

## KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 23 November 2016 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.20pm.

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

Also present: R Simister (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Hall.

### 6.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2016 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correct numbering of Minute 5.03 and the substitution of the word "or" for the word "of" in the 4<sup>th</sup> line of Minute 5.17.

### 6.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- the unitary local government debate;
- the annual report of his Council's Director of Public Health;
- applying for school places;
- his Council's reaction to the decision to defer some elements of the scheme to electrify the railway lines from Didcot to Oxford and from Twyford to Henley.

### 6.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- that his Council had adopted the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan;
- on his Council's success rate at planning appeals, with 66% being dismissed, including an appeal for a major development in Goring;
- that the Secretary of State had, on call-in, refused a planning application which had not complied with a neighbourhood development plan;
- on the new car park payment system;
- his Council's review of "Outlook", the free newspaper it distributed to all residents.

Mr Simister sought, and received, comments about the operation of refuse collection service.

Members enquired of Mr Simister as to his Council's policies about urban development, for instance either side of the B481 road between Emmer Green and Sonning Common.

### 6.04 PLAY AREAS

(cf 5.04/16) The Chairman reported that she had been reminded by the District Council about the conditions attaching to its grant for the project to complete the refurbishment of the play area at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and to instal a different safety surface at the Kidmore End Play Area. One of these, which was new since the Council had last received a major grant, was to impose a restriction on the grant-aided facility, to ensure the retention of the benefit of the grant, for 10 years. This was achieved by placing a charge on the property at the Land Registry.

The District Council wanted to place a charge on the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. However, the Council's title to the Recreation Ground was not registered - the acquisition of the land had occurred before compulsory registration of land transactions.

The Chairman had discussed the requirement with District Council officers, seeking a relaxation. She had sought, and received, the support of the District Councillor in the matter, but to no avail. The District Council officers had been insistent on the charge being registered.

The Council's usual solicitors, Caversham Solicitors Ltd, had advised that the cost of voluntary registration of the Council's title to the Recreation Ground would be about £300, including disbursements. This cost could be included in the cost of the project, for the purpose of claiming the promised grant from the District Council.

Following informal discussions with Members, the Chairman, as a matter of urgency, authorised Caversham Solicitors Ltd to register the Council's title, voluntarily.

It was reported that Playdale Playgrounds Ltd had recalculated their price for the work. The figure had reduced to £56,842, and that price would hold until 31 March 2017.

It was noted that the Council's application for a grant from the Aviva Community Fund had not been successful.

Members noted that the cost of the project, including the reduced price from Playdale, was £57,492 +VAT, while grants offered and funds received or promised totalled £46,378, leaving a balance to be found of £11,114. In this connection, the Vice-Chairman reported receipt of a donation of £130. The Council considered whether it could meet the shortfall from within its available resources, although it was acknowledged that to proceed in this way would require careful timing and an examination of the cash flow position.

RESOLVED: 1 That the action of the Chairman be approved and confirmed.

2 That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to sign any documents on behalf of the Council in connection with the registration of the title of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

#### 6.05 DELIVERING PUBLIC SERVICES

(cf 5.05/16) The Chairman advised that she had yet to hear from the County Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Mr K Bulmer about the requested meeting to discuss the terms of the devolution of highways verge cutting to parish councils.

#### 6.06 UNITARY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(cf 5.06/16) In the update referred to in Minute 6.20 below, the County Director of the County Council reported that his Council had received a seemingly favourable response from the Secretary of State for Communities & local Government to its decision to continue to develop a single authority unitary model for the County. To this end, County Council officers were further exploring a localism model based on existing district areas. The County Director also referred to studies by the [national] County Councils' Network which favoured the single county authority model, on financial grounds.

#### 6.07 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

##### (i) Kidmore End village - traffic speeds

(cf 5.07(i)/16) The County Council's Interim Deputy Director for Environment & Economy – Commercial acknowledged the Council's request for a reduction of the speed limits in Kidmore End village to 20mph, and explained that his Council could introduce the change if the proposal complied with the

Department for Transport guidelines and finance was available. He went on to indicate that his Council had no funds, so would have to look to the Parish Council to pay for the necessary order to be made, if appropriate. This would entail speed surveys, costing £100 per site, and, if the surveys indicated compliance with the criteria, an order could be made to change the speed limit. This would cost £2,500: the order might not be made if there were significant objections. Finally, if the order was made, new signs would be required at a cost of £1,000 to £1,200.

Notwithstanding that there was no provision in the budget for 2016/17 for such a project, it was felt that the first stage – the speed surveys – should be initiated.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be requested to undertake the speed surveys as a first stage to an order to reduce the speed limit in the roads adjacent to Kidmore End Primary School from 30 to 20 mph.

(ii) Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End – temporary closure

With an e-mail, the Traffic Regulations' Team of the County Council gave notice of a temporary traffic order, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, prohibiting through traffic on Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End from 22 November 2016, for a maximum of 24 days, to facilitate the laying of cable ducting works. An alternative route for traffic would be via Wood Lane, Horsepond Road and Reades Lane.

#### 6.08 TOWN AND PARISH FORUM

(cf 5.08/16) The Chairman had circulated to Members the presentations delivered at the District Council's town and parish forum on 2 November 2016.

#### 6.09 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

(cf 5.09/16) The Clerk reported that he had, thus far, received one suggestion as to the future use of the Council's telephone kiosk at Chalkhouse Green.

Mr R Hora of Reading, by e-mail, reported that BT had notified the District Council of a number of presently working pay phones which it intended to decommission. One of these was the kiosk at Cane End (the last pay phone in the Parish), from which 3 calls had been made in the past year. Members recalled that the Council had previously asked BT to retain the facility.

#### 6.10 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 5.13/16) 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.

In an e-mail, the District Council's Democratic Services Manager advised that the Council's request, for a reduction in the number of parish councillors for the Parish, would be considered by his Council's Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee in March 2017.

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

#### 6.11 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £71,950.59.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Ian Kendrick Ltd - Mowing, cutting hedge at Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground	£1836.00
Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments	£221.43
United Kingdom Debt Management Office – Loan repayment	£7118.52†
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£375.29
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£250.26
R F Penfold – Printing agenda etc	£7.80

† *To be paid by direct debit*

6.12 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

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

part single storey rear, side extension at 2 Allwrights Cottages, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;  
demolition and replacement of existing dwelling and extension of existing driveway at The Cottage, Park Lane, Cane End.

(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:

demolition and replacement of existing dwelling and extension of existing driveway at The Cottage, Park Lane, Cane End (amended plan);  
re-glazing of existing porch bay, involving removal of white painted softwood doors and frames and replacement with oak framing and dark grey polyester coated doors and framing at Pond House, Kidmore End;  
amendment to permission P16/S2412/HH to change roof pitch of outbuilding at Archmore, Mill Lane, Kidmore End.

(iii) Planning appeals

(cf 5.16(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 dismissed the appeal 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.

In a letter, the Head of Planning of the District Council advised that an appeal had been lodged against refusal of the District Council to grant planning permission for one new house on land opposite Oldfield, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common. The appeal was to be decided by the inspector reviewing written representations by the appellant and the District Council.

RESOLVED: That the comments made on the planning application for one new house on land opposite Oldfield, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common be restated to the Planning Inspectorate.

(iv) Proposed development near Bryants Farm, Emmer Green

(cf 5.16(iv)/16) Arising from the discussion at the last meeting about the proposed development, by Gladman Land, for houses on land between Peppard Road and Kiln Road near Bryants Farm, Emmer Green, in the Parish of Eye & Dunsden, the Chairman had approached her counterpart at Eye & Dunsden Parish Council informally. Their conversation was summarised as the following joint action being appropriate:

- compiling a joint parish planning objectives' statement which expressed a commitment to resisting major housing development (beyond small infill sites);
- creating a joint buying group for verge cutting;
- issuing joint press releases alerting the public to the Gladman application.

The Chairman had been advised that the county councillor for the Sonning Common Division was seeking to chair a group for "his" parishes - Binfield Heath, Bix & Assendon, Eye & Dunsden, Harpsden, Highmoor, Rotherfield Greys, Rotherfield Peppard, Shiplake and Sonning Common. The Chairman of Eye & Dunsden Parish Council had enquired whether this Council could be added to the group. The county councillor for the Sonning Common Parish Council had agreed.

Following informal contact with Members, the Chairman had asked formally for the Council to join the group mentioned above.

It was reported that Gladman Developments Ltd had submitted the anticipated application, and the Council had been invited by the District Council to comment on it. As the first meeting of the joint group mentioned above was not scheduled until January 2017, the Chairman of Eye & Dunsden Parish Council was seeking to arrange a meeting of interested parties to discuss the possibility of a combined response to the application.

RESOLVED: 1 That the action of the Chairman be approved and confirmed.

2 That the Chairman be appointed to represent the Council at the proposed joint meeting to discuss the planning application for up to 245 dwellings at Bryants Farm, Emmer Green.

#### 6.13 KIDMORE END POND

(i) Wayleave for electricity supply cable

In a letter, the Wayleaves Department of Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks sought a wayleave to lay an electricity supply cable through the land at the side of Kidmore End pond, to serve the new telephone fibre optic cabinet there. The Company was prepared to pay a fee of £2 per annum, commuted to 20 years.

Members were reminded that the pond was registered as common land in accordance with the Commons Registration Act 1965. No one had claimed ownership to it. The Commons Commissioners, sitting in Oxford in the mid 1970s, had decided that they could not register an owner. However, in recognition of stewardship of the pond by the Council over many years, they had entrusted the care of the pond to the Council. Hence, the Company had sought a wayleave from the Council.

Following informal discussions with Members, the Chairman had, as a matter of urgency, signed the documents granting the wayleave sought by the Company.

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

(ii) Willow tree

(cf 4.26/16) In an e-mail, an arboricultural officer of the County Council gave advice as to the weeping willow tree on the Kidmore Lane bank of Kidmore End pond. In order to protect road users, the officer recommended lifting the crown by 2.5m, and 5.5m over the highway, reducing the crown by 3-4m and providing 1.5m clearance for utilities (overhead cables). Members, while recognising that the budget for the current financial year contained no provision for it, felt that the recommended work should be undertaken as soon as practicable.

6.14 GALLOWSTREE COMMON ALLOTMENTS

Mr S Hayter, a tenant at the Gallowstree Common allotments, in a letter enclosing the rent for his plot for 2016/17, referred to a dispute between 2 other allotment holders, whom he only know by their first names, which dispute, he feared, could descend into violence. The Clerk advised that the Allotments' Manager was, and the Police were, aware of the dispute.

6.15 SOUTH & VALE YOUNG CARERS

The Manager of the South & Vale Carers' Centre, at Didcot, in a letter, asked the Council to consider making a grant to the Centre. The Centre focused all its work on supporting young carers, aged 8 to 25 years: the Centre had supported 300 young carers in 2015/16.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the request be deferred.

6.16 OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH & VALE CITIZENS' ADVICE

By e-mail, the Director of the Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens' Advice applied for a grant towards the cost of the service, which had advised 8,000 people during the year 2015/16.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the application be deferred.

6.17 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in October 2016, particularly the paragraphs about priority service for vulnerable residents during power or water failure.

6.18 DAYTIME SUPPORT

The Joint Commissioning Team in the County Council's Social and Community Services directorate advised, by e-mail, that, following a review, the County Council was proposing a new model for day time support for vulnerable people over the age of 18, designed to meet care needs and prevent care needs escalating. The Council was consulting on the new model from 1 November to 20 December 2016. The County Council would make a final decision in February 2017. Workshops had been arranged in connection with the consultation.

6.19 GO ACTIVE GOLD

The District Council's GO Active Gold Activator, by e-mail, had asked for details of public buildings in the Parish suitable for to hold sessions as part of GO Active Gold project, which aimed to increase the health and well-being of people aged 60 and over living in rural areas. The Clerk had provided information about the Parish Room and the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, following which the Activator had sought a meeting to discuss the project further. As a result, the Chairman and Clerk were arranging to meet the Activator, and it was intended that Ms D Paige, an interested local resident, would be invited to attend.

## 6.20 COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE

The Council noted an update issued by the County Director of the County Council which reported the appointments of new Directors of Adult Services and Children's Services by the County Council, and further developments in the research for new models for local governance in the County.

## 6.21 CLUB SC

In a letter, the Chairman of the Club SC Management Committee applied for a grant towards the running of the Club, sited at Chiltern Edge School., and providing facilities for young people aged 10 to 16 from the local area.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the application be deferred.

## 6.22 HOUSENAMING

In e-mails, the District Council's Data Monitoring Manager & Street Naming and Numbering Officer advised that the property known as Eriskay, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green had been renamed Walnut House and that the new residential dwellings at the junction of Park Lane, Cane End with Horsepond Road had been named Lynwood and Oakdene.

## 6.23 FISH VOLUNTEER CENTRE

At the request of the Chairman, the Council considered a request from the FISH Volunteer Centre, Sonning Common, for a letter of support in connection with the Centre's application for grant aid, for administrative systems, from the District Council. The Centre suggested that the letter refer particularly to arrangements made for a public transport facility to replace the withdrawn M1 bus service.

RESOLVED: That a letter of support be provided to the FSH Volunteer Centre.

## 6.24 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had met on 9 November 2016, when it had reviewed a schedule of outstanding works at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion. Members of the Committee had since decided to suspend lettings of the Pavilion for young peoples' birthday parties, in light of the incidence of damage at each such hiring during 2016.

## 6.25 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

The Chairman reported that she had attended a meeting with representatives of Sonning Common Parish Council and the governing body of Chiltern Edge School, concerning probable developments at the school, following the Secretary of State giving consent for land at the School to be sold for development. One of the proposals was for a multi-user games area (MUGA) on the south side of the school site, in that part of the site remaining within the Parish.

## 6.26 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to questions, the Chairman advised that

- a the FISH Volunteer Centre was considering revisions to the request bus service for Chalkhouse Green, Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End, in the light of experience of operation;
- b no residents had yet responded to the request in the Parish Newsletter for expressions of interest in a neighbourhood development plan;

- c the County Council's officers had responded promptly to clear the recent flooding of the highway near Kidmore End pond.