, and took no part in the decision on renaming the Pavilion.)

9.05 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

(cf 8.07/11) The Council considered a report (11/12 - 8) of the Financial Risk Assessment Sub-Committee, being the Minutes of its meeting held on 23 January 2012.

RESOLVED: 1 That the risk assessment table set out in the Appendix to the report be approved and adopted.

2 That the Clerk submit, in accordance with Financial Regulation 17.1, to a future meeting of the Council, risk management policy statements in respect of all activities of the Council.

9.06 HIGHWAY MATTERS

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

(cf 8.08(i)/12) It was noted that a new post had been erected for the "Give Way" sign in Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green, near its junction with Tokers Green Lane, and a "30" roundel mounted thereon.

(ii) Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common - Vehicle activated speed indicator device

(cf 8.17/12) Members observed that the vehicle activated speed indicator device in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common was performing satisfactorily.

(iii) Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common – Footway

Mr D King of Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, by e-mail to the Chairman, drew attention to the overgrowth of the hedge adjoining, and the deterioration of the surface of, the footway on the north side of Horsepond Road, between The Orchards and 1 Well Cottage. At the suggestion of the Chairman, the Clerk had drawn Mr King's concerns to the attention of the County Council, as highways' authority.

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

9.07 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £20,977.21.

(ii) 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
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Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments	£92.58
Chiltern Society – Membership subscription	£25.00
Kidmore End Royal British Legion – Wreath	£40.00
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£12.20
Acorn Services – Providing wheelchair access to field from car park, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground	£400.00

9.08 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

demolition of greenhouse, construction of new 2-storey rear extension, rear conservatory, single storey front extension and re-roof of single storey flat roof side extension with pitched roof at Cherryfield House, Cane End;
single and 2 storey extension to dwelling at Highland Wood House, Mill Lane, Kidmore End;

had been permitted conditionally and that the following applications had been withdrawn:

for erection of detached stable building at Cuckoos, Dysons Wood Lane, Tokers Green;
for demolition of existing garage, stable block, storage area and outbuilding providing study and bedroom area and replacement of existing buildings with new garage block, gym, storage areas and enclosed log store at The Orchard, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

(ii) Action of Plans Sub-Committee

RESOLVED: That the action of the Plans Sub-Committee in respect of the following application, as set out in the register of action, be approved:

conservatory at Collegewood Farm, Cane End.

(iii) South Oxfordshire Local Development Framework

The District Council's Head of Planning Services enclosed, with a letter, a copy of the proposed main modifications schedule to the core strategy of his Council's Local Development Framework. The modifications reflected changes identified by the inspector undertaking the examination in public of the core strategy. The closing date for representations about the proposed modifications was 23 March 2012.

Members took the view that the proposed modifications would have little or no impact on the Parish.

(iv) Settlement Categories

With a letter, the Head of Planning Services of the District Council enclosed a schedule showing the settlement categories under the South Oxfordshire Local Plan. This showed Kidmoe End as a smaller village and did not categorise the other settlements in the Parish

(v) "How to shape where you live"

The Project Manager, Supporting Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning of the Campaign to Protect Rural England enclosed, with a letter, a copy of "How to shape where you live: a guide to neighbourhood planning" which had been produced by the Campaign and the Nationals Association of Local Councils. The publication explored the powers available under the Localism Act 2011 for neighbourhood planning.

RESOLVED: That "How to shape where you live: a guide to neighbourhood planning" be referred

to Mr T M Perchard for consideration and report.

9.09 PROPERTY NAMING

By letter, the District Council's Head of HR, IT & Customer Services advised that premises in the grounds of Kempwood, Cane End had been named Alazan Oak.

9.10 ELECTORAL REVIEW

(cf 4.13/11) By letter, a Review Officer of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England advised that the Commission had published its final recommendations for the electoral arrangements for the County Council, which recommendations would now be submitted to Parliament for approval. As previously indicated, the Parish would be grouped with Checkendon, Goring, Goring Heath, Mapledurham, South Stoke, Stoke Row, Whitchurch and Woodcote to form a division to elect one county councillor.

The District Council's Shared Democratic & Electoral Services Manager advised, in a letter, of briefing sessions arranged by the Boundary Commission, on 29 February 2012, in Didcot, about the review of the electoral arrangements for the District Council.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman and Clerk be appointed to attend a briefing session on the review of the electoral arrangements for the District Council.

9.11 BROADBAND

Mr J Vorster of The Hamlet, Gallows tree Common enquired, in an e-mail, whether the Council would be submitting a bid to the BDUK fund, with a view to improving the speed of the internet to residents in the Parish. The Clerk had advised Mr Vorster that the Council had not made such a bid, but that he would put the matter before the Council. Mr Vorster had subsequently urged the Council to take steps to improve internet performance in the Gallowstree Common and the wider Parish.

Members noted that initial expressions of interest to the Rural Community Broadband Fund had had to be submitted by 31 January 2012, and had to include a range of information about demand for superfast broadband, that the area was hard to reach, that there had been discussions about a viable local solution and that the plan demonstrated value for money and linked into the wider plans of the principal local authorities. Members took the view that none of the information was presently to hand.

Members also felt that, to be successful, a local plan for Gallowstree Common, or the rest of the Parish, would need a local champion, to drive it forward.

RESOLVED: That Mr Vorster be advised of the work of the County Council in seeking to improve access to better Broadband services and be asked whether he was prepared to champion a campaign for a better service in the Parish.

9.12 COUNCILLOR'S CODE OF CONDUCT

In a letter, the Head of Legal & Democratic Services of the District Council referred to the requirement of Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 that each local authority adopt a code dealing with conduct that is expected of members of the authority. It was understood that the codes of conduct needed to have been adopted by 1 July 2012. The District Council hoped to recommend a code for adoption, although it seemed likely that the National Association of Locals Councils might come forward with a model.

9.13 RAIL STRATEGY

An officer of the County Council, by e-mail, invited the Council to participate in the consultation on

his Council's Rail Strategy for Oxfordshire, focussing on the important part that railways had to play in the integrated transport network, and the wider economic benefits that network could bring.

RESOLVED: That, subject to his willingness so to act, Mr J A Swift be appointed to submit comments, if appropriate, on behalf of the Council on the County Council's Rail Strategy for Oxfordshire.

9.14 PHARMACIES

By letter, the Pharmaceutical Contract Specialist and Services Manager of NHS Thames Valley Primary Care Agency reported receipt of an application to open another pharmacy in Sonning Common. As a result, the Agency was consulting on whether the area was urban or rural in nature, as required by the National Health Service (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005.

Members were bemused by the letter and not really sure what was expected of the Council, even having looked at the Regulations.

In another letter, the Manager outlined the decision taken regarding a similar application relating to Pangbourne and its surrounding area.

RESOLVED: That the view be expressed to the Thames Valley Primary Care Agency that the economy of Sonning Common was unlikely to be able to sustain a 3rd pharmaceutical outlet.

9.15 SOUTH & VALE CARERS CENTRE

The Manager of the South & Vale Carers Centre thanked the Council for its donation.

9.16 LIAISON WITH NEIGHBOURING PARISH COUNCILS

The Chairman of Goring Heath Parish Council, in a letter, advised that his Council felt that there might be benefit in groups of parish councils acting together in response to particular issues, in the development of local services or the purchase of goods. To that end his Council had arranged an informal meeting for neighbouring parish councils on 19 March 2012.

Members felt that it would be beneficial to explore what Goring Heath Parish Council had in mind, although none present were able to attend the meeting.

RESOLVED: That, if any of the Members not present were interested, they be appointed to attend the meeting arranged by Goring Heath Parish Council on 19 March 2012.

9.17 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee indicated that the Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council.

9.18 PLAY AREA, KIDMORE END

(cf 6.23/11) The Chairman reported that the former climbing frame had been removed from the Kidmore End Play Area. Mrs S M Biggs observed that the remaining equipment would need to be removed within coming months, given its poor condition.

Mrs Biggs advised that she was compiling a bid for a grant from the LEADER fund, towards the cost of replacing equipment at the play area. However, she commented that the fund required the applicant to match any funding provided. The Responsible Financial Officer reminded Members that the adopted budget for 2012/13 contained no provision for a scheme to replace the equipment. He observed, however, that the Council could well accumulate funds, or make budgetary provision, for replacement equipment in the financial year 2013/14.

RESOLVED: That an expression of interest be submitted to the LEADER fund, in respect of the re-equipping of the Kidmore End Play Area, on the basis that there was every likelihood of the Council amassing match funding in the financial year 2013/14.

9.19 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

Mrs S M Biggs reported orally on her meeting with the Area [Highways] Steward of the County Council. The Steward had indicated that, because of national policy, there was no prospect of existing speed limits being extended to cover the "gaps" between villages already subject to limits. He had undertaken to examine the possibility that the "zig-zag" road markings at Kidmore End School could be made enforceable. The Steward was exploring remedial works to the highways' drainage into Kidmore End pond. He was not expecting any changes to the County Council's scheme, adopted for Winter 2011/12, for the local provision of highway salt. In this connection, Mrs Biggs advised that no salt had been delivered to the Reformation public house, Gallowstree Common.

9.20 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 21 March 2012 at 7.30pm