

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 8 August 2012 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.40pm.

Present: Mrs S M Biggs (Chairman), R G McQuillan (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S Hall, Dr B J Knapp, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, J A Swift QC.

Apologies for absence were received from Ms C D Aldridge, Mrs S J Hunter, T M Perchard, Mrs J M Williams R Simister (district councillor)

3.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2012 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3.02 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

Members commented that it appeared that the Police were no longer able to send representatives to parish council meeting.

3.03 OPEN SESSION

During the open session, which was extended by 5 minutes with the consent of the Council,

- Mr J McLean of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common asked whether permission had been given for the advertisements on the fence on the north western boundary of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and drew attention to a tractor, roller and other items of equipment left out in the open at the Ground, which equipment he considered to be hazardous: these matters were referred to the Playing Fields Committee;
- Mrs A D Thiam of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common drew attention to the growth of ragwort on the former market garden in Wood Lane, Kidmore End.

3.04 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 2.05/12) The Clerk reminded the Council that Mr A K Martin and Mr R S Young had been presented with framed copies of a facsimile of a map showing the Parish in 1915, at a ceremony at The Reformation public house, Gallowstree Common, on 10 July 2012. The presentations, funded personally by Members, were in recognition of the long service of Messrs Martin and Young as members of the Council. In letters, Mr Martin and Mr Young expressed their appreciation of the ceremony and gifts.

By letter, the Electoral Manager of the District Council advised that no election had been called to fill the vacancy caused by Mr R C Gutteridge ceasing to be a councillor. The Council could, therefore, fill the vacancy by co-option.

The Clerk advised that he had not received any expressions in serving as councillors.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the filling of the vacancies for the office of councillor be deferred to the next meeting.

3.05 LAND AT GRAVEL HILL/HIGHDOWN AVENUE, EMMER GREEN – POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

(cf 2.07/12) The Council noted exchanges of e-mails between Mr D Heron of Vortal Properties Ltd, on behalf of his clients, and between the owner of the land, and Mr R Simister, a district councillor for the Shiplake Ward, about the possible development of land bounded by Gravel Hill and Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green and by the Reading Golf Club's course.

It was understood that Mrs J M Williams had completed her paper on the Council's powers and responsibilities in respect of neighbourhood planning under the Localism Act 2011, and kindred matters in respect of the planning framework, but no Member had had sight of the final document.

3.06 LOCALISM ACT 2011 – MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

(cf 2.09/12) The Head of Legal and Democratic Services of the District Council enclosed, with a letter, a guide to the standards' regime, a copy which guide was given to each Member present.

3.07 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

(cf 2.10/12) The Chairman reported that she had met with District Council's Grants Officer who had given invaluable advice about how to progress the project for the renewal of the play area at Kidmore End.

3.08 DATES OF MEETINGS

(cf 2.12/12) Members recalled that, at its last meeting, the Council had re-arranged the July meeting to be held on 24th of that month. The Clerk had subsequently indicated that, as a result of a family commitment, he would be unable to attend on that date. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman decided, therefore, further to re-arrange the meeting to 8 August 2012.

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

3.09 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

(cf 2.14/12) The Clerk reported that he had circulated a draft of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return to all Members. One Member had raised observations which the Clerk had answered to the satisfaction of the Member. There being no other comments, in accordance with the authority granted at the last meeting, the Chairman approved, on behalf of the Council, those sections of the Return, in accordance with the circulated draft, on 29 June 2012

3.10 HIGHWAYS AND EMERGENCY PLANNING SURVEYS

(cf 2.16/12) Dr B J Knapp reported that he had completed the questionnaire about community resilience, and that he and Mr A McAslan of Kidmore End would explore parish emergency planning further.

3.11 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

(cf 2.17/12) The Council noted updates for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in June and July 2012, and, in particular, the response to the Rural Insight Survey.

3.12 DIAMOND JUBILEE PAVILION – CLEANING

(cf 2.18/12) In presenting her apologies for absence, Ms C D Aldridge had drawn attention to the condition of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion when the Kidmore End Pre School had hired premises on 13 July 2012. She reported that the premises were described as being "in a bad state", and that every toilet was dirty.

As the Cricket Club had been the only users of the premises in the week in question, the Clerk had alerted the Chairman of the Club to Ms Aldridge's observations.

RESOLVED: That the comments by Ms C D Aldridge about the condition of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion on 13 July 2012 be referred to the Playing Fields Committee.

3.13 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £4,863.00.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments	£3.15
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(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 30 June 2012, against the approved budget for 2012/13. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £20, if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

3.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

proposed link between games room and house at Collegewood Farmhouse, Cane End;
creation of new vehicular access and hardstanding to front of property at The Conifers, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;
raising of height of existing roof incorporating front and rear dormer windows, hip to gable conversion and reproofing with clay tiles, erection of front and rear extensions at Lonicera, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common;
demolition of The Bungalow and erection of single storey extension to garage to be used as annexe to house at Hillside, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
conversion of stables and incidental living accommodation into 3 bedroom detached dwelling and formation of parking at Kempwood, 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:

raising roof to facilitate additional first floor bedroom, construction of balconies in front and rear and new porch at Acorns, Wood Lane, Gallowstree Common;
replacement dwelling with garage following demolition of existing house and outbuildings at Oakridge Farm, Kidmore End.

(iii) Application

It was reported that the District Council had registered a planning application for the erection of 6 units of affordable housing by Soha Housing Ltd on land adjoining 1 Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common. The closing date for comments on the application was 25 August 2012.

RESOLVED: That a public exhibition of the drawings and associated documents relating to the

above planning application be arranged at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common on 15 August 2012, between 7pm and 9pm.

(iv) South Oxfordshire Local Development Framework

(cf 9.08(iii)/12) The Head of Planning Services of the District Council advised, by letter that, following further comments by the inspector, his Council needed to consult on further changes to the Core Strategy of its Local Development Framework, and enclosed a document setting out those changes. Representations on these changes were requested by 28 August 2012.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman be authorised to make representations, on the Council's behalf, if appropriate, to the "main modifications" to the South Oxfordshire Submission Core Strategy.

(v) Reading Local Development Framework

(cf 10.10(iii)/12) By letter, the Head of Planning and Building Control at Reading Borough Council advised that her Council was consulting on further main modifications to the Sites and detailed Policies Document forming part of the draft Local Development Framework. Comments thereon were invited by 16 August 2012.

(vi) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan

(cf 2.15(iii)/12) The Council noted a letter sent by Sonning Common Parish Council to the District Council about its intention to prepare a development plan. In the circumstances, the decision deferred at the last meeting had become otiose.

In another letter, Sonning Common Parish Council had sent objections to the District Council about a planning application for development of land in Wood Lane, Sonning Common.

The Vice-Chairman reported on Sonning Common Parish Council's discussions with the District Council concerning the proposed Neighbourhood Plan. The District Council's officers had indicated that the plan should cover the "community" of Sonning Common, rather than be necessarily constrained by the boundaries of the Parish. In this connection, it was acknowledged that Chiltern Edge School, which fell in this Parish, would naturally form part of the Sonning Common community,

The Vice-Chairman indicated that Sonning Common Parish Council might invite the Council to be represented on the body or group guiding the plan preparation, in a "voting" capacity.

RESOLVED: 1 That, in the event that the Council is invited to appoint a representative to the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan Working Party, Mr R G McQuillan be appointed in that capacity.

2 That Sonning Common Parish Council be requested to allow Mr McQuillan to send a substitute member of the Council to the Working Party's meetings, when necessary.

3.15 ELECTORAL REVIEW

(cf 11.07/12) A Review Officer of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England advised, by letter, that the Commission had commenced a review of the electoral arrangements of the District Council, working on the principle of a council of 36 members. The Commission sought suggestions as to new warding arrangements, by 28 August 2012.

RESOLVED: That the Local Government Boundary Commission for England be advised that the interests of the residents of the 5 villages in the Parish would be best served if the Parish was grouped with other predominantly rural parishes, rather than urban or suburban parishes, to form a ward of South Oxfordshire District.

3.16 TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL FORUM

The Leader of the District Council, by letter, gave early notice of her Council's Town and Parish Council Forum, to be held on 21 November 2012.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the appointment of representatives to attend the District Council's Town and Parish Forum be deferred to the next meeting.

3.17 OXFORDSHIRE JOINT MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Oxfordshire Waste Partnership, by e-mail, gave notice of the revised joint municipal waste management strategy for Oxfordshire, on which views had been sought by 3 August 2012.

3.18 COMMUNITY POLICING AWARRDS

A Communications Officer of the Thames Valley Police gave, with a letter, details of the Community Policing Awards for 2012.

3.19 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) A4130 road, Bix

In an e-mail, the Area [Highways] Steward – South of the County Council provided information about the programme of restricted use of the dual carriageway on the A4130 road from Bix to Henley during night-time surveying of underground services etc.

(ii) Winter maintenance

The Deputy Leader of the County Council, by e-mail, advised that his Council was again making free road salt available to participating parish councils, and additional bags of salt at £100 per bag. He invited parish councils to submit orders for supplies. In another e-mail, he issued an invitation to visit highways depots.

R RESOLVED: That the Transport Sub-Committee be authorised to order salt for road-side bins, as appropriate.

3.20 RAGWORT

An officer from Highways & Transport at the County Council asked, in an e-mail, for publicity to be given for the system for reporting the incidence of ragwort to her Council. The information had been placed on the website, and would be published in the next edition of the Parish Newsletter. Copies of a poster would be displayed on the noticeboards. A Member reported a satisfactory experience in reporting ragwort, growing on a site in the Parish.

3.21 JOHN HOWELL MP

The Council noted a newsletter from John Howell MP, the Member of Parliament for the Henley constituency, about key issues from Westminster and in his constituency in July 2012.

Mr Howell gave details of his tour of villages in the Autumn of 2012. The nearest "stop" to the Parish was in Sonning Common on the morning of 28 September 2012.

3.22 CHILTERN PROJECTS

A Countryside Officer of the Chilterns Conservation Board gave details, in an e-mail, of the grants available from her organisation for projects which would help to conserve and enhance the Chilterns.

3.23 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was reported that the Playing Fields Committee had met on 11 July 2012, when it had approved its accounts for the year ended 31 March 2012. The Committee had discussed a variety of issues, mostly concerning the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion.

3.24 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr J A Swift reported orally on the matters currently exercising the Transport Sub-Committee, viz:

- provision of highway salt during wintry weather;
- possible measures to reduce flooding of the highway in the vicinity of Kidmore End pond;
- vehicle speeds generally and enforcement of existing speed limits;
- provision of a footway in Reades Lane, Gallowstree Common
- community transport services, including the FISH service and Dial-a-Ride.

3.25 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
Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground	3

3.26 DIAMOND JUBILEE PAVILION, GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND

The Council considered a request from Hales Building Contractors Ltd for payment of retained monies relating to the contract for the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.