

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 20 July 2016 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.50pm.

Present: Ms S M Biggs (Chairman), Dr C D Aldridge (Vice-Chairman), 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 Ms S L Forde, Mrs S Hall, J A Swift QC,

3.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2016 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to

- the correct spelling of the word "initiative" in the 4th bullet point of Minute 2.02;
- the final paragraph of Minute 2.17(vii) being revised to read "... Members were inclined not to embark ...".

3.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The Council noted written reports by Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, covering, inter alia,

- increasing adult and child social care costs;
- extra funding for the expansion of high-speed Broadband;
- changes to the grass verge cutting programme;
- a meeting about a proposed 3rd bridge over the River Thames in Reading;
- his motion to the County Council concerning the introduction of decriminalised parking enforcement.

Mr Bulmer reported orally on

- the ongoing discussions about unitary local government in the County;
- his understanding of the discussions between various authorities concerning a third Thames bridge;

and answered a question about the future of public transport in rural areas.

3.03 OPEN SESSION

During the open session, Mr L Fairlea of Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End reported that he had been in touch with the County Council's Transport Department about bus services after the demise of the M1 service, and asked whether the Council had made any progress in its negotiations with FISH Sonning Common. The Chairman explained the present position (see Minute 3.12).

3.04 PLAY AREAS

(cf 2.05/16) The Chairman reported that the Doris Fields Charitable Trust had made a grant of £500 to the scheme to refurbish the equipment at the play area in the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and the installation of more durable safety surfaces at that play area and the Kidmore End Play Area. In addition, the District Council had promised a grant of 50% of the cost of the scheme, subject to a maximum grant figure of £30,194, and acceptance of its customary conditions attached to grant aid. The

Chairman advised that she had made an approach to Lord Phillimore who had generously supported projects in the Parish in the past.

As the Council would not meet in August 2016, it was suggested that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to approve an order for the agreed works, if sufficient funds had been received or promised.

RESOLVED: That, if sufficient funds have been received or promised before the next meeting, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to place, as a matter of urgency, an order for the works listed in the resolution of Minute 2.05 of the meeting held in June 2016.

3.05 DELIVERING PUBLIC SERVICES

(cf 2.06/16) The Chairman reported that she had arranged to meet the County Council's Area Highways' Steward, on 25 July 2016, to discuss further the cutting of highways' verges in 2016 and future years. The Clerk advised that one Member had suggested verges to be cut more frequently than once per year.

3.06 UNITARY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(cf 2.08/16) In an e-mail, the County Director of the County Council reported that the leaders of the County and district councils in Oxfordshire had issued a joint statement indicating that the 2 tiers of local government had decided to work together to discuss areas of common ground in respect of the future shape of local government in the County.

3.07 CHALKHOUSE GREEN ROAD, KIDMORE END

(i) Traffic speeds

(cf 2.09/16) The Chairman advised that the Transport Sub-Committee was considering the possible imposition of a 20mph speed limit on Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End.

(ii) Vehicle parking

Mrs M Spencer of Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End, by e-mails, had enquired, on behalf of neighbours, about the green and unmade road outside Cynisca to Pentewan, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End. She reported that the unmade road was used by tradesmen and others for parking. Mrs Spencer had originally asked about the status of road, but she and her neighbours had subsequently discovered that they owned the road and the green. As a result, the residents had put up signs indicating that the road was private.

Mrs Spencer and her neighbours wanted to enclose the road and the green, to incorporate it into their gardens. The Clerk had advised her contact the highways' and planning authorities about this proposal.

RESOLVED: That the above advice of the Clerk be endorsed.

3.08 DEVOLVING POWERS TO TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

(cf 2.12/16) Further to the discussion about devolution of powers in the event of a future unitary pattern of local government in the County, it was

RESOLVED: That enquiries be made of the councils of rural parishes who were represented at the meeting on 7 June 2016 (ie Binfield Heath, Harpsden, Pishill, Rotherfield Peppard, South Stoke, Whitchurch and Woodcote), as to whether they wished to meet again to consider further the devolution of powers from principal councils.

3.09 STREETNAMING

(cf 2.13/16) The District Council's Data Monitoring Officer & Street Naming and Numbering Officer advised, in an e-mail, that her Council had decided to name the road serving the development of 6 properties on Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, as Chippendale Close. 4 of the properties were named in the Close, the other 2 in Tokers Green Lane.

3.10 TOWN AND PARISH FORUM

(cf 2.14/16) The Chairman reported that she and Mr T M Perchard had attended the District Council's town and parish forum on 12 July 2016, and reminded Members that she had circulated the presentations delivered at the forum. She commented that there had been a very strong steer at the forum for parish councils to produce neighbourhood development plans.

3.11 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

(cf 2.15/16) Mr T M Perchard and Mr H Thresher reported that they had cut back the hedge around the Council's telephone kiosk at Chalkhouse Green and had sourced materials to enable its repair.

3.12 BUS SERVICES

(cf 2.21/16) The Chairman reported on informal discussions with a representative of FISH Volunteer Centre as to the provision of a replacement bus service for the former service M1, which had served Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End. The likely replacement service, which was presently the subject of internal discussions within FISH, would be a request service for residents of Chalkhouse Green, Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End, on one day a week, to Reading, starting in September 2016.

3.13 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £55,073.92.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

South Oxfordshire District Council – Refund of unspent grant	£260.00
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£12.56
R F Penfold – Printing agenda etc	£10.20

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 30 June 2016, against the approved budget for 2016/17. The report showed a predicted underspend at year end of £820, excluding capital payments and if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

3.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

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

alterations and extensions to dwelling and garage at Little Orchard, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;

construction of new straw barn at Vines Farm, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End

and that the following applications had been refused:

one new dwelling house on land opposite Oldfield, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
5 new dwelling houses on land in 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 extension of and modifications to existing bungalow at The Coppice, Russell Road, Tokers Green;
barn to store hay and tractor at Collegewood Farmhouse, 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 conservatory to side of Rokeby Lodge, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green for Mr A Gilsham.

(iv) Planning appeal

(cf 11.16(iii)/16) 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 raising the roof to create first floor at Oakdene, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green.

(v) Possible development of land in Emmer Green

The Clerk reported receipt of an approach from a Mr Hyman, about a public consultation exhibition for proposed planning application on land at Emmer Green. The Clerk had put Mr Hyman in touch with the managers of the Parish Room.

(vi) Draft Design Guide

(cf 2.17(v)/16) The Chairman suggested a response to the consultation on the District Council's new Design Guide Supplementary Planning Guidance, which provided guidance on best practice and detailed the criteria which that Council would use to assess the quality of developments.

RESOLVED: That a response along the lines below be sent to the District Council:

"The Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft South Oxfordshire Design Guide. The Council shares the commitment of the District Council to securing the highest quality development in the District, particularly in its rural areas and those parts, like this Parish, which fall within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Council considers that any development must enhance its environment, and thus good design is of great importance.

"The Council has been very comfortable with the current, 2008, version of the Guide: Members have found it very helpful when seeking to assess planning applications for new developments. While, therefore, the Council appreciates the reduction in volume achieved in the draft 2016 Guide, from some 200 pages to around 50, Members wonder whether the draft Guide leaves too much to the whim of developers or applicants. That is not to say that Members believe the Guide should be a "straitjacket", allowing no deviation from the norm. They would, however, wish to see

the return of some of the detail, as they believe that that would direct potential developers to come forward with designs more sympathetic to areas like the 5 villages in this Parish.

“Therefore, the Council would prefer your Council to adopt a guide which restored more of the detail of the current version”.

(vii) South Oxfordshire Local Plan

(cf 2.17(vi)/16) Recognising that consultation period on the next stage of the District Council's Local Plan would end on 29 August 2016, before the next meeting, it was

RESOLVED: That the Plans Sub-Committee be authorised to respond to the consultation on the next stage of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan.

(viii) Neighbourhood development plans

(cf 2.17(vii)/16) Further to the discussion at the last meeting about the production of neighbourhood development plan(s), the Chairman suggested that members meet an officer of the District Council informally to discuss the matter.

RESOLVED: That a meeting be arranged between members of the Plans Sub-Committee and the Vice Chairman with an appropriate officer of the District Council, to discuss further the value of neighbourhood development plans.

3.15 RECYCLING CENTRES

In an e-mail, the Waste Recycling Officer of the District Council advised that residents of South Oxfordshire would no longer be able to use the recycling centres operated by re3, the consortium of the Bracknell Forest, Reading and Wokingham Borough Councils, at Longshot Lane, Bracknell and Island Road, Reading, with effect from 1 July 2016, use being restricted to residents of the 3 boroughs.

The County Council's Waste Management Team drew attention, by e-mail, to that Council's consultation exercise regarding the future of the household waste recycling centres in the County. The exercise would end on 11 August 2016.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to respond, on behalf of the Council, to the consultation about the future of the household waste recycling centres in the County

3.16 HEALTHWATCH

The Council noted the annual report of Healthwatch Oxfordshire.

3.17 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in June 2016, with particular reference to the paragraphs on salaries of clerks, service signs at bus stops and the transparency code.

3.18 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had met on 13 July 2016. The Committee had discussed

- problems with the hot water system in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion;
- cracks in some internal walls in the Pavilion;
- whether the Pavilion was covered by a construction guarantee, like houses;

- imposing deposits for some types of hirings of the Pavilion, in the light of experience of damage caused during hirings;
- the efficiency of the rainwater goods at the Pavilion;
- water usage at the premises.

3.19 BROADBAND

Mr H Thresher advised that he was exploring with work colleagues whether further fibre optic cabinets were to be installed in Chalkhouse Green and Tokers Green, to support the rollout of superfast Broadband.

3.20 PARISH NEWSLETTER AND COUNCIL WEBSITE – ADVERTISEMENTS

The Council considered whether to permit the inclusion of advertisements from commercial bodies in the Parish Newsletter and on the Council's website. While Members recognised the value of the potential additional funding stream, they were concerned that some readers might feel that the Council endorsed the advertiser and his or her products or services.

RESOLVED: That the practice of not carrying advertisements from commercial organisations in the Parish Newsletter or on the Council's website be continued.

3.21 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

Mrs S Hunter reported that she had attended a meeting of the trustees of the Caversham Consolidated Charities.

3.22 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to a question, the Chairman advised that she would instruct the Clerk to arrange for the repair of the notice board at Chalkhouse Green.