

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 18 February 2015 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.10pm.

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

Also present: K Bulmer (county councillor), R Simister (district councillor).

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

9.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correction of the name "Caversham" in Minute 8.16.

9.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- innovative working by his Council, eg joint working with other councils and with the NHS;
- his Council signing a local growth deal with the Government and the Local Enterprise Partnership to create 6000 jobs and 4000 homes across the County by 2021;
- consultation on the Local Transport Plan;
- consultation on school admission policies.

Mr Bulmer reported orally that his Council had received a petition for the provision of a third bridge over the Thames in the vicinity of Reading. The Council would respond to the petition, in due course, in accordance with its standing orders. Mr Bulmer felt that the project would be stymied unless funding was forthcoming, from sources external to local government.

Mr Bulmer also commented that his Council had not been approached by the Education Funding Agency regarding the 5th possible site for the Heights Free School, which was in Oxfordshire (see Minute 9.10). His Council had, however, been consulted about the principle of the establishment of the Free School in 2013.

9.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr R Simister, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, reported on the steps being taken by his Council to provide replacement offices, following the virtual total destruction of its headquarters.

Mr Simister also reported that his Council had not been approached by the Education Funding Agency about the 5th possible site for the Heights Free School.

Mr Simister advised that he expected the works to the path to Kidmore End cemetery to be completed before 31 March 2015.

9.04 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

Although there was no report from the Police, it was noted that burglaries had been committed in Gallowstree Common and Tokers Green.

9.05 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, which was extended to 15 minutes with the consent of the Council,

Mr M Foxton of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green
Mr & Mrs J Houghton of Tokers Green
Mr Kendal of Kidmore Road, Caversham
Mr & Mrs M Pemble of Shepherds Lane, Caversham

expressed opposition to the prospect of the Heights Free School being sited at Farthingworth Green, ie on land north east of the junction of Tokers Green Lane and Gravel Hill, Caversham. They reported the raising of a petition against the possibility, the creation of a "Save Farthingworth Green" campaign group and their contact with civil servants from the Education Funding Agency.

9.06 WEBSITE

(cf 8.05/15) It was reported that the former domain name – kepc.info – had been acquired by the Webmaster, when it had come back onto the market, for a minimal consideration.

It was noted that further biographies of Members, and/or photographs, were available on the website.

9.07 HAZELMOOR LANE, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - FLOODING

(cf 8.07/15) The Clerk reminded the Council of his research that, under common law, the occupier of land adjoining highways had a duty to maintain roadside ditches. Accordingly, he had instructed Vines Farm to clear the highway ditch adjacent to the allotments in Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common. However, before the contractor could start the works, the ditch had been cleared by or on behalf of the County Council. As a result, Vines Farm had not proceeded.

9.08 KIDMORE END CEMETERY

(cf 8.10/14) By letter, the Economic Development Team Manager of the District Council, advised that, despite having no ownership responsibility for the path, and as a gesture of goodwill, her Council had agreed to undertake the works to the path from Tokers Green Lane to Kidmore End cemetery. She had instructed the in-house engineering team to execute the work, and expected it to be completed by 31 March 2015. The Economic Development Team Manager acknowledged that the Council had agreed to contribute to the cost.

9.09 CHILTERN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

(cf 8.11/15) The Chairman circulated a map showing the boundary of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in the Parish. She advised that she had arranged a meeting with a planning officer at the Chilterns Conservation Board to discuss the possible adjustment to the boundary: the Board was engaged on a review of the boundary, although any resulting changes would not be implemented for about 5 years. The Clerk observed that it might be helpful to discover why some parts of the Parish had not been included in the AONB when it had been created, in the 1960s.

9.10 THE HEIGHTS FREE SCHOOL, CAVERSHAM

(cf 8.16/15) Members were again 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

Members' attention was drawn to reports, in the broadcast and print media, that the Education Funding Agency (EFA) had introduced a fifth site in the consultation, which was loosely described as Dysons Wood Farm, Tokers Green. Informal advice was that the land in question lay adjacent to, and to the north east of, the junction of Kidmore Road, Shepherds Lane, Tokers Green Lane and Gravel Hill. The land was, therefore, in the Parish.

The Council noted the public consultation which Reading Borough Council was mounting, at the request

of the EFA, concerning the permanent site for the School. That exercise had been delayed, because of the identification of the 5th site.

RESOLVED: That Reading Borough Council be requested to treat the Council as a stakeholder in connection with the consultation exercise and to add residents of the Parish to the constituency for the consultation, or, at the very least, the residents of the settlement of Tokers Green

9.11 FINANCE

(9) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £29,866.01.

(9) Accounts for payment

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

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| Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens' Advice Bureau – Grant | £90.00 |
| Chiltern Society – Subscription | £25.00 |
| Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – Subscription | £40.00 |
| Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments | £131.40 |
| Caversham Solicitors Ltd – Advance of fee for water supply easement | £200.00 |
| R F Penfold – Photocopying agenda papers | £9.00 |

9.12 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

erection of a replacement porch at Bellcote, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
installation of 4 floodlights on 8m high poles at Reading Abbey RFC, Peppard Road, Emmer Green;
erection of 2 storey side and single storey front extensions at Byways, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;
erection of new dwelling with attached garage served by existing vehicular access at Little Orchard, Park Lane, Cane 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:

erection of new dwelling with attached garage served by existing vehicular access at Little Orchard, Park Lane, Cane End;
alterations to existing roof, new dormers, new rooflights, new windows and doors at Manton House, Cane End;
proposed clear glass in windows in loft conversion at Great Oaks, Beech Road, Tokers Green.

(iii) Chippendale Lodge, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green

(cf 8.09(ii)/14) The Council noted a copy of a letter from Mr & Mrs M Stafford of Elm Road, Tokers Green, to the District Council, expressing opposition to the application for demolition of Chippendale

Lodge, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, and erection of 3 houses on the site..

(iv) South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031

(cf 3.14 (iii)/14) The Chairman reported that she had attended a briefing by the District Council on 16 February 2015 on the next stages of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan. The refined options consultation document would be issued for consultation imminently, with a closing date of 2 April 2015.

RESOLVED: That the Plans Sub-Committee consider the refined options consultation paper of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan, and recommend a response to the document for adoption at the next meeting.

(v) Neighbourhood Planning Conference

(cf 6.11(viii)/14) The Head of Planning of the District Council, in a letter, advised that his Council had decided to defer its conference on neighbourhood planning until September 2015. He enquired whether the Council remained interested in being represented at the conference.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be advised that up to 3 members were likely to attend the neighbourhood planning conference.

(vi) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan

(cf 7.13(iii)/14) Mr I G C Pearson reported on attendance of the public at the public exhibitions about the draft Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan on 6 and 7 February 2015. The Clerk to the Sonning Common Parish Council had circulated the draft plan for consultation until 20 March 2015.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the draft Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan be deferred to the next meeting.

9.13 STRUCTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Leader of the County Council, in a letter, drew attention to work he had commissioned regarding potential financial savings that could be achieved by unitary government in the County.

9.14 TOWNLANDS HOSPITAL

By e-mail, the Town Clerk of Henley Town Council invited the Council to appoint a member to serve on the Townlands Steering Group, a community group which was a sub-committee of his Council, comprising councillors, doctors and prominent members of the public. Its role was to oversee the project to a build a new hospital, nursing home, assisted living residences and key worker housing on the site of the present Townlands Hospital, Henley,

RESOLVED: That the Chairman be appointed to serve on the Townlands Steering Group.

9.15 ALEXANDER DEVINE BERKSHIRE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE SERVICE

In an e-mail, the Trusts and Foundations Fundraiser for the Alexander Devine Berkshire's Children's Hospice Service asked the Council to consider making a donation to the Service which provided a children's hospice in the Thames Valley, indicating that there were 100 children in South Oxfordshire with life-limiting conditions. While Members noted that the budget for 2014/15 contained provision for grants to outside organisations, they felt that the service provided was largely Berkshire-centric.

RESOLVED: That no grant be made to the Alexander Devine Berkshire's Children's Hospice Service in the financial year 2014/5.

9.16 RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION

The Community Service Manager for Great Western Electrification at Network Rail, explained, in a letter, the dangers posed by the equipment being installed, from February 2015, to electrify the Great Western main line from London to Bristol and beyond. Noting that the line did not pass through the Parish, Members nevertheless recognised that it would be dangerous for anyone to come within 2.75m of the overhead wires, supporting masts, cables and other elements.

9.17 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in January 2015, and, in particular reference to a legislative reform order, under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007, allowing parish councils to receive meeting agenda electronically.

RESOLVED: That consideration of this matter be deferred to the Annual Meeting in 2015.

9.18 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

A Principal Transport Planner of the County Council reported that "Connecting Oxfordshire", the local transport plan 2015 – 2031, had been published for consultation. The plan included area strategies for locations likely to be affected by growth, ideas for improving transport and strategies for cycling, freight and bus transport.

RESOLVED: That "Connecting Oxfordshire" be referred to the Transport Sub-Committee, with a view to the Sub-Committee making recommendations (if necessary) for comments on the Local Transport Plan.

9.19 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2015

The District Council's Returning Officer set out, in a letter, the timetable for the parish council elections in 2015. Notice of election would be given by no later than 30 March 2015, the closing date for delivery of nominations (by hand only) would be 9 April and the poll, in contested elections, would take place on 7 May, at the same time as the Parliamentary and District Council election polls. The count for contested parish council elections would take place on 9 May. The Returning Officer would provide a supply of nomination papers to the Clerk.

9.20 CLUB SC

(cf 6.14/14) In an e-mail, Mrs C Y Viney, the Chairman of the Management Committee of Club SC, thanked the Council for its grant to the Club.

9.21 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was noted that the Playing Fields Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council.

9.22 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 18 March 2015 at 7.30pm.

9.23 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to questions, the Chairman

A advised that the affordable housing units in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common had been handed over, by the contractors, to Soha Ltd that day, and that all were let or sold;

- B indicated that she proposed to seek quotations for the replacement of some of the oak posts around Kidmore End pond, and that she and Vice-Chairman had pollarded the willows at the pond;
- C noted that the Rector, the Rev Canon G Foulis-Brown, was to retire in September 2015, and that the Parochial Church Council was engaged in the recruitment of a successor.