

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 17 June 2015 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.05pm.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J E O'Sullivan, J A Swift QC, R Simister (district councillor).

2.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the substitution of the date "20 April" for "21 April" in Minute 1.23.

2.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- the reduction of grant from central government for his Council, and the resultant budget pressures on his Council;
- the consultation on subsidised bus services;
- possible additional powers devolved by Government to his Council, in connection with Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire County Councils;
- work internships for young people with special educational needs.

2.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

In presenting his apologies for absence, Mr R Simister, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, reported

- about his Council's services moving to the temporary headquarters, which would be fully operational from 29 June 2015;
- his Council's corporate services project, to retender some services and to market test other services with partner district councils from Hampshire and Somerset;
- on an overview of public health in the District, which was healthier than the national average, with higher life expectancy and lower rates of death or serious injury on roads;
- on his Council's 5 year land supply.

2.04 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

The Council noted the [Police] Henley Sector Neighbourhood Team Newsletter for June 2015, supplied by PCSO C Boyes of the Thames Valley Police, and a press release about a national rural crime survey, also supplied by PCSO Boyes. The Chairman undertook to complete the survey.

2.05 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Mr & Mrs M Pemble of Shepherds Lane, Caversham referred to the outcome of the public consultation about the permanent site of the Heights Free School, Caversham, and enquired whether the Council had received a response from the Education Funding Agency to its statement about the possible use of land at Dysons Wood Farm, Tokers Green and whether the County Council or District Councils had issued any formal statements about the possible use of that land for the School. The answers to the questions were "No".

2.06 CHILTERNNS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

(cf1.07/15) Pending the availability of a suitable scale map, 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.

2.07 CHILTERNNS CONSERVATION BOARD

(cf 1.08/15) Consideration was again given to the vacancy for a parish member representing Oxfordshire on the Chilterns Conservation Board.

RESOLVED: That Ms S M Biggs be nominated to serve as a parish member representing Oxfordshire on the Chilterns Conservation Board.

2.08 PLAY AREAS

(cf 1.10/15) The Chairman reported that she, the Vice-Chairman and Mrs J E O'Sullivan had considered the reports arising from the inspections of the play areas at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and in Kidmore End.

They had undertaken some minor remedial works at both sites.

The bark in the play equipment pits at both sites needed replenishing. As a result, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had sought 2 quotations for the work. One quotation had been received, from Ian Kendrick Ltd, for the supply, and spreading, of 40 m3 of pine 18-35 play bark, in the sum of £2850. It was acknowledged that there was no specific provision in the budget for 2015/16 for this work, but that the cost could be met out of contingency funds. It was suggested that provision should be included in the budget for alternate years for refilling the equipment pits.

Signs, seeking the exclusion of dogs, had been acquired for the Gallowstree Common play area, and a replacement gate was required in the northern fence of the play area. It was proposed to seek quotations from Bouchier Fencing and Norman R Cox for a gate, which the Chairman would arrange to be hung.

It was suggested that the facility at Gallowstree Common would benefit from further reinvigoration, a matter to be examined further in 2016/17.

RESOLVED: 1 That the action of the Chairman. Vice-Chairman and Mrs J E O'Sullivan be approved and confirmed.

2 That the contract for the replenishing of the bark in the play equipment pits at the plays areas at Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End be let to Ian Kendrick Ltd.

3 That, unless alternative surfaces are installed, consideration be given, in due course, to including provision in the budget for 2017/18 for replenishing the bark in the play equipment pits.

4 That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to proceed with the acquisition of a gate for installation in the northern fence of the play area at Gallowstree Common.

2.09 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS, SUB-COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

(cf 1.11/15) The Council considered the appointment of officers etc, a matter deferred at the Annual Meeting.

RESOLVED: That the following appointments be made for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2016:

Allotments Manager	Mrs S G Hall
Wells Manager	Mrs J E O'Sullivan
Finance Sub-Committee	Ms S M Biggs, Mr I G C Pearson, Mr J A Swift
Plans Sub-Committee	Ms S M Biggs, Ms S L Forde (<i>covering Cane End</i>), Mrs S G Hall, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mr T M Perchard
Rights of Way Sub-Committee	Ms S L Forde, Mrs S J Hunter, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mr T M Perchard
Transport Sub-Committee (and Transport Representatives)	Ms S M Biggs, Mr J A Swift
Editorial Board of Newsletter	Dr C D Aldridge, Ms S L Forde, Mr D M King*, Mr A Miroso*, Mrs J Russell*
Representatives on Playing Fields Committee	Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mr I G C Pearson, Mr H Thresher
Representative on Chiltern Edge Community Association	Mr H Thresher
Representative on Oxfordshire Association Local Councils	Mrs S G Hall
Representatives on Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group	Mr I G C Pearson, Mr H Thresher
Website Liaison Councillor	Dr C D Aldridge
BroadBand Champion	Mr H Thresher

* Not a member of the Council

2.10 TOWNLANDS HOSPITAL, HENLEY

(cf 1.20/15) The Chairman reported that she and Mrs J E O'Sullivan had formulated a response, on behalf of the Council, to the consultation paper, issued by the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, about future services at Townlands Hospital. Broadly speaking, they had urged the retention of 18 beds at the hospital.

The Chairman also reported that she had attended a public meeting about the consultation at Henley Town Hall.

2.11 BROADBAND

(cf 1.21/15) Mr H Thresher restated his understanding, that the infrastructure to support faster Broadband would be installed to cabinet 5 from the Kidmore End telephone exchange by the Spring of 2017, making the service available in Kidmore End and settlements in the south of the Parish.

2.12 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £37,960.44

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Broker Network Ltd – Insurance premium	£2609.17
SAS Landscaping Ltd – Replacement posts at Kidmore End pond	£642.00

Henley Sign People Ltd – “No dogs” signs	£84.00
R F Penfold - Photocopying agenda papers	£9.30

2.13 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

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

replace existing windows in the front elevation at Old Well Cottage, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End;
single storey side and rear extensions at Brambles, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;
demolition of existing rear extension, side garage and front porch, erection of 2 storey extensions to front and side and single storey extension to rear at Chylowen, Rokeby Rive, Tokers Green.

(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:

demolition of existing rear extension and shed, erection of part 2 storey, part single storey extensions and new entrance porch at Merville, Hazelmoo Lane , Gallowstree Common;
single storey home office building at end of garden at Cobnar, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;
demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling and garage at Eriskay, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
detached 2 bay garage and garden store at Scarletts, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
2 storey rear extension, roof conversion raising the ridge height and single storey side extension at Oakdene, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green.

(Mr T M Perchard disclosed a pecuniary interest in respect of the application in respect of Oakdene, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green, under the Code of Conduct, by virtue of his ownership of an adjacent property, and withdrew from the meeting.)

(iii) District Council's 5 year housing supply position

In a letter, the District Council's Head of Planning provided an update on, and clarification of, his Council's housing supply position in the light of decisions on planning appeals, one relating to land at Benson and another relating to land at Shiplake: the Benson appeal had been upheld, that at Shiplake had been dismissed. The 5 year land supply issue was addressed by the inspector in the Shiplake appeal - he took a different view to the District Council.

The District Council's Core Strategy provided for 2 housing supply areas, one for Didcot and the other "Rest of the District". The District Council had to deliver, via the planning process, some 11487 homes between 2006 and 2027. 6300 were expected to come from Didcot and the remainder in the Rest of the District. The District Council's most recently published Housing Supply Statement indicated that there were sites capable of delivering 391 homes per year in Didcot, and 465 homes per year in the Rest of the District, ie 4 years' supply in Didcot, and 9 in the remainder of the District. Recognising the situation in Didcot, the District Council was actively working with applicants to progress development on allocated housing sites. In addition, the District Council would carefully consider its response to the appeal decisions.

Members felt that the District Council had adopted a robust stance on the matter.

2.14 HIGHWAY ISSUES

(i) Speed awareness

Mr K Isaaks of Smartwheelie gave details, in an e-mail, of his Company's range of speed awareness wheelie bin stickers, which he described as an effective way to encourage drivers to adhere to speed limits.

(ii) Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common – Highway verge

Mrs M T Graham, of Gallowstree Common, sent, with an e-mail, copies of electronic requests she had made to Soha Ltd and the District Council for the restoration of the highway verge in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, near the development at Paddick Close, following the building works.

RESOLVED: That the condition of the highway verge in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, near Paddick Close, be referred to the County Council, as highway authority.

2.15 COMMUNITY PLANS

By e-mail, the Development Officer of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council gave details of a community-led planning workshop to be held in Steventon on 15 July 2015.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be appointed to represent the Council at the workshop on community-led planning, and that their attendance be an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

2.16 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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

2.17 STREET NAMING

(cf 11.14/15) In a letter, the Head of HR, IT and Technical Services at the District Council advised that she had delivered letters to affected addresses inviting objections to the official recognition of the road between Kidmore End well and the junction with Mill Lane as Tokers Green Lane.

2.18 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

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

2.19 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

It was reported that only a half of the display on vehicle activated speed indicator device in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common operated when the device was triggered.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be requested to arrange for the repair of the vehicle activated speed indicator device.

2.20 THE HEIGHTS FREE SCHOOL, CAVERSHAM

(cf 11.08/15) The Council noted the statistical results of the consultation exercise on the selection of the permanent site for the Heights Free School, Caversham, which results had been published on the website of Reading Borough Council.

The results showed that 4376 persons had responded, including 131 who had declared addresses in the Parish. Some 70% of respondents had supported the use of the Mapledurham Playing Fields, in the Borough of Reading, for the school, with 2684 making that site their first choice. 25% of respondents supported the use of land at Dysons Wood Farm, within the Parish, although only 452 showed this as their first choice. The Mapledurham Playing Fields were the most popular site amongst many groups of respondents, eg those living in the School's catchment area. As to residents of the Parish, most of those respondents had supported the use of the Mapledurham Fields, but 2 supported the use of Dysons Wood Farm, 1 making it their first preference and 2 their second.

Members discussed what further action could be taken, pending the announcement of the decision by the Education Funding Agency as to its preferred site. Members felt that it would be prudent to ensure that the Member of Parliament was aware of the Council's position on the issue.

RESOLVED: That John Howell MP be advised of the Council's opposition to the use of land at Dysons Wood Farm, Tokers Green as the permanent site of The Heights Free School.

2.21 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

The Vice-Chairman reported that she had attended a meeting at the Church of St John the Baptist concerning the selection of a new vicar.

2.22 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to questions, the Chairman

- A requested that the future of the former telephone kiosks be discussed at the next meeting;
- B asked the Clerk to advise on the present position regarding the provision of a water supply to the Cane End allotments. The Clerk reported that solicitors acting for the owners of the land to be traversed by the proposed supply pipe were seeking to correct an anomaly in the title documents relating to that land.