

## KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 22 April 2015 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.25pm.

Present: Ms S M Biggs (Chairman), Ms C D Aldridge (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S Hall, Mrs S J Hunter, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, I G C Pearson, H Thresher.

Also present: R Simister (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Ms S L Forde, T M Perchard, Mrs K J Rolfe, J A Swift QC.

### 11.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 11.02 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 success in bidding for £12.9m of Government funding for street lighting, road drainage and carriageway condition;
- a new multi-purpose fire tender acquired by the Fire & Rescue Service;
- 91% of pupils entering secondary school in September 2015 being allocated a place at their first choice school;
- the Dial-a-Ride service, where a new contractor had been appointed;
- the extension of better Broadband in the County.

### 11.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- officers of his Council had had no contact from the Education Funding Agency about the possible siting of the Heights Free School at Farthingworth Green: he had asked planning officers to ensure that the Agency were aware of his Council's planning policies for the area;
- the path to the cemetery had been repaired by his Council: Members thanked Mr Simister for securing this;
- there would be district and parish council elections on 7 May 2015;
- his Council had arranged a survey of the impact of the fire on the buildings at its headquarters and that a temporary headquarters, for 2 to 3 years, would be established at Milton Park.

RESOLVED: That Mr R Simister be thanked for his help and support over the past 4 years.

### 11.04 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

The Council noted the [Police] Henley Sector Neighbourhood Team Newsletter for April 2015, supplied by PCSO C Boyes of the Thames Valley Police, and a poster identifying the members of the local Police team. Members commented on a number of burglaries in various parts of the Parish since the last meeting of the Council.

In an e-mail, Supt A Boyd, the commander of the South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse Local Police Area (LPA) of the Thames Valley Police, reported on a number of issues relating to his area,

particularly a reduction of 6% in crime, with a 32% reduction in burglaries of dwellings in the LPA, and 31 % detection rate, and a detection rate of 58% in violence against the person with injury. Mr Boyd indicated that he would be leaving his role, to take up a post elsewhere.

#### 11.05 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session,

- Mr M Foxton of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green asked whether there had been any reply from the Education Funding Agency to the Council's letter (see Minute 11 .08) about the Heights Free School [answer – “No”] and observing that, to date, there appeared to have been no action by the County and District Councils regarding the possible use of Farthingworth as the site of the school;
- Mr K Brooks of Whitchurch, introduced himself as a candidate in the election for district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch Ward.

#### 11.06 KIDMORE END CEMETERY

(cf 10.05/15) It was noted that the footpath between Tokers Green Lane and the Kidmore End cemetery had been resurfaced, and Members expressed satisfaction with the work. An employee of Monson Engineering Ltd, the District council's contractors, commented, by e-mail, that the path should stay in good condition for many years, especially if the occupiers of adjoining properties cut back their hedges and control weeds on those properties.

#### 11.07 CHILTERN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

(cf 10.06/15) Pending obtaining a suitable map of the area, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the review of the boundary of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the Parish be deferred to the next meeting.

#### 11.08 THE HEIGHTS FREE SCHOOL, CAVERSHAM

(cf 10.07/15) Following the last meeting and informal contact with other Members, the Chairman had adopted, as a matter of urgency, the motion set out in the Appendix hereto about the search for a permanent site for the Heights Free School, Caversham. As required by the resolution in the motion, the Clerk notified the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and Reading Borough Council of the decision taken. The Head of Education of Reading Borough Council had acknowledged receipt of the letter.

The Clerk had sent copies of the letter to the Chief Executives of the County and District Councils, and to the Editor of the “Henley” Standard”. The Director of Children, Education and Families of the County Council had replied that his Council had corresponded with the EFA at an earlier stage about the potential negative impact of the opening of the school might have on existing primary schools in Oxfordshire.

In addition, again following informal contact with other Members, the Chairman had complained in writing to the Secretary of State for Education about the failure of a named officer of the EFA to respond to her request for further information about the identification of the site in the Parish. The South West and South East Regional Head of Free School Capital at the EFA had replied to the Chairman, apologising that the Agency had not previously responded to the Chairman's enquiries.

The Chairman reported on the public meeting concerning the consultation on the permanent site for the School.

It was suggested that the Council respond to the consultation, in the terms agreed at the last meeting.

RESOLVED: 1 That the action of the Chairman be approved and confirmed.

2 That, in response to the public consultation about the selection of the permanent site for the Heights Free School, Reading Borough Council be advised that Council considers that the Dysons Wood Farm site (otherwise known as Farthingworth Green) to be inappropriate for the Heights Free School, and opposes that site, because the site is beyond the Council's understanding of the catchment area for the school, is outside of the principal local government area which includes that catchment area, and, as the site is in Oxfordshire, the Council understands that Oxfordshire County Council would be responsible for admissions to the School.

#### 11.09 FINANCE

##### (i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £46,523.17.

##### (ii) Accounts for payment

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

Oxfordshire Association of Locals Councils – Subscription	£239.21
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£25.12
Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – Subscription	£65.00
R F Penfold – Photocopying agenda papers	£15.00

##### (iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, at year end, against the approved budget for 2014/15. The report showed an underspend of £111.

#### 11.10 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

##### (i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally:

proposed first floor front and rear extensions, porch extension, alterations to garage and erection of a rear orangery at Farthings, 15 Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;  
alterations and additions to existing 2 storey house and double garage at Dysons Wood House, Dysons Wood Lane, Tokers Green.

##### (ii) Actions 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 action, be approved:

outline application for erection of 33 dwellings including means of access and layout on land at Kennylands Road, Sonning Common (amended plan) [Parish of Sonning Common];  
raising front roof and constructing new rooms in roof space at Tokers, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;  
change of use of rear field from a golf driving range to equestrian use for the property and retention of existing access at Kidmore Farm, Tanners Lane, Kidmore End;  
creation of new access to serve paddocks and rear field at Kidmore Farm, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;  
installation of air source heat pump at Leawood, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;  
single storey side and rear extensions at Brambles, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;

construction of 3 detached houses with parking following demolition of existing dwelling at Chippendale Lodge, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green (amended plan).

#### 11.11 HOUSING AT PADDICK CLOSE, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 9.23A/15) By letter, Mr A K Martin of Wyfold Lane, Gallowstree Common commented favourably on the houses and flats at Paddick Close, Gallowstree Common, which were all occupied. However, he enquired whether all the occupants of the dwellings met the local connection test required under the Section 106 agreement attached to the planning permission for the development, which had been on the basis that the land was a rural exception site, for affordable housing.

RESOLVED: That enquiries be made of Soha Ltd as to whether the occupants of the houses and flats at Paddick Close, Gallowstree Common met the local connection test.

#### 11.12 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS, 2015

(cf 9.19/15) The Clerk reported that, according to the District Council's website, the Returning Officer had received 8 nominations by the closing date for the receipt of nominations for the election of 12 parish councillors – from Dr C D Aldridge, Ms S M Biggs, Ms S L Forde, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mr I G C Pearson, Mr T M Perchard, Mr J A Swift and Mr H Thresher. There would, therefore, be no poll on 7 May 2015, the election being uncontested.

#### 11.13 KIDMORE END CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Headteacher of Kidmore End CE Primary School advised, in an e-mail, that the School had been successful in its bid for capital funding from the Diocese to replace the year 5 classroom building, which had been erected, as a temporary structure, in 1969. It was planned to replace the classroom with a double classroom modular building.

The Chairman reported that School would shortly install a publicly-accessible defibrillator on the wall of the building adjacent to the car park of the New Inn.

#### 11.14 STREET NAMING

By letter, the District Council's Head of HR, IT & Customer Services reported that her Council could not replace the street nameplate for "Tokers Green Lane" at Kidmore End well, because the road had not been named "officially", according to her Council's records. She explained that, prior to modern legislation, the Royal Mail had not always included street names in the addresses of properties. It appeared that the length of road from the well to the junction with Mill Lane fell into that category.

The Head of HR, IT & Customer Services indicated that she was prepared to initiate procedures under the Oxfordshire Act 1985 to have the length of road formally named, which would involve a public consultation exercise.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be requested to initiate the procedures for the thoroughfare from the well in Kidmore End to the junction with Mill Lane to be named "Tokers Green Lane".

#### 11.15 HOUSENAMING

By letter, the District Council's Head of HR, IT and Customer Services advised that the house formerly known as Hollywood, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green had been renamed Mapleview.

#### 11.16 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local

Councils in March 2015.

#### 11.17 CHILTERNES CONSERVATION BOARD

By e-mail, the Administration Officer of the Chilterns Conservation Board gave notice of a forthcoming vacancy for a parish member representing Oxfordshire on the Board, as one of the existing members was retiring at parish council elections in May 2015.

#### 11.18 HORSEPOND ROAD, GALLOWSTREE COMMON -VEHICLE SPEEDS

In an e-mail, Ms F Ives of Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common drew attention to the volume and speed of traffic in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, and suggesting the installation of further traffic calming measures on that road.

RESOLVED: 1 That Ms Ives be advised of the history of traffic management in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

2 That Ms Ives' comments be forwarded to the County Council and the Police.

#### 11.19 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

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

The Chairman of the Committee reported an approach from the Cricket Club about the carpeting of the main room in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, with a view to improving the acoustics in the premises. Following discussion of the matter within the Playing Fields Committee, the Club had asked whether the Council would purchase the carpet, with the Club making a significant contribution towards its costs. Members commented that the provision of curtains might be a better method of noise attenuation.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the request of the Cricket Club be deferred to the next meeting.

#### 11.20 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

The Chairman advised that it was intended to plant a beech hedge on the south eastern boundary of the Kidmore End Play Area.

Reference was made to incidence of dog fouling in the Play Area, and it was suggested that a dog hygiene bin be installed, to encourage those walking dogs on footpath 10, through the Play Area, to collect and deposit any faeces left by their animal.

The Chairman reminded the Council that the play area, and that at Gallowstree Common, would be inspected, as usual, by RoSPA, in coming months.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be requested to install and service a dog hygiene bin at the Kidmore End Play Area.

#### 11.21 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Mrs J E O'Sullivan reported her intention to walk all of the paths in the Parish during the coming year.

It was reported that one of the stiles on footpath 15 was in a poor condition.

#### 11.22 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

The Chairman reported that she had attended another meeting of the Townlands Steering Group.

#### 11.23 AUTOMATIC ENROLMENT INTO WORKPLACE PENSIONS SCHEMES

The Council considered a report (14/15 – 2) of the Clerk advising it of its responsibilities as an employer in respect of the automatic enrolment into workplace pensions, and to enable it to make appropriate decisions in respect of those responsibilities.

RESOLVED: 1 That the Clerk be appointed as the prime contact with the Pensions Regulator for the purposes of automatic enrolment into workplace pensions schemes.

2 That the Clerk be asked formally whether he wishes to join a pension scheme in respect of his employment with the Council.

#### 11.24 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the public be excluded from the meeting, pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, during consideration of the following item on the grounds that exempt information, under paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Act shown below, would be discussed:

Item	Paragraph
Kidmore End pond – replacement posts	3

#### 11.25 KIDMORE END POND – REPLACEMENT POSTS

The Council considered quotations received for the installation of replacement posts around the pond at Kidmore End and for a new gatepost at the Kidmore End Play Area, as follows:

Pond	
Ian Kendrick Ltd	£598 + VAT
SAS Landscaping	£395 + VAT
Kidmore End Play Area	
Ian Kendrick Ltd	£295 + VAT
SAS Landscaping	£140 + VAT

RESOLVED: That the contract for replacing posts at Kidmore End pond and installing a new gatepost at the Kidmore End Play Area be let to SAS Landscaping.

**MOTION ABOUT THE HEIGHTS FREE SCHOOL, CAVERSHAM**

The Kidmore End Parish Council notes that

- (i) the Government's Education Funding Agency (EFA) has asked Reading Borough Council (RBC) to carry out a public consultation, ending on May 1st 2015, to help it [the EFA] to identify a permanent location for the Heights Free School;
- (ii) preceding any notice being given to Kidmore End Parish Council, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) or South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC), the EFA has included land at Farthingworth Green (described as Dysons Farm, land at the junction of Shepherds Lane, Tokers Green Lane and Kidmore Road) as one of five possible locations. Farthingworth Green is the only site outside the boundary of Reading Borough Council (and thus the school's educational catchment area) and is located within South Oxfordshire;
- (iii) the views of representatives of nine "campaign groups" are set out in an Information Pack prepared by the EFA and published in the week beginning March 23rd 2015;
- (iv) in particular the views of the Save Farthingworth Green campaign group succinctly define the reasons why the selection of that site would be seriously detrimental to and destroy the urban and rural balance currently safeguarded at the boundary between Reading Borough and South Oxfordshire, would involve protracted and uncertain negotiations between Reading Borough Council and local government within South Oxfordshire, including OCC (education and transport) and SODC (planning, the policies of which are directly and fundamentally opposed to this form of development, the consequences of which could only be a massive increase in residential development) and would appear to be unwelcome to the parents of children living within the Caversham Heights Free School catchment area;
- (v) the inclusion of the site has been expressly criticised as unsuitable and inappropriate by Mr John Howell MP, Sonning Common Parish Council and the Emmer Green Residents' Association and the Campaign to Protect Rural England is opposed to this site.

**AND RESOLVES THAT**

- 1 the EFA should remove the Farthingworth Green site forthwith from its list of potential permanent sites, as the combination of detriments is so great, when considered in isolation and even more when considered in comparison with other sites within the Heights Free School catchment area, as to outweigh any possible benefits; and in taking such a decision;
- 2 the EFA has all the facts before it and does not need to consider the views of the 67,000 residents contacted by RBC in order to conclude that the inclusion of the site was flawed by a lack of proper consultation with Oxfordshire local government, including Kidmore End Parish Council, and could never be a timely and practical solution to the needs of the children in the Heights Free School catchment area;
- 3 if, contrary to 1 above, the EFA continues to include the Farthingworth Green site after the consultation closes on May 1st, it should eliminate it and consider only the four sites within the RBC catchment area; and
- 4 this Resolution should be sent to the EFA, as decision maker, and Reading Borough Council.