

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 23 October 2013 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.55pm.

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

Also present: K Bulmer (county councillor).

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

5.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2013 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, reported on the County Council's budget setting exercise, and in particular to the consultation exercise regarding the future of services. Mr Bulmer expressed the view that the days of universal services were limited.

5.03 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

The Clerk had circulated a report by PCSO C Boyes of the Thames Valley Police for September 2013, covering a fallen tree in Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End, and burglaries in Kidmore Lane, Sonning Common.

In an e-mail, Supt A Boyd, the commander of the South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse Local Police Area (LPA) of the Thames Valley Police, reported on the progress of his officers against policing targets. The number of burglaries in the LPA had fallen again, and a detection rate of 77% had been achieved in respect of burglaries, by far the best rate in the Force.

5.04 OPEN SESSION

During the open session,

- Mrs J McLean of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common, referred to the Council's decision at its last meeting regarding the cricket sight screens at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, and urged the Council to secure the removal of the screens, which blocked the view from her garden, and commented that she felt persecuted by the Cricket Club;
- Ms P Kogel of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common spoke in support of Mrs McLean;
- Mr P R Drescher of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common accused the Cricket Club of anti-social behaviour in respect of the sight screens;
- Mr P Pope of Bulters Orchard, Kidmore End expressed his opposition to the planning application for works at Astwell, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End;
- Mr L Lee of Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green asked whether the Council had been invited to the stakeholders' meeting about the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment and commented that the District Council's Core Strategy did not represent a local plan in terms of the National Planning Policy Framework.

5.05 LOCAL BUS SERVICES

(cf.4.02/13) An Assistant Public Transport Officer of the District Council confirmed, in an e-mail, that bus service 142 would be re-routed while the bridge at Whitchurch on Thames was closed, from 3 October 2013.

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

(cf 4.06/13) Members noted an e-mail from Mr D Heron of Vortal Properties Ltd providing a web link to a report by the planning officer at St Albans City and District Council about how housing land supply numbers were to be interpreted.

5.07 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

(cf 4.08/13) The Clerk reported that the District Council had paid £19626 of its promised grant towards the refurbishment of the Kidmore End Play Area on 18 September 2013.

The Chairman pointed out that the contractor had yet to return to the site, to complete some works.

5.08 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(i) Water supply

(cf 4.11(i)/13) It was reported that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had, as authorised by the Council, signed the easement for the water supply pipe for the Recreation Ground at Gallowstree Common.

(ii) Cricket sight screens

(cf 4.11(ii)/13) Reference was made to the representations made in the Open Session, to an article in the "Henley Standard" and an e-mail from Mrs A Vorster of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common, concerning the storage of the cricket sight screens at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. In the light of this, Mr A Swift proposed, seconded by Mrs J E O'Sullivan, that the Cricket Club be asked to move the sightcreens, as soon as possible. This was declared carried. The Vice-Chairman suggested that the decision be conveyed orally to representatives of the Cricket Club. This was also agreed.

RESOLVED: That the Cricket Club be asked to move the sight screens, as soon as possible, and that the Vice-Chairman, Mrs J E O'Sullivan and Mr J A Swift convey the decision to representatives of the Club, face-to-face.

(iii) Play equipment

The Chairman reported that she was working on a project to refurbish the play area at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. An incremental approach to the renewal of equipment was envisaged.

To this end, she had examined the play equipment, pending the outcome of an inspection by PlaySafety Ltd. She and Ms C Aldridge had felt that one large piece of equipment was potentially unsafe, and warning notices, and warning tape, had been put on and around it.

In addition she and Ms Aldridge considered that there was insufficient bark in the pits beneath the equipment. As a result, quotations had been obtained for the supply and installation of play bark for the pits, as follows:

Ian Kendrick Ltd – Supply and install 30m3	£2400 + VAT
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Peppard Building Supplies Ltd – Supply only 24m3	£1744 + VAT
SAS Landscaping – Supply and install 24m3	£2200 + VAT

Although there was no budgetary provision for replenishing the play bark, Members observed that the provision in the budget for the Kidmore End Play Area project would not be spent, as the total cost had been met from external grants, and no disbursements had yet been made from the small projects' fund.

RESOLVED: That, in principle, and subject to the outcome of the inspection of the play area by PlaySafety Ltd, the bark in the pits beneath the play equipment at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground be replenished.

5.09 KIDMORE END CEMETERY

(cf 4.21/13) In light of the content of the conveyance by which the former Henley Rural District Council (which became part of the present District Council in 1974) acquired the land for the Kidmore End Cemetery, it was

RESOLVED: That the District Council be requested to take responsibility for the maintenance of the path from Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, to the Cemetery, over which the District Council had been granted sole right of access.

5.10 HENLEY TRIATHLON

(cf 4.24/13) The Chairman reported that she had attended the meeting organised by John Howell MP, to review the Henley Triathlon, on 25 September 2013. Just Racing, the promoters of the event, had not attended the meeting. It seemed, from reports in the media, that Just Racing was proposing to relocate the triathlon away from Henley.

5.11 HIGHWAY MATTERS

(i) Winter Plan

(cf 4.27/13) It was reported that the Chairman had, in discussion with officers of the County Council, secured agreement to the provision of 4 further salt or grit bins in the Parish, and that, by relocating one of the existing bins at Kidmore End pond, the bins would be sited at Chalkhouse Green, at the junction of Rokeby Drive with Tokers Green Lane Tokers Green, in Wood Lane at its junction with Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, at the junction of Hazelmoor Lane with kidmore Lane, Kidmore End and in Tokers Green Lane, to the north of Bardolph's Wood. The County Council would fund one of the bins, and, perhaps, a second.

The Council recalled that it had made provision in the budget for 2013/14 for the purchase of 2 salt bins. There was also provision in the small projects' fund.

RESOLVED: 1 That the action of the Chairman be approved and confirmed.

2 That, if necessary, the purchase of a third salt bin in the financial year 2013/14 be approved.

(ii) Tokers Green Lane. Tokers Green – Drainage

It was reported to the Council, that there had been significant flooding of the highway, in Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, in the vicinity of Tokers Green pond. Members concluded that the silt traps and gullies leading to the pond probably needed clearing. .

RESOLVED: That the County Council be requested to arrange for the clearing of the highway silt traps and gullies leading into Tokers Green pond.

(iii) A34 road, Beedon – Bridge refurbishment

In e-mails, a Communications Manager of the Highways Agency advised of refurbishment works on a bridge on the A34 road at Beedon, near Newbury. The works would entail closure of the A34 road for some nights, and over 2 weekends in November 2013. It was anticipated that the closures might lead to more traffic than usual on the A4074 road,

(iv) Wyfold Road, Gallowstree Common – Trees

In a letter, Mr A K Martin of Wyfold Road, Gallowstree Common drew attention to works undertaken in Withy Copse, Gallowstree Common, adjacent to Wyfold Road, where a number of trees had been felled. He remarked that a number of marked trees near the highway had not yet been felled, and enquired whether the removal of the trees had been at the behest of the highways' authority, given that, earlier this year, one tree had fallen across the highway.

RESOLVED: That the above enquiry be forwarded to the County Council.

5.12 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 4.28/13) The Chairman advised that she and Ms C Aldridge had coppiced the willow trees at Kidmore End pond, and that the County Council had arranged for the clearance of silt from the pond later in 2013.

5.13 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £21,829.30.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Ian Kendrick Ltd – Cutting hedge at Recreation Ground, Gallowstree Common	£114.00
Chilterns Conservation Board – Delegate fee at planning conference	£30.00
D M Thornton – Reimbursement of overpayment of allotments rent	£3.00

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 30 September 2013, against the approved budget for 2013/14. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £540, excluding capital payments and if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

5.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) 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:

erection of a 2-storey rear extension at Kano, Wood Lane, Kidmore End.

(ii) Applications

The Council considered applications referred to it since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: 1 That no strong views be submitted on the application for replacement dwelling with garage following demolition of existing house and outbuildings at Oakridge Farm, Wood Lane, Kidmore End for Mr & Mrs A Hartup (amended plan)..

2 That observations be made as follows

<u>Application</u>	<u>Observation</u>
Ground and first floor side and rear extension to form dining room and granny annex at Astwell, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End for Mr M Elliott	Refuse – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• extension will overlook next door property,• scale and bulk of extension will lead to loss of light for neighbouring property,• extension will be too close to boundary of site.
Erection of part single-story, part 2-storey extension and first floor extension at Glebe Cottage, Wood Lane, Kidmore End for Mr G Johnson	No strong views, but concerned that extension will be too close to boundary for purposes of building and maintenance.

(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 30 October 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 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) County Council's Local List of Information Requirements

By letter, the County Council's Director of Environment & Economy gave notice that his Council was consulting on the proposed replacement local list of information requirements for validation of planning and related applications. The consultation ended on 31 October 2013.

(v) Annual Chilterns AONB Planning Conference

(cf 4.13(ix)/13) In view of her absence, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report of Mrs J M Williams on the Annual Chilterns AONB Planning Conference be deferred to the next meeting.

5.15 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 September 2013.

5.16 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

In a letter, the Director for Children, Young People and Families of the County Council asked the Council to give publicity to the closing date – 15 January 2014 – for applications for entry to primary or infant school in September 2014.

5.15 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

The Clerk advised that Ms K Foxtton had resigned as a member of the Council on 19 September 2013. He had given notice, on 15 October, of the vacancy for the office of parish councillor so caused.

5.18 CHILTERN SOCIETY

In a letter, a Trustee of the Chiltern Society drew attention to the Society's Don Millar Fund, which had been established to assist members of the public or groups wishing to embark on conservation schemes within their communities in the Chilterns. Examples of possible qualifying projects were given.

Members discussed possible projects which might attract a grant from the Fund.

5.19 COUNTY COUNCIL SPENDING

The Leader of the County Council had given information, in a letter, of his Council's consultation - "Talking Oxfordshire" – both on line and at public meetings, concerning the reduction in its expenditure and the impact on the provision of services. The nearest such meeting was held at Didcot on 23 October 2013.

The Assistant County Officer of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils advised, in an e-mail, about an event being promoted by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, in line with the County Council's exercise, at Woodstock on 21 November 2013, with a focus on services in rural areas.

RESOLVED: That, if she wishes to attend, Mrs J M Williams be appointed to attend the event promoted by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, her attendance being an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

5.20 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in September 2013

5.21 TOWN AND PARISH FORUM

(cf 2.15/13) The Leader of the District Council, by letter, gave further details about her Council's town and parish forum to be held at Crowmarsh on 6 November 2013.

RESOLVED: That Mrs J E O'Sullivan be appointed to attend the Town and Parish Forum, her attendance being an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

5.22 OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH AND VALE CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

The Bureau Director of the Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens' Advice Bureau (the bureaux at Abingdon, Didcot, Henley and Thame had amalgamated on 1 April 2013), in a letter, requested the Council to consider making a grant to the Bureau. The Council noted that the budget for 2012/13 contained provision for a grant of £90 to the Henley & District Citizens Advice Bureau.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £90 be made to the Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens' Advice Bureau in the financial year 2012/13.

5.23 CLUB SC

The Chairman of the Club SC Management Committee requested, in a letter, that the Council consider making a grant towards the running costs of Club SC, a facility for young people based at Chiltern Edge School, Sonning Common. Members noted that the budget for 2013/14 contained provision for a

grant of £100 to Club SC.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £100 be made to Club SC in the financial year 2013/14.

5.24 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman advised that the Playing Fields Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council.

5.25 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE

It was thought that, now that the easement for the water supply to the Recreation Ground was completed, the transfer of the site of the proposed affordable housing in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, to Soha Ltd, would proceed.

5.26 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

The Vice-Chairman reported on meetings concerning the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan. Work was progressing, with a view to reaching the point where the draft plan could be submitted to the District Council. It was noted, in passing, that the Benson Neighbourhood Plan preparations had collapsed.