

## KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 21 January 2015 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.10pm.

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

Also present: R Simister (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Hall, Mrs S J Hunter, Mrs K J Rolfe.

### 8.01 MINUTES

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

### 8.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- the appointment of the Chief Fire Officer as OBE by Her Majesty the Queen;
- current and proposed transport improvement works (although none were in southern South Oxfordshire);
- his Council's budget proposals for 2015/16;
- collaboration by his Council with Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire County Councils to unlock further economic growth;
- the consultation on the children and young people's plan;
- the consultation on fees paid by his Council to care homes.

### 8.03 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

Although there was no report from the Police, it was reported that the local PCSO was engaging with Kidmore End School about parking issues.

### 8.04 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Mr & Mrs Yeoman of Tokers Green enquired as to how they could contact the District Council, following the serious fire at that Council's offices, earlier in the month.

### 8.05 WEBSITE

(cf 7.10/14) Members were advised that the Council's website had been "taken down", due to difficulties with the domain name, kepc.info. The Chairman, the webmaster and the Clerk had been made approaches to the UK registrant of the name, to no avail, and help from the ultimate "owner" of the name, in the United States of America, had provided difficult to access. As a result, in order to restore a web presence, the Chairman had authorised the registration of another domain name – kepc.co.uk. The Webmaster had arranged this, at minimal cost, and the web presence had been restored – all past material could be viewed and downloaded.

The Chairman pointed out that some Members had yet to provide biographies and/or photographs for the website.

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

#### 8.06 CANE END ALLOTMENTS – WATER SUPPLY

(cf 7.17/14) By letter, Caversham Solicitors Ltd indicated their willingness to act for the Council in respect of the easement for a water supply pipe to the allotments at Cane End. The Company's fees were estimated at £500 + VAT, and disbursements. Members considered the estimated charges to be acceptable.

#### 8.07 HAZELMOOR LANE, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - FLOODING

(cf 7.18/14) Mr R S Young provided, by e-mail, a quotation, on behalf of Vines Farm, for clearing the highway ditch adjacent to the allotments in Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common, in the sum of £450. However, Mr Young expressed surprise that responsibility for the ditch fell upon the Council, as adjacent land owner.

RESOLVED: That, subject to confirmation that maintenance of the ditch is the responsibility of the Council, and notwithstanding Financial Regulation 11.1(h), the contract for clearing the highways' ditch adjacent to the allotments at Gallowstree Common be let to Vines Farm in the sum of £450.

#### 8.08 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £29,873.51.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

R F Penfold - Photocopying agenda papers	£10.00
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(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 31 December 2014, against the approved budget for 2014/15. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £1038, excluding capital payments and if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

(iv) Loan repayments

By letter, the Secretary of the Public Works Loan Board in the UK Debt Management Office asked the Council to consider making its bi-annual repayments on the loan (for the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion) by direct debit, which he advised was a secure and convenient way to pay on time, and was free of charge to the payer. The Council noted that its Financial Regulations (see 6.6) allowed payment for utility supplies (energy, telephone and water) by variable direct debit. Otherwise payments should be by cheque.

RESOLVED: That, notwithstanding Financial Regulations 6.1 and 6.6, periodic repayments to the Public Works Loan Board, in respect of the loan relating to the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, be made by variable direct debit.

#### 8.09 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Action of Plans Sub-Committee

The Council noted a copy of a letter from Mr & Mrs J Manners of Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green, expressing opposition to the application for development at Farthings, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse

Green.

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

proposed first floor and rear extensions, porch extension, new front carport and erection of a rear orangery at Farthings, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green.

(ii) Applications

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

The Council noted an e-mail from Mrs J MacGregor of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, expressing opposition to the application for development at Chippendale Lodge, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green.

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made on the application for construction of 3 detached houses with parking following demolition of existing house at Chippendale Lodge, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green for Country Homes: "Refuse, because

- 3 houses represents overdevelopment of the site
- the density of the proposed properties is out of keeping with Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green
- proposed house H1 is unneighbourly, being too close to the northern boundary of the site
- garden trees will be lost
- significant additional traffic will be generated on the narrow, unclassified, Tokers Green Lane".

#### 8.10 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr R Simister, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, reported on the steps being taken by his Council to recover from the catastrophic fire at its headquarters in Crowmarsh Gifford on 15 January 2015. The premises and their contents had been almost totally destroyed. While it was expected that all data held electronically could be recovered, active documents, for example planning applications yet to be registered, would have been lost. Amongst other measures, his Council had extended consultation periods for current planning applications by 2 weeks.

Mr Simister was also pleased to announce that officers of his Council had found sufficient funds for the repair of the path from Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End to the cemetery.

#### 8.11 CHILTERN'S AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

The Council was reminded that, whilst most of the Parish fell within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), some areas at the south of Parish were not included in the AONB. Members felt that inclusion of these latter areas would afford greater protection against development there.

RESOLVED: That securing a revision of the boundaries of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, to include the whole of the Parish, be explored.

#### 8.12 OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH & VALE CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU

The Bureau Director of the Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens' Advice Bureau, in a letter, requested the Council to consider making a grant to the Bureau. The Council noted that the budget for 2014/15 contained provision for a grant of £90 to the Henley & District Citizens Advice Bureau.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £90 be made to the Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens' Advice

Bureau in the financial year 2014/15.

#### 8.13 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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

#### 8.14 POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES

The Chief Executive of the District Council enclosed, with a letter, a list of the proposed polling districts and polling places to come into effect for the elections in May 2015, which his Council had to settle by 31 January 2015. The Council noted that there remained one polling district for the Parish, with the polling place remaining as the Parish Room, Kidmore End. Members observed that the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground could be considered as a polling place.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be asked to consider the use of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground as the polling place for the Parish.

#### 8.15 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

In an e-mail, Ms S L Forde of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, expressed her interest in serving as a member of the Council, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation, in 2013, of Mr R G McQuillan.

In a letter dated 21 January 2015, Mrs J M Williams resigned as a member of the Council.

The Clerk indicated that he would give notice of the vacancy caused by the resignation. No election could be called to fill the vacancy, as it had occurred within 6 months of the next quadrennial election, but the Council could co-opt a qualified person.

The Council considered the vacancies for Council offices caused by the resignation.

RESOLVED: 1 That Ms S L Forde be co-opted, in accordance with Section 89 of the Local Government Act 1972, to fill the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the resignation of Mr R G McQuillan.

2 That Mrs J M Williams be thanked for her service to the community as a Member of the Council since April 2012.

3 That responsibility for planning applications relating to Cane End be shared amongst other members of the Plans Sub-Committee until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2015.

4 That Mr H Thresher be appointed as an observer to the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2015.

#### 8.16 THE HEIGHTS FREE SCHOOL, CAVERSHAM

Members were reminded about the search for a permanent site for the Heights Free School, the catchment area of which was north west Caversham, in the Borough of Reading. The School had opened, in temporary premises, in September 2014, but the Education Funding Agency was seeking a permanent site. A public consultation exercise was imminent in respect of 4 possible sites in Caversham.

In an e-mail, Ms M Hatton [address not known] had drawn attention to comments on social media about the possibility of a site in the Parish being considered for the school – land forming part of Dysons Wood Farm, Tokers Green, believed to be adjacent to the junction of Kidmore Road and Gravel Hill, Caversham.

#### 8.17 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had met on 14 January 2015, when

- it had been reported that the heating system in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion had been repaired;
- it was noted that there had been some instances of lighting being on in the building unexpectedly, apparently as a result of faults;
- procedures designed further to reduce electricity consumption in the building had been agreed;
- a revised draft service level agreement with the Cricket and Football Clubs had been circulated;
- it was agreed to advertise the Pavilion on social networks, like Facebook;
- it had agreed to take steps to repair the entrance drive to the Recreation Ground.

#### 8.18 PARISH NEWSLETTER

The Chairman reported that Dr B J Knapp had resigned as a member of the Editorial Board of the Parish Newsletter.

RESOLVED: 1 That Dr B J Knapp be thanked for his service to the community as a member of the Editorial Board of the Parish Newsletter since February 2009.

2 That Ms C D Aldridge be appointed as a member of the Editorial Board of the Parish Newsletter until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2015.