

## KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 18 April 2012 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.45pm.

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

Also present: M H Leonard (district councillor), Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S M Biggs, Mrs S Hall.

### 11.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2012 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 11.02 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- the issue of concessionary bus travel passes was now the responsibility of the County Council;
- the subscription for garden waste collections could now only be paid by direct debit;
- the panel to consider applications for Community Investment Fund grants was due to meet in June 2012;
- there had been a reduction in crime across the Thames Valley Police area and in the District in particular: detection rates had also improved.

### 11.03 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- that she had a limited local discretionary fund for highways or transport works across her Division, and asked whether there were any works required in the Parish;
- there was only low take-up of the County-wide dial-a-ride service;
- that a number of 10 year old children from Kidmore End attended the youth club in Sonning Common.

It was felt that the Transport Sub-Committee was best placed to identify works which might be met from Mrs Viney's local fund.

### 11.04 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

No representative of the Police was present, but Members observed that there had been a significant number of crimes reported in the wider local area in the month past.

### 11.05 OPEN SESSION

During the open session, which was extended by 15 minutes with the consent of the Council,

- Mrs A D Thiam of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common reminded the Council of her concerns about winter highways' maintenance issues;
- Mr D Heron of Vortal Properties Ltd of Wokingham addressed the Council, on behalf of the owners of the land in question, about the possible residential development of a parcel of land, comprising c2 hectares, adjoining Gravel Hill and Highdown Avenue, Emmer

Green, suggesting that there might, under the new planning regime, be benefits for the Parish as a whole as a result of such a development.

Members asked Mr Heron for the text of his presentation and indicated that they would consider the principle of the development of the land at a future meeting.

#### 11.06 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - PAVILION

##### (i) Building contract

(cf 10.04/12) The Vice-Chairman advised that discussions continued with Hale Building Contractors Ltd concerning outstanding snagging works at the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

In the meantime, the District Council had released the last stage payment of its promised grant, making a total grant payment of £199,481. This reflected the fact that the final project cost figure was £588,441 against an original estimate of £590,000.

##### (ii) Possible use by Kidmore End Pre School

(cf 10.16/12) The Council considered a report (11/12 - 10) of the Vice-Chairman and the Clerk, to facilitate a discussion on the possible use of the pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground by the Kidmore End Pre-School. Members recalled that consideration of the request from the Playing Fields Committee, for guidance on that possible use, had been deferred at the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Playing Fields Committee be advised that its disinclination to accede to the request of the Kidmore End Pre School to use the Pavilion is endorsed.

#### 11.07 ELECTORAL REVIEW

(cf 10.06/12) By letters, Review Officers of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England announced the review of the electoral arrangements for the District Council. The initial stage of the review concerned the size of the District Council, and the Commission sought views, by 8 May 2012, on a council of 36 members, as proposed by the District Council. Once a provisional conclusion had been reached on council size, the Commission would consult on warding arrangements. The Clerk observed that, in broad terms, the proposed 36 councillors would each serve c2,900 to 3,000 electors.

#### 11.08 ALLOTMENTS, CANE END

(cf 10.12/12) By e-mail, Mr M Bilinski of Park Lane, Cane End complained that tenants of the Cane End allotments parked on the highway verges in Park Lane, causing obstruction to through traffic, and requesting that tenants be instructed to park within the allotments' site. In presenting her apologies for absence, Mrs S Hall, the Allotments Manager, had advised the Chairman that she had responded to Mr Bilinski.

#### 11.09 ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END – CHURCHYARD

(cf 10.13/12) By letter, the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council thanked the Council for its promised grant towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard at St John the Baptist, Kidmore End, indicating that only mowing was executed by paid agents. Other works were undertaken by a dwindling group of volunteers, and the Secretary hoped that more people could be encouraged to volunteer to help, perhaps through the medium of the Parish Newsletter. In presenting her apologies for absence, Mrs S M Biggs advised that she would distribute a flyer locally about the churchyard maintenance, and had alerted the Editorial Board of the Newsletter to the request for further volunteers.

#### 11.10 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 10.15/12) In a letter, Ms C D Aldridge of Chalkhouse Green Road, 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. Members recalled the similar letter from Mrs J Williams of Wood Lane, Kidmore End, submitted to the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That Mrs J Williams be co-opted, pursuant to Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act 1985, to fill the vacancy for the office of parish councillor.

#### 11.11 LOCALISM ACT 2011

(cf 10.19/12) Following the last meeting, some presentation slides about the Localism Act 2011, and particularly the planning aspects, from the District Council's Town and Parish Forum, had been circulated to all Members at the request of Mrs S M Biggs.

In a letter, the District Council's Head of Legal & Democratic Services reported that the Regulations relating to councillors' codes of conduct had yet to be published by the Government.

#### 11.12 FINANCE

##### (i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £8,920.11.

##### (ii) Accounts for payment

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

Parish of Kidmore End & Sonning Common – Contribution towards cost of maintaining churchyard	£750.00
Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Subscription	£240.13
Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – Subscription	£30.00
NALC – Subscription to "Local Council Review"	£15.50
Mapledurham Parish Council – Grant towards costs of Rokeby Recreation Ground	£105.00
R F Penfold – Expenses of Clerk, 2011/2	£178.82

#### 11.13 NOTICE OF AUDIT

By letter, BDO Stoy Hayward LLP gave notice that they had appointed 2 July 2012 as the day when local government electors could question the external auditor on the Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2012. The Responsible Financial Officer advised that he intended to submit the annual accounts for 2011/12 to the Council at its next meeting, and then to ask the Council to make arrangements for the completion of the annual return.

#### 11.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

##### (i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

replacing existing mobile home with chalet style bungalow including 2 bedrooms and stud office (amendment to locations and design) at Hazelmoor Lane Farm, Hazelmoor Lane, Kidmore End;

removal of existing conservatory and construction of single storey rear extension for dining and family room at Lynderville, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;  
demolition of existing garages, stable block, storage areas and habitable outbuilding providing study and bedroom area and erection of new building to provide garaging, gymnasium, storage area and enclosed bin and log store at The Orchards, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;  
single storey extension to existing dwelling to link house to existing outbuilding, removal of thatched roof over kitchen, replace hipped roof with gable, tile to match outbuilding, connect both roofs with new tiled roof, replace thatched steel clad porches with tiled porches and replace corrugated iron roof on lean-to building with lead at The Orchards, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common

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:

replacement dwelling with garage following demolition of existing house and outbuildings at Oakridge Farm, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;  
erection of oak framed garden room extensions and associated alterations at Wachusett, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green.

(iii) Planning appeals

(cf 4.11(iv)/11) Copy letters from the Planning Inspectorate indicated that the inspectors, appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, had dismissed the appeals 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 (Parish of Sonning Common)
- the refusal of the District Council to grant planning permission for the erection of replacement staff accommodation at Cane End House, Cane End.

(iv) "How to shape where you live"

(cf 10.10(iv)/12) Mr T M Perchard reported that he had found "How to shape where you live: a guide to neighbourhood planning" to be a very good guide to any person or organisation seeking to develop a neighbourhood plan.

Members discussed whether the Council should seek to foster a neighbourhood plan, or plans, for the Parish, prompted by the presentation by Mr D Heron during the open session.

RESOLVED: That the possible development of a neighbourhood plan or plans for the Parish be referred to the Plans Sub-Committee for consideration and advice.

#### 11.15 DEEP CLEANSE PROGRAMME

The District Council's Head of Corporate Strategy, by letter, advised of her Council's district-wide cleansing exercise, to improve the general appearance of the area. The work would be undertaken by her Council's waste partner, Biffa, and would cover items like removing weeds from pavements, cleaning out gutters and litter picking. Details of particular areas which might benefit from cleansing activities were requested.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be requested to add the following locations to the list being

compiled for the deep cleanse programme:

- the clearance of litter and debris from the verges of the A4074 road through the Parish;
- the clearance of weeds from the pavement and gutters in Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;
- the restoration of the full width of the metalled footway in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, particularly between the junction with Wyfold Lane and the former local authority housing.

#### 11.16 ST JOHN AMBULANCE OXFORDSHIRE

The Chairman of St John Ambulance Oxfordshire requested, by e-mail, that the Council consider making a financial contribution towards the work of the organisation in, for instance, providing first aid cover at community events. Members noted, with regret, that the budget for the financial year 2012/13 contained no provision for a grant to the organisation.

RESOLVED: That no financial contribution be made to St John Ambulance Oxfordshire in the financial year 2012/13.

#### 11.17 REVIEW OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES

(cf 5.10/11) An Assistant Public Transport Officer of the County Council enclosed, with an e-mail, a schedule showing alterations to bus services as a result of the award by his Council of new contracts for bus services in the Henley and Wallingford areas. The only service affecting the Parish, one journey of service 145 from Checkendon to Henley, via Gallowstree Common, operated by Whites Coaches Ltd, remained unchanged.

#### 11.18 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 March 2012.

#### 11.19 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in April 2012, and, in particular, the criteria which parish councils had to meet to be eligible to exercise the power of general competence under Sections 1 to 8 of the Localism Act 2011.

#### 11.20 HENLEY & DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

(cf 8.11/12) The Manager of the Henley & District Citizens' Advice Bureau, by letter, thanked the Council for its financial contribution.

#### 11.21 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

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

#### 11.22 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

In presenting her apologies for absence, Mrs S M Biggs had requested the Chairman to circulate an e-mail concerning applications for grants for refurbishing the Kidmore End Play Area. Mrs Biggs had completed an expression of interest for a LEADER grant, although she had yet to submit it. She also suggested that a grant be sought from the District Council's Community Investment Fund.

RESOLVED: That applications be submitted for grants from the LEADER fund and from the District Council's Community Investment Fund towards the refurbishment of the Kidmore End Play Area.

#### 11.23 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE

It was noted that no further news had been received concerning the proposed affordable housing scheme for Gallowstree Common.

#### 11.24 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr J A Swift reported on progress with parking issues in connection with, and road markings adjacent to, Kidmore End School.

*On the closing of the meeting, Mr A K Martin and Mr R S Young tendered their resignations as members of the Council. Members paid tribute to them.*