

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 17 February 2016 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.00pm.

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

Also present: K Bulmer (county councillor), R Simister (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from J A Swift QC.

9.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2016 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

9.02 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 County Council's budget, the Government's financial settlement;
- the relocation of Oxford Central Library;

Mr Bulmer reported orally that the County Council's budget meeting had been held on 16 February 2016. Extra money had been forthcoming from Government, which had allowed the Council to reduce the cuts to early years' services by £5m. However, the Council would still be faced with finding further savings of £15m over the next 4 years. Mr Bulmer felt that the Council had been "dealt a poor hand" by the Government.

Mr Bulmer believed that there would be some transitional arrangements at the time of the withdrawal of bus subsidies later in 2016. There was the possibility of the third parties taking on existing or altered services.

In answer to a question, Mr Bulmer indicated that his Council was hoping not further to reduce spending on highway maintenance.

9.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr R Simister, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, reported

- the intention of his Council, together with 4 other authorities, to outsource its back-office functions: there were 2 favoured tenderers;
- an imminent consultation exercise about refuse collection;
- on "Clean for the Queen", a litter clearance exercise in commemoration of the 90th birthday of HM the Queen;
- about a community volunteer workshop to be held in Didcot on 23 March 2016;
- that his Council was taking action to reduce the contamination of the contents of domestic recycling bins;
- that officers were recommending approval for the amended planning application for development at Oakdene, Robey Drive, Tokers Green;
- that there had been a glut of planning applications in recent months;
- that his Council was confident that it had identified sufficient land for 5 years of housing development.

In answer to questions, Mr Simister considered that there was little prospect of a third bridge over the River Thames near Reading in the short to medium term and that currently, as part of its review of the Local Plan, the District Council was not allocating a housing “quota” for small villages.

9.04 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

The Council noted that PCSO M Bell had been appointed as the officer of the Thames Valley Police having responsibility for the Parish.

9.05 OPEN SESSION

During the open session, Mr T M Perchard of Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green expressed his opposition, and that of some of neighbours, to the amended planning application for development at Oakdene, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green.

9.06 PLAY AREAS

(cf 8.05/16) The Chairman reported that more 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 and the provision of safety surfaces beneath the equipment at both the Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End Play Areas. She intended to report further to the Council at its next meeting.

9.07 DELIVERING PUBLIC SERVICES

(cf 8.07/16) The Chairman reported that she still had not yet heard from the officer of the County Council about the areas of highway verge in the Parish cut on behalf of the County Council and related information. As a result, she intended to pursue the matter with Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division.

9.08 TOWNLANDS HOSPITAL, HENLEY

(cf 8.08/16) The Council noted an update from NHS, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit, on behalf of Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), indicating that practical completion of the new Townlands Hospital building had been delayed.

9.09 BUS SERVICES

(cf 8.09/15) In a letter, Mrs D Rose of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common, indicated her reliance on the M1 bus service to access services like the doctor and the dentist in Sonning Common. The Chairman referred to her conversation, prior to the meeting, with Mr L Fairlea of Kidmore End about the continuation of the service after the withdrawal of County Council subsidies, expected in July 2016.

9.10 CHILTERN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

(cf 8.15/16) The Council noted further correspondence between Shiplake Parish Council and John Howell MP about that Council’s application for an extension of the boundary of the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The Council noted that the proposal to extend the AONB to cover the whole of the Parish had been published in the Parish Newsletter and on the website. 2 residents – Mr A Gitsham and Ms R Patel, both of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green – had indicated their support for the proposal, by e-mail.

9.11 MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

(cf 8.16/16) The Clerk advised that, having given notice of the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the resignation of Mrs J E O'Sullivan, he had not been advised by the Returning Officer of the District Council that an election had been called to fill the vacancy. Accordingly, it was open to the Council to fill the vacancy by co-opting a suitably qualified person.

The Clerk further advised that he had not received any expressions of interest in serving as parish councillors.

The Council considered seeking a reduction of the maximum number of councillors to 10.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the filling of the vacancies for the office of councillors be deferred pro tem.

9.12 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £38,303.90.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments	£14.38
Chiltern Society – Subscription	£25.00
D King – Renewal of website domain	£10.10
R F Penfold - Photocopying agenda papers etc	£6.55
Parish of Kidmore End and Sonning Common – Contribution towards cost of work to trees in churchyard	£518.00

9.13 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

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

conversion of interior of part of existing garden store/garage for residential use, reopening of existing chimney stack in existing kitchen at Pond House, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End (and listed building consent);

erection of 2 pitched roof dormers to rear roof slope and rendering of dwelling and formation of new vehicular access and driveway at Greenways, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;

erection of leisure complex to house indoor swimming pool, sauna and steam room adjacent to Oldfield House, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;

demolition of existing 2-bay oak frame garage, erection of 3-bay oak frame garage in same location and construction of new 2-bay oak frame carport at Prospect House, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;

proposed pair of semi-detached dwellings at Little Orchard, Park Lane, Cane End.

Mrs S J Hunter reported that she had, on behalf of the Council, and in support of neighbours, drawn the attention of the planning authority to works to construct the new access at, and removal of trees, hedges and shrubs in the front of, Greenways, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common. Planning officers had ordered the works to be stopped, as the applicant had not submitted applications to discharge conditions

prescient attached to the permission to develop the site.

RESOLVED: That the action of Mrs S J Hunter be approved and confirmed.

(ii) Action of Plans Sub-Committee

The Council noted a letter from Mrs A Jex of Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green setting out her limited concerns about the planning application for an extension at 25 Tanners Lane.

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 2-bay oak frame garage, erection of 3-bay oak frame garage in same location and construction of new 2-bay oak frame carport at Prospect House, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
2-storey side and rear extension at 25 Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
erection of 2 pitched roof dormers to rear roof slope and rendering of dwelling and formation of new vehicular access and driveway at Greenways, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common (amended plan);
2 bay timber frame cedar shingle roof garage at Fairview, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new chalet bungalow and detached garage at Tamarisk, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
proposed pair of semi-detached dwellings at Little Orchard, Park Lane, Cane End (amended plan);
extension to barn for storage of farm machinery at Hazelmoor Lane Farm and Stud, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End;
residential development of 50 dwellings, access, public open space and landscaping and provision of land for community sports/recreation facilities on land Bishopswood Middle Field, Reades Lane, Sonning Common [Parish of Sonning Common];
3 bay oak framed garage with store area above at Littlecroft, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green.

(iii) Applications

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

RESOLVED: That observations be made as follows:

<u>Application</u>	<u>Observation</u>
2 new dwellings at Hillfield House, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common for Groom Estates (Berks) Ltd	Refuse – proposal will develop additional traffic
New dwellings at Hillfield House, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common for Groom Estates (Berks) Ltd	No strong views, although concern about access on to public highway at this point.
Raising roof to create first floor at Oakdene, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green for {amended plan)	Refuse, for reasons previously expressed and because proposal is little different to that previously refused by planning authority
Partial change of use of garage building from purposes other than incidental to residential use, to purposes of ancillary use to dwelling at Orchard Manor, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common for Mr T Wharton	No strong views, but use must be linked to main dwelling.

(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.)

National Planning Policy Framework

(cf 8.13(vii)/16) The Council again considered the consultation, by the Government, on a number of changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), a matter deferred at the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman be authorised to submit a response, on behalf of the Council, to the consultation on a number of changes to the National Planning Policy Framework.

(v) Reading Borough Council Local Plan

By e-mail, a principal planner of Reading Borough Council advised that his Council was consulting on its next Local Plan, intended to guide development in that Borough until 2036, replacing the Council's existing planning policy documents. Particular reference was made to the Issues and Options document, and accompanying documents, available on that Council's website. The consultation closed on 7 March 2016.

RESOLVED: That Reading Borough Council be advised that there are no concerns about the documents relating to its draft Local Plan available on its website.

(vi) Oxfordshire Minerals & Waste Local Plan

(cf 4.17(vii)/15) The County Council's Director of Environment & Economy advised that the Core Strategy of her Council's Minerals & Waste Local Plan had been submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

9.14 ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Council noted a press release announcing that a contract had been agreed between the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and the Oxfordshire NHS Foundation Trust for a new way of commissioning and for providing some adult services in the County.

9.15 COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

(cf 4.17/15) The Kidmore End/Sonning Common Community First Responder Scheme Co-Ordinator explained, in a letter, that the proposed dedicated vehicle for the First Responders would be owned by the South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust, to which body the First Responders reported. The governance of the responders fell within the Volunteer Responders Governance Framework.

9.16 ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END – CHURCHYARD

(cf 7.08/15) The PCC Secretary of the Parish of Kidmore End and Sonning Common enclosed, with a letter, a copy of the invoice from J A Williams for the work to the lime trees in the churchyard at St John the Baptist, Kidmore End, in the sum of £1,280. In accordance with the decision of the Council in December 2015, a contribution of £518 would be made to the PCC.

9.17 FOOTPATHS

(cf 7 19/15) By letter, the Farm Manager of Vines Farm indicated that Farm had been working with the Chiltern Society to replace a number of stiles on footpaths on land owned by the Farm. However, since the installation of the new gates, the owners of the Farm had noticed a marked increase in the number of people using not only the footpaths but other areas of fields as well, and livestock fences had been vandalised. As result, the owners intended to maintain traditional stiles on the remaining footpaths.

9.18 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in January 2016.

9.19 COMMUNITY FIRST OXFORDSHIRE

The Council noted a news sheet issued by Community First Oxfordshire on its work in January 2016.

9.20 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

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

9.21 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

The Clerk advised that he had alerted the County Council to the damaged stiles on footpath 15 at its junction with Dysons Wood Lane and at the rear boundary of properties in Tanners Lane.

9.22 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chairman reported that the present managers of the "Reformation" public house, in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common had indicated that they no longer consented to the storage of road salt in the premises' carpark. She had, as a result, consulted with the relevant officer of the County Council about the redistribution of the salt, and repositioning some of the salt bins in the Parish.

9.23 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 23 March 2016 at 7.30pm

9.24 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 the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Act shown below, would be discussed:

Item	Paragraph
Part 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2016	1

9.25 PART 2 MINUTES

The Part 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2016 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record,