

## KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 19 September 2012 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.35pm.

Present: R G McQuillan (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), Ms C D Aldridge, Mrs S Hall, Mrs S J Hunter, T M Perchard, J A Swift QC, Mrs J M Williams.

Also present: R Simister (district councillor)

Apologies for absence were received from Ms S M Biggs, Dr B J Knapp, Mrs J E O'Sullivan.

### 4.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2012 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correction of the place name "Emmer Green" in Minute 3.05.

### 4.02 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- applications could be made for grants of up to £15,000 from the Community Investment Fund;
- garden waste was now collected by Capita, and a charge would be levied for the brown bin collection service;
- OxOnline was seeking to secure speedier Broadband across the County.

### 4.03 OPEN SESSION

During the open session

- Mrs A D Thiam of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common asked about the outcome of the planning application for affordable housing at Gallowstree Common: Members observed that the District Council had yet to determine the application;
- Ms C Powell of Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green outlined her opposition to the planning application for the creation of 2 holes for the Reading Golf Club course, between Kidmore End Road and Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green.

### 4.04 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

#### (i) General

(cf 3.03/12) It was reported that the Playing Fields Committee had discussed the various matters relating to the Recreation Ground raised during the Open Session at the last meeting. The tractor owned by the Council was no longer used for mowing the Recreation Ground, as the Cricket Club had purchased a suitable vehicle. Therefore, the Committee recommended that the Council's tractor be declared surplus to requirements. The 2 mechanical rollers mentioned at the last meeting were the property of the Cricket Club, who had taken steps to make the equipment safe. As to the sponsors' advertisements on the north western boundary fence, the Cricket Club had obtained advice that the signs did not require planning permission, and its representatives advised that the previous Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee had given consent orally for the erection of the signs. The Hon Secretary was researching the minutes of the Committee on this point.

RESOLVED: That the tractor be declared surplus to requirements.

(ii) Diamond Jubilee Pavilion – cleaning

(cf 3.12/12) It was reported that the Playing Fields Committee had discussed the comments by Ms C D Aldridge about the condition of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion on 13 July 2012. The Chairman of the Cricket Club had, at the Committee's meeting, commented that, having been present at the Pavilion on 13 July 2012, he considered the Pavilion not to have been in a "bad state", as suggested at the last meeting. Nevertheless, Members of the Committee had recognised that the cleaning regime might need to be reviewed, in the light of the greater non-club use of the premises.

4.05 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 3.04/12) The Clerk advised that he had not received any expressions of interest in serving as parish councillors.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the filling of the vacancies for the office of councillors be deferred pro tem.

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

(cf 3.05/12) The Clerk reminded Members that he had circulated an exchange of e-mails with Mr D Heron of Vortal Properties Ltd following the last meeting of the Council concerning the boundaries of the area covered by the proposed Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan and sites for affordable housing and that the Chairman had circulated exchanges between Mr Heron and Mr R Simister, district councillor, concerning the possible development of land at Gravel Hill/Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green.

Members observed that Mr Heron had arranged a meeting for councillors and members of parliament on the subject, in Caversham on 11 September 2012. The Vice-Chairman had attended the venue, but had found that the meeting had been cancelled.

It was noted that the report by Mrs J M Williams and the Vice-Chairman about the Localism Act 2011 and related matters was being revised, and was not available for discussion.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report on the Localism Act 2011 and kindred matters in respect of the planning regime be deferred to the next meeting.

4.07 LOCALISM ACT 2011 – MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

(cf 3.06/12) The Head of Legal and Democratic Services of the District Council, with a letter, enclosed a copy of a letter from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department of Communities & Local Government, with which the minister had enclosed a copy of the Government's guide for councillors on openness and transparency on personal interests. Copies of the letter and guide were distributed to Members present.

4.08 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

(cf 3.09/12) The Clerk advised that, having received the accounts etc back from the internal auditor earlier in the month, he had sent the Annual Return to the external auditor on 17 September 2012.

4.09 ELECTORAL REVIEW

(cf 3.15/12) By letter, a Review Officer of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England acknowledged the Council's submission regarding the electoral arrangements for the District Council. The Commission expected to publish its draft recommendations for the District in November 2012. In the meantime, it was understood that the District Council had proposed a ward comprising the Parish and the parishes of Goring Heath, Mapledurham and Whitchurch.

#### 4.10 TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL FORUM

(cf 3.16/12) RESOLVED: That consideration of the appointment of representatives to attend the District Council's Town and Parish Council Forum be deferred to the next meeting.

#### 4.11 RAGWORT

(cf 3.03/12, 3.20/12) It was noted that the ragwort had been mown on the glebe land in Wood Lane, Kidmore End. In this connection, it was suggested that pulling was much more effective than mowing in stemming the spread of the weed.

#### 4.12 FINANCE

##### (i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £2,460.44.

##### (ii) Accounts for payment

The Council noted a payment (see Minute 4.19), out of meeting, of £2,400 to Hale Building Contractors Ltd.

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

W A B Grove Ltd – Internal auditor's fee, 2010/11 and 2011/12	£528.00
Chilterns Conservation Board – Conference fee	£30.00

#### 4.13 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

##### (i) Decisions

The Council noted that the application for replacement dwelling with garage following demolition of existing house and outbuildings at Oakridge Farm, Wood Lane, Kidmore End had been permitted conditionally.

##### (ii) Action of Plans Sub-Committee

The District Council's Head of Planning had drawn the Council's attention, at the request of the Company, to the comments of Vortal Properties Ltd in respect of the application for erection of one pair of semi-detached 2 storey 1 x 3 bedroom and 1 x 2 bedroom dwellings and a 2 storey block of 2 x 2 bedroom and 2 x 1 bedroom flats incorporating parking and access on land adjacent to 1 Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common

The Council noted copies of letters from Mr R G McQuillan, Mr M Muston, Dr and Mrs R J Potter, Ms C Powell and Mr & Mrs D Weston of Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green and Mr J Taylor of Chalkhouse Green to the District Council, setting out their objections to the planning application for formation of 2 additional holes for golf course on land between Tanners Lane and Kidmore End Road, Chalkhouse Green.

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:

erection of one pair of semi-detached 2 storey 1 x 3 bedroom and 1 x 2 bedroom dwellings and a 2 storey block of 2 x 2 bedroom and 2 x 1 bedroom flats incorporating parking and access on land adjacent to 1 Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;

erection of new double carport at Cherry Trees, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;  
formation of 2 additional holes for golf course on land between Tanners Lane and Kidmore End Road, Chalkhouse Green;  
raising roof to facilitate additional first floor bedroom, construction of balcony to rear and new porch at Acorns, Wood Lane, Gallowstree Common (amended plan).

(iii) Planning appeal

In a letter, the Head of Planning of the District Council advised that an appeal had been lodged against the refusal of the District Council to grant planning permission for erection of detached garage at Blossom Cottage, Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common. The appeal was to be decided on the basis of an exchange of written statements.

(iv) Rose Cottage, Reades Lane, Gallowstree Common – Wall

The Head of Planning Services of the District Council had, by letter, referred to the wall and gates erected at Rose Cottage, Reades Lane, Gallowstree Common and enquired whether there was evidence that there had previously been a wall at that location, as claimed by the owner of the property. The Clerk had responded that he did not recall a wall at the site, neither could the former Chairman of the Council, and nor a resident of Gallowstree Common for over 80 years.

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

(v) Former Fox public house, Cane End

Reference was made to signs, some of them illuminated, erected at the former Fox public house, Cane End, in its new guise as a thai restaurant.

RESOLVED: That the signs at the former Fox public house, Cane End be drawn to the attention of the District Council, in case they represented a breach of planning control.

(vi) Proposed development in Wood Lane, Sonning Common

By e-mail, the Clerk to Sonning Common Parish Council enquired whether the Council would support his Council's objections to the application for the erection of dwellings to the rear of 19-23 Wood Lane, Sonning Common. Members, whilst sympathetic to the reasons for the request for support, took the view that the Council should restrict itself to commenting on applications which had been referred to it by the planning authority. However, it was observed that this would not prevent Members making comments, as individuals, on applications.

RESOLVED: That the request of Sonning Common Parish Council be not acceded to, for the reasons set out above.

(vii) South Oxfordshire Local Development Framework

(cf 3.14(iv)/12) The Clerk advised that he was not aware that the Chairman of the Council had submitted any comments to the main modifications to the South Oxfordshire Submission Core Strategy

(viii) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan

(cf 3.14(vi)/12) In an e-mail, the Clerk to Sonning Common Parish Council confirmed that Mr R G McQuillan had been formally invited to represent the Council on his Council's Neighbourhood Plan Working Party and that Mr McQuillan could appoint a substitute to attend, if necessary.

The District Council's Head of Planning Services reported, by letter, that Sonning Common Parish Council had submitted proposals to proceed with work on a Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan. He invited

views, by 1 October 2012, on the proposed area of the neighbourhood plan: the draft was for the plan to cover the Parish of Sonning Common.

Members observed that Chiltern Edge School fell in this Parish. They recognised that the school would be seen by those not constrained by administrative geography as part of the community of Sonning Common.

Mrs J M Williams reported orally on a meeting she had attended with representatives of Sonning Common and Rotherfield Peppard Parish Councils with John Howell MP, when various issues regarding neighbourhood plans in general, and the Sonning Common plan in particular, had been discussed.

RESOLVED: That it be suggested that the site of Chiltern Edge School be included in the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan area.

(ix) Annual Chilterns AONB Planning Conference

In an e-mail, the Planning Officer of the Chilterns Conservation Board sent an invitation to be represented at the Annual Chilterns AONB Planning Conference to be held at Benson on 3 October 2012. The conference fee was £30.

RESOLVED: That Mrs J M Williams be appointed to attend the Annual Chilterns AONB Planning Conference, her attendance being an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

#### 4.14 AFFORDABLE RURAL HOUSING COINFERENCE

The Council noted an invitation to the Affordable Rural Housing Conference arranged by the Oxfordshire Rural Housing Partnership, at Marcham on 26 September 2012. The Clerk advised that the former Chairman, Mr A K Martin, had been invited to speak at the conference.

#### 4.15 APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

(cf 1.15/12) The Director, Audit Policy and Regulation, of the Audit Commission advised, in a letter, that BDO LLP had been appointed as external auditor of the Council for 5 years from 2012/13.

#### 4.16 COUNCIL TAX

An invitation had been received from the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils earlier on 19 September 2012 to seminars at Crowmarsh on the implications for Council Tax on the replacement of Council Tax Benefit by a new council tax reduction scheme. In brief, it was understood that implementation of the new scheme would result in a lower council tax base for a given area. Thus, Council Tax would have to be collected at a higher level to maintain the monetary value of precepts.

#### 4.17 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was reported that the Playing Fields Committee had met on 12 September 2012, when it had discussed, aside from matters referred to elsewhere in these minutes, making arrangements for the routine maintenance of plant and equipment in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, the regime for the accounts for the use of the facilities by the Cricket and Football Clubs, and the volume and treatment of the income from the Feed in Tariff, arising from the solar panels on the roof of the Pavilion.

#### 4.18 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 the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Act shown below, would be discussed:

Item	Paragraph
Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground	3

#### 4.19 DIAMOND JUBILEE PAVILION, GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND

The Council approved the action of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman in making a payment of £2,400 to Hale Building Contractors Ltd, in connection with the contract for the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.