

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 21 March 2012 at 8.05pm and concluded at 10.30pm.

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

Also present: R Simister (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Dr B J Knapp, Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

10.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2012 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correct spelling of the word "attention" in the first line of Minute 9.06(iii) and the correction of the title to "Head of Planning Services" in Minute 9.08(iv).

10.02 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- the cost of season tickets in his Council's car parks in Henley had been reduced by half;
- CCTV installations in the towns in the District had led to 51 arrests;
- fly tipping was a cause for concern in some neighbouring parishes.

Mr Simister reported that his Council's officers were of the opinion that the footpath between Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, near the Church, and the cemetery was the responsibility of the County Council.

10.03 OPEN SESSION

During the open session,

- Mrs J Williams of Wood Lane, Kidmore End and Ms C D Aldridge of Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End, both indicated their interest in serving as parish councillors;
- Mrs A D Thiam of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common referred to winter highways' maintenance issues.

10.04 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - PAVILION

(cf 9.04/12) The Council considered a report (11/12 - 9) of the Clerk, advising of the final account for the project for the new pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and inviting the Council to decide what to pay to the builders.

In connection with the report, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman reported on their meeting with the project administrator on 19 March 2012, when the administrator had acknowledged that some of the "defects" identified by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and referred to in the appendix to the report, were material, and required remedial action. The project administrator had agreed with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman that the value of these works was £2,000.

It was reported that the Playing Fields Committee was marketing the Pavilion, for community use, in the next edition of the Parish Newsletter and via the Council's website. A local resident had agreed to hold the keys to the premises, in order to facilitate access for bona fide hirers.

RESOLVED: That any sum now payable to Hale Building Contractors Ltd in respect of the

contract to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground be reduced by £2,000 (+ VAT) pending the Company undertaking remedial works, as agreed between the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and the project administrator.

10.05 HIGHWAY MATTERS

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

(cf 9.06(i)/12) It was reported that the “Give Way” sign in Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green, near its junction with Tokers Green Lane, had been fully restored.

(ii) Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common – Footway

(cf 9.06(iii)/12) It was noted that the County Council had arranged the cutting back of the hedge adjoining and the repair of the surface of the footway on the north side of Horsepond Road, between The Orchards and 1 Well Cottage. A note of thanks for the works had appeared on the Council’s website.

10.06 ELECTORAL REVIEW

(cf 9.10/12) The Clerk advised that neither he nor the Chairman had been able to attend the briefings by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, on 29 February 2012, about the review of the electoral arrangements for the District Council.

10.07 RAIL STRATEGY

(cf 9.13/12) The Council noted comments, copies of which had been circulated to each Member, submitted by Mr J A Swift on behalf of the Council, about the County Council’s Rail Strategy for Oxfordshire.

10.08 LIAISON WITH NEIGHBOURING PARISH COUNCILS

(cf 9.16/12) The Clerk advised that Mr J A Swift had represented the Council at the meeting, on 19 March 2012, arranged by Goring Heath Parish Council for its neighbouring parish councils, to explore matters of mutual interest.

Mr Swift reported orally that there had been 3 strands to the discussion at the meeting

- consultation by principal authorities about plans, strategies and service delivery – about which there general criticism on the part of parish councils;
- neighbourhood plans;
- joint purchasing – for which there seemed little support.

Mr Swift thought that the dialogue with the neighbouring councils should be maintained.

10.09 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £20,319.55.

(ii) Accounts for payment

RESOLVED: That the following accounts, listed in the schedule under Financial Regulation 5.2, be approved for payment, as funds permit and subject to the resolution in Minute 10.04:

Hale Building Contractors Ltd – Pavilion project: stage payment	£590.40
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Caversham Solicitors Ltd – Payment on account towards wayleave for water supply	£1,200.00
Ian Kendrick Ltd – Works at play areas	£810.00
Rapid Racking Ltd – Racking for pavilion store	£702.00
Agripower Ltd – Drainage works at Recreation Ground	£2,760.00
Richard P James Ltd – Architect’s fees: Pavilion project	£8,227.10

(iii) Financial Regulations

At the suggestion of the Responsible Financial Officer, it was

RESOLVED: That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 3.5, the unspent budgetary provision in the financial year 2011/12 under the following budget heads be carried forward, on 31 March 2012, into the financial year 2012/13

Clerk’s salary
 Clerk’s expenses
 Postages
 Telephones
 Hire of accommodation for meetings
 Grant for churchyard maintenance (limited to £750)
 Grant for Rokeby Recreation Ground

10.10 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

partial redevelopment and refurbishment of existing residential home at Dysons Wood House, Dysons Wood, Tokers Green;
 conservatory at Collegewood Farmhouse, Cane End

had been permitted conditionally.

(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 existing garages, stable block, storage areas and habitable out building providing study and bedroom area, erection of new building to provide garaging, gymnasium, storage areas, enclosed bin and log store at The Orchards, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common (and amended plan);
 amendment to location and design of dwelling to replace mobile home at Hazelmoor Lane Farm, Hazelmoor Lane, Kidmore End;
 single storey extension to existing dwelling to link house to existing outbuilding, removal of thatched roof over kitchen, replace hipped roof with gable end and tile to match outbuilding, connect both roofs with new tiled roof, replace steel clad porches with tiled porches and replace corrugated iron roof on the lean-to building with lead at The Orchards, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
 remove existing conservatory and construct single storey rear extension for dining and family room at Lynderville, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green.

(iii) Reading Local Development Framework

By letter, the Head of Planning & Building Control at Reading Borough Council advised that her Council was consulting on a number of changes to the Sites and Detailed Policies Document (part of the Local Development Framework), suggested by the independent inspector examining the submitted version of the document. Consultation ended on 10 April 2012. Other than updates and corrections to housing supply figures in the housing trajectory, the sites subject to the changes were in the south and west of the Borough.

(iv) "How to shape where you live"

Mr T M Perchard advised that he had yet to complete his consideration of "How to shape where you live: a guide to neighbourhood planning"

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report of Mr T M Perchard on "How to shape where you live: a guide to neighbourhood planning" be deferred to the next meeting.

10.11 DISABLED PARKING (BLUE BADGE) SCHEME

In an e-mail, an officer in the County Council's Social and Health Care advised of recent and future changes to the disabled parking (Blue Badge) scheme in Oxfordshire. Details had been forwarded to the Editor of the Parish Newsletter and for publication on the website.

10.12 ALLOTMENTS, CANE END

Ms J Duckworth, a tenant of the allotments at Cane End, enquired, by e-mail, about the style etc of a shed on her allotment, the Allotments' Manager having given consent to erection of such a structure in accordance with conditions 6 and 15 of the tenancy agreement. The Council recalled its decision at its meeting held in September 2008, set out in Minute 4.24, concerning sheds at the Gallowstree Common allotments and felt those conditions should also apply to the allotments at Cane End.

RESOLVED: That it be confirmed that the conditions for siting sheds at the Gallowstree Common allotments, set out in Minute 4.24 of the meeting held in September 2008, applied to the Cane End allotments.

10.13 ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END – CHURCHYARD

By letter, the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council asked the Council to make a contribution towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard at St John the Baptist, Kidmore End. Expenditure on maintenance of the churchyard had amounted to £1,500, "in the past year".

Members observed that it had been the Council's practice over many years to make a grant, when requested, towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard and that the approved budget for the current financial year contained provision of £1,330 for such a grant, following the "rolling-forward" of budgetary provision in years when no request for a grant had been made.

Some Members commented adversely about the appearance of the churchyard.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £750 be made, in the current financial year, to the Parochial Church Council towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard of St John Baptist, Kidmore End.

10.14 PROPERTY NAMING

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

10.15 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 6.07/11) In a letter, Mrs J Williams of Wood Lane, Kidmore End expressed her interest in serving as a member of the Council, to fill the vacancy which had existed since the meeting in May 2011.

In light of the interest indicated by Ms C D Aldridge during the Open Session, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of filling the vacancy for parish councillor be deferred to the next meeting.

10.16 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had met on 14 March 2012, when there had been discussion of the issues referred to in Minute 10.04 and about the interface between Cricket and Football Clubs and the cricket and football season.

The Chairman of the Committee referred to a request received by the Committee from the Kidmore End Pre School, to use the pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground during the morning and afternoon of every weekday during the school term time. The Pre School had outlined its requirements to use the pavilion, some of which the Committee believed would be difficult to meet. Because of that, the Committee had been disinclined to accede to the Pre-School's request. However, because of the high profile of the potential use, the Committee had requested guidance from the Council.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the possible use of the pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground by the Kidmore End Pre-School be deferred to the next meeting.

10.17 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE

It was noted that no further news had been received concerning the proposed affordable housing scheme for Gallowstree Common although it was thought that a planning application was likely to be submitted by the end of April 2012.

10.18 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

Mrs S M Biggs advised that she had heard nothing further from the County Council's Area [Highways] Steward. Mrs Biggs advised that a meeting about traffic was arranged for 29 March 2012.

10.19 LOCALISM ACT 2011

The Clerk reported orally on the main provisions of the Localism Act 2011, as they had relevance to parish councils in general and the Council in particular, principally in respect of local government, community empowerment and planning.

10.20 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

Mr R G McQuillan reported on the meeting he had attended on 6 February 2012, and the subsequent exchanges of e-mails, about the proposed neighbourhood plan being developed by Sonning Common Parish Council, to cover what that Council described as the "Greater Sonning Common area". That Council had secured the services of a consultant to help progress the project. The focus of the exercise was to identify suitable sites for 100 additional housing units which it was expected that Sonning Common would be required to accommodate during the currency of the Local Development Framework. A "design day", with the purpose of engaging the public in the exercise, was planned for 28 April 2012.