

## **KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 22 January 2014 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.10pm.

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

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

### **8.01 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2013 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the substitution of the word "last" for the word "lat" in Minute 7.23, the correct spelling of the word "north" in Minute 7.24 and the correct spelling of the word "Broadband" in Minute 7.26.

### **8.02 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

The Clerk read a report by Mr R Simister, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, covering the movement of staff from the Vale of White Horse District Council's offices in Abingdon to the District Council's offices at Crowmarsh, thus releasing the space at Abingdon to the County Council, the laying of the South Oxfordshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2014 before Parliament and the decision of the examiner that, with some modifications, the Woodcote Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to referendum, which would be held on 3 April 2014.

### **8.03 OPEN SESSION**

During the open session, Mr L Lee of Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green noted the reply received by the Council from the District Council concerning a local plan, questioned the compliance of the District Council's Core Strategy with the National Planning Policy Framework, referred to ministerial statements about house building and planning, and advised of responses he had received to requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to the District Council. He asked a question about the Council's reaction to gifts to the community which he had offered previously. The Chairman asked Mr Lee to put the question in writing.

### **8.04 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

(cf 7.06/13) The Council considered the appointment of Vice-Chairman, a matter which had been deferred at the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That Ms C D Aldridge be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2014.

### **8.05 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA**

(cf 7.07/13) The Clerk reported that the grant promised from the LEADER fund had been received from the Rural Payments Agency. He also advised that Kidmore End Environment Preservation (KEEP) had made a donation of £60 towards the upkeep of the Kidmore End Play Area. He had thanked KEEP on behalf of the Council.

The Chairman advised that Wicksteed Leisure Ltd had arranged to complete outstanding works at the Play Area on 23 January 2014.

## 8.06 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

### (i) Cricket sight screens

(cf 7.08(ii)/13) In a letter, the Hon Secretary of Kidmore End Cricket Club rehearsed the history of the storage of cricket sight screens at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, the rationale for their storage at the site which was the cause of complaint by neighbours. and various incidents, not necessarily linked to the screens, which had occurred at the Ground.

RESOLVED: That the Hon Secretary of Kidmore End Cricket Club be thanked for his letter, the contents of which are noted.

### (ii) Play equipment

(cf 7.08(iii)/13) It was reported that the Chairman and Mrs J E O'Sullivan had reviewed the quotations received for the repair of the play equipment at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, having asked the companies concerned to work to an identical specification for the works. As a result, they had decided, in accordance with the authority granted at the last meeting, to offer the contract to the provider of the lower quote, SAS Landscaping, in the sum of £910 + VAT. It was understood that SAS Landscaping would undertake the work before the end of January 2014.

The Chairman referred to quotations obtained from Playdale Playgrounds Ltd and Wicksteed Leisure Ltd, for the provision of items of replacement equipment at the Recreation Ground. She advised that the County Councillor for the Goring division, Mr K Bulmer, had indicated, informally, that he was prepared to sanction a grant of up to £5,000 towards the cost of replacement equipment, in the current financial year, from one of the funds at his disposal. In addition, the Council had included provision in its budget for 2014/15 for replacement equipment.

In the circumstances, the Chairman proposed that the existing metal climbing frame and the playhouse be removed from the play area, to be replaced by a swing and a new playhouse. She also proposed that the equipment be ordered from, and installed by, Wicksteed Leisure Ltd, as that Company's quotation had been the lower.

RESOLVED: That, subject to the availability of sufficient funds, and notwithstanding Financial Regulations, an order be placed with Wicksteed Leisure Ltd to remove the metal climbing frame and playhouse from the play area at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, and to install a new swing and a new play house.

## 8.07 HIGHWAY MATTERS – WINTER PLAN

(cf 7.09(i)/13) In an e-mail, the County Council's Adverse Weather Manager advised that Councillor K Bulmer, the County Councillor for the Goring division, had met the cost of all 5 of the additional grit bins from his highway stewardship fund.

It was suggested that one of the bins presently at the Kidmore End pond be moved to a site on Cottenden Hill, near the Reading golf course, thereby providing coverage on all hills into the Parish..

RESOLVED: That the County Council be requested to move one of the salt/grit bins at Kidmore End pond to a suitable location on Cottenden Hill (Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green), near the Reading golf course.

## 8.08 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 7.11/13) The Clerk had been advised by the Returning Officer of the District Council that no election had been called to fill the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the resignation of

Mr R G McQuillan. Accordingly, it was open to the Council to fill the vacancy by co-opting a suitably qualified person. The Clerk further advised that he had not received any expressions of interest in serving as parish councillors.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the co-option of suitably qualified persons to serve as parish councillors be deferred to the next meeting.

#### 8.09 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS, SUB-COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

(cf 7.12/13) The Council recalled that Mr R G McQuillan had been its representative on the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan Action Group.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the vacancy of representative on the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan Action Group be deferred to the next meeting.

#### 8.10 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £14,313.35.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

QAwebhosting - Lifetime hosting of website	£85.00
Vines Farm – Hedgecutting at allotments	£180.00

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 31 December 2013, against the approved budget for 2013/14. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £109, excluding capital payments and if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

#### 8.11 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the application for replacement of windows at The Coach House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End had been permitted conditionally.

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 2–storey side extension at Maytree Cottage, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End.

(iii) Applications

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

RESOLVED: That no strong views be submitted on the application to demolish existing conservatory, add single storey rear extension and new roof over part existing and add flue pipe at Brandoch, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End for Mr S Wesson.

(iv) Summer Cottage, Cane End – Fence and gates

Attention was drawn to the close boarded fence and gates which had been erected at Summer Cottage, Cane End: Members could not recall seeing a planning application for the development.

RESOLVED: That the attention of the District Council be drawn to the fence and gates erected at Summer Cottage, Cane End.

(v) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan

(cf 7.18(iv)/13) The Council noted the reply sent by the Clerk to Sonning Common Parish Council to Mr G Riggott, a resident of Reades Lane, Sonning Common (and of the Parish of Sonning Common) concerning the inclusion of the site of Chiltern Edge School in the designated area of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan. Mr Riggott had been advised to contact this Council if he wished to complain about consultation regarding the inclusion of the site, given that the site was in this Parish.

## 8.12 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

(cf 6.21/13) In letters, the Chief Executive of the District Council advised of decisions of the councillor working group, appointed by his Council to make recommendations (or otherwise) in connection with the community governance review, as follows:

- not to recommend any change to the boundary of the Parish with the Parishes of Eye & Dunsden and Sonning Common, in the vicinity of the junction of Kennylands Road and Peppard Road (north of the Abbey RFC ground);
- to recommend a change to the boundary between the Parish and the Parish of Sonning Common, by the transfer of the site of Chiltern Edge School into Sonning Common.

Members recognises the validity of the view that Chiltern Edge School formed part of the community of Sonning Common and recalled that the Council had agreed that part of the school site should be included in the area of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan.

Members felt, therefore, subject to any views expressed by residents, that the Council would probably not object to a proposal to adjust the boundary with the Parish of Sonning Common to accord with the Neighbourhood Plan boundary. However, they believed that the Council would object to the transfer of that part of the school site west of the former fence line, in other words, the playing fields adjacent to Reades Lane.

RESOLVED: That the above views regarding the possible transfer of the site of Chiltern Edge School to the Parish of Sonning Common be conveyed to the District Council.

## 8.13 FOOD WASTE RECYCLING

In an e-mail, the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership Communications Officer gave details of a tour of the food waste recycling plant at Cassington on 23 January 2014.

## 8.14 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Vice-Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had met on 8 January 2014, when it had

- ordered some minor repair works at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion;
- been advised that an electrician had attended the Pavilion to rectify some malfunctioning lights and had arranged for replacement bulbs, as necessary;
- settled the specification for the cleaning contract for the Pavilion, during the winter

months.

#### 8.15 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE

It was noted that no work had yet started on the affordable housing scheme for Gallowstree Common.

#### 8.16 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chairman reported on a meeting with the head teacher at Kidmore End School and PCSO K Boyes, concerning parking and driving near the School: the meeting had been prompted by the letters sent by the parents of some pupils to the headteacher, complaining about the driving/parking of other parents.

#### 8.17 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to questions, the Chairman

- a thanked Mr T M Perchard for cutting back the brambles near the Charles Paddick Memorial seat in Gallowstree Common;
- b noting the very low reported usage of the 3 public telephone boxes in the Parish, recalled the previous decision of the Council to acquire the boxes, if declared redundant by British Telecom plc;
- c noted the approach from a Ms M Rose of Marlborough about some paintings, by members of her family, of farms she believed to be in Kidmore End.

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