

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held remotely on Wednesday 20 January 2021 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.15pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge (Chairman), J M Ducker, A P Harland, A R R McAslan OBE (from Minute 8.07), I G C Pearson, T M Perchard, A Whyles.

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from J A Swift QC.

8.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2020 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correct spelling of the word "such" in Minute 7.13 and the insertion of the figure "1" before the word "to" in the second line of Minute 7.17.

8.02 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, had circulated a report, in advance of the meeting, covering

- some recent planning appeal decisions in the District, where the appeals had been turned down, despite the refusals by his Council's Planning Committee being contrary to officer advice;
- the strengthening of his Council's Planning Enforcement Team;
- the redeployment of members of his Council's staff on Covid-19 related activities.

In answer to questions, Mr Dragonetti pointed out that there was a 6-week period following his Council's decision on the Local Plan, during which the Local Plan could be challenged in the courts. A third party had made an application for judicial review of the Plan/process: it was not expected that this would be successful. His Council was now seeking to settle the timetable for the 5-year review of the Plan, which would be linked to the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan. His Council was exploring a joint Local Plan with Vale of White Horse District Council. Mr Dragonetti reminded Members that the District Council had had to respond to the intervention of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government in the Local Plan process, following the District Council elections in 2019.

8.03 TOKERS GREEN POND

(cf 7.05/20) Mr A P Harland had secured a quotation of £3,499.20 (including VAT) for the clearance of the silt from the Tokers Green pond from Hydro Cleaning Ltd (of Croydon). In view of the difficulties experienced in obtaining quotations for the work, the Clerk had decided, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 11.1(h), to award the contract for the work to the Company.

The works had been undertaken, and completed, on 13 January 2021, when 19,700kg of material was removed from the pond and taken to the Company's depot for disposal.

RESOLVED: 1 That Mr A P Harland be thanked for securing a quotation for the work to remove the silt from Tokers Green pond.

2 That the action of the Clerk be approved and confirmed.

3 That the County Council be requested to the clear the silt/oil traps on the highway drains discharging into the pond.

8.04 THE REFORMATION PUBLIC HOUSE, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 7.06/20) The Community Funding Officer of Vale of White Horse District Council had raised, in an e-mail sent to Ms S M Biggs, some points about the Council's fifth nomination of the Reformation public house, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, to be listed as an asset of community value. These related to the boundaries of the site, the proposed use of the land to the north and south of the public house building and how access would be gained from the public highway. Mr J M Ducker and Ms Biggs had submitted a response to the request.

8.05 GRANTS

(cf 7.08/20) In a letter, the Development Manager of Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire thanked the Council for its grant. She advised, separately, that the organisation's bankers had rejected the Council's cheque, and requested a replacement. By e-mail, the Treasurer of the Parochial Church Council thanked the Council for its grant towards the repair of the roof of St John the Baptist church.

8.06 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 7.07/20) The Clerk reminded the Council of the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the resignation of Ms A S O'Reilly. Notice of the vacancy had been given, and the District Council's Returning Officer had advised, shortly after the last meeting, that no election had been called to fill the vacancy. It was, therefore, open to the Council to fill the vacancy by co-option.

Members recalled that 2 persons had indicated a wish to serve as members of the Council – Mr A McAslan, of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, and Ms S Matthews of Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End.

The Clerk reported that Ms S M Biggs had resigned as a member of the Council, by e-mail, on 17 December 2020. The Clerk advised that he had given notice of the vacancy so caused. He had yet to hear from the Returning Officer as to whether an election had been called to fill the vacancy.

RESOLVED: 1 That Mr A R R McAslan be co-opted, in accordance with Section 89 of the Local Government Act 1972, to fill the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the resignation of Ms A S O'Reilly.

2 That Ms Biggs be thanked for her service to the community as a Member of the Council since February 2008, Chairman from May 2012 to January 2020 and Vice-Chairman since January 2020.

3 That consideration of the filling of the vacancy caused by the resignation of Ms Biggs be deferred, pending advice from the Returning Officer as to whether an election has been called.

(Mr McAslan, being present, was deemed to have signed a declaration of acceptance of office, and joined the meeting.)

8.07 APPOINTMENTS

The Council considered a report of the Clerk (20/21 - 11) to enable it to make appointments arising from the resignation of Ms S M Biggs as a councillor.

RESOLVED: That the following appointments be made for the period to the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2021

- a Mr T M Perchard as Vice-Chairman of the Council;
- b Mr J M Ducker, Mr A P Harland and Mr A R R McAslan as members of the Plans Sub-Committee;
- c Mr A P Harland as a member of the Transport Committee;
- d Dr C D Aldridge as a representative of the Council on the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group.

8.08 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 12 January 2021.

RESOLVED: 1 That a grant of £100 be made to Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens' Advice in the financial year 2020/21.

2 That the following projects, from the schedule compiled by residents, Members and the Clerk, be investigated further, with a view to them being funded from the monies due to the Council from the Community Infrastructure Levy:

- the provision of bus shelter(s) at Cane End;
- the provision of a defibrillator on an outside wall of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common;
- moving the former telephone kiosk at Chalkhouse Green to a location on the registered village green in that settlement;
- the provision of a bound, or other SUDS-compliant, surface, together with attendant drainage, on the entrance drive to the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground;
- the extension of the footway in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, westward to Cane End.

3 That the following Members/officers be appointed to investigate the above schemes further, and report back thereon to the Council:

- bus shelter(s) at Cane End – the Clerk
- defibrillator at Diamond Jubilee Pavilion – Mr I G C Pearson
- moving Chalkhouse Green kiosk – Mr A R R McAslan
- driveway at Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground – Mr I G C Pearson
- extension of footway in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common – Mr J M Ducker.

8.09 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £38,153.31.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Kidmore End & Sonning Common PCC – Printing Parish Newsletter	£91.26
W A B Grove Ltd – Internal audit fee	£540.00
Homestart Southern Oxfordshire – Replacement cheque	£100.00
Hydro Cleansing Ltd – Clearing silt from Tokers Green pond	£3,499.20
Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens' Advice – Grant	£100.00
David Wodward-Design for Print – Design and print reports, leaflets and posters (NDP)	£4,235.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£146.00
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£97.33

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 31 December 2020, against the approved budget for 2020/21. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £2,035, excluding capital payments and if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

8.10 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the application for

2-storey extension to existing detached dwelling at May Lodge, Park Lane, Cane End

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:

2 storey side and rear extensions, and single storey rear extension at Helmswood, Rosebery Road, Tokers Green;
replacement side extension, following demolition of existing extension at Fairview, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
erection of 12 x 8 ft single storey garden room to side of Lodge Gate Cottage, Wood Lane, Kidmore End.

8.11 GLEBE LAND, WOOD LANE, KIDMORE END

With an e-mail, a support officer in Countryside Records at the County Council reported that the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance had submitted an application under Section 31(6) of the Highways Act 1980, designed to prevent any public rights of way over the glebe land in Wood Lane, Kidmore End being recorded on the definitive map and statement of rights of way. The Board had also submitted an application to submit a statement under Section 15A(1) of the Commons Act 2006, to prevent the land from being registered as a town or village green in the future.

8.12 OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH AND VALE CITIZENS' ADVICE

The Director of Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens' Advice, in an e-mail, requested the Council to consider making a financial contribution to the work of the organisation, which provided advice to local residents, including 23 residents from the Parish in 2019/20. The Council noted that this request had already been addressed by the Finance Sub-Committee (see Minute 8.08 above).

8.13 DEEP CLEANSE

The Environmental Services Technical Support Supervisor of the District Council advised, by e-mail, that a deep cleanse would be available in the Parish from 10 to 12 February 2021. Litter would be picked up and footways swept and moss/weeds removed from pavements. The Council was requested to indicate where the activity should take place.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be requested to undertake a deep cleanse in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common and Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green.

8.14 GALLOWSTREE COMMON ALLOTMENTS

Members were reminded that the water trough at the Gallowstree Common allotments had failed, and recalled that the adopted budget for the financial year 2021/22 contained provision of £1,000 for the

installation of a replacement trough. A quotation had been obtained from W J Hatt Ltd for the installation of a trough, compliant with current regulations, in the sum of £1,272 +VAT.

RESOLVED: That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 11.1(h), the contract for the supply of a replacement water trough at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground be let to W J Hatt Ltd, in the sum of £1,272+VAT.

8.15 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an open letter from the Chairman of the National Association of Local Councils outlining 3 pledges and seeking commitment to making progress on them. The pledges were to rethink relations, ambitions and engagement.

8.16 HOUSE NAMING

By e-mail, the GIS Team Leader & Street Naming and Numbering Officer of the District Council advised that Duart Cottage, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common had been renamed Boundary Cottage.

8.17 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

Ms S M Biggs submitted a report, on behalf of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group, advising that the "Regulation 14" consultation had ended on 16 January 2021, that the responses from the consultation were now being collated and that a meeting had been arranged with planning officers at the District Council.

8.18 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had met on 13 January 2021, when the principal issue discussed had been the security of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion and the playing pitches. In respect of the Pavilion, CCTV was being explored further: installation would cost about £2,000 and advice had been sought from the Information Commissioner about the operation of a CCTV system. Quotations were being sought for the installation of height barriers for the access to the playing pitches, to deter traveller incursions.

A grant of £2,050 had been received from the fund in the gift of the county councillor for the Goring Division, Mr K Bulmer, towards the restoration of the floodlights at the Recreation Ground.

The Chairman of the Committee further advised that an informal meeting of the members of the Playing Fields Committee, to discuss the future management of the Pavilion and Recreation Ground, had been arranged for 27 January 2021.

8.19 RIGHTS OF WAYS

Reference was made to a broken tree branch overhanging restricted byway 25 – Dysons Wood Lane – east of Dysons Wood.

8.20 TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Reference was made to damaged road signs, often occasioned by hedge cutting operations. Members were encouraged to report the signs to the County Council, via the "FixMyStreets" link on its website.

On the recommendation of the Transport Committee, in light of the provision made in the budget for 2021/22 for traffic management measures, it was

RESOLVED: That the County Council be requested to arrange for speed surveys, as follows, when schools re-open and during term-time:

- on 2 sites in Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green and 1 in Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;
- on 2 sites in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
- on 2 sites in Reading Road, Cane End;

all sites to be agreed by the Transport Committee with officers of the County Council.

8.21 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to questions, the Chairman

- advised that, although some work had been undertaken by Playdale Playgrounds Ltd on the play equipment at the Gallowstree Common Recreation, completion was awaited;
- indicated that the printing of the Winter 2020 edition of the Parish Newsletter had been undertaken by Ms J Lynch of Wood Lane, Kidmore End, at short notice, whilst other facilities were under Covid-19 restrictions, and that £65.00 of the cost would be set against the Neighbourhood Development Plan budget;
- reported that most respondents to the survey about the Parish Newsletter preferred a paper version, rather than reading it on the Council's website;
- commented that she had no knowledge of the condition of the play equipment at the Rokeby Recreation Ground, Chazey Heath, which was owned and managed by Mapledurham Parish Council.