

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 19 October 2016 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.20pm.

Present: Ms S M Biggs (Chairman), Mrs S Hall, I G C Pearson, T M Perchard, J A Swift QC, H Thresher.

Apologies for absence were received from Dr C D Aldridge, R Simister (district councillor).

5.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2016 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5.02 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 unitary local government debate;
- developing open-access children's services;
- discussions between the principal councils about the location of additional housing to meet the housing crisis in the City of Oxford.

5.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

The Council noted a written report by Mr R Simister, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, covering, inter alia:

- the refusal of a planning application in Shiplake which was contrary to the Henley and Harpsden Neighbourhood Development Plan and the completion of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan;
- the Growth Board, which considered where the City of Oxford's unmet housing need should be located;
- his Council's success in recycling residents' waste;
- changes to the collection of recyclable domestic waste;
- the publication of his Council's Corporate Plan;
- the canvass for the register of electors;
- keeping safe from cyber crime.

5.04 PLAY AREAS

(cf 4.04/16) The Chairman advised that she had heard from the agents for the Phillimore Estate, indicating that the Estate had decided not to make a grant towards the project to refurbish the equipment at the play area in the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. She also advised that, acting on information from a resident, she had entered the project for a grant from the Aviva Community Fund. This was a competition, with grants being awarded to the most popular projects in an electronic poll. The Chairman intended to encourage residents to register and vote for the project.

The Chairman further advised that Playdale Playgrounds Ltd, the preferred contractor for the project, had indicated that its quoted price for the supply and installation would hold until 31 December 2016, but would thereafter probably be subject to a 3% increase.

5.05 DELIVERING PUBLIC SERVICES

(cf 4.05/16) The Council noted Minute 1 of the joint meeting of the Finance and Transport Sub-Committees held on 6 October 2016.

5.06 UNITARY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(cf 4.06/16) By letter, the Leader of the District Council clarified his Council's position in respect of proposals for unitary local government in the County. His Council, and the other district councils in the County, did not support the model favoured by the County Council, but believed that a 3 unitary authority structure was the way forward. The district councils believed that the efforts of the councils should be focussed to make progress "on the urgent issues we face in securing investment and improving services across the County".

Members discussed what model of future local governance in the County they would favour, but concluded that this would be premature given the disappointing lack of collaboration between the 2 tiers of principal councils in the County.

5.07 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End - traffic speeds

(cf 4.07/16) The Council received Minute 2 of the joint meeting of the Finance and Transport Sub-Committees held on 6 October 2016.

RESOLVED: That representations be made to the County Council to make an order to reduce the speed limit in the roads adjacent to Kidmore End Primary School, ie from the "gate" in Wood Lane to the "gate" in Chalkhouse House Green Road and from the junction of Hazelmoor Lane with Kidmore Lane to the junction of Butlers Orchard with Tokers Green Lane, from 30 to 20 mph.

(ii) Dysons Wood Lane, Tokers Green – temporary closure

With an e-mail, the County Council's Deputy Director-Commercial for Environment & Economy gave notice of a temporary closure notice, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, of Dysons Wood Lane, Tokers Green from 3 October 2016, for a maximum of 21 days, to facilitate the repair of a burst water main.

5.08 TOWN AND PARISH FORUM

(cf 4.09/16) RESOLVED: 1 That the Chairman be appointed to represent the Council at the District Council's town and parish forum on 2 November 2016 and that her attendance be an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

2 That Members submit questions to be asked at the forum to the Chairman.

5.09 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

(cf 4.10/16) Mr T M Perchard and Mr H Thresher reported that the work to the Council's telephone kiosk at Chalkhouse Green was virtually completed: Members congratulated them on the restoration of the structure. Members were asked to suggest uses for the kiosk, going forward.

5.10 BROADBAND

(cf 4.13/16) Members noted that the fibre optic cable cabinet was being installed at Kidmore End pond.

It was reported that a Broadband speed of 6.78Mb had been recorded at a property in Cane End, when tested on 25 September 2016. Members commented that that was a significantly better speed than in areas of the Parish where fibre optic cables had yet to be installed.

5.11 NOTICEBOARD

(cf 4.14/16) It was reported that the notice board at Chalkhouse Green had been repaired.

5.12 JOHN HOWELL MP

(cf 4.22/16) It was reported that the Vice-Chairman had reported informally to colleagues concerning the meeting held by John Howell MP in Sonning Common on 26 September 2016.

5.13 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 4.24/16) Ms A S O'Reilly of Coopers Pightle, Kidmore End, who had previously expressed her interest in serving as a member of the Council, had been unable to attend the meeting.

The Council considered a report (16/17 - 2) of the Clerk, to enable it to consider whether to seek a reduction in the maximum number of councillors for the Parish.

RESOLVED: 1 That consideration of the interest of Ms A S O'Reilly, in serving as a councillor, be deferred to the next meeting.

2 That an application be made to the District Council to make an order reducing the maximum number of parish councillors for the Parish to 10.

5.14 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £73,274.93.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

FISH Volunteer Centre – Grant	£400.00
BDO LLP – External audit fee	£240.00
Acorn Services – Repair of noticeboard	£120.00
T Vickery – Refund of overpayment of allotment rent	£10.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£375.29
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£250.26
R F Penfold – Printing agenda etc, receipt book	£16.29

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 30 September 2016, against the approved budget for 2016/17. The report showed a predicted underspend at year end of £260, excluding capital payments and if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

5.15 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

(cf 1.18/16) BDO LLP gave notice that the audit of the Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 had been completed. The Partnership reported that, on the basis of its review, in its opinion

the information contained in the annual return was in accordance with proper practices and no matters had come to its attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

5.16 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

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

alterations and extensions, including roof alterations to existing dormer windows, at Long Hollow, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common;
new front entrance porch and rear extension to the ground floor at Ashgate Cottage, Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common;
variation of condition 2 of approved plans P16/S0116/FUL, for new access arrangement at Hillfield House, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

(ii) Applications

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

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made on the outline application for erection of up to 95 dwellings including affordable housing, new public open space, landscaping, surface water attenuation, access with Kennylands Road, services, utilities and associated works on land off Kennylands Road, Sonning Common for Gallagher Estates Ltd [Parish of Sonning Common]: "Refuse – the proposal does not accord with the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan, recently endorsed in a referendum by a large majority".

(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 for a 2 bay, timber frame, cedar shingle roof garage at Fairview, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green. The appeal was to be decided by the inspector reviewing written representations by the appellants and the District Council.

(iv) Proposed development near Bryants Farm, Emmer Green

(cf 4.16(v)/16) The Clerk advised that he had received no formal response yet from Eye & Dunsden Parish Council, about the proposed development, by Gladman Land, for 276 houses on land between Peppard Road and Kiln Road near Bryants Farm, Emmer Green, in the Parish of Eye & Dunsden. That said, Members of that Council were said to be concerned about a "land grab" by Reading.

In an e-mail, the Clerk of Sonning Common Parish Council had reported that his Council considered that there should be scope for collaboration between that Council and other parish councils, including this Council, affected by the development at Bryants Farm.

It was noted that Gladman Land had yet to submit a formal planning application to the District Council.

RESOLVED; That collaboration between parish councils potentially affected by the proposed development at Bryants Farm, Emmer Green be supported.

5.17 PRECEPT REFERENDA

By e-mail, the County Officer of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils gave details of the technical consultation issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government covering, inter alia, council tax referendum principles for local parish and town councils. The Government was minded to

introduce referenda where parish or town councils wished to raise precepts by 2%, provided that their Band D precept figure was higher than that of the Council Tax set by the lowest charging district council nationally. This would affect 120 parish and town councils nationally, and 8 in Oxfordshire, including Didcot and Thame in South Oxfordshire.

5.18 COMMUNITY FIRST OXFORDSHIRE

The Council noted that the annual general meeting of Community First Oxfordshire would be held in Yarnton on 27 October 2016.

5.19 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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

5.20 TOWNLANDS HOSPITAL, HENLEY

(cf 2.07/16) The Council noted an update from NHS, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit, on behalf of Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), concerning the development of the Rapid Access Care Unit at Townlands Hospital and giving an update on outpatient appointments at the Hospital.

5.21 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council. Nevertheless, he advised

- that the Committee had revised the bills to the Cricket and Football Clubs for use of the Pavilion, in the light of inadvertent water wastage in the premises;
- on ongoing works to rectify the heating system in the Pavilion;
- that the Committee had general concerns about the standard of work/finishing when the Pavilion had been built.

5.22 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received Minutes 3 and 4 of the joint meeting of the Finance and Transport Sub-Committees held on 6 October 2016.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be requested to renew faded road markings in the Parish and ensure traffic signs are not obscured.

5.23 CHILTERN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

(cf 1.10/16) In the e-mail referred to in Minute 5.16(iv) above, the Clerk to Sonning Common Parish Council reported that his Council wished to see the land either side of the B481, to the County boundary, included in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This accorded with this Council's ambitions, in respect of land in the Parish.

The Chairman reported on her informal contact with Shiplake Parish Council on this matter. It seemed from this that Natural England believed that it would have the resources in 2018/19 to undertake a review of the boundary of the AONB, but expected only one application, covering all proposed boundary adjustments. Collaborative working with neighbouring parishes would, therefore, be vital.

5.24 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to a question, the Chairman advised that she had been invited to the institution, induction and installation of the new Rector of the ecclesiastical parish of Kidmore End and Sonning Common, the Rev J Stickings.