

## KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 22 October 2014 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.15pm.

Present: Ms C D Aldridge (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), Mrs S J Hunter, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, 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 Ms S M Biggs, Mrs S Hall, J A Swift QC, Mrs J M Williams.

### 5.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to

- the correction of the spelling of the word "expressed " in the resolution to Minute 4.07(ii);
- the correction of the spelling of the place name "Gallowstree" in the resolution to Minute 4.09;
- the substitution of the word "cabinet" for the word "cabin" in the 4<sup>th</sup> line and the addition of the words ", became available" to the second paragraph of Minute 4.21.

### 5.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, referred to a written report, covering, inter alia,

- a briefing on child sexual exploitation;
- his Council's response to the Care Act consultation;
- work to draft his Council's budget for 2015/16, which was a difficult exercise because of increasing pressure on adult and children's care services;
- his Council's success in the fields of waste disposal and recycling;
- the consultation about the mobile library service.

In answer to a question about the cemetery path, Mr Bulmer indicated that the Area Highways' Steward had pointed out that the County Council had no funds for the maintenance of private paths.

### 5.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- on the site meeting regarding the cemetery path (see Minute 5.10), which path he described as "dangerous";
- funding available for improving community assets, whereby grants were available for projects costing up to £15,000;
- about a team of offenders available to undertake supervised unpaid community work;
- the reorganisation of his Council's Planning Service.

### 5.04 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

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 a number of issues relating to his area, covering major crime, hare coursing, theft of dogs and supply of controlled drugs. He also encouraged the sale of SmartWater kits, by which owners could mark their property with a unique code.

#### 5.05 FISH VOLUNTEER CENTRE, SONNING COMMON

It had been expected that representatives of the FISH Volunteer Centre in Sonning Common would attend the meeting, to address the Council about the Centre's activities. However, no-one attended.

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

(cf 4.04/14) It was reported that Wicksteed Leisure Ltd would replace the new swing at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground during the Autumn half term school holiday.

The Council considered further the suggestion submitted by Mr B Brown of Gallowstree Common for protection of the wooden "legs" of the play equipment at the Recreation Ground from strimmer damage. Members noted the relative expense of the suggested solution and the decision previously taken to spray weedkiller on selected areas at the play areas, which might negate the need to use a strimmer in the vicinity of the equipment.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the suggestion by Mr B Brown be deferred until the grass growing season in 2015.

#### 5.07 AFFORDABLE HOUSING, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 4.05/14) In a letter, the District Council's Head of Development and Housing was concerned to hear the statement attributed to a member of her Council's staff about the allocation of the affordable housing in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common. She sought to assure the Council that all affordable housing properties were let in accordance with her Council's allocations' policy, which included the strict application of any local connection criteria attached to a rural exception site, as detailed in the relevant Section 106 statement.

#### 5.08 CANE END ALLOTMENTS – WATER SUPPLY

(cf 4.07(i)/14) The Clerk reported that he had been advised, informally, by the Farm Manager that the owners of Vines Farm were prepared to allow the Council to lay a water pipe from the A4074 road at Cane End under their land to the allotments at Cane End. They had instructed their agents, Savills, to contact the Council about the terms of the necessary wayleave for the pipe.

#### 5.09 ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END – CHURCHYARD

(cf 4.11/14) In a letter, the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council advised that that Council had spent a total of £2,224 on grass cutting at the churchyard, trimming of trees there and the churchyard wall in 2013. Her Council believed that major works would be needed to the wall in the short term, but did not have funds for it. The Clerk suggested that the Council consider this matter when setting its budget for 2015/16.

#### 5.10 KIDMORE END CEMETERY

(cf 4.14/14) In presenting her apologies for absence, the Chairman had reported on her meeting with Mr R Simister, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, and 2 officers of the District Council, on 17 October 2014, about the path from Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End into the Cemetery. At that meeting it had been confirmed that the owner of the unregistered land, over which the path ran, was not known. Although the District Council had a right of way over the path, it did not own it, and officers considered that the District Council had no responsibility for it.

Nevertheless, District Council officers had obtained an estimate of £5,500 for repairs works, including resurfacing with bitumen macadam. The officers suggested that the District Council would be prepared to

manage the works, and make a contribution towards the cost, as a gesture of goodwill, but accepting no liability or responsibility for on-going maintenance or repair. They further suggested that the cost be shared by the County Council, the Parish Council and the church. Apparently, discussions were in hand with officers of the County Council.

The Clerk pointed out that the Council had no power to contribute to the cost of the works, save under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, and that it had made no provision for a contribution in its budget for 2014/15.

RESOLVED: That, pending discussions between officers of the County and District Councils, consideration of the matter be deferred to the next meeting.

#### 5.11 FINANCE

##### (i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £39,781.51.

##### (ii) Accounts for payment

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

Henley Sign People – Signs for Recreation Ground	£126.00
Ian Kendrick Ltd – Spraying at Play Areas	£156.00

*(Mrs S J Hunter disclosed a pecuniary interest in the account for Henley Sign People, and withdrew from the meeting.)*

##### (iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 30 September 2014, against the approved budget for 2014/15. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £802, excluding capital payments and if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

#### 5.12 TRACTOR

(cf 4.04/12) The Clerk reported that the tractor, which the Council had declared surplus to requirements in September 2012, was to be entered for sale into an auction at Goring Heath in November 2014.

#### 5.13 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

##### (i) Decisions

The Council noted that the application for erection of single storey side extension at Idlemede, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End had been permitted conditionally

##### (ii) Applications

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

RESOLVED: That no strong views be submitted on the applications for

front extension of existing store to bring forward to form new study at 7 Hazlemoor Lane, Gallowstree Common for Mrs L Wood;

erection of open wood frame front porch at Meadside Hall Cottage, 38 Wood Lane, Gallowstree Common for Mrs L Green.

(iii) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan

(cf 4.13(iv)/14) Mr I G C Pearson reported that he had attended one meeting of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan Working Party, since the last meeting of the Council, and advised of progress with the various sites under examination for the purposes of that plan.

(iv) Community Infrastructure Levy

In a letter, the District Council's Head of Planning Services sought views on the preliminary draft charging schedule to be adopted by his Council for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). This was a levy which local authorities could charge on new development in their area, the money raised being used to fund a wide range of infrastructure to support growth. The District Council had initiated a consultation on the preliminary draft schedule, from 20 October to 17 November 2014. The Clerk distributed leaflets about the draft schedule to those Members present.

A briefing session on CIL, for parish councillors, had been arranged for 4 November 2014.

RESOLVED: 1 That the Chairman be authorised to submit any views, on behalf of the Council, on the preliminary draft charging schedule proposed by the District Council for the Community Infrastructure Levy.

2 That Mr T M Perchard be appointed to attend the CIL briefing session, and that his attendance be an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

#### 5.14 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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

#### 5.15 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

In a letter, the Director for Children, Young People and Families of the County Council asked the Council to give publicity to the closing date – 15 January 2015 – for applications for entry to primary or infant school in September 2015.

#### 5.16 MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE

By e-mail, the County Council's Library Service Manager advised of a consultation exercise about her Council's mobile library service, which would run from 6 October to 31 December 2014. A recent review of the service had found that some mobile library stops were very lightly used, and some not at all. The County Council believed it could better serve the people who found it difficult to visit library branches by joining the various mobile services. 7 vehicles would continue to be deployed, providing better stopping places, with longer stops. As a result, it was proposed to stop visiting many locations, including 3 in the Parish – Chalkhouse Green, Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End: there were generally fewer than 3 visitors at each of those stops.

While Members regretted the potential loss of the stops in question, they felt that the use made of the service reflected changes in habits, and, for instance, the rise in the use of electronic media.

RESOLVED: That a link to the consultation exercise be included on the Council's website.

#### 5.17 TOWN & PARISH FORUM

The Council noted a letter from the District Council, which gave further details about that Council's town and parish forum to be held at Crowmarsh on 12 November 2014, to which the Chairman and one other representative were invited.

#### 5.18 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was noted that the Playing Fields Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council. The Vice-Chairman of the Committee circulated copies of a proposal by Kidmore End Cricket Club for the service level agreement between the clubs and the Playing Fields Committee: Members' comments were invited thereon.

#### 5.19 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Members commented that some paths were overgrown, for instance footpath 10 between the Kidmore End Play Area and Coopers Pightle.

#### 5.20 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

In presenting her apologies for absence, the Chairman of the Council had indicated that officers of the County Council had arranged for the resiting of one the salt bins near the pond at Kidmore End to Chalkhouse Green. She had also commented that she had been in contact with County Council officers concerning the recent flooding of the highway adjacent to the pond.

#### 5.21 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to a question, the Chairman proposed that the future use of the redundant telephone kiosks be considered further at the next meeting.