

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 23 July 2014 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.35pm.

Present: Ms S M Biggs (Chairman), Mrs S Hall, Mrs S J Hunter, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, I G C Pearson, J A Swift QC, H Thresher, Mrs J M Williams.

Also present: B Greenwood (Sonning Common Parish Council), M H Leonard (district councillor), L Rawlins (Sonning Common Parish Council)

Apologies for absence were received from Ms C D Aldridge, T M Perchard, K Bulmer (county councillor), R Simister (district councillor).

3.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the substitution of "M2" for "M1" in Minutes 2.03 and 2.04.

3.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- OFSTED inspections of Children's Services;
- future of learning disability services in Oxfordshire;
- his division locality fund.

3.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr M H Leonard, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, reported

- on the consultation by his Council on its draft Local Plan 2031, which would seek to reflect the outcome of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). In this connection, he commented that a planning inspector had suspended consideration of the Cherwell District Council Local Plan because of the SHMA recommendations and advised that a High Court ruling on the Dacorum District Council Local Plan was expected soon. An appeal against the refusal of planning permission of a site in Shiplake, expected to be determined in December 2014, was thought to be of significance in respect of the existing Local Plan;
- on his Council's capital grants' scheme, for which very few applications had been submitted for bigger schemes: the next closing date for applications for small grants was October 2014;
- on the outcomes of his Council's Community Governance Review, one of which was that the boundary between Kidmore End and Sonning Common would follow the AONB boundary in the vicinity of Chiltern Edge School;
- that he had no further news about the path to Kidmore End cemetery.

Members asked Mr Leonard questions about lobbying government regarding the housing numbers inherent in the SHMA report, the view of the Oxfordshire authorities on the SHMA and the views of his Council on a possible third bridge over the River Thames in the vicinity of Reading.

3.04 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

There was no report from the Thames Valley Police, but Mrs S Hall reported that a number of outbuildings had been broken into in Chalkhouse Green.

3.05 SONNING COMMON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

(cf 2.10(iii)/14) Mr B Greenwood and Mr L Rawlins, both of Sonning Common Parish Council and the Sonning Common Parish Neighbourhood Plan Working Party, addressed the Council about progress with preparation of that plan.

Sites had been selected, following thorough examination, that were favoured for development, and meetings held with residents about those sites. The first draft of the plan was now being compiled. The draft plan would address the current allocation of housing units under the District Council's present Local Plan. However, it had to be recognised that Sonning Common might need to absorb greater housing growth, given the thrust of the District Council's consultation on the next local plan.

Mr Greenwood and Mr Rawlins circulated some documents relating to site SON15A in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan – ie, some land at Chiltern Edge School. They asked Members for any comments on the documents.

Members asked questions concerning any proposals for the centre of Sonning Common, emerging from the nascent plan, and about recreational provision.

RESOLVED: That the Sonning Common Parish Neighbourhood Plan Working Party be advised that the Council

- a considers that it has been adequately consulted on the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, having been given notice of a range of meetings, and been invited to send observers to meetings of the Working Party and
- b concurs with the general thrust of the proposals for site 15A in the emerging Plan.

3.06 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - PLAY EQUIPMENT

(cf 2.06/14) It was reported that Wicksteed Leisure Ltd had agreed to replace the new swing at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. In the meantime, that item of play equipment was out of commission.

3.07 AFFORDABLE HOUSING, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 2.08/14) It was noted that work had started on the affordable housing in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

In that connection, the contractors undertaking the works had approached the Council informally, subsequently confirmed by e-mail, concerning the water supply to the Pavilion. The representative of the contractors had indicated that the supply would need diverting, and the Clerk had advised the representative that that point had been covered in the wayleave between the Council and the first vendors of the land. He had also asked whether the contractors could use the supply, whilst they were on site. He said that the contractors would pay for all water through the meter serving the Pavilion.

RESOLVED: That consent be given for the contractors erecting the housing units for Soha Housing Ltd in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common to utilise the water supply to the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, for the duration of those works, in return for which the contractors will pay for all the water used on the supply.

3.08 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

(cf 2.11/14) The Chairman advised that she had been granted permission by the District Council, to address that Council, when it had discussed the recommendations for parish boundary changes arising from the Community Governance Review at its meeting on 17 July 2014. She had repeated the Council's

position regarding the boundary of the Parish with Sonning Common, in the vicinity of Chiltern Edge School. In the event, the District Council had decided that the boundary should be adjusted, but that the playing fields off Reades Lane would remain in this Parish.

Members congratulated the Chairman on securing the Council's preferred change.

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

3.09 NON-EMERGENCY PATIENT TRAVEL

(cf 2.13/14) The Chairman and Mrs J E O'Sullivan advised that they had not responded to the consultation on the eligibility criteria for non-emergency patient transport services arranged by the NHS Central Southern Commissioning Support Unit.

3.10 CANE END ALLOTMENTS – WATER SUPPLY

(cf 2.14/14) The Clerk reported that he was to meet a representative of Thames Water Utilities Ltd on site on 28 July 2014, to discuss the provision of a water supply to the Cane End allotments.

3.11 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

(cf 2.120/14) The Chairman reported that she had circulated a draft response to the consultation on the Local Transport Plan to all Members, for their comments.

3.12 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £15,844.97.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Ms S M Biggs – Wire for fence at Kidmore End Play Area	£22.36
W A B Grove Ltd - Internal audit fee	£462.00
BDO LLP – External audit fee	£360.00
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£25.12
Parish of Kidmore End & Sonning Common – Grant towards upkeep of churchyard at St John Baptist, Kidmore End	£700.00.

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 30 June 2014, against the approved budget for 2014/15. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £237, excluding capital payments and if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

3.13 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

(cf 1.12/14) BDO LLP gave notice that the audit of the Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014 had been completed. The Partnership reported that, on the basis of its review, in its opinion the information contained in the annual return was in accordance with proper practices and no matters had come to its attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

3.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Action of Plans Sub-Committee

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

demolition of existing rear conservatory and erection of new single storey rear extension at Chalkhouse Green Farm, Kidmore End.

(ii) Applications

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

RESOLVED: That no strong views be submitted on the application for proposed replacement dwelling at Haytor, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End for Mr T Davies.

(iii) South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031

(cf 2.10(iv)/14) The Chairman reported that a response, compiled by the Plans Sub-Committee, had been sent to the District Council, in respect of the latter's consultation on the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031.

3.15 WORLD WAR ONE

In a letter, the Chief Executive of the County Council enquired about local events to commemorate the centenary of the start of World War One. She also encouraged support for the "Lights Out" project, by which residents would turn off their lights from 10pm to 11pm on 4 August 2014, leaving on a single light or candle for a shared moment of reflection.

RESOLVED: That details of the "Lights Out" project be publicised on the website.

3.16 BIG CLEAN-UP

The District Council's Head of Corporate Strategy, by letter, referred to her Council's Big Clean Up, which, she said, would include litter picking, sweeping and removing weeds and moss on pavements in Tokers Green.

3.17 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in June 2014.

3.18 MOWING CONTRACT

In a letter, Mr I Kendrick of Ian Kendrick Ltd commented that the Company had struggled to perform the mowing contract to specification at the Kidmore End Play Area due to strong growth engendered by favourable weather. As result, he had executed additional cuts at the site, for which he would raise no charge. At the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, he faced difficulties caused by the fence at the foot of the bank facing the car park, because of parked vehicles.

Mr Kendrick suggested that, for the future, additional cuts should be programmed. He also proposed the spraying of the fence lines, bark play areas and paths in the 2 play areas, with a low hazard total herbicide, to reduce growth in areas where it was difficult to deploy machinery.

Members appreciated the steps the Company had taken to combat the vigorous grass growth at the play

areas, and, recognising the point made about additional routine cuts for the 2 play areas, suggested that this was addressed in time for the 2015 season. Members agreed with the suggestion about spraying the fence lines etc at both sites with a herbicide.

RESOLVED: 1 That Ian Kendrick Ltd be requested to provide a quotation for additional cuts of the play areas at Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End, under the general terms of the mowing contract.

2 That Ian Kendrick Ltd be requested to spray the fence lines, bark play areas and paths in the 2 play areas, with a low hazard total herbicide, in 2014, and to include this work in the mowing contract for the remainder of its duration.

3.19 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 £2,104, "in the last 12 months".

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 £700 for such a grant.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £700 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.

3.20 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

Mrs J E O'Sullivan reported that she had been elected as Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee, when the Committee had met on 9 July 2014, and Mr I G C Pearson had been appointed as Vice-Chairman. The Committee had continued to discuss the proposed service level agreement, primarily about use of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, with the Cricket and Football Clubs and the performance of the ground source heat pump: technical advice had been sought in respect of the latter.

3.21 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Members commented that some paths were overgrown. They were advised to report the locations to the County Council.

3.22 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to a question, the Chairman suggested that, in the first instance, infestations of ragwort be drawn to the attention of the owners of the land in question.