

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 20 April 2016 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.25pm.

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, H Thresher.

Also present: K Bulmer (county councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from J A Swift QC, R Simister (district councillor).

11.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 17 February and 31 March 2016 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

11.02 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 proposal for a unitary council serving the County;
- a new machine, which could repair up to 44 road defects a day;
- household recycling centres which were to open until 2000hrs on Thursdays.

Mr Bulmer reported orally, and in some detail, on

- his Council's proposals to devolve powers and duties to parish and town councils;
- the competing visions for the future local government structure by his Council and the district councils in the County: PriceWaterhouseCoopers had been retained to produce an independent report on the proposals;
- his Council's response to highway potholes;
- the building collapse at Didcot Power Station;
- the popularity of a possible third bridge over the River Thames in the Boroughs of Reading and Wokingham;
- the Oakley Wood recycling centre, which would be retained at least until 2017;
- trials using school transport to provide off-peak bus services.

11.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- that the District was top of a list, compiled by the Halifax bank, of the best places to live in the country;
- about progressing his Council's corporate services project, for outsourcing some functions;
- that his Council was working with other district councils concerning a unitary solution to local government in the County;
- the development of a scheme, funded via Sport England, to encourage 11-25 year olds to get involved in regular sport and activity;
- that his Council's Community Infrastructure Levy came into operation on 1 April 2016.

11.04 OPEN SESSION

During the open session, Mr L Lee of Emmer Green referred to the response to his request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and commented that there was no overwhelming support for the inclusion of the whole Parish in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Mr Lee also referred to the Council's website, which had gone off-line. The Chairman explained that the website had been affected, along with thousands of others, by the difficulties faced by 123Reg earlier in April.

11.05 PLAY AREAS

(cf 9.06/16) The Chairman reported that she and the Vice-Chairman were pursuing a number of potential funding opportunities, in accordance with the previous decision of the Council, in respect of 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. The Chairman advised that she had attended a positive meeting with officers of the District Council about a grant for the project.

The Chairman further reported on discussions with residents of Gallowstree Common about a fund raising event at the Recreation Ground on 10 June 2016.

11.06 DELIVERING PUBLIC SERVICES

(cf 9.07/16) The Council noted a briefing note about Oxfordshire Together Highway Services, by which the County Council would transfer some minor highways functions to parish and town councils. The Chairman reported receipt of some rather inconclusive figures from an officer of the County Council concerning highway verges in the Parish potentially covered by the arrangement.

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

11.07 TOWNLANDS HOSPITAL, HENLEY

(cf 9.08/16) The Council noted the invitation, by NHS South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit, for nominations for the office of independent chairperson of the Townlands Stakeholder Reference Group, and the note by the Vice-Chairman arising from the meeting of the Townlands Steering Group on 29 February 2016.

11.08 BUS SERVICES

(cf 9.09/15) By e-mail, the County Council's Supported Transport Team advised that, between 19 January and 17 February 2016, a total of 8 persons boarded the M1 bus service in Gallowstree Common and 16 in Kidmore End.

11.09 CHILTERN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

(cf 9.10/16) The Council noted that further residents, as follows, had indicated their support for the proposal to extend the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to cover the whole of the Parish:

Mr R Bonnett, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green
Mr & Mrs P Cox, Tokers Green
Mr R West, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green.

In addition, 5 residents who had attended the consultation event on 28 February 2016 at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion had expressed their support for the proposal, whilst one person, not a resident of the Parish, had expressed opposition.

11.10 COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

(cf 9.15/16) The Kidmore End/Sonning Common Community First Responder Scheme Co-Ordinator had, by e-mail, requested release of the promised grant for the proposed dedicated vehicle for the First Responders.

11.11 ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END – CHURCHYARD

(cf 9.16/16) The PCC Secretary of the Parish of Kidmore End and Sonning Common thanked the Council for its contribution towards the cost of the work to the lime trees in the churchyard at St John the Baptist, Kidmore End.

11.12 HIGHWAY SALT STORAGE

(cf 9.22/16) The Chairman reported that the County Council had provided a new salt bin at the “Reformation” public house, in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, and had transferred some of the stored salt into that bin. Some more salt had been dispersed to other bins in the Parish, while the remainder had kindly been stored by Mr J A Parry in his field in Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common.

11.13 CHILTERN CONSERVATION BOARD

(cf 10.05/16) By letter, the Administration Officer of the Chiltern Conservation Board thanked the Council for its donation to the Board.

11.14 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £55,276.27.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Subscription	£241.30
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust – Contribution towards cost of vehicle for First Responders	£1000.00
R F Penfold – Printing agenda etc	£12.10

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, at year end, against the approved budget for 2015/16. The report showed an overspend of £1,588.

11.15 NOTICE OF AUDIT

By letter, BDO Stoy Hayward LLP gave notice that they had appointed 4 July 2016 as the latest day for the submission to them of the annual return for the year ended 31 March 2016. The latest date for the start of the period when the public could exercise their rights to inspect the accounts would be 23 June 2016.

11.16 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

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

demolition of existing dwelling and erection of new chalet bungalow and detached garage at Tamarisk, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
change of use of old piggery to residential use with associated new access, driveway, parking and landscaping at Kempwood, Cane End;
extension to barn for storage of farm machinery at Hazelmoor Lane Farm and Stud, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End;
2 storey side extension including the replacement of the entire roof which is currently structurally unsound at The Cottage, Park Lane, Cane End;
new dwelling at Hillfield House, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
3 bay oak framed garage with store area above at Littlecroft, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
manege extension at Kidmore Farm, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
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;
change of use from class B1 to B8 for use as one dwelling at Withy Copse, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common (resubmission of P12/S3121/FUL);
redevelopment with 6 2-storey dwellings, 2 single garages, parking spaces and vehicular access after demolition of existing structure at Chippendale Lodge, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
erection of 2 storey rear extension at Furrows, Rosebery Road, Tokers Green;
erection of stable block at Collegewood Farmhouse, Cane End;
alterations and front and rear extensions at Russells, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
single storey rear extension and part first floor extension, part garage conversion and addition of flue at Brandoch, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;
erection of new single storey garage at Holly Tree Farm, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End;

and that the following applications had been refused:

raising roof to create first floor at Oakdene, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;
2 bay timber frame cedar shingle roof garage at Fairview, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
2 new dwellings at Hillfield House, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

By letter, the District Council's Head of Planning had invited the Council to make representations, orally, at the meeting of the District Council's Planning Committee to be held on 30 March 2016, about the above application for redevelopment of Chippendale Lodge, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green. The opportunity had arisen because the Council had recommended refusal of the application while the District Council's officers recommended approval. Noting that an applications for 5 dwellings on the site had been approved on appeal, there now seemed little prospect of persuading the Committee to disregard the views of its officers. It was decided, therefore, to decline the invitation to address the District Council's Planning Committee.

(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:

single storey rear extension at Red Oak House, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
rear first floor extension, single storey front extension, garage conversion and internal alterations at Midway, Elm Road, Tokers Green;
conservatory at Collegewood Farmhouse, Cane End.

(iii) Planning appeal

In a letter, the Head of Planning of the District Council advised that an appeal had been lodged against the refusal of the District Council to grant planning permission. The appeal was to be decided by the inspector reviewing written representations by the appellant and the District Council.

(iv) Development at Chippendale Lodge, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green

Mr T Pike of Beech Road, Tokers Green reported, by e-mail, that Tokers Green Lane had been blocked frequently by lorries delivering materials to the site at Chippendale Lodge, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green. He pointed out the narrowness of the road south from the site, which was often the direction taken by the lorries after deliveries were complete. The Clerk had forwarded a copy of the e-mail to the planning authority, drawing attention to the condition prescient about a construction traffic management plan, which condition had yet to be discharged.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Clerk be approved and confirmed.

(v) Land at Gravel Hill/Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green

In a letter, Mr J Gater of Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green drew attention to an “application” under consideration by the District Council for 28 houses on land at Gravel Hill/Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green. Enquiries had revealed that the “application” was a pre-application enquiry.

(vi) National Planning Policy Framework

(cf 9.15(iv)/16) The Chairman reported that she had submitted a response, on behalf of the Council, to the consultation on a number of changes to the National Planning Policy Framework.

(vii) Potential development sites

By e-mail, the Head of Planning of the District Council advised that his Council was inviting landowners to submit potential development sites for consideration, to help inform the emerging Local Plan 2031, which would allocate housing sites, both large strategic sites, and smaller sites. The closing date for submissions was 29 April 2016.

(viii) Community Infrastructure Levy

(cf 8.13(viii)/16) The District Council's Head of Planning attached, to an e-mail, an advice note about this Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which would come into force on 1 April 2016, Any planning permission granted against an application submitted after that date would include a liability to CIL. The rates of payment would be, initially, in this Parish:

- £150 per m2 on residential development;
- £70 per m2 for new supermarkets, superstores and retail warehouses.

CIL was payable on completion of the works. 15% of the CIL paid in respect of development in the Parish would be passed on to this Council, for the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or anything else that was concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

11.17 KIDMORE END POND

In an e-mail, Ms J Lefevre [address not known] indicated was she was seeking willow wands for a project. The Chairman advised Ms Lefevre that the willow trees at Kidmore End pond required coppicing. However, Ms Lefevre appeared not to have the requisite insurance cover to work on the Council's

property, on its behalf. Accordingly, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had coppiced the trees at the pond, and Ms Lefevre had collected the trimmings.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be approved and confirmed.

11.18 UNITARY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Council noted communications from the District and County Councils about the proposals by both councils for unitary local government in the County. Briefly put, the County Council favoured a unitary county council (ie a county council which also exercised the powers of the district councils), while the District Council proposal, made jointly with the other district councils in the County, was for the abolition of the county and district councils, and the transfer of their powers to 4 district-based unitary authorities covering Oxfordshire, and some neighbouring areas, with an over-arching combined authority, of which the NHS would be a partner, to commission health and adult social services.

11.19 BIAS IN DECISION-MAKING

The District Council's Monitoring Officer had issued, by e-mail, an advice note on bias in decision making and how to avoid it. The Clerk had sent copies of the note to all Members.

11.20 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted updates for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in February and March 2016.

11.21 CHALKHOUSE GREEN ROAD, KIDMORE END – TRAFFIC SPEEDS

In an e-mail, Mr D South of Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End expressed concern about traffic speeds in Chalkhouse Green Road, which was much used by pupils attending Kidmore End School, and suggested that many vehicles exceeded the speed limit of 30mph. He sought the reduction of the speed limit to 20mph.

It was reported that PCSO M Bell of the Thames Valley Police had undertaken vehicle speed checks in Chalkhouse Green Road, but had not detected any vehicles travelling in excess of the speed limit.

RESOLVED: That the Transport Sub-Committee investigate the criteria for the imposition of 20mph speed limits.

11.22 RAIL ELECTRIFICATION

By letter, the Community Relations Manager of Network Rail advised that the overhead wires installed on the Great Western rail route from Reading to Didcot would be energised on 27 May 2016, and explained the danger of trespassing on the tracks, or within the boundary fence of the railway.

11.23 90th BIRTHDAY OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

(cf 8.11/16) In a letter, the District Council's Cabinet Member for Finance advised that her Council was offering grants towards the cost of community events to celebrate the 90th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen. A total of £670 was available to this Council for this purpose, which was claimable no later than 3 June 2016. The Chairman undertook to explore this further, with particular reference to the planned event on 10 June 2016 in Gallowstree Common.

11.24 COOPERS PIGHTLE, KIDMORE END – CONDITION OF CARRIAGEWAY

By e-mail, Mr D Jones of Sonning Common had commented on the poor condition of the road surface in Coopers Pightle, Kidmore End. The Clerk had informed Mr Jones that, in 2008, the District

Council had recognised, in writing, that it, and the other frontagers of the road, were responsible for the surface.

Ms C Brook of Coopers Pightle had advised, at the Annual Parish Meeting, earlier on the day of the meeting, that she had reported the potholes in the road to the County Council who had responded that the road had not been adopted as public highway, and that that Council was not, therefore, responsible for its maintenance.

11.25 KIDMORE END WELL

By e-mail on 3 April 2016 Ms C Tooley of Steventon had drawn attention to the winding wheel at Kidmore End well, which she had noticed had come off its spindle. This was as a result one of the wheel spokes breaking. Mr I G C Pearson had, as a matter of urgency, recovered the wheel to the home of the Chairman. A sign had been put up at the well explaining the situation. Enquiries were being made of blacksmiths as to the repair of the wheel.

RESOLVED: That the action of Mr I G C Pearson be approved and confirmed.

11.26 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

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

11.27 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Ms S L Forde requested a map showing the rights of way in the Parish.