

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 17 July 2013 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.00pm.

Present: Ms S M Biggs (Chairman), R G McQuillan (Vice-Chairman), Ms C D Aldridge, I G C Pearson, T M Perchard, H Thresher.

Also present: B Greenwood (Sonning Common Parish Council), L Rawlins (Sonning Common Parish Council), R Simister (district councillor)

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Hall, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, J A Swift QC, Mrs J M Williams, K Bulmer (county councillor)

3.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2013 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correct spelling of the word "each" in resolution 2 to Minute 2.09(ii).

3.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The Council noted a written report by Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, which covered:

- the Government's spending review, as a result of which the grant from Government to local authorities would reduce by 10%;
- proposed changes to his Council's policy on home to school transport;
- his Council's Older People's Strategy;
- the Operation Bullfinch investigation into child sexual exploitation;
- funding opportunities via Councillors' Community Budgets, Area Stewardship Funding and the Chillout Fund.

The Chairman indicated that she would contact Mr Bulmer about whether his Community Budget could be deployed on some possible projects in the Parish.

3.03 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

The Clerk had circulated a report by PCSO C Boyes of the Thames Valley Police for June 2013, covering parking issues at Kidmore End School, a road hazard in Kidmore Lane, apparently constructed by pupils at Chiltern Edge School and the vulnerable persons' list.

3.04 OPEN SESSION

During the open session,

- Ms K Foxton of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green expressed an interest in serving as a parish councillor;
- Mr P Pope of Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End advised that he had made representations against the planning application for development at Astwell, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End;
- Mr L Lee of Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green, advised, emphatically, that his proposal for development of his land at Gravel Hill/Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green did not involve the community right to build, under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, as was suggested in a letter to the Council from the Emmer Green Residents' Association.

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

(cf 2.05/13) in a letter, mentioned at the last meeting, the Chairman of the Emmer Green Residents' Association referred to the possible development, by Mr L Lee, of his land off Gravel Hill and Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green. The Chairman of the Association referred to leaflets distributed by Vortal Properties Ltd late in 2012. The Association had urged its members to respond to that consultation, and send copies to the Association. The Association had been "deluged with letters and e-mails, all unanimous against any such development". The letter went on to indicate the Association's belief that Mr Lee wished to utilise the community right to build provisions of the Localism Act 2011 for his development.

The Association sought an indication of the Council's position on the possible development.

Mr L Lee of Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green had requested copies of any views expressed to the Council in writing about the possible development of his land. The Clerk had sent copies, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In e-mails, Mr D Heron of Vortal Properties Ltd commented on the prospect of Sonning Common Parish Council having authority over the possible development of land in the Parish, about publicity for the Council's decision regarding the possible inclusion of Chiltern Edge School in the Sonning Common neighbourhood Plan area, and about articles concerning boundary issues in the "Henley Standard" on 5 July 2013 and on 12 July 2013 about possible housing at the School.

The Clerk reminded Members that the inclusion of the School site was first mooted in August 2012 (see Minute 3.15(vi), in response to reported indications by District Council officers about the neighbourhood plan covering a definable "community". The Council recognising in September 2012 that the school would be seen by those not constrained by administrative geography as being part of the Sonning Common community. It suggested to the District Council that the school be included in the neighbourhood plan area (see Minute 4.13(viii)).

The Clerk was not aware of any contact with the Governors of Chiltern Edge School over this issue.

The Clerk understood that the report in the "Henley Standard" of 5 July 2013, related to proposals prospectively made by Sonning Common Parish Council in response to the community governance review initiated by the District Council. This review, to be conducted under Section 79 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, was about parish electoral and boundary issues. This Council had decided not to make any proposals to the District Council.

RESOLVED: 1 That the Emmer Green Residents' Association be advised that the Council's position regarding the possible development of the land at GravelHill/Highdown Avenue remains as recorded in Minute 6.07 of November 2012, as amplified by the answers given in Minute 2.05 of June 2013.

2 That a response be sent to Mr D Heron along the lines set out by the Clerk, and recorded above.

3.06 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

(cf 2.06/13) In an e-mail, the Clerk to Sonning Common Parish Council acknowledged the Council's views on the possible alterations to the boundary between the parishes in the vicinity of Chiltern Edge School.

3.07 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

(cf 2.07/13) The Chairman reported that Wicksteed Leisure Ltd had virtually completed the works at the Kidmore End Play Area. 3 unfinished items had been identified and had been raised with the Company.

Members discussed payment for the invoice, not yet received, from the main contractors, given that the Council did not meet again until 18 September 2013. No specific action was agreed on this point.

Some groundworks needed to be undertaken, for example the removal of nettle growth and saplings in corners of the Play Area. The sign denoting the financial support of LEADER had been erected. Issues relating to the mowing etc of the refurbished facility remained outstanding.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the revised specification for the mowing of the Kidmore End Play Area be deferred, but that the Chairman and Ms C D Aldridge be authorised to arrange any works necessary to facilitate use of the Play Area prior to the next meeting.

3.08 MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

(cf 2.12/13) The Council considered filling the vacancy for councillor, vice Dr B J Knapp, and the information, circulated at the last meeting, provided by Ms K Foxtan of Tokers Green, in support of her potential candidature.

RESOLVED: That Ms K Foxtan be co-opted, pursuant to Section 89 of the Local Government Act 1972, to fill the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the resignation of Dr B J Knapp.

3.09 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- progress with neighbourhood plans across the District;
- changes to permitted development as a result of the Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013, mostly in respect of changes of use;
- his Council's strategic housing land availability assessment, a requirement of Government, which had recently been published on his Council's website;
- the consultation on the next stage of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan (formerly the Local Development Strategy), ie the allocation of sites for housing in the larger villages where no neighbourhood plan was being prepared.

3.10 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £26,381.49.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

LexisNexis – Copy of Arnold-Baker "Local Council Administration" 9 th ed	£72.95
W A B Grove Ltd – Internal audit fee	£432.00
Parochial Church Council – Contribution towards maintenance of churchyard	£1,320.00

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 30 June 2013, against the approved budget for 2013/14. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £80, excluding capital payments and if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

(iv) Audit of Accounts, 2012/13

(cf 1.13/13) The Clerk reported that the Annual Return for 2012/13 had been submitted to the external auditors, BDO LLP, by the date the Partnership had specified, and that the Partnership had subsequently posed questions to him, which he had answered, about the change of presentation of the Council's accounts to receipt and payments.

3.11 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally:

single storey side extension to form car port and porch to front door and rear extension to garage to form utility and garden room at Curtis House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End;
erection of acoustic fencing to front boundary at Cherryfield House, Cane End;

and that the following applications had been refused

erection of advertising hoarding and boards at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground;
erection of one detached infill bungalow incorporating existing detached double garage on land between Collegewood Farm House and Collegewood Barn, Cane End.

(ii) Action of Plans Sub-Committee

RESOLVED: That the action of the Plans Sub-Committee in respect of the following application, as set out in the register of action, be approved:

proposed single storey extensions at Red Roof, Beech Road, Tokers Green;
erection of 2-storey side extension to form granny annex at Astwell, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End;
part retrospective and part proposed application for erection of new double carport – revised ridge height, omission of 2 windows and proposed log store and garage doors at Cherry Trees, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
enclosing a canopy, install air source heat pump, install electrically operated gates and erect garden shed at Collegewood Barn, Cane End.

(iii) District Council's Planning Committee

By letter, the Head of Planning of the District Council invited the Council to make representations at the meeting of the District Council's Planning Committee on 24 July 2013, about the application for erection of 2-storey, 6 bedroom replacement dwelling and detached double garage at Leawood, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green.

RESOLVED: That, if he considers it appropriate, the Vice-Chairman be authorised to make oral representations to the District Council's Planning Committee, objecting to the proposed development at Leawood, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green.

(iv) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan

(cf 2.09(iv)/13) Mr B Greenwood and Mr L Rawlins, Members of Sonning Common Parish Council, addressed the Council in explanation of the rationale for the inclusion of 4 fields to the east of Kidmore Lane, in this Parish, within the area of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan, as site SON4. They pointed out that the District Council had encouraged the inclusion of potentially valuable and vulnerable sites on the edges of settlements. SON4 fell in that category. If the fields were included in the plan, but

deemed unsuitable for development, they would be “protected” for the duration of the neighbourhood plan, if it was adopted.

A proposal to include the land in the neighbourhood plan area was voted on and declared carried, unanimously.

By e-mail, the Clerk to Sonning Common Parish Council advised that a public progress meeting about the plan would be held on 19 July 2013.

RESOLVED: 1 That the land in the Parish of Kidmore End identified as SON4 and SON15 (part of Chiltern Edge School site) on the map attached to the signed copy of the minutes be included in the area of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan, which plan is presently under preparation.

2 That consent be given to Sonning Common Parish Council acting for the purposes of a neighbourhood development plan in respect of the above identified land in the Parish of Kidmore End, but only for those purposes.

(v) South Oxfordshire Local Plan

(cf 1.14(iii)/13) In a letter, the District Council's Head of Planning advised that the second part of his Council's Local Plan – the Sites and General Policies – was in preparation. This document was to help the District Council achieve a number of strategic objectives, for instance ensure that there were sufficient sites to deliver 1154 new homes in the 12 larger villages. Views were invited by 5 August 2013.

RESOLVED: That Members submit any comments on the next stage of the Local Plan to the Chairman by 1 August 2013.

(vi) Development at Old Pastures, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End

By e-mail to the Chairman, Mr J W Wardle of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End complained that the Council had failed him in not consulted him before submitting comments on the planning application for development at Old Pastures, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End. He was opposed to the development, but the Council had commented “No strong views”. The Chairman explained that she had been unable to make contact with Mr Wardle when she had canvassed views on the application.

The Council noted a copy of a letter sent by Mr Wardle to the District Council complaining about that Council's decision to grant planning permission for the development.

RESOLVED: That the views of Mr J W Wardle be noted.

3.12 POLICE OPEN DAY

In a letter, a Communication Officer of the Thames Valley Police gave details of the Police Open Day at the Police Training Centre, Sulhamsstead on 7 September 2013.

3.13 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Emergency Planning Unit of the County Council enquired, in an e-mail, whether the Council had developed, or planned to develop, a community emergency plan for the Parish.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be advised that there was no intention to develop a community emergency plan for the Parish at this time.

3.14 SONNING COMMON SKATEPARK

The Clerk to Sonning Common Parish Council and the Chairman of the Skatepark Working Party

requested, in a letter, that the Council consider making a contribution towards the cost of providing a skatepark facility at the Bishpswood sports field. The project was estimated to cost £50,000 and the Working Party was pursuing a range of funding options.

Members observed that the budget for 2013/14 did not include provision for a grant towards the cost of the project.

RESOLVED: That no contribution be made to the Sonning Common skatepark project in the financial year 2013/14, but consideration be given to making provision for a grant in the budget for 2014/15.

3.15 ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END – CHURCHYARD

By letter, the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council asked the Council to make a contribution towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard at St John the Baptist, Kidmore End. Expenditure on maintenance of the churchyard had amounted to £2,910, "in the past year".

Members observed that it had been the Council's practice over many years to make a grant, when requested, towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard and that the approved budget for the current financial year contained provision of £1,330 for such a grant, following the "rolling-forward" of budgetary provision from 2012/13.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £1,320 be made, in the current financial year, to the Parochial Church Council towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard of St John Baptist, Kidmore End.

3.16 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in June/July 2013, commenting particularly on the paragraphs about the County Council's Community Network Service.

3.17 BYLAWS TO REGULATE LATE SKIN PIERCING

With a letter, the District Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services enclosed a copy of the byelaws made by her Council relating to acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis, which byelaws had been confirmed by the Department of Health and would come into force on 29 July 2013.

3.18 OXFORDSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

In an e-mail from the County Council's Consultation Portal, attention was drawn to the recruitment of persons to serve on the Public Involvement Network, established to ensure that the views and voices of the public informed all layers of the Health and Wellbeing Board and partnership boards. The closing date for applications was 9 August 2013.

RESOLVED: That the recruitment process be drawn to the attention of Mrs J E O'Sullivan.

3.19 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was reported that, as only one member had attended the meeting of the Committee arranged for 10 July 2013, the meeting had been abandoned.

3.20 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chairman reported that she had supplied a copy of the draft winter plan to PCSO C Boyes of the Thames Valley Police.

3.21 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

Mr H Thresher advised that the County Council had entered into a contract for the provision of faster broadband across the County.

3.22 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
Part 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2013	3

3.23 PART 2 MINUTES

The Part 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2013 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3.24 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON – WATER SUPPLY

(cf 2.21/13) It was

RESOLVED: That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to sign the wayleave document for the water supply pipe to the Recreation Ground, Gallowstree Common.