

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 17 September 2014 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.00pm.

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

Also present: R Simister (district councillor).

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

4.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to recognition that Mr T M Perchard had sent his apologies for absence rather than attending the meeting, and the correction of the spelling of the word "CHURCHYARD" in the heading of Minute 3.19.

4.02 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

PCSO C Boyes of the Thames Valley Police had forwarded the Thames Valley Police Henley Sector NHPT Newsletter for September 2014.

It was reported that there had been attempted thefts of vehicles in Kidmore End and Tokers Green. The Police had attended.

Mrs S Hall advised that the Police were offering to mark, free of charge, garden machinery and similar equipment, kept in outbuildings,

4.03 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Mr T Saunders of Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End, expressed his opposition to the planning application for extensions etc at Cobnar, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End, in terms of misleading drawings, height of proposed extension, and the balcony at rear, which, he argued, would harm his family's enjoyment of their property.

4.04 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - PLAY EQUIPMENT

(cf 2.06/14) It was reported that Wicksteed Leisure Ltd had yet to replace the new swing at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

Mr B Brown of Gallowstree Common submitted a suggestion for protection from strimmer damage of the wooden "legs" of the play equipment at the Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the suggestion by Mr B Brown be deferred to the next meeting.

4.05 AFFORDABLE HOUSING, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 3.07/14) It was noted that the framework of the affordable housing in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common had been erected.

In a letter, Mr A K Martin of Wyfold Lane, Gallowstree Common reported the experience of a former resident of the Parish who had contacted the District Council about the possibility of being housed in one of the new dwellings. The person had been advised that the houses were for the accommodation of homeless persons across the District, which, Mr Martin observed, was contrary to the provisions of

Section 106 agreement relating to the development. Members recalled that that agreement, which had been a requirement of the planning permission for the development, had indicated that, as the land was a rural exception site (ie otherwise unlikely to be developed), persons with connections to the Parish would have priority for the houses.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be alerted to the incorrect information being provided by its staff to enquirers about the allocation of the affordable housing at Gallowstree Common, and be requested to rectify the situation.

4.06 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

(cf 3.08/14) By letter, the Chief Executive of the District Council confirmed that his Council had decided, as part of its Community Governance Review, to move Chiltern Edge School (excluding the playing field) from Kidmore End parish to Sonning Common parish.

4.07 CANE END ALLOTMENTS

(i) Water supply

(cf 3.10/14) The Clerk reported on his meeting with a representative of Thames Water Utilities Ltd, concerning the provision of a water supply to the Cane End allotments.

It appeared that the only suitable points of supply, from the Company's mains, were in Horsepond Road or the A4074 road, Cane End: the pipe in Park Lane was either a private supply to the properties to the north of the allotments, or the pressure in the pipe was insufficient. The Company was prepared to lay in a connection on the A4074 road, adjacent to the entrance to Clervaux, at a cost of £854 + VAT. A pipe would then be required from the edge of the highway into the allotments, largely along the line of the public footpath. The Council itself would need to arrange for this pipe laying. The pipe would be on land owned by Vines Farm, so a wayleave would be required.

An alternative might be to arrange a supply from Vines Farm, from its cattle trough in a field north of the allotments. Again, a pipe would need to be laid through the field in question.

RESOLVED: That approaches be made to Vines Farm about laying a water supply pipe from the A4074 road to the allotments at Cane End, or from Vines Farm's supply to the allotments, from further north in Park Lane.

(ii) Bonfire

By e-mail, Mr M Bilinski of Park Lane, Cane End, complained of a bonfire at the allotments in Cane End on 7 September 2014, which, he stated, had burned unattended for most of the day, and had given off "a toxic smell". As a result, Mr Blinks and his family had been unable to enjoy their adjacent garden that day.

Mrs S Hall, the Allotments' Manager, had investigated the matter and reported that one of the tenants of the allotments had acknowledged that the bonfire was on their plot, and had apologised for the inconvenience caused. The tenants had explained to the Manager how the fire had occurred, and the steps they had taken, without a water supply on site, to control and extinguish the fire. The tenants denied leaving the bonfire unattended, until it had been extinguished.

RESOLVED: That Mr Bilinski be thanked for alerting the Council to the incident, and regret be expressed that Mr Bilinski and his family had been inconvenienced.

4.08 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

(cf 3.11/14) The Chairman advised that, following consideration of comments by Members, she

had submitted a response to the consultation by the County Council on the Local Transport Plan.

4.09 MOWING CONTRACT

(cf 3.18/14) By letter, Mr I Kendrick of Ian Kendrick Ltd provided a quotation for additional work in connection with the mowing contract, as follows:

- to spray fence lines etc at both play areas - £65.00 +VAT per site
- to carry out extra cuts at both sites - £85+VAT per cut.

Following an exchange of e-mails with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and the Chairman of the Playing Fields, the Clerk had asked the Company to proceed with the spraying work, in accordance with the decision at the last meeting.

The Vice-Chairman reported on her meeting with Mr Kendrick concerning the Kidmore End Play Area. Mr Kendrick had suggested the use of a mulching mower at the 2 play areas, rather than the collection of the clippings. The Vice-Chairman felt that this would provide a satisfactory finish to the grass

RESOLVED; That the mowing contract be varied for 2015, by use of a mulching mower at the Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End Play Areas, instead of the collection and removal of clippings from those sites, with up to 2 extra cuts of those areas at the start of the growing season.

4.10 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

The Chairman advised that, over the summer, she had arranged for the removal of a broken branch from a tree at the Kidmore End Play Area.

4.11 ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END – CHURCHYARD

(cf 3.19/14) In a letter, the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council thanked the Council for its grant towards the upkeep of the churchyard at St John the Baptist church. The PCC Secretary indicated that she would supply an estimate of the likely cost of routine maintenance of the churchyard, and repair of the wall, before the Council was expected to consider its budget for the financial year 2015/16.

4.12 FINANCE

(4) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £14,267.52.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

B Brown – Works to play equipment at Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground	£580.00
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£12.56.

4.13 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

demolition of existing rear conservatory and erection of a new single storey rear extension at

Chalkhouse Green Farm, Chalkhouse Green (and listed building consent);
 demolition of existing side garage and workshop and erection of 2-storey side and rear extension at Scarletts, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
 demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a replacement 2-storey 4-bedroom dwelling incorporating integral single garage at Haytor, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;
 proposed new roof and cladding to existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension at Hollytree Cottage, Kidmore 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:

proposed new roof and cladding to existing conservatory and erection of a single storey rear extension at Hollytree Cottage, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End;
 erection of a single storey side extension at Idlemeade, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End.

(iii) Applications

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

The Council noted a copy of a letter from Mr M Stafford of Elm Road, Tokers Green to the District Council, expressing opposition to the application for development at Chippendale Lodge, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, and an e-mail from Mr R O'Neill of Caversham Heights objecting to that application.

RESOLVED: That observations be made as follows

<u>Application</u>	<u>Observation</u>
Erection of 5 bedroom dwelling with associated parking and landscaping at the Old Chapel, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common for Mr J Ferris	No strong views, but there is no mains' sewerage in Gallowstree Common and the lines of leylandii trees should be retained
Side extension for new garage at ground floor level, bedroom extension at first floor level, rear extension for kitchen, dining and living area, replacement barn with link to house for living area at Cobnar, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End for Ms P Crain and Mr S Stokes	No strong views, but proposed balcony may overlook neighbours, and orientation of elevations seems wrong
Construction of 2 detached houses with detached garages on land at rear of Chippendale Lodge, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green for Mr T Francis	Refuse – development will be unneighbourly to residents of Northcote Lea, Orchard End and Oaklands, new access to existing property will pose danger to traffic.

(Ms C D Aldridge disclosed a pecuniary interest in the planning application for Cobnar, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End, by virtue of her working with one of the applicants, and withdrew from the meeting.)

(iv) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan

(cf 3.05/14) Following the last meeting, Mr I G C Pearson and Mrs J M Williams had confirmed the decisions of the Council to the Sonning Common Parish Plan Working Party, and had raised further

questions, on behalf of the Council, in respect of site 15A (land at Chiltern Edge School), concerning the dangers posed by a possible pedestrian access from the land to Kidmore Lane, and surface water run off from the site.

In an e-mail, the Clerk to Sonning Common Parish Council responded to the 2 questions. Mitigating factors, like undeveloped ground between the site and the road, would minimize surface water run off from the site, while there would be close liaison with the County Council as highway authority about any pedestrian access onto the road.

Later in the meeting, Mr Pearson reported on progress by the Working Party with the development of proposals for the various sites. Mr Pearson also advised that the School was confident of securing the Secretary of State's consent to sell site 15A.

4.14 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- that residents could now execute monetary transactions with his Council on line;
- that his Council's Planning Team was performing better than its targets in respect of time taken to determine planning applications;
- about his Council's Community Grants' scheme;
- that he had no further information about the path to the cemetery from Takers Green Lane, Kidmore End.

Mr Simister answered questions about his Council's stance regarding a possible 3rd bridge across the River Thames in the vicinity of Reading. He was asked about the closure of Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green (in the Borough of Reading).

4.15 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted updates for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in July and August 2014 and remarked particularly on the paragraphs about community first responders in the August update.

4.16 BUS SERVICES

(cf 2.04/14) An Assistant Public Transport Officer of the County Council advised, in an e-mail, that his Council's Integrated Transport Unit had replaced Whites Coaches as the operator of bus services M1 and M2, from Watlington to Reading, some journeys of which served the Parish, on 11 August 2014. There had been minor adjustments to the timetable: the timetable had been publicised on the website.

In a letter, Councillor D Nimmo Smith, the County Council's Cabinet Member for Environment, commented that his officers had been aware of the problems concerning Whites Coaches and been attempting to improve the situation. However, it had ultimately been decided to replace that firm as the contractor for the service.

4.17 PUNISHMENT OF OFFENDERS

The Council noted an invitation from the Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner to comment on proposals for community resolution for some more minor criminal offences, eg minor criminal damage.

4.18 IMPROVING SERVICES IN GP PRACTICES

The Communications and Engagement Co-Ordinator of the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, in an e-mail, invited participation in a consultation exercise about improving services in GP

practices. The Clerk had circulated the invitation to all Members.

4.19 COMMUNITY INFORMATION NETWORK

The Deputy Chief Executive of Age UK Oxfordshire, in a letter gave more information about the Community Information Network, which was designed to reach older people, to ensure that they had the information, opportunities and support to stay independent, to support good neighbour schemes and to build strong local partnerships.

Allied to this, the Chairman reported an approach from the FISH organisation, who wished to attend a meeting of the Council to explain the services it offered in Sonning Common and nearby.

RESOLVED: That representatives of FISH be invited to attend the next meeting.

4.20 OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH & VALE CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

The Council noted an invitation to the annual general meeting of the Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens' Advice Bureau at Abingdon on 18 September 2014.

4.21 BROADBAND

(cf 10.24/14) The Better Broadband Team of Oxfordshire County Council attached, to an e-mail, reports showing the position regarding the availability of superfast broadband (above 24 mbps) in the Parish. Such broadband was already available in Tokers Green, from Rosebery Road southwards. It seemed that fibre optic cable would be laid to the cabinet serving Cane End and Gallowstree Common during 2015, thus enabling the service in those villages.

However, there seemed little prospect of the service in the remaining parts of the Parish, unless additional funding, above the grant from BDUK already achieved by the County Council, became available.

RESOLVED: That residents of Chalkhouse Green, Kidmore End and Tokers Green be encouraged to register their interest in superfast broadband on relevant websites.

4.22 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

Mr I G C Pearson reported that the Playing Fields Committee had met on 10 September 2014. At the meeting, the Cricket Club had indicated that it did not support the draft service level agreement, primarily about use of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, with the Cricket and Football Clubs, and put forward an alternative document. The Cricket Club had indicated that it wished to lay a carpet, at its expense, in the function room at the Pavilion, in an endeavour to improve the room's acoustics. The Committee continued to be concerned about the electricity consumption at the Pavilion.

4.23 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Clerk advised that a Directory of Local Community Transport Groups and Services, compiled by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, had been passed to the Transport Sub-Committee.