

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 18 March 2015 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.05pm.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Ms S L Forde, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mrs K J Rolfe, R Simister (district councillor),

10.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correction of the year "2015" in Minute 9.12(iv).

10.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- his Council's budget for 2015/16;
- the report of the independent Serious Case Review into child sexual exploitation in Oxfordshire;
- the Oxfordshire school nurse programme;
- his Council's decision to make the post of chief executive redundant;
- further funding - £5.1m - for the delivery of high speed fibre Broadband in the County;

10.03 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

The Council noted the [Police] Henley Sector Neighbourhood Team Newsletters for February and March 2015, supplied by PCSO C Boyes of the Thames Valley Police. Members commented on a number of burglaries in various parts of the Parish since the last meeting of the Council.

10.04 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Mr M Pemble of Shepherds Lane, Caversham, reported on the activities of "Save Farthingworth Green" campaign group and the imminent public meeting about the consultation on the selection of a permanent site for the Heights Free School.

10.05 KIDMORE END CEMETERY

(cf 9.08/15) The Economic Development Manager of the District Council indicated, in an e-mail, that the work on the footpath between Tokers Green Lane and the Kidmore End cemetery would be undertaken in the week commencing 7 April 2015. The work would include:

- cutting back all hedgerows and trimming back undergrowth;
- excavating and removing any spoil to achieve a 2 metre width;
- excavating and removing all broken tarmac or tree roots;
- supplying and laying regulating tarmac to form correct levels.

10.06 CHILTERN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

(cf 9.09/15) The Chairman reported on a meeting with a planning officer at the Chilterns Conservation Board about the possible adjustment to the boundary of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in the Parish. The officer had confirmed that a review of the boundary was

intended, but was unlikely to occur in the near future. The Chairman suggested that the Council could approach Natural England (the relevant statutory body) requesting a review.

RESOLVED: That, in principle, a review be sought of the boundary of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Parish.

10.07 THE HEIGHTS FREE SCHOOL, CAVERSHAM

(cf 9.10/15) In an e-mail, the Head of Education of Reading Borough Council explained that he had discussed the Council's approach, regarding 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, with the Education Funding Agency (EFA). He explained that the Council was operating the consultation exercise about the site selection on behalf of the EFA, while the Agency was liaising with stakeholders.

The Head of Education indicated that his Council would distribute the letter about the consultation, already being delivered to all properties in Reading and Mapledurham, to households in the Parish, on provision of a list of streets. The Clerk reported that he had provided such a list. The Head of Education also undertook to provide analysis of the responses to the consultation by residents of the Parish, on provision of a list of relevant postcodes. Finally, the Head of Education undertook to forward all correspondence received from the Council on the subject to the EFA.

The Chairman reported her approaches to a named officer at the EFA, asking for further information about the identification of the site in the Parish, to which she had received neither acknowledgement nor reply. She enquired whether Members supported the submission of a complaint about this, but it was felt best to let the matter lie pro tem.

It was reported that Sonning Common Parish Council had passed a resolution opposing the use of the site at Farthingworth Green, in this Parish.

Members were reminded that the public meeting, about the public consultation, would be held in Reading on 25 March 2015.

Finally, Members discussed the Council's position regarding the use of the site at Farthingworth Green, and the use of any of the other potential sites. Members were unanimous in their opposition to the use of the site in the Parish.

RESOLVED: 1 That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman represent the Council at the public meeting concerning the consultation on the permanent site for the Heights Free School, Caversham, and be authorised to settle any questions to be asked at the meeting on behalf of the Council.

2 That residents be encouraged, via the website, to participate in the public consultation exercise.

3 That the Council limit any comments on the permanent site for the School to the site in the Parish.

4 That the selection of the site at Farthingworth Green for the Heights Free School be opposed.

10.08 TOWNLANDS HOSPITAL

(cf 9.14/15) The Chairman reported that she had attended a meeting of the Townlands Steering Group, the community group which was overseeing the project to build a new hospital, nursing home, assisted living residences and key worker housing on the site of the present Townlands Hospital, Henley. The Chairman indicated that representatives of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had been expected to report to the meeting on the proposed provision, but had been unable to provide such a presentation.

10.09 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

(cf 9.18/15) Mr J A Swift suggested, on behalf of the Transport Sub-Committee, that the Council offer no comments to the County Council in respect of "Connecting Oxfordshire", the local transport plan 2015 -2031, save to observe that the Council had road safety as a core priority, but felt that the draft plan had little relevance to this subject in respect of the southern parishes of South Oxfordshire. Mr Swift suggested, nevertheless, that the County Council should be advised that the Council believed that the prospect of a third bridge across the River Thames, in the vicinity of Reading, should continue to be a significant issue for the County Council, and that that Council should continue to appraise the District Council, and the parish councils in the southern part of South Oxfordshire, on any developments on this matter.

RESOLVED: That comments as set out above be submitted to the County Council.

10.10 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 10 March 2015.

RESOLVED: 1 That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 3.5, the unspent budgetary provision in the financial year 2014/15 under the following budget heads be carried forward, on 31 March 2015, into the financial year 2015/16

Pavilion project – architect's fees
Water supply to Cane End allotments
Clerk's salary
Clerk's expenses
Postages
Telephones
Hire of accommodation for meetings.

2 That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 3.5, the following sum be carried forward, on 31 March 2015, into the budget for the financial year 2015/16:

Wreath	£70.
--------	------

3 That a further grant of £150 be paid to Club SC in the financial year 2014/15.

10.11 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £29,394.13.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Mapledurham Parish Council – Grant towards upkeep of Rokeby Recreation Ground	£105.00
Club SC – Further grant	£150.00
R F Penfold – Expenses (2013/14)	£231.60
R F Penfold – Photocopying agenda papers	£12.25

10.12 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the application for alterations to existing roof, new dormers, new rooflights and new windows and doors at Manton House, Cane End had been permitted conditionally, and that the application for proposed clear glass in windows in loft conversion at Great Oak, Beech Road, Tokers Green had been refused.

(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 single storey rear and front extensions, including raising the roof to facilitate accommodation in the loft, and internal alterations at New Barn, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
alterations and additions to existing 2-storey house and double garage at Dysons Wood House, Dysons Wood, Tokers Green;
proposed first floor front and rear extensions, porch extensions, alterations to garage and erection of new orangery at Farthings, 15 Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green (amended plan).

(iii) South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031

(cf 3.14 (iii)/14) The Council considered a draft response, prepared by the Plans Sub-Committee, to the refined options consultation paper of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan: the draft had previously been circulated to all Members.

RESOLVED: That, subject to some minor amendments, the circulated draft response to the refined options consultation paper of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan be adopted and sent to the District Council.

(iv) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan

(cf 9.12(vi)/15) The Council considered the draft Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan which had previously been circulated to all Members.

RESOLVED: That the draft Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan be endorsed.

(v) Community Infrastructure Levy

(cf 6.11(vi)/14) By letter the District Council's Head of Planning sought comments on his Council's Draft Charging Schedule for the Community Infrastructure Levy, which set out the proposed charging rates for developments. Comments were requested by 26 March 2015.

10.13 POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES

(cf 8.14/15) By e-mail, the Chief Executive of the District Council advised that he would prefer to use the Parish Room as the polling place for the Parish, as it was central to the parish, and, therefore, more convenient for voters.

10.14 ENRYCH OXFORDSHIRE

The Branch Manager of ENRYCH Oxfordshire, a charity which ran a project for the benefit of adults with a physical disability in the County, asked the Council, in a letter, to consider making a contribution of £500 to the organisation. The organisation was supporting 220 people in the County, one

of whom came from the Parish. Members noted that the budget for 2014/15 contained provision for unspecified grants, of which £350 remained unspent.

RESOLVED: That, due to the imminence of the end of the financial year, no grant be made to ENRYCH Oxfordshire in the financial year 2014/15, but that the organisation be advised that the Council was likely again to consider grants in October 2015.

10.15 CANE END ALLOTMENTS – WATER SUPPLY

(cf 8.06/15) In answer to an enquiry from Caversham Solicitors Ltd, it was

RESOLVED: That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to sign, on behalf of the Council, the easement document relating to the water supply pipe to the Cane End allotments.

10.16 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in February 2015.

10.17 TOKERS GREEN LANE, TOKERS GREEN

In an e-mail, the Deputy Director-Commercial of the County Council gave notice that Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green would be closed temporarily, under the provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, on 14 April 2015, for a maximum period of one week, to facilitate new gas service works in the vicinity of the property known as Hollywood. Diversions would be signed via Mill Lane, the A4074 road and Rokeby Drive for the duration of the closure. The Clerk reported that a message about the closure was included on the website.

10.18 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was reported that the Playing Fields Committee had met on 11 March 2015, when discussions of the service level agreement between the Committee and Cricket and Football Clubs had almost been concluded.

10.19 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

The Vice-Chairman reported on a meeting she had attended concerning automatic enrolment for workplace pensions. The Chairman advised that she had attended a conference on the retention of public houses as community assets.