

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 16 December 2015 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.25 pm.

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

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

7.01 MINUTES

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

7.02 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 impact on his Council of the autumn statement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the headline being a reduction in Government funding of 24% over the next 4 years;
- his Council's ambition to secure, in conjunction with other services, powers devolved from Government to provide the infrastructure to deliver new jobs and homes in the County;
- his Council's "fostering-friendly" campaign;
- additional funding available for extending the coverage of Superfast Broadband;
- the decisions of his Council about financially supported bus services.

7.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- on free parking available in his Council's carparks in the period up to Christmas;
- information about the collection of waste over the festive period;
- about his Council's toolkit for the preparation of neighbourhood development plans;
- that the presentations at the town and parish forum were available on his Council's website;
- that his Council was challenging the decision of an inspector in respect of a planning appeal relating to a site in Chinnor, because of the important implications of that decision.

7.04 PLAY AREAS

(cf 6.05/15) The Chairman reported that all the graffiti at the Kidmore End Play Area had been removed. There had been no further information from the Police about the outcome of their investigations into the incidents.

The Chairman also reported on her further discussions with possible suppliers of equipment for the refurbishment of the play area at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. The various proposals had been discussed with pupils at the Kidmore End School who had expressed a preference for a particular scheme.

RESOLVED: That an application be made to the District Council for a grant towards the cost of the refurbishment of the play equipment at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, based upon the

quotations received from the various suppliers.

7.05 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

(cf 6.06/15) It was reported that BT had disconnected the power supply to the telephone kiosk at Kidmore End in November 2015. Mr H Thresher advised that he would approach Vines Farm for assistance with re-orientating the kiosk.

7.06 DELIVERING PUBLIC SERVICES

(cf 6.07/15) The Chairman and Vice-Chairman reported on their meeting, on 8 December 2015, with an officer of the County Council, to discuss highway verge cutting in the Parish. However, the officer had been unable to provide information about the areas of verge cut on behalf of his Council, who undertook the work, the frequency of the cuts or the cost. The information had not been forthcoming subsequently. The officer had, however, intimated the likely levels of funding to be available.

RESOLVED: That consideration of highway verge cutting in the Parish be deferred, pending receipt of information about the areas presently mown on behalf of the County Council, the frequency of the cuts and the cost of the work.

7.07 TOWNLANDS HOSPITAL, HENLEY

(cf 6.08/15) The Council noted an update from NHS, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit, on behalf of Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), that practical completion of the new Townlands Hospital building was expected by the end of February 2016.

7.08 ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END – CHURCHYARD

(cf 6.09/15) By e-mail, one of the Churchwardens explained that, because of his absence, the Council's request for competitive tenders for work to the lime trees in the churchyard at the Church of St John the Baptist had not been received until after the completion of the works, towards the end of November 2015, by the previously identified local contractor. He enquired whether the Council would, nevertheless, make a contribution towards the cost of the works.

Members commented favourably on the works undertaken but were disappointed that the market had not been tested, as requested by the Council. They noted that provision of £518 remained in the budget for the financial year 2015/16 for maintenance of the churchyard

RESOLVED: That a grant of 50% of the cost of the works on the lime trees in the churchyard be made to the Parochial Church Council, subject to a maximum payment of £518 and the production of a copy of the invoice for the work.

7.09 BUS SERVICES

(cf 6.15/15) The Chairman reported orally on her meeting with the Chairman of the FISH Volunteer Centre concerning the possibility of that organisation making alternative transport provision when the M1 bus service, which served Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End en route to Reading, was to be withdrawn. The Chairman of the Centre thought that this could be achieved, and would be happy to discuss the matter further. In the meantime, he had asked that publicity of the Centre's present activities and services be given in the Parish Newsletter and on the Council's website.

7.10 CLUB SC

(cf 6.16/15) The Council considered further the request for a grant from Club SC, consideration of which request had been deferred at the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £200 be made to Club SC in the financial year 2015/16.

7.11 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS, SUB-COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

(cf 6.17/15) Further to the discussion at the last meeting, it was

RESOLVED: That Mrs S Hall be appointed as Wells Manager, vice Mrs J E O'Sullivan, for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2016.

7.12 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £39,551.31

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

David King – Webmaster's expenses	£9.28
R F Penfold - Photocopying agenda papers etc	£16.00
Club SC – Grant	£200.00
South & Vale Carers Centre – Grant	£100.00

7.13 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 8 December 2015.

RESOLVED: 1 That the precept for the financial year 2016/17 be set so that the element of the Council Tax, attributable to the Council, for a Band D property, be no more than 2% higher than the figure for the present year.

2 That a grant of £100 be made to the South and Vale Carers Centre in the financial year 2015/16.

7.14 ESTIMATES, 2015/16

The Council considered a report (15/16 - 2) of the Responsible Financial Officer, being draft estimates for the financial year 2016/17. The Responsible Financial Officer answered questions about the draft estimates.

RESOLVED: 1 That the base estimates for 2016/17 be adopted, subject to the following additions

provision for the gross cost of mowing highway verges	£3,000
provision for a payment to FISH for the provision of a transport link to Sonning Common	£2,000.

2 That budgetary provision be made for the following:

further new play equipment at Gallowstree Common	£5,000
grant to First Responders for vehicle	£1,000.

3 That a precept be issued for the sum of £35,530 in 2016/17.

4 That the base estimates and additional provision in resolution 2 above be confirmed as the Council's

budget for 2016/17 for the purposes of Financial Regulation 3.2.

7.15 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 a 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

The Council noted a copy of a letter sent by consultants acting on behalf of Mr & Mrs A Lovett of Chalkhouse Green Road, Chalkhouse Green to the planning authority, expressing opposition to the application for development at Greenbanks, Chalkhouse Green Road, Chalkhouse Green.

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 dwelling and garage and erection of replacement dwelling with basement and garage, and hard and soft landscapes, at Greenbanks, Chalkhouse Green Road, Chalkhouse Green;
raising roof to create first floor at Oakdene, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green.

(iii) Applications

The Council considered applications referred to it since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: 1 That no strong views be submitted on the application for loft conversion with first floor extension to rear projection, front dormers and velux windows at Bramleys, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common for Mr Prince.

2 That the following comments be made on the application for raising the roof and erection of 2-storey extensions and detached 2-bay car port and store at Inisfree, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End for Mr & Mrs H Stitt "Refuse - Overbearing carport, in front of building line".

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

(cf 6.12(iv)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 small patio area at Greenways, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common. He was, therefore, unable to consider any comments on the planning merits of the proposal.

(v) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan

(cf 6.12(v)15) The Council noted representations in opposition to the draft Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan, submitted to Sonning Common Parish Council by consultants acting for Mrs P A Pelly of Bishopswood and the Gladman Group, developers with interests across the country.

(vi) Neighbourhood development plans

(cf 6.12(viii)/15) The Council discussed when it should consult residents further about the preparation or otherwise of a neighbourhood development plan (or plans) for the Parish. Members felt that, on balance, it would be better to wait for further information about the expectations of the District Council concerning housing growth in smaller villages, before raising the matter directly at a public meeting.

7.16 HIGH SHERIFF OF OXFORDSHIRE AWARDS

The High Sheriff of Oxfordshire 2015-2016 sought, by e-mail, nominations for the High Sheriff's Awards, to recognise people in the County who had made outstanding contributions to the communities in which they lived and worked.

7.17 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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

7.18 90TH BIRTHDAY OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

HM Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, in a letter, advised that there would be national celebration of the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen on the weekend on 11 and 12 June 2016. There would be a national service of thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral, London, that weekend and a civic service in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford on 11 June. The Lord Lieutenant was seeking to encourage celebrations of the Queen's birthday in communities across the County.

Members commented on possible events, eg a village picnic, as in Kidmore End to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, or an event at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on 12 June.

RESOLVED: That enquiries be made of the Head teacher of the Kidmore End School and the Playing Fields Committee about the availability of facilities for local celebration of the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen.

7.19 FOOTPATHS

Dr & Mrs J McNie of Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End enquired, by e-mail to the Editor of the Parish Newsletter, whether stiles on footpaths in the Parish, particularly on the paths to Sonning Common, could be replaced with kissing gates, as such structures were more easily used by those whose mobility was declining. Members observed that responsibility for stiles or gates rested with the landowner concerned.

RESOLVED: That enquiries be made of Vines Farm as to whether they would permit the stiles to be replaced with kissing gates where footpaths 10 and 13 cross their land.

7.20 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was noted that the Playing Fields Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council. In answer to a question, the Clerk indicated that the Committee was addressing the possible leak on the water supply to the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion.