

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 19 November 2014 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.20pm.

Present: Ms S M Biggs (Chairman), Ms C D Aldridge (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S Hall, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, I G C Pearson, T M Perchard, J A Swift QC, H Thresher.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S J Hunter, R Simister (district councillor).

6.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

6.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- improvements in attainments by GCSE students in the County;
- the work of health and well being centres;
- a number of library service matters.

6.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

The Clerk read a report by Mr R Simister, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, about

- some free parking in his Council's carparks in the period up to Christmas 2014;
- his Council's complaint, along with other district councils, to Oxford City Council regarding the latter's assessment of available land for development within the City;
- the success of the CCTV cameras installed across the District, leading to arrests and convictions;
- a review of recycling of waste;
- the provision of superfast Broadband.

6.04 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 a murder in Abingdon, a major fire in Didcot, rural crimes generally and Halloween.

PCSO C Boyes forwarded the Henley Sector Neighbourhood Team Newsletter for November 2014, giving information about episodes of anti-social behaviour and information about crimes in the sector.

6.05 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, 2 residents expressed interest in serving as parish councillors and asked questions about the role of councillor, and the work of the Council.

6.06 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - PLAY EQUIPMENT

(cf 5.06/14) It was reported that Wicksteed Leisure Ltd had installed the replacement swing at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

6.07 KIDMORE END CEMETERY

(cf 5.10/14) Although there had been no report back on the outcome of the discussions between officers of the County and District Council on the matter, the Council discussed again the proposal of the District Council for the repair of the path from Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End into the Cemetery. Members remained disappointed that the District Council's officers were reluctant for their Council to accept responsibility for the path. Nevertheless, it was felt that the Council should support the proposal for the repairs.

RESOLVED: 1 That a contribution of £500 be made towards the project to repair the path to Kidmore End cemetery, under the provisions of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, and on the clear understanding that the Council is accepting no liability or responsibility for on-going maintenance or repair of the path.

2 That the Chairman seek a meeting with the Chairman of the District Council to discuss the future maintenance of the path.

6.08 TRACTOR

(cf 5.12/14) The Clerk reported that the tractor had been entered for sale at auction earlier on the day of the meeting.

6.09 TOWN & PARISH FORUM

(cf 5.17/14) It was reported that the Vice-Chairman had attended the Town and Parish Forum on 12 November 2014.

The Vice-Chairman reported orally on the forum, and some of the topics discussed, for instance, local plans, flooding, Broadband, the Community Infrastructure Levy and civil parking enforcement.

RESOLVED: That the Vice-Chairman be appointed to attend the District Council's Town and Parish Forum, and that her attendance be an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

6.10 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £39,634.51.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments	£17.48
Ian Kendrick Ltd – Mowing	£1,986.00
Playing Fields Committee – Grant	£1,000.00

6.11 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

front extension of existing store to bring forward to form new study at 7 Hazelmoor Lane,

Gallowstree Common;
erection of 5 bedroom dwelling with associated parking and landscaping at The Old Chapel, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
erection of open wood from porch at Meadside Hall Cottage, 38 Wood Lane, Gallowstree Common;

had been permitted conditionally

(ii) Action of Plans Sub-Committee

RESOLVED: That the action of the Plans Sub-Committee in respect of the amended application for construction of 2 detached houses with detached garages at rear of Chippendale Lodge, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, as set out in the register of action, be approved:

(iii) Applications

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

RESOLVED: 1 That the comments set out in the Appendix hereto be made on the application for erection of 30 dwellings including means of access and layout on land at Kennylands Road, Sonning Common (Parish of Sonning Common) for T A Fisher & Sons Ltd.

2 That no strong views be submitted on the application for erection of replacement porch at Bellcote, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green for Mrs B Allen.

(iv) District Council's Planning Committee

By letter, the District Council's Head of Planning invited the Council to make representations, orally, at the meeting of the District Council's Planning Committee to be held on 26 November 2014, about the application for the construction of 2 detached houses with detached garages on land at the rear of Chippendale Lodge, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green. The opportunity arose because the Council had recommended refusal of the application while the District Council's officers recommended approval. Noting that there now seemed to be limited opposition to the application locally, it was

RESOLVED: That the invitation to address the District Council's Planning Committee be declined.

(v) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan

(cf 5.13(iii)/14) Members were reminded of the leaflets sent to them about the public exhibition weekend about the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan, on 15 and 16 November 2014. Mr I G C Pearson advised that 120 to 130 people had attended the exhibition each day.

(vi) Community Infrastructure Levy

(cf 5.13(v)/14) It was noted that no views had been submitted, on behalf of the Council, on the preliminary draft charging schedule to be adopted by the District Council for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Mr T M Perchard reported orally on the briefing session on CIL, pointing out that a parish council would be entitled to a proportion of the CIL which was paid in respect of development in the parish concerned, towards the cost of infrastructure improvements: a greater proportion would be paid if there was neighbourhood plan in place. That said, Mr Perchard observed that the District Council did not yet have answers to many of the questions posed at the seminar.

(vii) Negotiations with developers and landowners

The Head of Planning of the District Council, by letter, urged parish and town councils to allow his Council's officers to take the lead in negotiations with potential developers, when those developers offered

to provide or fund improvements to the infrastructure of, or services available in, the area, in connection with development proposals, related both to planning applications or neighbourhood plan preparation.

(viii) Neighbourhood Planning Conference

In a letter, the District Council's Head of Planning enquired as to interest in a neighbourhood planning conference which his Council was thinking of promoting in March 2015.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be advised that the Council would be likely to send 2 delegates to a neighbourhood planning conference in March 2015, preferably held at the weekend.

(ix) Rural Oxfordshire Action Rally

The Council noted an invitation to participate from the Rural Oxfordshire Action Rally, a group, convened in the west of the County, to discuss and resist, in all possible ways, development because of the changes to national planning policy and the housing numbers suggested by the Strategic Housing Market Assessment. The first event was to be held in Witney on 7 December 2014.

6.12 DUCHESS OF KENT HOSPICE

In a letter, the Senior Hospice Fundraiser for the Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice in Reading asked the Council to consider making a donation to the Hospice and its day centres in Newbury and Wokingham. While Members noted that the budget for 2014/15 contained provision for grants to outside organisations, they felt that residents of the Parish were more likely to make use of the hospice facilities in Nettlebed, rather than Reading.

RESOLVED: That no grant be made to the Sue Ryder Duchess of Kent Hospice in the financial year 2014/5.

6.13 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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

6.14 CLUB SC

The Chairman of the Club SC Management Committee requested, in a letter, that the Council consider making a grant towards the running costs of Club SC, a facility for young people based at Chiltern Edge School, Sonning Common: a number of the young people were residents of the Parish. Members noted that the budget for 2014/15 contained provision for a grant of £100 to Club SC.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £100 be made to Club SC in the financial year 2013/14, but that the grant be reviewed towards the end of the financial year.

6.15 HOUSENAMING

By letter, the District Council's Head of HR, IT and Customer Services advised that the house formerly known as Shenley Lodge, Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common had been renamed Holly Blue.

6.16 EMERGENCY PLANNING

In an e-mail, an Emergency Planning Officer of the County Council gave details of emergency planning events for town and parish councils to be held in Abingdon, Banbury and Witney during November 2014.

The Clerk reported that he had responded to a questionnaire from the County Council, indicating that the

Council had a snow plan, but had no intention, at this time, to produce a wider community emergency plan.

6.17 KIDMORE END ROAD, CHALKHOUSE GREEN - HEDGES

By e-mail, Mr R Shorter of Chalkhouse Green complained about the overgrowing hedges in Kidmore End Road from Chalkhouse Green to the County boundary, to the extent that the road, had, in his opinion, been reduced to single track in parts. The Clerk had advised Mr Shorter, who had copied his e-mail to the county councillor for the Goring Division, Mr K Bulmer, that responsibility for roads, and maintaining free passage over them, rested with the County Council.

RESOLVED: That the Mr Shorter's complaint be drawn to the attention of appropriate officers of the County Council, with a request that they secure an improvement to the situation.

6.18 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

(cf 5.21/14) The Council discussed, without reaching a conclusion, the future use of the former telephone kiosks at Chalkhouse Green and Kidmore End. However, Mr H Thresher advised that he and Mr T M Perchard would arrange for any necessary repairs of the kiosks.

6.19 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was reported that the Playing Fields Committee had met on 12 November 2014, when, unfortunately, only one of the Council's representatives had been present. Concerns continued to be raised about the performance of the ground source heat pump at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion and the performance of the rain water guttering at the front of the premises.

6.20 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chairman advised that officers of the County Council had told her that a wider highway drainage gulley was to be installed at Kidmore End pond.

APPENDIX

Comments on planning application P14/S3230/O

The Council considers that the application should be **REFUSED** for the following reasons:

- 1 The site lies immediately adjacent to the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The proposed site would extend the limits of the built development into the countryside adjoining Sonning Common and would detract from the setting of the beauty of this area. Within the District Council's Core Strategy, policies CSEN1 and CSR1 are supportive of protecting AONB.
- 2 The Council is represented on the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Party (SCNDPWP). As such, the Council is fully supportive of the work undertaken by this group. The neighbourhood plan is under consultation and is nearing completion. This application is undermining to the process of neighbourhood planning and, in doing so, conflicts with the aims of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to give local communities an opportunity to plan development: the introduction to the NPPF 2012 states

"It provides a framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities."
- 3 The District Council is supportive of the Government's initiative for neighbourhood plans as documented in NPPF: its website states, at <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/neighbourhood-plans>,

"Neighbourhood planning is the government's initiative of trying to empower local communities to help make and take forward planning proposals at a local level. The idea being that local people will drive, and then help to shape, how their local communities grow and develop over the next coming years."
- 4 The area within this application is known as SON 5 in the SCNDPWP consultation documents. SON 5 so far has not been short-listed for inclusion in the Neighbourhood Plan. There has been extensive local consultation as recommended within the NPPF and which is consistent with the District Council's Core Strategy 2012. The NPPF encourages local communities to develop a neighbourhood plan, giving a voice to residents. This application does not support this government process of planning.
- 5 The Council to date endorses the process followed by SCNDPWP and views this application as not showing respect to the integrity and robustness of the data and analysis carried out by SCNDPWP.