

DRAFT
To be confirmed at meeting on 17 February 2016

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 20 January 2016 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.45pm.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Ms S L Forde, Mrs S Hall, J A Swift QC.

8.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

8.02 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 of the Government's settlement for local government, which would require the County Council to find savings of £70m from 2016 to 2020;
- the approach by the County Council, with district councils and the Local Economic Partnership, to secure devolution of powers, which might require the formation of a combined authority;
- an application for smart phones or tablets to allow access to services from Oxfordshire Libraries;
- improvements in attainments in reading, writing and mathematics tests by 11 year old pupils in Oxfordshire's schools.

8.03 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

The Council enquired as to the identity of the Police officer responsible for the Parish, in succession to PCSO C Boyes.

8.04 OPEN SESSION

During the open session, which was extended to 20 minutes with the consent of the Council, the following persons addressed the Council in respect of the planning application for a pair of semi-detached dwellings at Little Orchard, Park Lane, Cane End – Mr A Scrivener of South Stoke, on behalf of the applicant, and Mrs N Court of Park Lane, Cane End, both in support of the application and Mr C Court and Mr M Sas-Bilinski, both of Park Lane, Cane End, in opposition to it.

8.05 PLAY AREAS

(cf 7.04/15) The Chairman reported that quotations had been obtained from providers for the replacement of the centrepiece item of equipment in the play area at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground – from Playdale, Sovereign, Sutcliffe and Wicksteed. She had shown these to the pupils at the Kidmore End School: they had preferred the scheme proposed by Playdale. She had made arrangements for public consultation on the project in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion at the Recreation Ground on 28 February 2016.

The Chairman advised that, in the meantime, she had been exploring sources of funding for the project.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman be authorised to make applications, on behalf of the Council, to LEADER and other agencies for grants and donations towards the cost of the refurbishment of the play

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equipment at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

8.06 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

(cf 7.05/15) Mr H Thresher reported that he and Mr T M Perchard had undertaken some exploratory work, to assist the re-orientation of the telephone kiosk at Kidmore End.

8.07 DELIVERING PUBLIC SERVICES

(cf 7.06/15) The Chairman reported that she had yet to hear further from the officer of the County Council she met in December 2015, about the areas of highway verge in the Parish cut on behalf of the County Council, who undertook the work, the frequency of the cuts and the cost.

8.08 TOWNLANDS HOSPITAL, HENLEY

(cf 7.07/15) The Council noted updates from NHS, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit, on behalf of Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), about the first meeting of Townlands Stakeholder Reference Group, and the practical completion of the new Townlands Hospital building, expected now by 1 February 2016.

8.09 BUS SERVICES

(cf 7.09/15) The Chairman reported orally on a meeting she had attended, organised by the County Council, with the operators of the M1 bus service, which served Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End en route to Reading. The service was delivered by an arm of the County Council, and was estimated to cost £18,000 per annum. The Chairman pointed out that this cost would be beyond the resources of the Council, although it might be affordable collectively with other parish councils. In this connection she was willing to meet the representatives of councils whose areas were presently served by the service.

The Council noted guidance from the Oxfordshire Association of Local Council covering the powers of parish councils to support bus services financially. The Council could subsidise services using its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

8.10 SOUTH & VALE CARERS CENTRE

(cf 7.13/15) The Manager of the South and Vale Carers Centre, by e-mail, thanked the Council for its grant to the Centre.

8.11 90TH BIRTHDAY OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

(cf 7.18/15) The Chairman reported on her discussions with the headteacher at Kidmore End School and the Church authorities regarding local celebrations to mark the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. A community picnic would be held at the School on 11 June 2016, and a service held at St John the Baptist Church on 12 June. A walk might be arranged, around the Parish.

The Church authorities had requested permission to decorate Kidmore End well for the weekend.

RESOLVED: That permission be granted for the decoration of Kidmore End well over the weekend of 11 and 12 June 2016.

8.12 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £39,271.10

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(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Playing Fields Committee – Grant	£1,000.00
R F Penfold - Photocopying agenda papers etc	£12.10

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 31 December 2015, against the approved budget for 2015/16. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £3,866, excluding capital payments and if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

8.13 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

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

single storey rear and front extension, including raising the roof to facilitate accommodation in the loft and internal alterations at New Barn, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
raising of roof and erection of 2-storey extensions at Inisfree, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End (the carport and store had been omitted from the scheme);
loft conversion with first floor extension to rear projection, front dormers and velux windows at Bramleys, 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:

proposed conversion of barn to single dwelling with new vehicular access and amenity space at The Coach House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End;
single storey rear and front extension, including raising the roof to facilitate accommodation in the loft and internal alterations at New Barn, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
erection of 2 pitched roof dormers to rear roof slope, rendering of dwelling and formation of new vehicular access and driveway at Greenways, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common (amended plan);
erection of leisure complex to house indoor swimming pool, sauna and steam room adjacent to Oldfield House, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
conversion of interior of part existing garden store/garage for residential use, reopening of existing chimney stack in existing kitchen at Pond House, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End;
change of use of old piggery to residential use with associated new access, driveway, parking and landscaping at Kempwood, Cane End.

(iii) Applications

The Council considered an application referred to it since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That no strong views be submitted on the application for proposed pair of semi-detached dwellings at Little Orchard, Park Lane, Cane End for Mr D Moffat.

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

(cf 7.15(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 (presumably, an amended application). He was, therefore, unable to accept any comments on the planning merits of the proposal.

(v) Red Oak House, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green – Proposed development

By letter, the District Council's Head of Planning was processing a notification as to whether a single storey storey flat roof extension at Red Oak House, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green could be built under the new permitted development rights. He advised that he was only able to consider comments from the owners/occupants of adjoining properties.

(vi) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan

(cf 7.15(v)/15) In a letter, the Chairman of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group thanked the Council for its response to the Pre-submission Draft Plan and for the Council's participation in the consultation process and in the activities of the Working Group.

(vii) National Planning Policy Framework

The members' update from the Oxfordshire Association of Local Council (see Minute 8.14) contained reference to the consultation by the Government on a number of changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), for instance broadening of the definition of affordable housing and increasing the density of development around commuter hubs.

RESOLVED: That consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting.

(viii) Community infrastructure levy

(cf 4.16(viii)/15) By e-mail, the District Council's Community Infrastructure Officer reported that the examiner of her Council's draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule had stated that it provided an appropriate basis for the collection of the levy in the area. The Council had provided sufficient evidence to support the schedule and could show that the levy was set at a level that would not put the overall development of the area at risk.

Members noted that a payment of £22.50 per m2 of new residential development in the Parish would be made to the Council by the District Council, from CIL.

(ix) Neighbourhood development plans

(cf 7.15 (vi)/15) The Planning Policy Officer (Neighbourhood) of the District Council enclosed, with an e-mail, a link to her Council's Neighbourhood Planning Toolkit.

8.14 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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

8.15 CHILTERN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

(cf 5.05/15) The Council noted a letter from John Howell MP to Shiplake Parish Council indicating that he was not aware of any progress with the application of the Shiplake Council and others for an

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extension of the boundary of the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Mr Howell intended to discuss the matter further with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

8.16 MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

In a letter dated 13 January 2016, Mrs J E O'Sullivan had resigned as a member of the Council.

The Clerk advised that he had given notice of the vacancy for the office of parish councillor, caused by the resignation of Mrs O'Sullivan. If no election was called to fill the vacancy, the Council could co-opt a qualified person at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That Mrs J E O'Sullivan be thanked for her service to the community as Member of the Council since June 2007.

8.17 ENRYCH OXFORDSHIRE

The Branch Manager of Enrych Oxfordshire explained that his organisation worked with adults who had physical difficulties, in order to reduce the social isolation and low self esteem which their disability could cause. Some 250 people were supported across the County, and the organisation was working with one person in the Parish. The Branch Manager requested the Council to consider making a grant to the organisation, suggesting a donation of £500.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the request from Enrych Oxfordshire be deferred to a future meeting.

8.18 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was reported that the Playing Fields Committee had met on 13 January 2016, when Mr I G C Pearson had been elected Chairman in succession to Mrs J E O'Sullivan, and Mr J D Sheldon as Vice-Chairman. The Committee had discussed a number of issues relating to the maintenance of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, for instance plumbing leaks and the replacement of light bulbs, and other issues demonstrating the wear and tear on the premises. Members had been concerned at the cracks in the internal blockwork walls, and were investigating whether these could be remedied by way of the building contract terms.

8.19 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 items, on the grounds that exempt information, under the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Act shown below, would be discussed:

Item	Paragraph
Cane End Allotments	1
Payment of salary to Clerk	1

8.20 CANE END ALLOTMENTS

The Council terminated the tenancy of an allotment at Cane End, for failure to pay rent.

8.21 PAYMENT OF SALARY OF CLERK

The Council decided to seek advice from the external auditors, BDO LLP, on a proposal to schedule the payment of arrears of salary to the Clerk over 3 years.