

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 23 January 2013 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.10pm.

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

Also present: Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S J Hunter, Dr B J Knapp, J A Swift QC, R Simister (district councillor).

8.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2012 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

8.02 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

The Chairman had circulated a report by PCSO C Boyes of the Thames Valley Police covering door-to-door salesmen, a suspicious vehicle, the weather conditions and the vulnerable person list.

By letter, Superintendent A Booth introduced himself as the Local Police Area Commander for South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse, commenting that his area was a remarkably safe place to live, but the Police would continue to enhance their presence within the rural communities.

8.03 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- her Council was likely to increase its element of the Council Tax by 1.99% for 2013/14;
- she had expended some of her locality fund to repair the pothole, adjacent to the carriageway, outside the Sunning Common allotments in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
- she was supporting, from her locality fund, the project to refurbish the Kidmore End Play Area.

Mrs Viney was asked about gritting, by her Council, of roads used by bus services and school buses.

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

(cf 7.03/12) It was noted that the leaflet, published by Vortal Properties Ltd, concerning the possible development of land at Gravel Hill and Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green, had been delivered to households in the Parish.

8.05 WEBSITE

(cf 7.04/12) The Chairman reported receipt of a further e-mail from the webmaster in which he advised that his personal website host, QA Webhosting, was prepared to host the Council's website, free-of-charge until the Autumn of 2013. Thereafter, it would host the website for a one-off fee of £85.

RESOLVED: That the offer of QA Webhosting, to host the Council's website, be accepted, and that the webmaster be authorised to arrange the migration.

8.06 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

(cf 7.05/12) The Chairman reported that the Council had been promised, or, in some cases, already received, grants and donations as follows, towards the project to refurbish the Kidmore End Play Area:

Oxfordshire County Council's Big Society Fund (administered by the county councillor)	£5,000
Kidmore End & Sonning Common Parochial Church Council	£750
Lord Phillimore's Charitable Settlement	£5,000
Springwater Charity	£1,000

The County Council required the Council to enter into an agreement about the funding, and the Chairman indicated that the Clerk had raised issues with officers of the County Council about the validity of some of the terms in the draft, where the grant receiving body was a local authority. She and the Clerk were confident that the anomalies would be resolved.

The Chairman further advised that she awaited the outcome of the application for a LEADER grant.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman be authorised to sign, on behalf of the Council, the agreement with the County Council, in respect of funding for the Kidmore End Play Area project.

8.07 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 7.07/12) The Chairman reported that contractors hired by the County Council had attempted to pump the sludge from Kidmore End pond during the week commencing 17 December 2012. However, the exercise had not been successful, and the County Council had arranged for different contractors to attend on 16 February 2013 to complete the works.

In the meantime, the Chairman indicated that she and Mrs C D Aldridge would cut back some of the willow growth at the pond, adjacent to the highway.

8.08 HENLEY & DISTRICT CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

(cf 7.09/12) The Manager of the Henley & District Citizens' Advice Bureau thanked the Council for its grant.

8.09 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

(cf 7.11/12) In view of the pressure of other business, it was

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

8.10 PARISH ROOM – REFRIGERATOR

(cf 7.13/12) The PCC Secretary of the Parish of Kidmore End and Sonning Common, by letter, thanked the Council for its promised grant towards the purchase of a replacement refrigerator in the Parish Room. Ms C D Aldridge advised that the refrigerator had been purchased and installed and that the grant would be claimed in due course.

8.11 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

(cf 7.15/12) It was noted that the Rights of Way Committee and the Transport Sub-Committee had expressed no objections to the consultation on the review of the County Council's first Rights of Way Improvement Plan

8.12 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £9,971.93.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Vines Farm – Hedgecutting at Gallowstree Common and Cane End allotments	£180.00
Chiltern Society – Membership subscription	£25.00

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 31 December 2012, against the approved budget for 2012/13. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £170, excluding capital payments and if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

8.13 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

barn to store hay and tractor at Collegewood Farm House, Cane End;
single storey side extension at Old Well Cottage, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End;
single storey rear extension, new porch, garage extension and stable building at 17 Kidmore Lane, Sonning Common [Parish of Sonning Common];
extension to side and rear to provide additional living space at Tankards, Russell Road, Tokers Green

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:

extension to side and rear to provide additional living space at Tankards, Russell Road, Tokers Green;
change gable end to extension approved under P11/E1215/LB to gable end on side (west elevation) at Old Well Cottage, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
change of use from redundant agricultural building to B1(a) office unit at Kempwood, Reading Road, Cane End;
erection of a wooden gazebo at Strathfillan, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End.

(iii) South Oxfordshire Local Development Framework

(cf 6.12(iii)/12) In a letter, the Head of Planning Services of the District Council gave notice that his Council had adopted the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy on 13 December 2012. This followed the announcement that the independent inspector appointed by the Secretary of State had found the strategy sound and capable of adoption. All future planning applications should have regard to the Core Strategy

and the updated South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011.

8.14 THAMES VALLEY [POLICE] ALERT

In a letter, the Corporate Communications' Team of the Thames Valley Police drew attention to Thames Valley Alert, a scheme by which members of the public could receive messages, information, crime alerts or witness appeals from the Police, by e-mail, voice or text messages. The Chairman indicated that she had signed up for the service.

8.15 ENRYCH OXFORDSHIRE

The Branch Manager of ENRYCH Oxfordshire, in a letter, requested the Council to consider making a donation to her organisation, which ran a project for the benefit of adults with physical disability. Members observed that there was no provision in the budget for the current financial year for a grant to the body.

RESOLVED: that no grant be made to ENRYCH Oxfordshire in the financial year 2012/13.

8.16 ELECTORAL REVIEW

(cf 6.17/12) By letter, the Review Officer of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England advised that the Commission's final recommendations for South Oxfordshire would be published early in 2013.

8.17 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Council noted the minutes of the meeting of the Playing Fields Committee held on 14 November 2012, the draft minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 January 2013 and the estimates of income and expenditure adopted by the Committee at its meeting in January 2013.

8.18 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council considered a report (12/13 - 8) by the Transport Sub-Committee about the Council's possible response to adverse weather conditions and incorporating a draft winter plan.

The Chairman reported that the A4074 road had been blocked, and closed, for a time on 18 January 2013, as a result of snowfall. During that time, 11 vehicles became stranded in Tokers Green Lane, between Kidmore End and Tokers Green. Residents helped to tow the vehicles out, and spread grit on the hills in the road on 19 January. In addition, 3 vehicles had been stuck in Kidmore Lane. The Chairman had alerted the County Council to the occurrences.

RESOLVED: That the draft winter plan be adopted in principle but that consideration of the detail of the plan be deferred to a future meeting.

8.19 COUNCIL AND PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

It had been suggested that the Council review the respective roles and responsibilities of both the Council and the Playing Fields Committee, with particular reference to the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: That the review of the roles and responsibilities of the Council and the Playing Fields Committee be deferred to a future meeting.

8.20 ESTIMATES, 2013/14

(cf 7.1/12) The Council considered the draft estimates for the financial year 2013/14, a matter

deferred at the last meeting.

The Responsible Financial Officer advised that the Government was likely to pay a grant of £261.80 to the Council in 2013/14, in recognition of the changes to the arrangements for Council Tax Benefit.

RESOLVED: 1 That the base estimates for 2013/14, circulated prior to the last meeting, be adopted, subject to

the deletion of provision for specific grants to South & Vale Carers Centre, Oxfordshire Association for the Blind. FISH Volunteer Centre, Sue Ryder Hospice and South Oxon Ryder Cheshire Volunteers	
the Inclusion of provision for grants to outside bodies	£250
the inclusion of provision for a grant to Club SC	£100

2 That budgetary provision be made for the following :

purchase of 2 highway salt bins	£500
small projects fund	£2,500
contingency provision for Kidmore End Play Area project	£2,200
contingency provision for further architects' fees on Pavilion project	£3,000

3 That a precept be issued for the sum of £34,450 in 2013/14.

4 That the base estimates and additional provision in resolution 2 above be confirmed as the Council's budget for 2013/14 for the purposes of Financial Regulation 3.2.

8.21 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
Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground – Access to adjacent property	1

8.22 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND – ACCESS TO ADJACENT PRORTY

The Council consented, retrospectively, to contractors entering a neighbouring property via the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, in order to carry out works on the adjacent property, at the request of the occupiers of that property.