

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on Wednesday 17 November 2021 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.10pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge (Chairman), Prof J W Almond, A P Bowley, J M Ducker, A P Harland, Ms S Matthews, I G C Pearson.

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from T M Perchard.

6.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2021 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

6.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, had submitted a report which covered

- proposals by his Council's administration about certain refreshments at Council events and meetings;
- his Council's decision to seek the reduction of speed limits in towns and villages from 30mph to 20mph;
- the maintenance and cleaning of the household recycling centres;
- his Council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan;
- changes to on-street parking restriction enforcement.

6.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, spoke to his report, which covered

- his Council's new headquarters' premises;
- sewage discharges into the River Thames;
- grants available from his Council.

6.04 OPEN SESSION

During the open session, Mr M Davies, the agent for Mr E Madejski and Ms J Twibill, spoke in support of his clients' outline planning application to develop land between Coopers Pightle and Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End.

6.05 ROADSIDE HEDGES

(cf 5.02/21) Complaints were made, arising from the e-mail sent by Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, and reported at the last meeting, about the failure, thus far in 2021, of the occupiers of fields fronting Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End and Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green to cut back their roadside hedges, to the detriment of pedestrians and cyclists using those roads. Given the powers of the County Council, as highway authority, to ensure the safety of road users, it was suggested that the hedges in question be reported to that Council via "FixMyStreets". It was also suggested that informal approaches to the landowners in question might be beneficial.

6.06 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 5.04/21) The Clerk advised that he had given notice of the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the resignation of Mr A Whyles. The District Council's Returning Officer had advised that no election had been called to fill the vacancy. It was, therefore, open to the Council to fill the vacancy by co-option.

6.07 CANINE FAECES

(cf 5.05/21) The Council considered the report by Mr A R R McAslan and Ms S Mathews on dog fouling, a matter first deferred in May 2021.

Ms Matthews reported, orally, that residents of Kidmore End favoured the provision of additional dog hygiene bins in that village. Members noted the present cost of emptying such bins where it was arranged by the District Council's contractors.

RESOLVED: That consideration of this matter be deferred to a future meeting.

6.08 TOKERS GREEN POND

(cf 5.07/21) It was reported that the bench had been delivered, and installed, at no cost to the Council, at Tokers Green pond.

6.09 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND – PURCHASE OF LAND

(cf 5.09/21) The Chairman reported that she had agreed, with the vendors, the line of the fencing to be erected as a condition of the purchase of the land between the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and New Copse.

6.10 TOKERS GREEN – PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

(cf 5.12/21) It was reported that the outcome of the statutory consultation, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, on the proposed 20 mph speed limit in Tokers Green and Chazey Heath would be considered by the County Council's Cabinet Member for Highway Management, at a meeting on 18 November 2021. 75 responses had been received, comprising 2 objections, 2 expressions of concern, 70 expressions of support (93%) and 1 non-objection. Officers were recommending the Cabinet Member to approve the reduced speed limit as advertised.

Members concluded that, given the clear support for the measure from consultees, it would not be necessary for the Council to be represented at the Cabinet Member's meeting.

6.11 ETHICAL STANDARDS' TRAINING

(cf 5.20/21) The Council noted a report (21/22 - 16) by the Chairman on the code of Members' conduct refresher training, held on 9 November 2021.

6.12 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

(In accordance with advice from the Monitoring Officer of the District Council, the Chairman of the Council and Mr I G C Pearson withdrew from the meeting for this item, because of the risk of bias, or the appearance of bias, given their membership of Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group.

In the absence of the Vice-Chairman, Mr J M Ducker was elected Chairman of the meeting for this item.

Mr Ducker in the Chair.)

(cf 5.24/21) The Council considered the draft response, compiled by the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group, to the note of clarification issued by the Examiner in respect of the draft Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan. The draft response had been circulated to Members on 10 November 2021.

During the ensuing discussion, Members observed that the “target” figures for additional housing units within the Parish had changed during the drafting period.

RESOLVED: 1 That, subject to any cosmetic editorial changes by the Clerk, the circulated draft response to the note of clarification issued by the Examiner be adopted.

2 That the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group be thanked for compiling the comprehensive draft response.

(A copy of the adopted response is attached to the Minutes to be signed.)

6.13 FINANCE

(The Chairman of the Council resumed the Chair)

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £44,350.32.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

The Henley College – Printing Parish Newsletter (2 editions)	£92.00
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£107.64
Ian Kendrick Ltd – Mowing 2021 and highways verges	£2,881.20
United Kingdom Debt Management Office – Loan repayment	£6,473.74†
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£146.00
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£97.33

† *To be paid by direct debit*

6.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the application for demolition of part of existing dwelling and detached garage and erection of detached 4-bedroom 2-storey dwelling at Oldfield House, 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:

replacement house at Little Orchard, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a detached 3-bedroom 2-storey dwelling and a detached 4-bedroom 2-story dwelling at Holmsdale, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green (amended plan);
replace existing roof at Old Well Cottage, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End;
variation of conditions of permissions P20/S0999 and P18/S2795 to revise vehicular access on to Horsepond Road at Fox Heath Gardens, Cane End (amended plan);
demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling, garage and associated works at Farm Cottage, Chalkhouse Green.

(iii) Chambers Copse, Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green – possible development

By letter, the Head of Planning of the District Council advised that he was processing a notification seeking a determination by his Council whether proposed development at Chambers Copse, Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green - change of use of 2 agricultural buildings into 3 dwellings - would require prior approval to proceed under permitted development rights. The District Council had to determine whether there were no highway, transport, noise, contamination or flooding impacts or risks. If prior approval was refused, the applicant could appeal against that decision to the Secretary of State.

The District Council had to serve notice, under the prior notification procedure, on adjoining owners or occupiers. The District Council was unable to take into account any comments on the notification from the Parish Council.

(iv) Planning Appeal

In a letter, the Head of Planning of the District Council advised that an appeal had been lodged against the decision of his Council to refuse planning permission for a proposed side and rear extension at Felix Lodge, Wood Lane, Kidmore End. The appeal would be determined under the householder appeals' service, so there was no further opportunity to submit comments.

(v) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Deputy Clerk to Sonning Common Parish Council advised, in an e-mail, that the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan had been updated, to ensure it accorded with other local and national planning policies. Consultation on the draft had commenced on 20 October and would end on 1 December 2021.

RESOLVED: That the draft updated Sonning Common Neighbourhood Development Plan be supported.

6.15CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY EMERGENCY BILL

By e-mail, a member of the Zero Hour Oxfordshire team encouraged the Council to pass a motion in support of the Climate and Ecology Emergency Bill, a private member's bill designed to deliver a legal commitment to follow the scientific advice to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C, a legal requirement to restore and protect nature and annual legally-binding targets.

The Chairman proposed that the Council adopt the pro-forma motion of support attached to the e-mail.

It was further suggested that the Council consider the 20 actions parish and town councils can take on the climate and nature emergency, published by Friends of the Earth.

RESOLVED: 1 That this Council supports the Climate and Ecology Emergency Bill and will write to John Howell MP urging him to support the Bill.

2 That the 20 actions parish and town councils can take on the climate and nature emergency be considered at the next meeting.

6.16 20 MPH SPEED LIMITS

The Council noted a tool kit, issued by the 20's Plenty for Oxfordshire campaign, aimed at communities who wished to take advantage of the County Council's policy to make it simpler, quicker and less cost prohibitive to lower speeds to 20mph on most urban area and village streets where it was both suitable and supported by residents.

6.17 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in October 2021, with particular reference to the paragraphs about preparations for official mourning, the fire and rescue service consultation, community resilience plans, the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and the guide on website accessibility.

RESOLVED: 1 That Ms S Matthews be authorised to respond, on behalf of the Council, to the consultation on the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

2 That the Chairman review the Council's Community Resilience Plan, and report thereon to the next meeting.

3 That consideration of the promotion of picnic(s) to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM the Queen, over the weekend 2 to 5 June 2022, be deferred to the next meeting.

6.18 WEBSITE

Arising from Minute 6.18, the Chairman advised that Ms A S O'Reilly wished to relinquish the responsibilities of Webmaster, because of pressures on her time. Mr A P Bowley indicated that he would consider taking on the role.

6.19 CLUB SC

By letter, the Deputy Clerk to Sonning Common Parish Council requested the Council to consider making a financial contribution to the Sonning Common Youth Club (Club SC), a local community run and funded club, based at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School. Membership included children from Kidmore End.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the request be deferred to later in the financial year.

6.20 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

The Council noted that the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group had met since the last meeting of the Council, to draft a response to the points of clarification raised by the Examiner of the draft neighbourhood development plan.

6.21 KIDMORE END PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Council considered a report (21/22 - 17) by the Chairman of the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee, arising from the meeting of the Committee held on 10 November 2021.

Reference was made to accumulations of grounds' maintenance materials and equipment at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: 1 That the report be noted.

2 That the opening of the bar in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, for community use, on Fridays during the winter months, be approved, as a change to the use of the premises.

6.22 TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Reference was made to incidents where attempts were made to drive vehicles along restricted byway 27, south of Chalkhouse Green Farm, Chalkhouse Green.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be requested to erect signage to indicate that Chalkhouse Green Lane, Chalkhouse Green is a cul de sac for vehicles.

6.23 FOUL DRAINAGE AND SEPTIC TANKS

Reference was made to the difficulties faced by residents of Gallowstree Common regarding renewal of septic tanks, given that there was no mains' sewerage in that village, or, indeed, any of the settlements in the Parish, excluding Tokers Green south of the pond. While cesspools meeting certain requirements could remain in use, septic tanks which discharged waste water broadly had to meet the "general binding rules" and comply with the relevant British Standard. It was argued that this would be difficult for properties with small gardens.

Mr A P Bowley advised that he was in contact with Thames Water as to the likelihood of the provision of public foul sewers in the Parish.

6.24 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

In answer to a question, the Chairman agreed that the Council should consider its wider operations at its next meeting.

6.25 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
Minutes	1
Allotments	1

6.26 PART 2 MINUTES

The Part 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2021 were confirmed.

6.27 ALLOTMENTS

The Council was updated on the implementation of the decisions taken, in Part 2, at the last meeting.

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

PART 2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 17 NOVEMBER 2021

6.28 MINUTES

The Part 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2021 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

6.29 ALLOTMENTS

(cf 5.29/21) It was reported that the Allotments' Manager had not heard from Mr D Ford about his reasons for the apparent non-cultivation of plot 9 at the Gallowstree Common site. As a result, Mr Ford had been advised formally that his tenancy would not be renewed. The plot had been offered to persons whose names were on the waiting list for allotments.