

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 17 April 2013 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.30pm.

Present: R G McQuillan (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), Ms C D Aldridge, Mrs S Hall, Mrs S J Hunter, I G C Pearson, H Thresher, Mrs J M Williams.

Also present: R Simister (district councillor),

Apologies for absence were received from Ms S M Biggs, T M Perchard, J A Swift QC.

11.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2013 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the substitution of the word "Parish" for the word "Pariah" in Minute 10.11.

11.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The Clerk read a report he had received from Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, shortly after the last meeting, concerning pothole and road repair programmes and ditch and drainage grip upkeep, particularly in light of the takeover of her Council's contractor by a Scandinavian firm,

Members noted that Mrs Viney was not seeking re-election as a county councillor at the elections on 2 May 2013.

RESOLVED: That Mrs C Y Viney be thanked for her service to the community as county councillor for the area since May 2001.

11.03 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

The Clerk had circulated a report by PCSO C Boyes of the Thames Valley Police for March 2013, covering cold callers, fly tipping and the vulnerable persons' list.

The Council received a newsletter, for April 2013, from the Police's Henley Sector Neighbourhood Team. While this focussed on issues in the town of Henley, it contained details of "Have your say" meetings across the sector.

11.04 OPEN SESSION

During the open session

- Mr & Mrs T Cowper of Wood Lane, Kidmore End explained the rationale for their planning application for extensions etc at Meiders, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
- Mrs A D Thiam of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common asked whether the District Council had yet determined the planning application for affordable housing in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
- Mr D Heron of Vortal Properties Ltd, referring to his client's wish to develop his land at Gravel Hill/Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green, posed questions about housing numbers, his client's intended pre-application meeting with planning officers and the financial benefits flowing to the Parish from the development;
- Mr L Lee of Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green explained how he would achieve the roll out of superfast BroadBand throughout the Parish, funded from the development of his site.

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

(cf 10.04/13) By e-mail, Mr & Mrs A Harland of Tokers Green expressed their opposition to the possible development of land at Gravel Hill/Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green.

Following the last meeting, a statement had been issued on the website, setting out the Council's position regarding the possible development, in line with resolution 1 of minute 6.07 of the meeting held on 21 November 2012.

The Clerk reported an exchange of e-mails with Mr L Lee of Emmer Green, the owner of site, concerning his status vis-à-vis the Council (an owner of land in the Parish), the Council's Standing Orders (it had not adopted any), the open session at meetings (available to the public), and the Council's arrangements for e-mail contact (via the website). The Clerk reported receipt of an e-mail from Mr D Heron of Vortal Properties Ltd, agents for Mr Lee, drawing attention to the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment and his (Mr Heron's) exchange with the District Council's planning officers concerning that Council's housing supply position.

The Council noted the advertisement related to the possible development placed in the "Henley Standard" by Vortal Properties Ltd. The Clerk indicated that, as far as he could tell, he had received no e-mails as a result of the advertisement.

Consideration was given to the questions posed by Mr Heron during the open session, viz.

- Where it was proposed that the additional 2,700 housing units required in the District, as he asserted, should go? Members considered the question to be best addressed to the local planning authority.
- Whether the Council would take up a formal invitation to join his client at pre-application discussions with the planning authority? Members indicated that it would be wise to consider the invitation nearer the time of the pre-application discussions.
- What consultation had been undertaken by the Council, with residents, on the likely benefits for the Parish from his client's proposals for the development of his land? Members observed that residents had not been formally consulted on this matter.
- Would the Council note, and record, his client's offer to ensure the provision of super fast Broadband throughout the Parish, from the funding flowing from the development of his site?

RESOLVED: That answers be sent to the questions posed by Mr D Heron in line with the above comments.

11.06 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

(cf 10.05/13) Diagrams showing the proposed layout of the refurbished play area at Kidmore End were displayed. It was reported that the Chairman of the Council and Ms C D Aldridge had met representatives of the contractors, Wicksteed Leisure Ltd, on site, when it had been agreed that work would commence in June 2013.

Confirmation had been received that the application for a LEADER grant of £2,275 had been successful.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman of the Council be appointed supervisor for the contract to refurbish the Kidmore End Play Area.

11.07 MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

(cf 10.09/13) The Clerk advised that he had received no expressions of interest concerning serving as a member of the Council.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the filling of the vacancy for the office of parish councillor be deferred pro tem.

11.08 HIGH HEDGES COMPLAINT

(cf 10.16/13) The District Council's Head of Planning Services advised, by letter, that a remedial notice had been issued to the occupiers of Lovegroves Barn, Wyfold Road, Gallowstree Common, requiring the height of the hedge between that property and Common Farm to be reduced to 3.5m.

11.09 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £37,549.83.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Subscription	£237.36
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£24.40
NALC - Subscription to "Local Council Review"	£16.00
R F Penfold – Clerk's expenses, 2012/13	£219.07

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, at year end, against the approved budget for 2012/13. The report showed an underspend of £602.

11.10 NOTICE OF AUDIT

By letter, BDO Stoy Hayward LLP gave notice that they had appointed 1 July 2013 as the day when local government electors could question the external auditor on the Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013. The Responsible Financial Officer advised that he intended to submit the annual accounts for 2012/13 to the Council, via the Finance Sub-Committee, at its next meeting, and then to ask the Council to make arrangements for the completion of the annual return.

11.11 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

erection of single storey rear extension at Lyndhurst, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;
variation of condition 2 of planning permission P11/S0191, to replace the 2 metre high brick wall with a 2 metre high close board fence at Kempwood, Cane End;
change of use of barn from storage/light industrial use to a 2 bedroom dwelling at Whitewood Heath Barn, Hook End;
single storey rear extension and porch at 1 Allwrights Cottages, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree

Common;
proposed 2-storey side and rear extension and single storey front extension at 5 Hazelmoor Lane,
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:

alterations and extensions to existing barn at Hazelmoor Lane Farm, Hazelmoor Lane, Kidmore End;
proposed 2-storey side and rear extension and single storey front extension at 5 Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common (amended plan),

(iii) Applications

The Council considered an application referred to it since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That no strong views be submitted on the application for detached double car port and cycle store, convert integral garage to bedroom with en-suite, move wc into extended porch at Mieders, Wood Lane, Kidmore End for Mr T Cowper.

(iv) Development at Cherry Trees, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green

The Council noted copy e-mails from Mr D G Saunders of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green to the planning authority pointing out that building and site works at Cherry Trees, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green seemed not to be proceeding in accordance with planning permission granted.

(v) South Oxfordshire Core Strategy

The District Council's Head of Planning enclosed, with a letter, copies of the latest adopted policies' maps relating to the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy, which had been adopted in December 2012. The maps provided a visual representation of the policies and allocations made by the strategy.

RESOLVED: That the adopted policies' maps relating to the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy be referred to Mrs J M Williams for consideration and report.

(vi) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan

Cf 10.22/13) The Clerk reported that he had, at the request of the Clerk to Sonning Common Parish Council, sent a letter to that the Council restating this Council's decision, at its meeting in September 2012, regarding the inclusion of the Chiltern Edge School within the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan area.

11.12 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 April 2013.

11.13 HEALTHWATCH

The County Council's Public Engagement Manager reported, in an e-mail, that her Council had appointed the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council to provide interim Healthwatch arrangements, pending a procurement process for a permanent provider. Healthwatch Oxfordshire would be the

independent “consumer champion” for people and patients who wish to raise concerns about health and social care services

11.14 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green – Wide loads

In an e-mail, Mr M Foxton of Tokers Green commented on damage to the verges in Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green caused, he believed, by a wide load using the road. He suggested that signs should be installed warning of the unsuitability of the road for wide loads, and the use of the road by equestrians.

RESOLVED: That the above suggestions be referred to the County Council

(ii) Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common – Footway

Mr A K Martin of Wyfold Lane, Gallowstree Common reported, by e-mail, that the footway in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common was obstructed by overhanging vegetation at Yew Tree Cottage.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be alerted the vegetation overhanging the footway in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, in the vicinity of Yew Tree Cottage.

11.15 ELECTORAL REVIEW

(cf 8.16/13) With a letter, a Review Officer of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England gave details of the Commission’s final recommendations following the review of the electoral arrangements for the District Council. The recommendations, which would be laid before Parliament in a draft order, would provide for the Parish to be combined with Goring Heath, Mapledurham and Whitchurch in a ward to be called the Kidmore End & Whitchurch Ward, with effect from the elections in May 2015.

11.16 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

(cf 9.15/13) The Chief Executive of the District Council reminded, by letter, of the duty on his Council to review the community governance arrangements, at parish level. In this connection, he sought, by 28 June 2013, details of any changes to community governance arrangements, for example, altering boundaries of parishes, merging parishes, grouping parishes under a common parish council, warding or de-warding a parish.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the above matter be deferred to the next meeting.

11.17 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

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

Ms C D Aldridge reported the difficulties faced by the Kidmore End Pre School, because of ground conditions at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, when it had hired the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion for its Easter Egg hunt on 14 April 2013.

11.18 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr R Simister, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, discussed the possible development of the land at Gravel Hill/Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green, and indicated that he would seek advice from his Council’s officers about parish council involvement in pre-application discussions.

11.19 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received a report of the Transport Sub-Committee (2012/13 - 9), being a draft winter plan. In the absence of both members of the Sub-Committee, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report be deferred to the next meeting.