

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 15 February 2017 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.30pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), Mrs S Hall, Mrs S J Hunter, Ms A S O'Reilly, I G C Pearson, T M Perchard, H Thresher.

Also present: R Simister (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Ms S M Biggs, Ms S Forde, J A Swift QC, K Bulmer (county councillor)

9.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2017 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:

- his Council's proposals for a unitary county council;
- proposals for spending £3.4m of adult social care temporary funding;
- a new support system for older people and those with disabilities to live independently in the community;
- the consultation by the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group about changes to health services in the County;
- personal budgets for carers.

9.03 KIDMORE END WAR MEMORIAL

(cf 8.04/17) The PCC Secretary of the Parish of Kidmore End and Sonning Common, by letter, advised that the PCC had no records of the ownership or responsibility for maintenance or repair of the war memorial at the church of St John the Baptist, Kidmore End. The PCC Secretary thought that there might be records held at the Diocese clarifying the situation, and she was, therefore, in touch with Diocesan Registrar.

In an e-mail, the Senior Development Officer (War Memorials) of Civic Voice invited the Council to be represented at a workshop concerning war memorials in Oxford on 1 March 2017.

RESOLVED: That the Vice-Chairman be appointed to represent the Council at the workshop on war memorials and that her attendance be an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

9.04 DELIVERING PUBLIC SERVICES

(cf 8.06/16) In the absence of Mr J A Swift, it was

RESOLVED: That Mrs S G Hall be authorised, vice Mr J A Swift, to sign, on behalf of the Council, the agreement with the County Council, under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, to undertake highway verge cutting in the Parish.

(The Vice-Chairman and Mrs Hall thereupon signed the agreement on behalf of the Council.)

9.05 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- on successful steps to reduce contamination in collected recyclable material, by using clear sacks;
- about changes to his Council's IT systems and website;
- that his Council had received an award for its Design Guide;
- that his Council's contractors were introducing new refuse freighters and changing some collection systems;
- about the up-coming Business Breakfast and Voluntary and Community Sector Forum.

Mr Simister stated that he had no news about the planning application for development near Bryants Farm, Emmer Green. A Member stated that District Council planning officers were making statements about the application. Mr Simister requested that evidence of inappropriate statements by officers be submitted to him, to enable investigation.

9.06 UNITARY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(cf 8.15/17) The Consultation & Marketing Manager of the County Council enclosed, with a letter, publicity materials designed to raise awareness of her Council's draft "ONE Oxfordshire" proposal to change local government in the County. A copy of the leaflet was given to each Member present. Comments were invited on the proposals until 28 February 2017.

In an e-mail, the Interim Chief Executive of the County Council gave notice, albeit short, about a series of meetings, arranged for the week of the Council meeting, about the future role of town and parish councils under the proposals. He also attached a copy of the document "A fresh start for Oxfordshire: proposals for a new unitary council", a document for discussion.

RESOLVED: That no corporate response be made on behalf of the Council to the "ONE Oxfordshire" proposal, at this time.

9.07 PARISH NEWSLETTER

(cf 8.19/17) The Reprographics Technician at the Henley College, by e-mail, gave notice that, because increased equipment rental and paper costs, she was no longer able to absorb the costs of producing the Parish Newsletter. Accordingly, henceforth she proposed to charge £45 per print run, the price established 10 years ago. Members observed that this would cost £160 per annum, for which there was no specific provision in the budget for 2017/18.

RESOLVED: That the proposed charge for printing the Parish Newsletter be accepted, notwithstanding the lack of specific budgetary provision for this in 2017/18.

9.08 WEBSITE

Arising from the discussion regarding the Parish Newsletter (see Minute 9.07 above), the Chairman and Ms A S O'Reilly reported on changes they proposed to the Council's website.

RESOLVED: That consideration of proposed changes to the website be deferred to the next meeting.

9.09 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £60,090.33.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Playing Fields Committee – Grant	£1,000.00
Chiltern Society – Subscription	£30.00
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£12.56
Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments	£174.09
D R King – Disbursements in respect of website	£26.88
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

9.10 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the application for construction of a double garage and associated landscaping at Greenways, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common had been permitted conditionally.

(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:

open sided oak veranda with toughened glass roof at West Barn, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
construction of a double garage and associated landscaping at Greenways, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common (amended plan);
new dwelling house for self build on land within residential cartilage of Oldfield House, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
proposed conversion of barn to single dwelling with new vehicular access and amenity space at The Coach House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End (amended plan);
demolition of conservatory, erection of single storey rear extension and replacement garage at Astracot, Rosebery Road, Tokers Green.

(iii) Planning appeals

(cf 6.12(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 one dwelling house on land adjacent to Woodside Cottages and opposite Oldfield House, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

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 the erection of 2 dwellings and garages with new vehicular access at Bishopswood Camp, Gallowstree Road, Sonning Common. The appeal was to be decided by the inspector reviewing written representations by the appellant and the District Council.

(iv) Proposed development off Kennylands Road, Sonning Common

The Council noted a copy of a letter from Sonning Common Parish Council to the National Planning Casework Unit, requesting the Secretary of State to “call-in” the planning application P16/S3142/O, for the construction of up to 95 houses on land off Kennylands Road, Sonning Common, for a number of reasons, but principally because the application did not accord with the adopted Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan. Members observed that the District Council’s Planning Committee had yet to consider the application. If the application was called in, the Secretary of State rather than the District Council would determine it.

It was suggested that the Council also request that the application be called -in. Members were ambivalent about that, recognising that the effect of calling-in at this stage would be to deny local elected councillors taking a decision on the application.

RESOLVED: That Sonning Common Parish Council be advised that the Council is opposed to the application for the construction of up to 95 houses on land off Kennylands Road, Sonning Common, and would review its position regarding calling-in that application following a decision thereon by the District Council’s Planning Committee.

(v) Proposed development near Bryants Farm, Emmer Green

(cf 8.14(iii)/17) Mr I G C Pearson reported on a meeting he had attended of the Campaign against Gladman in Eye and Dunsden (CAGE).

(vi) Neighbourhood development plans

(cf 8.14(vi)/17) The Council considered the notes (report 16/17 – 4) by the Vice-Chairman arising from the conference on neighbourhood planning arranged by John Howell MP, upon which notes the Chairman elaborated orally.

The Council considered again its policy regarding neighbourhood development plans, as set out in Minute 4.16(vi) of September 2015. Members were of the view that nothing had arisen requiring the Council to change its stance.

(vii) The Elms, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green – Possible development

In an e-mail, Mr M Foxton of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green reported activity suggesting that there might be proposals to develop land at The Elms, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, just north of the boundary with the Borough of Reading. Members observed that the site had been submitted to the District Council in the past, as potentially suitable for development.

9.11 SUPPORT FOR CARERS

By letter, the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire asked that parish councils take a leading role in promoting and supporting the various organisations who provide support to all ages of carers across the County.

9.12 A4074 ROAD, CHAZEY HEATH – SPEED LIMIT

In an e-mail, Mr I Beale of Tokers Green drew attention to the local campaign, fostered by Mapledurham Parish Council, to seek a reduction in the speed limit on the A4074 road through Chazey Heath.

9.13 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local

Councils in January 2017.

9.14 "TOKERS GREEN" SIGN

Mr M Foxton, of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, reported, in an e-mail, that the "Tokers Green" sign, situated in Tokers Green Lane just north of the boundary with the Borough of Reading, had been removed: indeed, both of the supporting legs of the sign had been sawn through at ground level. The Clerk observed that the similar sign, to the north of Bardolph's Wood, had also been removed.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be requested to replace the "Tokers Green" place-name signs, to the north and south of Tokers Green.

9.15 TOKERS GREEN POND

Mr I Beale of Tokers Green enquired, in an e-mail, whether there were any plans to undertake maintenance works at Tokers Green pond, eg clearing silt, cutting back vegetation etc. Mr Beale suggested that local volunteers would be prepared to carry out certain works, but not, for instance, checking the filters on the highway drains which emptied into the pond.

RESOLVED: 1 That the County Council be requested to arrange for the cleaning of the filters and traps on the highway drains emptying into Tokers Green pond.

2 That the offer of local volunteers to undertake maintenance works at Tokers Green pond be accepted.

3 That Mr I Beale be requested to identify the local volunteers prepared to undertake works at Tokers Green pond, for insurance purposes.

9.16 KIDMORE END – HEDGES

In an e-mail, Mr H Butters of Tokers Green had referred to overgrowing hedges adjacent to highways in Kidmore End village. The Clerk had asked Mr Butters to provide details of the hedges in question.

9.17 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

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

9.18 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 19 April 2017 at 7.30pm.

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

Item	Paragraph
Kidmore End pond – willow tree	3

9.20 KIDMORE END POND – WILLOW TREE

(cf 8.12/17) The Council considered a quotation received for the works to the golden weeping willow tree at Kidmore End pond, as follows (3 quotations had been sought):

J A Williams	£340
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RESOLVED: 1 That the contract for works to the golden weeping willow tree at Kidmore End pond be let to J A Williams.

2 That the Vice-Chairman be appointed to supervise the contract.