

## KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 19 February 2014 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.35pm.

Present: Ms S M Biggs (Chairman), Ms C D Aldridge (Vice-Chairman), Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mrs J M Williams.

Also present: R Simister (district councillor)

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Hall, I G C Pearson, T M Perchard, J A Swift QC, H Thresher, K Bulmer (county councillor).

### 9.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correct spelling of the word "hills" in Minute 8.07, the correct spelling of the word "GOVERNANCE" in the heading of Minute 8.12 and renumbering after Minute 8.12.

### 9.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- the Oxfordshire City Deal, by which some £55.5m of government funding would be used to boost innovation and business growth, create jobs and help ensure the County's place as a leader in technology, knowledge and expertise;
- discussions regarding his Council's budget for 2014/15;
- winter resilience and flooding;
- local authorities sharing premises to reduce costs;
- the recruitment of members of the public to serve on the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee.

### 9.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- the impact of flooding in the District;
- the success of the CCTV cameras, in helping secure convictions for crimes;
- the results of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, which were awaited;
- the outcome of a planning appeal at Benson, where the inspector had dismissed an appeal, as the development was at odds with his Council's Core Strategy.

In answer to a question, Mr Simister commented that his Council had not recently addressed the issue of a third bridge across the River Thames near Reading.

### 9.04 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

The Clerk advised that he had received an e-mail from PCSO C Boyes of the Thames Valley Police indicating that he had nothing to report from January 2014.

### 9.05 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Mr L Fair of Kidmore End alerted the Council to what he considered to be the poor performance of Whites Coaches on bus route M2, which service it operated under a contract

with the County Council. This was the only bus route serving Kidmore End and Chalkhouse Green, although Mr Fair recognised that the closure of Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green, to facilitate works, has posed some difficulties to the operator. Nevertheless, there had been instances when residents of Kidmore End had used the bus for the inbound journey to Reading, only to be told by the driver, on the return trip, in Sonning Common, that the bus would not be returning via Kidmore End.

#### 9.06 BUS SERVICE

Arising from the points made by Mr Fair during the Open Session, it was

RESOLVED: That concerns be expressed to the County Council about the unacceptable performance of Whites Coaches on bus service M2, through the Parish.

#### 9.07 OFFER BY MR L LEE, EMMER GREEN

(cf 8.03/14) Members recalled the question posed by Mr L Lee of Emmer Green, during the Open Session at the last meeting, about his proposed gift to the community. Mr Lee had subsequently put his question in an e-mail, which had been circulated to all Members of the Council, as follows:

“ ... I am offering the opportunity to discuss with KEPC gifting and for the identified benefits to be prioritised and endorsed as community needs so there is the chance of factoring them in before sale [of my land]”.

Members particularly noted the final sentence of Mr Lee's e-mail, in which he indicated that there was no link between his offer of benefits to the community of the Parish and the development of his site off Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green. In connection with the possible development of that site, Members observed that the Council's position remained as adopted at its meetings in November 2012 and June 2013.

RESOLVED: That Mr L Lee be advised that, on the express understanding that his proposed beneficence to the Parish was in no way linked to the development of his site, the Council would be interested to receive more details of what gifts to the community he had in mind.

#### 9.08 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

(cf 8.05/14) The Chairman reported that Wicksteed Leisure Ltd had undertaken remedial work to the bank and tunnel supporting the slide at the Kidmore End Play Area: further works remained to be completed.

It was noted that the conifer trees along the boundary between Astwell, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End had been felled, revealing a damaged chain link fence, which could prove dangerous to children using the Play Area. The Clerk had examined the title documents for the Play Area. There was no mention in the 1951 conveyance to the Council having responsibility to fence the boundary in question.

RESOLVED: That enquiries be made of the owner of Astwell, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End as to whether the title documents for that property referred to the fencing responsibility on the boundary between that property and the Kidmore End Play Area.

#### 9.09 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - PLAY EQUIPMENT

(cf 8.06(ii)/14) The Chairman reported that a grant of £4,729 had been made by the County Council, from the Councillor Community Budget of Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring Division, towards the cost of replacement play equipment at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. The Chairman had received the cheque and passed it to the Responsible Financial Officer for banking,

As the grant would meet the cost of the works, an order had been placed with Wicksteed Leisure Ltd for

the removal of some of the existing play equipment, and its replacement with specified items. The Chairman further reported that some issues concerning the suitability of the chosen items had been resolved with the Company.

It was noted that Ian Kendrick Ltd had completed the replenishment of the bark in the equipment pits and that SAS Landscaping had completed 90% of the agreed repairs to the existing equipment.

#### 9.10 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 8.08/14) As the Clerk had received no expressions of interest in serving as parish councillors, it was

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

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

(cf 8.09/14) The Council again considered the appointment of a representative on the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan Action Group, vice Mr R G McQuillan. Mrs J M Williams explained that her commitments would preclude her regularly attending meetings of the Group.

RESOLVED: That Mrs J M Williams and the Chairman monitor the work of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan Action Group and arrange for attendance at meetings of the Group, if necessary, on behalf of the Council.

#### 9.12 FINANCE

##### (i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £14,048.35.

##### (ii) Accounts for payment

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

Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – Subscription	£40.00
Chiltern Society – Subscription	£25.00
Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments	£157.99
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£25.12

##### (iii) Legislative changes

The Responsible Financial Officer referred to changes to the law so that cheques drawn on parish council banks accounts no longer needed signatures by 2 councillors and to the draft regulations published by the Secretary of State about Council Tax increase referenda.

#### 9.13 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

##### (i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

erection of 2-storey side extension to dwelling at Maytree Cottage, Kidmore End;  
demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a replacement 2-storey 4-bed dwelling incorporating integral double garage at Haytor, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;

demolish existing conservatory, add single storey rear extension and new roof over part existing, and flue pipe at Brandoch, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End

had been permitted conditionally and that the application for single storey rear extension at 4 Allwrights Cottage, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common had been withdrawn.

(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:

demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a replacement dwelling at Clive Cottage, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End;  
erection of front porch at Stonecliffe House, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;  
erection of ground and first floor rear extension at Foxlands, Elm Road, Tokers Green;  
proposed raising of roof to create additional living accommodation and erection of new front porch at Strathfillan, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End.

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

(cf 8.11(iv)/14) In a letter, the District Council's Head of Planning advised that an enforcement officer would visit Summer Cottage, Cane End, to ascertain whether the close boarded fence and gates represented a breach of planning control.

(iv) Nakhon Thai Restaurant, Cane End – Enforcement action

(cf 5.11(iv)/12) The Head of Planning of the District Council enclosed, with a letter, a copy of a planning enforcement notice served by his Council on 3 February 2014 requiring the removal of the canopy and 2 ornamental statues at the Nakhon Thai Restaurant, Cane End. Unless an appeal was lodged against the notice before 17 March 2014, the notice would come into force on that date, and compliance was required by 17 June 2014.

(v) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan

(cf 8.11(v)/14) The Council noted further correspondence between 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.

(vi) Reading Borough Local Plan

In an e-mail, a principal planning officer of Reading Borough Council invited the nomination, by 14 March 2014, of sites for development within the Borough, as part of the preparation of a new Local Plan for Reading.

(vii) Locality Neighbourhood Planning Camps

The Planning Policy Team of the District Council gave, by e-mail, details of residential neighbourhood planning camps being arranged in York and Oxford in March and April 2014.

#### 9.14 RIGHTS OF WAY MANAGEMENT PLAN

The County Council's Countryside Access Strategy & Development Officer drew attention, by e-mail, to his Council's draft Rights of Way Management Plan, which had been published for consultation. Comments and representations could be made until 18 April 2014.

RESOLVED: That the County Council's draft Rights of Way Management Plan be referred to the Rights of Way Committee for consideration and report.

#### 9.15 CHILTERN EDGE SCHOOL

By letter, the Chair of Governors of Chiltern Edge School had invited attendance at a stakeholders' meeting, on 6 February 2014, about an application being made to the Secretary of State to sell part of the school site for development. The Governors believed that a part of the site could be sold without affecting education provision. The capital generated would be used to ensure that the School could continue to provide a safe and stimulating learning environment.

It was understood that Mr I G C Pearson had intended to attend the meeting.

#### 9.16 CHAIRMANSHIP TRAINING

By e-mail, the Oxfordshire Partnership for Local Councils advised of a chairmanship training course at Didcot on 7 May 2014. The course fee was £65. Ms C D Aldridge expressed an interest in attending the course.

RESOLVED: That a place on the chairmanship training course be booked for Ms C D Aldridge, and that her expenses in attending be an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

#### 9.17 FLOODING

The Council noted an invitation from the County Council to a Members' Flood Forum in Oxford on 1 March 2014 and a questionnaire from that Council about flooded properties: there had been none in the Parish

John Howell MP, in an e-mail, asked for details of recent flooding incidents in the Parish, including issues such as blocked culverts, run-off from fields etc. Member commented that they were not aware of any properties which had been flooded, but observed a number flooding incidents, or deep and persistent puddles, apparently as a result of poor highway drainage.

RESOLVED: That John Howell MP be advised of the following sites where there had been persistent highway flooding in the winter:

- near the pond in Kidmore End: these have been the longest lasting flooded roads, with the whole width of both roads covered on some occasions;
- in Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, near the Tokers Green pond;
- in Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, at its junction with Butlers Orchard;
- in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, near Allwrights Cottages.
- in Kidmore End Road, Chalkhouse Green, north of its junction with Tanners Lane..

#### 9.18 COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID

In an e-mail, John Howell MP drew attention to the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 which allowed communities to nominate community assets, so that, if the property was put on the market, the community had an opportunity to bid for it before it was offered on the open market. The provisions were designed to ensure that valued buildings and amenities could be kept in public use and remained an integral part of community life. He encouraged councils to nominate assets of community value to the District Council, for consideration for listing.

Members discussed possible assets for listing.

RESOLVED: That consideration of this matter be deferred pending a report by Mr J A Swift and Mrs J M Williams on the community right to bid scheme.

#### 9.19 HOUSENAMING

By letter, the Head of HR, IT and Customer Services of the District Council advised that the property known as Kempwood Cottage, Cane End had been renamed Manton House.

#### 9.20 STREETNAMING

The Clerk reported an oral enquiry from an officer of the District Council asking the Council to suggest a road name for the affordable housing development in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common. The Clerk suggested some names, which would commemorate families associated with the Parish and the Council in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

RESOLVED: That it be suggested to the District Council that the name of the road serving the affordable housing development in Gallowstree Common be "Paddick Close", to commemorate the Paddick family, particularly Mr Fred Paddick and Mr Charles Paddick, both of whom had served as parish councillors for many years.

#### 9.21 CRISIS SKYLIGHT OXFORD

The Director of Crisis Skylight Oxford, a centre for homeless people in Oxford, indicated, in an e-mail, that she wished to build a local partnership with the Council.

Being not aware of any homeless persons in the Parish, it was

RESOLVED: That the invitation be declined.

#### 9.22 LITTER CLEARANCE

In the light of a request from a resident of Sonning Common, the Clerk of Sonning Common Parish Council offered, by e-mail, the services of his Council's litter clearance contractor, to clear litter from the unofficial layby on the west side of Reades Lane, between Chiltern Edge School and Gallowstree Common, at a cost of £234 per annum. Members noted that the Council did not pay for litter clearance elsewhere in the Parish.

RESOLVED; That the offer of Sonning Common Parish Council be declined.

#### 9.23 COMMUNITY INFORMATION NETWORK

By e-mail, the Deputy Chief Executive of Age UK Oxfordshire gave information about the launch of the Community Information Network, which would seek to reach older people, particularly those who were isolated and frail, to ensure they had information, advice, opportunities and support to help them maintain their independence and wellbeing. The Chairman advised that she hoped to attend a meeting about the Network at Wallingford on 4 March 2014.

#### 9.24 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Vice-Chairman of Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council. However, she reported that some minor repairs had been carried out at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, that light bulbs had been replaced as necessary and that arrangements had been made for the cleaning of the premises in the winter.

#### 9.25 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chairman regretted to advise that she had no news about promised works by the County Council to remove silt from the Kidmore End pond.

9.26 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 19 March 2014 at 7.30pm.

9.27 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 paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Act shown below, would be discussed:

Item	Paragraph
Mowing contract	3

9.28 MOWING CONTRACT

The Council opened tenders received, as follows, for the mowing contract in the years 2014 and 2015

Ian Kendrick Ltd	£195 per cut (plus VAT) [equates to total of £1365 per annum]
Portman Garden Services	£3104 (plus VAT) per annum.

RESOLVED: That the contract for the mowing in 2014 and 2015 be let to Ian Kendrick Ltd.

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