

## KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 23 April 2014 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.15pm.

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

Also present: K Bulmer (county councillor), R Simister (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Hall, Mrs S Hunter, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, J A Swift QC, Mrs J M Williams.

### 11.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correct spelling of the word "letter" in the first line of Minute 10.04 and the correct spelling of the word "temporarily" in the resolution of Minute 10.05.

### 11.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, referred to a written report and was pleased to note the works already undertaken in the play area at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

In answer to a question, Mr Bulmer observed that there was much pressure from Reading Borough Council for a third crossing of the River in the vicinity of that borough. However, the position taken by the County Council was that infrastructure issues north of Reading, in Oxfordshire, needed to be addressed in tandem with any provision for a bridge.

### 11.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- His Council offered a 10% discount to those subscribing to its garden waste collection service by direct debit;
- The Woodcote Neighbourhood Plan had been well supported in the recent referendum: 60% of the electorate had voted, and 91% of voters had been in favour of the plan;
- Community grants continued to be available from his Council
- His Council had been unable to identify the owner of the path from Tokers Green Lane to the cemetery in Kidmore End, but his Council's officers were seeking to reach an agreement with the County Council, and perhaps the Parish Council, over resurfacing and future maintenance of the path.

### 11.04 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

The Clerk had circulated a report by PCSO C Boyes of the Thames Valley Police for March 2014, in which he referred to traffic chaos in the centre of Kidmore End at 3pm on 14 March, involving heavy goods vehicles and school children's parents' vehicles: he had had to provide traffic control. In addition, the Kidmore End Pre School had approached him about speeding vehicles in Wood Lane.

Mr T M Perchard referred to an incident in Tokers Green, which had led the Police visiting that settlement regularly.

In an e-mail, Supt A Boyd, the commander of the South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse Local Police Area of the Thames Valley Police, reported on the crime and detection rates in his area in 2013/14.

Recorded crime had fallen in the LPA by 0.2%, continuing a fall which started in 2004. In the LPA there had been a 6% reduction in burglary dwelling, and the detection rate for that crime was 37.4%. There had been a reduction of 6% in violence against the person with injury, but the detection rate for this crime had been 61.3%. He concluded that residents of area were less likely to be the victims of crime than almost anywhere else in the country.

#### 11.05 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Mrs A D Thiam of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common expressed concern at the paucity of off-road car park provision in Sonning Common. It was suggested that he take the matter up with Sonning Common Parish Council.

#### 11.06 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

(cf 10.05/14) The Clerk reported that the District Council had paid the balance of the Community Investment Fund grant for the Kidmore End Play Area project, £252.

Members recalled the decision, at the Council's last meeting, to resite the playhouse, then at Gallowstree Common, at the Kidmore End Play Area. The Chairman had then meant to mention the cost of resiting the play house - £150 for materials and labour – the work to be undertaken by SAS Landscaping on 27 March 2014. Grants and donations to the Kidmore End project exceeded expenditure by c£750. In all the circumstances, the Chairman authorised the resiting works, notwithstanding the Financial Regulations. The work had been completed.

The Council noted that the fence on the boundary with Astwell, Butlers Orchard, had yet to be restrung.

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

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

(cf 10.06/14) The Chairman reported that Wicksteed Leisure Ltd had installed the items of replacement equipment at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground at the end of March 2014. Mr & Mrs D Beddis, of 10 The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common had been most helpful on the day of the installation, in providing access to services: the Company had not made that requirement known in advance.

The new equipment had been well received, locally.

RESOLVED: That Mr & Mrs D Beddis be thanked for their assistance with the installation of the replacement equipment at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

#### 11.08 RIGHTS OF WAY MANAGEMENT PLAN

(cf 10.07/14) The Clerk understood that the Rights of Way Committee had submitted comments on the County Council's draft Rights of Way Management Plan, on behalf of the Council.

#### 11.09 CHILTERN EDGE SCHOOL

(cf 10.08/14) Mr I G C Pearson advised that the Governors of Chiltern Edge School had submitted an application to the Secretary of State to sell part of the school site for development. The Governors expected to consult the public further on the matter in November 2014.

#### 11.10 COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID

(cf 10.09/14) In their absence, it was

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

#### 11.11 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

(cf 10.16/10) The Clerk reported receipt of the signed agreement between the Council and British Telecommunications plc for the sale and purchase of the telephone kiosks at Chalkhouse Green and Craysleaze, Kidmore End. He observed that the telephony equipment had been removed from each kiosk. The agreement imposed some conditions on the Council.

The Council discussed possible uses for the kiosks and the appointment of a Member to be responsible for them.

#### 11.12 TOKERS GREEN POND

(cf 10.17/14) In e-mails, Mr D Saunders of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green advised of the volunteers to undertake tidying works at Tokers Green (some of whom had already been acknowledged by the Council in 2008), and enclosed correspondence with officers of the County Council seeking the latter's agreement to drain the sludge from the pond. Mr N Ronaldson of Dysons Wood Farm, Tokers Green had consented to the sludge being discharged onto his land.

RESOLVED: That, for the purpose of insurance cover, the following additional volunteer be considered as an employee of the Council when he is undertaking maintenance work on behalf of the Council at Tokers Green pond:

Mr F Mesbah, Lindisfarne, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green.

#### 11.13 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

(cf 10.19/14) The Clerk to Sonning Common Parish Council indicated, in an e-mail, that his Council supported this Council's view about proposed boundary between the 2 parishes at Chiltern Edge School, observing that the Neighbourhood Plan boundary, favoured by this Council as the civil parish boundary, was almost identical to the boundary of the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. He suggested that the Chairmen of the 2 councils sign a joint letter to the District Council, objecting the District Council's proposed boundary, as set out the consultation paper under the Community Governance Review, and suggesting the Neighbourhood Plan or AONB boundaries as alternatives.

#### 11.14 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £33,187.44.

(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	£235.50
Wicksteed Leisure Ltd – Supply and installation of play equipment, Gallowstree Common	£5,674.80
Ms S M Biggs – Materials for resiting of play house	£57.60
SAS Landscaping – Resiting play house at Kidmore End Play Area	£144.00
NALC – Subscription to “Local Council Review”	£17.00

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, at year end, against the approved budget for 2013/14. The report showed an underspend of £2,288.

#### 11.15 NOTICE OF AUDIT

By letter, BDO Stoy Hayward LLP gave notice that they had appointed 30 June 2014 as the day when local government electors could question the external auditor on the Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014. The Responsible Financial Officer advised that he intended to submit the annual accounts for 2013/14, and the annual return, to the Council, via the Finance Sub-Committee, at its next meeting.

#### 11.16 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

erection of front entrance porch, single storey rear extension and balcony at Stonecliffe House, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;  
erection of ground and first floor rear extension at Foxlands, Elm Road, Tokers Green;  
demolition of existing single storey sun room and utility and construction of 2-storey side extension at Hollywood, Tokers Green;  
erection of first floor front extension at Field Close, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;

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:

infill extension between house and games room to create small boot/coats room at Collegewood Farmhouse, Cane End;  
demolition of existing garage and erection of single-storey extension to south elevation of property consisting of garden room and garage at Glen Cottage, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;  
2 storey rear extension and roof conversion raising the ridge height and single storey side extension over gorge at Wyebury, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;  
2 storey side extension and single storey rear extension at Redholme, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;  
proposed replacement dwelling at Beechwood, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;  
new detached 2-bay garage with loft store/studio at Field View Barn, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green.

*(Mr T M Perchard disclosed a pecuniary interest in respect of the application in respect of Wyebury, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green, under the Code of Conduct, by virtue of his ownership of an adjacent property, and withdrew from the meeting.)*

(ii) Possible unauthorised development

The Clerk reported that he had contacted the District Council about 2 cases of possible unauthorised development – the deposit of spoil apparently from Astwell, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End on neighbouring land and a retail bakery business at Sundown, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common. By letter, the District Council's Head of Planning indicated that the cases were being investigated.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Clerk be approved and confirmed.

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

(cf 9.13(iv)/14) Members noted that the ornamental elephants at the Nakhon Thai Restaurant, Cane End, had been moved from the carpark entrance into the porch.

(v) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan

(cf 10.14(iv)/14) Mr I G C Pearson reported on the meeting he had attended about the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan. Drafting of documents was proceeding. Only 5 of the possible housing sites were being considered seriously, one of them being the site at Chiltern Edge School. Public meetings were being arranged about each of the favoured sites.

The Clerk to Sonning Common Parish Council enclosed, with an e-mail, a copy of the Neighbour hood Plan Draft Scoping Report, upon which he had requested comments by 19 May 2014. The document had been circulated to all Members of the Council. Members were encouraged to send any comments to the Chairman, so that she could collate a corporate response on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman be authorised to send a response, if appropriate, on behalf of the Council, to the Sonning Common Neighbour hood Plan Draft Scoping Report

(vi) Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment

The Chairman had circulated to all Members the key findings on housing need arising from the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment, commissioned by the principal authorities in the County. The Assessment concluded that between 4,678 and 5,328 new homes would be required each year, across the County, from 2011 to 2031. This was equated to c775 housing need in the District, each year. The Assessment was seen by Government as an important adjunct to local plans.

In an e-mail, the Director of CPRE Oxfordshire disputed the outcome of the Assessment, which suggested that the housing stock of the County needed to increase by 37% in 17 years. The CPRE believed that many of the assumptions behind the Assessment were unsound.

Members noted that the District Council had yet to respond to the Assessment.

(vii) Reading Borough Council – Local Plan etc

By e-mail, a principal planner with Reading Borough Council gave notice of her Council's consultation on its draft Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule, its draft Section 106 planning obligations supplementary planning document and its pre-submission draft alterations [to the Local Plan] on affordable housing provision. The consultation would close on 14 May 2014.

#### 11.17 KIDMORE END WELL

Ms C Cottle of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End had sought permission to decorate the Kidmore End well with flowers, on the day of her son's wedding, 26 April 2014, at the church of St John the Baptist. The Chairman had indicated that there would be no objection to the proposed decoration.

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

#### 11.18 TOKERS GREEN LANE, KIDMORE END – STREETNAMEPLATE

Ms Cottle (see Minute 11.17) had pointed out that the street nameplate for Tokers Green Lane, near Kidmore End well, was missing.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be requested to replace the street nameplate for Tokers Green Lane, at Kidmore End well.

#### 11.20 COMMUNITY POLICING AWARDS

In a letter, a communications officer of the Thames Valley Police gave details about the Community Policing Awards 2014.

RESOLVED: That PCSO C Boyes be nominated for a community policing award.

#### 11.21 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in March 2014, with particular reference to the consultation on a draft transparency code for parish councils with a turnover not exceeding £25,000.

#### 11.22 DOROTHEA VANDERSTEGEN TRUST

By e-mail, the Rev G F Foulis-Brown advised that the Trustees of the Dorothea Vanderstegen Trust for coal for widows had decided to close the charity, the bank account having been dormant for many years. The funds would be given in equal shares to the Sonning Common Health Centre's charity and to FISH.

#### 11.23 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 9.25/14)The Chairman reported e-mail correspondence with officers at Oxfordshire County Council concerning the removal, by contractors, of silt etc from Kidmore End pond. The works were due to start on 28 April 2014, and Vines Farm had agreed to provide a site for the removed debris. The works would involve a number of suction vehicles and/or tankers, and the Chairman had alerted the Kidmore End School, and the Church, to the intended works.

#### 11.24 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

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

#### 11.25 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE

It was noted that there had been no discernable activity at the site for the affordable housing in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

#### 11.26 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chairman referred to banners erected near to Kidmore End School urging parents to reduce the parking problems at that location.