

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 18 November 2015 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.40 pm.

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

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

6.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the replacement of the word "Pariah" by the word "Parish" in the fourth line of Minute 5.09.

6.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The Council noted a letter, forwarded by Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, sent by the Leader of the County Council to the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government, pressing the case for waste disposal authorities to be able to levy charges for visits to household waste recycling centres.

6.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- about his Council's newsletters for parish councils, issued bi-monthly;
- on the number of arrests resulting from the CCTV systems in Didcot, Henley, Thame and Wallingford;
- that his Council had awarded grants to a number of community projects;
- that his Council was the best performing refuse collection authority in terms of recycling waste;
- on a recent judgement overturning an inspector's dismissal of a planning appeal for development in Shiplake;
- about planning appeal decisions allowing development in Chinnor.

6.04 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

The Council noted the [Police] Henley Sector Neighbourhood Team Newsletters for November 2015, supplied by PCSO C Boyes of the Thames Valley Police.

The Chairman reported that PCSO Boyes was investigating the incidents of vandalism at the Kidmore End Play Area (see Minute 6.05), including sending items for DNA testing.

6.05 PLAY AREAS

(cf 5.06/15) The Chairman reported on 2 incidents of vandalism at the Kidmore End Play Area, since the last meeting of the Council. In the first, the play house had been defaced with obscene graffiti, and in the second, some of the play equipment had been similarly defaced. The Police had been alerted to both incidents, and had, following the second, recovered a paint spray canister for analysis.

The Chairman had repainted the play house after the first incident, obliterating the graffiti. The damage caused in the second incident awaited repair.

Members discussed how best to react to the incidents, observing that the play areas had rarely been vandalised in the past. It was felt the best course would be to ensure-wide spread knowledge of the incidents in the area, and to monitor the situation.

The Chairman also reported on her discussions with possible suppliers of further equipment for the refurbishment of the play area at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Chairman in respect of the vandalism at the Kidmore End Play Area be approved and confirmed.

6.06 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

(cf 5.07/15) Mr H Thresher advised that he was waiting for BT plc to disconnect the power supply to the kiosk before making arrangements for the re-orientation of the telephone kiosk at Kidmore End.

The Vice-Chairman mentioned a reported, but aborted, attempt at vandalism of the kiosk.

6.07 DELIVERING PUBLIC SERVICES

(cf 5.09/15) The Council received some notes, from the County Council, about the Oxfordshire Together Launch Event held on 21 September 2015, about which event the Vice-Chairman had reported at the last meeting.

It was reported that the relevant officer of the County Council had been unable to attend the meeting that evening, but offered to meet councillors on another date to discuss highway verge cutting in the Parish.

RESOLVED: That the Vice-Chairman and Mr J A Swift be appointed to meet the relevant officer of the County Council to discuss highway verge cutting in the Parish

6.08 TOWNLANDS HOSPITAL, HENLEY

(cf 5.12/15) The Council noted an update from NHS, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit, on behalf of Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), on the delay in the handover of the new Townlands Hospital building to the CCG, because works had not been completed. However, Peppard Ward, part of the "old" hospital, had been closed on 5 November, and patients discharged to care suitable for their needs.

6.09 ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END – CHURCHYARD

(cf 5.15/15) In a letter, the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council thanked the Council for its grant towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard at St John the Baptist, Kidmore End.

By e-mail, one of the Churchwardens enquired whether the Council would be prepared to divert the budgeted funds for a contribution towards the cost of repairs to the churchyard wall to a contribution towards work to the lime trees in the churchyard, requested by the County Council, as highway authority. A local contractor, familiar with the trees, had suggested that the cost of the works would be £1,200 to £1,500: that contractor was prepared to undertake the works during the last full week of November 2015.

Members noted that £518 of the budgetary provision for a grant to the Parochial Church Council for the financial year 2015/6 remained unspent, and recalled the Council's usual practice of meeting 50% of the cost of churchyard maintenance, but felt that more than one quotation should be obtained for the works. They were also minded to "ring fence" the provision for repairs to the churchyard wall.

RESOLVED: That 50% of the cost of the works required by the highways' authority to the lime trees in the church yard be met, provided that

- the Parochial Church Council seeks more than one quotation for the work, and provides details of the quotations;
- the work is completed before 31 March 2016;
- the Parochial Church Council provides a copy of the invoice for the work before 31 March 2016.

6.10 BROADBAND

(cf 5.23/15) The Clerk reported an exchange of e-mails with a resident of Kidmore End who had complained that issue 121 of the Parish Newsletter was misleading, as SuperFast Broadband was not yet available in that village. The Clerk had explained that the service was available in the Parish, at Gallowstree Common, and was expected to be available in Kidmore End by the Spring of 2017.

6.11 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £52,376.40

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

B W Brown – Works at Gallowstree Common Play Area	£67.47
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£25.12
Ian Kendrick Ltd – Mowing and works at play areas	£5,400.00
United Kingdom Debt Management Office – Loan repayment	£7,251.38*
R F Penfold - Photocopying agenda papers	£7.40
Ms S M Biggs – Paint and roller for Kidmore End play area	£29.93
Kidmore End Royal British Legion – Wreaths (2014, 2015)	£80.00

* to be paid by direct debit

6.12 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

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

demolition of existing rear extension and shed, erection of part 2 storey, part single storey rear extensions and front entrance porch at Merville, Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common;
 first floor extension to existing garage to provide staff accommodation at Kidmore Farm, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
 erection of 2 2-storey 4-bedroom dwellings and formation of hardstanding to provide extended driveway and parking at land to rear of the Old Chapel, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

(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 2-storey rear extension, rear conservatory and new front porch at Holly Tree Farm, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End;
 demolition of existing rear extension, erection of part 2-storey, part single storey rear extensions and front entrance porch at Merville, Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common (amended plan);

erection of 2 2-storey 4-bedroom dwellings and formation of hardstanding to provide extended driveway and parking on land to rear of The Old Chapel, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common (amended plan);

erection of 2-storey front, side and rear extensions with front facing dormer window and erection of detached garage at Four Winds, Chalkhouse Green (amended plan).

(iii) Planning appeal

(cf 4.16(v)/15) A copy letter from the Planning Inspectorate indicated that the inspector, appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, had allowed the appeal against the refusal of the District Council to grant planning permission for the construction of 3 detached houses with parking following demolition of Chippendale Lodge, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green.

(iv) Greenways, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common – Proposed development

(cf 5.14(iii)/15) by letter, the Head of Planning of the District Council advised that he was processing an application seeking a certificate of lawful development for a single storey rear extension with flat roof and bi-fold doors and the insertion of 7 velux roof lights to accommodate a loft conversion at Greenways, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common. He was, therefore, unable to accept any comments on the planning merits of the proposal.

(v) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan

(cf 1.15(iv)/15) The Chairman of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group attached, for comment, to 2 e-mails, the revised draft Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan (pre-submission) – October 2015 to March 2027 and the revised Sustainability Appraisal Environmental Report (Pre-Submission) October 2015. He invited comments on the documents by 4 December 2015.

The draft documents were considered by the Council. Members recalled that

- the Council had acquiesced to parts of the Parish being included in the draft Neighbourhood Plan area;
- the Council had been able to observe closely the formulation of the draft Plan, having been invited to participate in that way;
- that Sonning Common Parish Council had consulted the Council at all relevant opportunities during the process.

RESOLVED: That Sonning Common Parish Council be advised that this Council has found nothing in the revised draft Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan (pre-submission) – October 2015 to March 2027 and the revised Sustainability Appraisal Environmental Report (Pre-Submission) October 2015 to which it takes exception.

(vi) Community Infrastructure Levy

(cf 4.16(viii)/15) By e-mail, an officer from Planning Policy at the District Council referred to the consultation on that Council's Draft Section 106 Supplementary Planning Document, which had been extended to 14 November 2015.

(vii) Local List of Information Requirements

In a letter, the County Council's Director for Environment & Economy explained that the proposed update of her Council's Local List of Information Requirements for validation of planning and related applications was open for consultation until 7 December 2015.

(viii) Neighbourhood development plans

(cf 4.16(vi)/15) The Chairman reported orally on the District Council's Town and Parish Forum, which had focussed on the importance of neighbourhood development plans, in the light of recent planning appeal decisions where development had been allowed: she had previously circulated a written report about the Forum. It seemed that the District Council, and its planning officers, were concerned at the resilience of that Council's Local Plan, and had urged that neighbourhood development plans be produced across the whole District, suggesting that each settlement should identify sites for 5 to 10% additional housing units over the period of the Local Plan. In the case of the Parish, this would mean between 27 and 55 new units by 2031.

Members recalled the Council's decision in September 2015 (see Minute 4.16(vi)), to take no action presently about the production of a neighbourhood plan or plans, but that the matter be kept under review.

Members again discussed the matter fully, during which it was noted that:

- most residents of the Parish were believed to be opposed to larger scale developments, or the development of "green field" sites;
- the bulk of the Parish was within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- there was an infrastructure deficit, albeit varying, in all 5 settlements in the Parish, eg in terms of mains' sewerage, piped gas supplies, SuperFast Broadband, public transport and shopping facilities;
- there was a steady stream of additional housing units approved in the Parish, although these were treated as "windfalls";
- the housing needs' surveys undertaken on behalf of the Council had resulted in 6 units of affordable housing being completed in the Parish, in 2015;
- a site which had been in the Parish until the boundary adjustment in 2014 had been identified for housing in the draft Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan;
- the cost of producing a neighbourhood development plan was widely reported to be high, in a period when public expenditure was being significantly reduced;
- the Council did not itself have the resources, in terms of personnel, to deliver a plan or plans;
- there was no certainty that residents with the necessary expertise would volunteer to drive a development plan.

In all the circumstances, it was

RESOLVED: That the policy concerning a neighbourhood development plan or plans for the Parish remain as previously stated.

6.13 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME GRANT

In a letter, the Deputy Leader of the District Council advised that her Council's Cabinet would be recommended, at its meeting in December 2015, to cease the council tax reduction scheme grant payments from the financial year 2016/17. The scheme had been introduced by the Government with effect from 1 April 2013 to provide interim funding to town and parish councils when council tax bases fell, following the replacement of the Council Tax Benefit scheme with the Council Tax reduction scheme. The District Council would be recommended instead to use the money available to offer increased funding for neighbourhood development plans and to open up other grants for infrastructure needs.

Members noted that the Council had received grant of £262 in 2013/14, £340 in 2014/15 and £333 in the current financial year: this was the equivalent of Council Tax of 50p on a Band D dwelling.

6.14 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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

6.15 BUS SERVICES

(cf 3.15/15) By e-mail to the Editor of the Parish Newsletter, Mr D Constable of Kidmore End had extolled the value of the M1 bus service, which served Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End en route to Reading, and which he hoped would be retained in the face of the review by the County Council of subsidised bus services.

However, in an e-mail, the County Council's Cabinet Member for Environment advised that his Council's Cabinet had decided, at a meeting earlier in November 2015, to withdraw all subsidies paid to run 118 bus routes in the County, subject to approval by the Council when setting its budget for the financial year 2016/17. It was indicated in an accompanying document that the M1 service, which was operated by the County Council, would cease in June 2016. The Chairman reported that she had approached the county councillor for the Goring division, Mr K Bulmer, prior to the Cabinet decision, seeking his support for the retention of the service. Mr Bulmer had demurred.

Members wondered whether an organisation like the FISH Volunteer Centre might be able to assist residents of Chalkhouse Green, Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End, when the existing service was withdrawn, by providing a service which picked up in those villages, and conveyed people to Sonning Common, where they could shop etc, or catch the Reading Buses service 25 into Reading. The return trip would need to allow people time in Reading. The Council could make a contribution towards, or wholly pay for, the service, subject, of course, to budgetary feasibility.

RESOLVED: That approaches be made to the FISH Volunteer Centre as to the possible provision of a service as outlined above.

6.16 CLUB SC

The Chairman of the Club SC Management Committee requested, in a letter, that the Council consider making a grant towards the running costs of Club SC, a facility for young people based at Chiltern Edge School, Sonning Common: a number of the young people were residents of the Parish. Members noted that the budget for 2015/16 contained provision for a grant of £200 to Club SC.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the application from Club SC be deferred.

6.17 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS, SUB-COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

(cf 2.09/15) By letter, Mrs J E O'Sullivan requested that she be released from her appointments, for family reasons.

RESOLVED: 1 That Mrs S J Hunter be appointed as a member of the Plans Sub-Committee and Ms S L Forde as a representative on the Playing Fields Committee, both vice Mrs J E O'Sullivan, for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2016.

2 That the resignation of Mrs J E O'Sullivan from the membership of the Rights of Way Sub-Committee be noted.

3 That consideration of the appointment of Wells Manager, vice Mrs J E O'Sullivan, be deferred to the next meeting.

6.18 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was reported that the Playing Fields Committee had met on 11 November 2015, when the Committee had discussed a number of issues relating to the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, particularly the apparent leak on the water supply pipe, according to recent meter readings. The Committee had endorsed the terms of the draft agreement regarding the management of the Recreation Ground (see Minute 6.19)

6.19 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

The Council considered a draft agreement seeking to formalise the long standing arrangements with the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee for the management of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: 1 That the draft agreement set out in the Appendix hereto be adopted.

2 That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to sign the agreement on behalf of the Council.

DRAFT

Agreement for the management of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground

Date:

Parties: Kidmore End Parish Council (hereinafter "KEPC")

And

Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee (registered charity 304326) (hereinafter "KEPFC")

Agreement

KEPC owns the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground (hereinafter "the premises") under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1894, and the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion situated at the Ground. This agreement relates to the premises, excluding the children's' play area and play equipment, which is fenced off from the remainder of the Recreation Ground.

KEPC will insure the premises against landlord's risks and against loss of or damage to its property at Recreation Ground. It bears no responsibility for the goods and property of other parties kept on the premises.

KEPC retains the right to make byelaws or regulations for the use of the premises.

KEPC will pay the debt charges arising from the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion.

KEPC will pay a grant, annually, to KEPFC towards the costs of maintaining the premises.

KEPFC will manage the premises to ensure that they are available to the public for informal recreation and maintained to a standard commensurate with that use and their use for the practice and matches in cricket, football and such other sports as are deemed appropriate from time to time, including the use of the pavilion for community and private functions.

KEPFC may make charges for the use of the premises, other than use as a place of informal public recreation.

KEPFC will meet all the costs incurred in maintaining the premises, including any taxes, the provision of services, and keeping any buildings wind and water tight, clean and in good decorative order.

KEPFC will obtain the consent of KEPC, in advance, to changes to the premises or their use.

KEPFC will abide by any conditions placed on use of the premises by the planning or licensing authorities and will comply with any relevant legislative requirements.

Disputes

In the event of an unresolved dispute between KEPC and KEPFC arising from this agreement or otherwise in relation to KEPFC's management of the facilities, the parties shall seek arbitration by a suitably qualified person with no connection to either party.

Duration

This agreement will remain in force until terminated by either of parties.

Termination

Termination of this agreement will be effective on the date 6 calendar months after written notice has been given to the authorised correspondent of either party.

Governing Law

This agreement is governed by the law of England and Wales.

Signed on behalf of KEPC

Signed on behalf of KEPFC