

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 12 December 2012 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.20pm.

Present: Ms S M Biggs (Chairman), R G McQuillan (Vice-Chairman), Ms C D Aldridge, Mrs S J Hunter, Dr B J Knapp, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, I G C Pearson, T M Perchard.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Hall, J A Swift QC, Mrs J M Williams.

7.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2012 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correction of the heading of Minute 6.10 to "PROJECTS" and the substitution of the figure "2012" for the figure "2013" in the second line of Minute 6.12(iv).

7.02 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

PCSO C Boyes of the Thames Valley Police had submitted a written report covering parking issues outside Kidmore End School, door-to-door salesmen and the report of a suspicious vehicle at Dysons Wood.

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

(cf 6.07/12) Mr D Heron of Vortal Properties Ltd, by e-mail, sent a copy of the proposals leaflet, shortly to be distributed in the Parish and elsewhere, concerning the possible development of land at Gravel Hill and Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green, by his client. He asked whether the proposals could be placed on the Council's website. An alternative suggestion was a link from the Council's website to a website managed by Vortal Properties, or their clients.

During the discussion which followed, a majority of Members opined that putting the material on the Council's website, or providing a link from that website to that of Vortal or their clients, would be inconsistent with the decisions taken at the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That the request of Vortal Properties Ltd be denied, and that no link be installed between the Company's website and that of the Council.

7.04 WEBSITE

(cf 6.08/12) The Chairman reported receipt of an e-mail from the webmaster in which he reiterated his concerns about the performance of YorHost as host of the Council's website, citing, for instance, their failure to respond to his queries about the performance of the Council's website. He felt that the website should migrate to another server, given the air of dissatisfaction evident amongst other customers of YorHost.

The Council was reminded about the emergency interim arrangements which had been put in hand by Dr B J Knapp. Members nevertheless noted the concerns of the webmaster and observed that the sums "lost", if the website migrated to another host before the Autumn of 2013, would not be great.

RESOLVED: That the webmaster be asked to explore alternative hosting arrangements for the website and report back thereon.

7.05 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

(cf 6.09/12) The Council considered a report (12/13 - 6) of the Clerk, updating it about progress with the project to refurbish the Kidmore End Play Area and suggesting decisions which would be required

to bring the project to a conclusion.

During the debate which ensued, it was stressed that the project should not proceed unless sufficient funds had been identified, from grant or other sources, to ensure that the total cost of the project could be met.

The Chairman paid tribute to the support given to the project by Ms C D Aldridge.

RESOLVED: 1 That, subject to sufficient funds being identified to meet the contract figure, the contract for the refurbishment of the Kidmore End Play Area be let to Wicksteed Leisure Ltd in the sum of £34,720.

2 That, if necessary, Wicksteed Leisure Ltd be requested to submit an interim account, or a certificate of work done, prior to the meeting of the Council in March 2013.

7.06 SOUTH & VALE CARERS CENTRE

(cf 5.25/12) The Manager of the South & Vale Carers Centre thanked the Council for its grant.

7.07 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 6.20/12 and 6.22/12) The Chairman advised that officers of the County Council had confirmed that the exercise to pump the sludge from Kidmore End pond would take place during the week commencing 17 December 2013. A number of vehicles would be involved. The Chairman had alerted the School and Pre School to the works.

The Chairman reported that, following a morning when flood water on the highway near the pond had frozen, County Council officers had provided 2 further salt/grit bins, funded from the budget held by the county councillor for the Sonning Common division for local initiatives, in the vicinity of the pond – one in Chalkhouse Green Road, opposite the public house, and the other in Kidmore Lane, near Pond House. The siting of the bins would be reviewed during 2013.

Reference was made to the repair of the seat at the pond.

RESOLVED: That, subject to an acceptable quotation and notwithstanding Financial Regulation 11.1(h), Acorn Services be requested to repair the seat at Kidmore End pond.

7.08 PARISH NEWSLETTER

(cf 6.22/12) The Council considered the suggestion that the frequency of the Parish Newsletter be changed from 4 to 3 issues per year.

RESOLVED: That the Editorial Board of the Parish Newsletter be authorised to reduce the frequency of the Parish Newsletter from 4 to 3 issues per year, if it considers such a reduction to be appropriate.

7.09 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £10,108.63.

(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
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£24.40
B Brown – Repairs to Kidmore End well head structure and noticeboard at Gallowstree Common	£90.00

7.10 ESTIMATES, 2013/14

The Council considered a report (12/13 - 7) of the Responsible Financial Officer, being draft estimates for the financial year 2013/14. Members noted that information regarding the proposed Government grant, to mitigate the effect of the changes to the new Council Tax discount scheme, was not yet available. The Responsible Financial Officer answered questions about the draft estimates.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the draft revenue estimates be deferred to the next meeting.

7.11 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Arising from consideration of the draft revenue estimates for 2013/14, it was suggested that a finance sub-committee be established, which could make recommendations, for instance, to the Council concerning the annual budget and the annual accounts.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the suggestion to form a finance sub-committee be deferred to a future meeting.

7.12 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

erection of single storey garden room to rear of chalet style bungalow and stud office at Hazelmoor Lane Farm, Hazelmoor Lane, Kidmore End;
 proposed extension to existing stable block and construction of manage at Kidmore Farm, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
 extension of time for implementation of permission P09/E1336 (erection of 2 storey side extension) at The Old Orchard, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;

had been permitted conditionally and that the application for erection of 3 industrial units with associated external works at 28 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common [Parish of Sonning Common] had been withdrawn.

(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:

replace garage with single storey side extension at 24 Kidmore Lane, Sonning Common [Parish of Sonning Common];
 erection of pair of semi-detached 2 storey 1 x 3 bedroom dwellings and 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 (amended plan);
 single storey rear extension, new porch, garage extension and stable building at 17 Kidmore Lane, Sonning Common [Parish of Sonning Common].

(iii) Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Plan

By e-mail, the Principal Planning Officer of the County Council's Minerals & Waste Policy Team advised that his Council had submitted its Minerals and Waste Core Strategy to the Secretary of State for independent examination

7.13 PARISH ROOM – REFRIGERATOR

In a letter, the PCC Secretary of the Parish of Kidmore End and Sonning Common advised that the refrigerator in the Parish Room needed to be replaced. The principal user of the appliance was the Kidmore End Pre School, but other hirers of the Parish Room could use it. The Secretary enquired whether the Council would be prepared to make a contribution towards the cost of the new appliance.

Members noted that there was provision of £105 in the budget for the financial year 2012/13 for a grant to the Parish Room.

RESOLVED: That a grant, of 50% of the cost of a replacement refrigerator, up to a maximum grant of £105, be made to the Parochial Church Council in the financial year 2012/13.

(Ms C D Aldridge disclosed a pecuniary interest in the matter, by virtue of her role with the Kidmore End Pre School, and withdrew from the meeting.)

7.14 CLUB SC YOUTH CLUB

In her role as a member of the Club SC Youth Club Management Committee, Mrs C Y Viney had written to the Chairman requesting that the Council consider making a donation to help provide activities for the club. Despite the County Council ceasing funding rural youth clubs in 2011, Club SC had become a thriving community club, catering, on different nights, for children aged 10 to 16. A number of children in the final year at Kidmore End School were regular attenders at the club. The club was totally reliant on contributions and fundraising.

Members noted that there was no provision in the budget for the financial year 2012/13 for a grant to Club SC.

RESOLVED: That provision be included in the budget for the financial year 2013/14 for a grant to Club SC.

7.15 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The County Council's Countryside Access & Information Officer, by e-mail, drew attention to his Council's consultation seeking views on the review of his Council's first Rights of Way Improvement Plan and on the outline of the second such plan. Such plans assessed the adequacy of the rights of way network and provided a statutory framework for the management, maintenance and development of rights of way. Comments were requested by 9 January 2013.

RESOLVED That the Rights of Way Committee and the Transport Sub-Committees be authorised jointly to respond to the consultation on the County Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

7.16 OLDER PEOPLE'S JOINT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY, 2013-18

By e-mail, the County Council's Consultation Portal invited participation in the consultation about the Older People's Joint Commissioning Strategy 2013-2015 for Oxfordshire. Comments were invited by 31 January 2013. Members observed that this was unlikely to be a consultation where a corporate view would emerge, and felt that it would be better for members to comment as individuals.

7.17 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was reported that the Playing Fields Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council.

7.18 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Members reminded the Clerk of their request for maps showing the rights of way in the Parish.

7.19 SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Chairman wished all Members a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.