

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on Wednesday 15 December 2021 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.10pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge (Chairman), T M Perchard (Vice-Chairman), Prof J W Almond, A P Bowley, J M Ducker, Ms S Matthews.

Apologies for absence were received from A P Harland, I G C Pearson, P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

7.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2021 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correct numbering of Minute 6.15.

7.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- the adoption by his Council of his motion for HGV routes, avoiding villages and market towns;
- changes to the foods to be served at County Council catered events and meetings;
- his Council's decision to seek the reduction of speed limits in towns and villages from 30mph to 20mph.

7.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

In presenting his apologies for absence, Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, had submitted a report, which covered

- the review by his Council of the planning enforcement service, and the adoption of an updated planning enforcement statement;
- the quarterly performance report on his Council's corporate plan;
- the successful prosecution, by his Council, of the operators of the wedding venue at The Copse, Mill Lane, Kidmore End, who had been convicted by the Oxford Magistrates for breaching noise abatement notices in 2019, and ordered to pay fines and costs totalling £16,000;
- free parking in his Council's car parks in the run up to Christmas.

7.04 ROADSIDE HEDGES

(cf 6.05/21) The Council again discussed the condition of some roadside hedges in the Parish, which had been allowed to grow out to the detriment of pedestrians and cyclists using the roads. A number of suggestions were made as to remedies, although it was recognised that the power to enforce action by the owners of adjacent land rested with the County Council, as highway authority. The suggestions included seeking the voluntary setting back of the hedges from the highway edge.

RESOLVED: That consideration of this matter be deferred , pending the preparation of a report thereon by Prof J W Almond.

7.05 CANINE FAECES

(cf 6.07/21) The Council again considered the report by Mr A R R McAslan and Ms S Mathews on dog fouling, a matter first deferred in May 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman and Ms S Matthews submit a report to a future meeting on steps to reduce the nuisance caused by dogs fouling in the public realm in the Parish and their owners not removing the faeces.

7.06 TOKERS GREEN POND

(cf 6.08/21) In presenting his apologies for absence, Mr A P Harland had passed on a request from a resident of Tokers Green to install a flexible marker post near the apex of the grass verge on the village green at Tokers Green, at the junction of Tokers Green Lane and Dysons Wood Lane.. The purpose of this was to to prevent further erosion of the grass at that location. The cost would be c£50.

A technical officer in Traffic & Road Safety, Environment & Place, at the County Council had, by e-mail, agreed to the proposal, provided that the marker was installed at least 450mm from the tarmac road, the reflectors on the top of the bollard were red one side and white the other and the post was installed so the white reflector was pointing towards Rokeby Drive.

RESOLVED: That the proposed installation of a flexible marker post on the green at the junction of Tokers Green Lane and Dysons Wood Lane, Tokers Green be approved, at a cost of c£50.

7.07 TOKERS GREEN – PROPOSED 20MPH SPEED LIMIT

(cf 6.10/21) It was reported that the County Council's Cabinet Member for Highway Management had approved the making of an order, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to reduce the speed limit in Tokers Green and Chazey Heath to 20 mph.

The Clerk reported that the County Council had agreed to discount the cost of the necessary signage, which would be installed as soon as practicable after the [Parish] Council had paid the account for this (see Minute 7.17(ii) below).

7.08 ETHICAL STANDARDS' TRAINING

(cf 6.11/21) The Council noted the presentation slides from the code of Members' conduct refresher training, held on 9 and 18 November 2021, which slides had been sent to all Members.

7.09 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

(cf 6.12/21) It was reported that Mr A R R McAslan of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, had, as "convenor of the Keep Kidmore End Green Group", written to the Examiner of the draft Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan, commenting on some aspects of the Council's response to the Examiner's notes of clarification on the draft Plan. Given the closing date of the consultation under Regulation 16 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 had been in September 2021, it was not known whether the Examiner would take Mr McAslan's comments into account.

7.10 CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY EMERGENCY BILL

(cf 6.15/21) The Council considered the 20 actions parish and town councils can take on the climate and nature emergency, published by Friends of the Earth, together with a note from the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils about the powers available to parish councils in respect of those actions.

RESOLVED: That a sub-committee, comprising Mr J M Ducker and Ms S Matthews be established to review and report back on implementation of the 20 actions parish and town councils which can take on the climate and nature emergency.

7.11 OXFORDSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

(cf 6.17/21) It was noted that no response had been sent to the consultation on the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

7.12 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

(cf 6.17/21) The Council noted that the Chairman had updated the Winter Plan, which updated Plan had been circulated to all Members prior to the meeting.

7.13 PLATINUM JUBILEE OF HM THE QUEEN

(cf 6.17/21) The Council discussed the promotion of an event or events to

celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM the Queen, over the weekend 2 to 5 June 2022, a matter the consideration of which had been deferred at the last meeting.

Following a wide ranging discussion, Members favoured the promotion of one event, say a picnic, at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: 1 That a Parish-wide event in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee of HM the Queen be held at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on 5 June 2022.

2 That a sub-committee, comprising the Vice-Chairman, Prof K W Almond, Mr A P Bowley and Ms S Matthews, be established to report to a future meeting on the proposed structure of the event.

7.14 WEBSITE

(cf 6.18/21) It was reported that Mr A P Bowley was prepared to take on the role of Webmaster, in succession to Ms A S O'Reilly.

Mr Bowley encouraged all Members to use the kepc.info mail service for all Council related correspondence. He undertook to discover whether such action was required under the General Data Protection Regulations.

RESOLVED: 1 That Mr A P Rowley be appointed as Webmaster with immediate effect.

2 That Ms A S O'Reilly be thanked for her service to the community as the Council's Webmaster over many years.

7.15 CONDUCT OF COUNCIL BUSINESS

(cf 6.24/21) The Council discussed how the conduct of the business at its meetings could be improved, a matter initially raised at the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That a sub-committee, comprising Prof J W Almond, Mr A P Bowley and Mr A P Harland, be established to report to a future meeting on how the conduct of the business at meetings of the Council could be improved, within the framework of existing legislation.

7.16 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 7 December 2021.

RESOLVED: 1 That the External Audit Report to accompany the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2020 be noted.

2 That the precept for the financial year 2022/23 be set so that the element of the Council Tax, attributable to the Council, for a Band D property, be no more than 2% higher than the figure for the present year.

3 That the following grants be made in the financial year 2021/22:

Homestart Southern Oxfordshire - £100
Club SC - £250

4 That a further grant of £1,000 be made towards the cost of the upkeep of the churchyard at the Church of St John the Baptist, Kidmore End, in the financial year 2021/22, to be met from the provision for grants to outside bodies.

5 That, in accordance with Financial Regulation 11.1(a)(iii), the quotation of Wicksteed Leisure Ltd for the repair of the timber nest swing at the Kidmore End Play Area, in the sum of £921.24 + VAT, be accepted.

6 That the cost of the above works at the Kidmore End Play Area be met from the provision in the budget for the financial year 2021/22 for "Unspecified projects".

7.17 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £34,591.95

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

R F Penfold – Printing	£9.00	
Mrs C Strange – Refund of overpayment of allotment rent		£1.00
R J Bisgrove – Provision of trees for Tokers Green pond		£65.20
Oxfordshire County Council – Implementation of 20mph speed limit in Tokers Green	£1953.25	
Homestart South Oxfordshire – Grant	£100.00	
Club SC – Grant	£250.00	
Parish of Kidmore End and Sonning Common – Further contribution to cost of upkeep of churchyard	£1000.00	
Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee – Hire of Pavilion for meetings		
£108.00		
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£146.00	
HM Revenue & Customs - Income tax deducted		£97.33

7.18 ESTIMATES, 2022/23

The Council considered a report (21/22 - 18) of the Responsible Financial Officer, being draft estimates for the financial year 2022/23. The Responsible Financial Officer answered questions about the draft estimates. Members suggested the addition of projects to be funded via the budget.

RESOLVED: 1 That the base estimates for 2022/23 be adopted, as presented.

2 That budgetary provision be made for the following:

acquisition of an administrative IT system	£1,500	
training/support for the Webmaster	£300	
renewal of fencing at the Gallowstree Common play area		£1,000
works at Kidmore End pond	£1,000	
tree survey, and resultant works, on the additional land at the Recreation Ground		
£2,500		
celebration of HM the Queen's Diamond Jubilee		£500
increase contribution towards upkeep of churchyard		£300
noticeboards	£1,500	
unspecified projects	£7,720	

3 That a precept be issued for the sum of £41,600 in 2022/23.

4 That the base estimates and additional provision in resolution 2 above be confirmed as the Council's budget for 2022/23, for the purposes of Financial Regulation 3.2.

7.19 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) 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:

variation of condition 3 of approval P19/S4663/FUL, by change of windows from timber to uPVC, at The Old Barn, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End;
single storey rear extension, first/second floor side extension and rear dormer window at Highland Wood House, Mill Lane, Kidmore End;
decking in the garden overlooking the pond at The Copse, Mill Lane, Kidmore End (retrospective);
single storey side extension to replace existing conservatory at Fairlea, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a detached 3-bedroom 2-storey dwelling and a detached 4-bedroom 2 storey dwelling at Holmsdale, Tokers

Green Lane, Tokers Green (amended plan);
erection of 4 detached dwellings with parking and on-site turning on land
between Coopers Pightle and Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End (amended plan);
single storey pitched roof rear extension at Byfield, Reades Lane, Gallowstree
Common (and amended plan).

(ii) Planning appeal in neighbouring parish

(cf 4.15/21) The Council noted that the District Council's application for judicial review, of the decision of the inspector, to allow, on appeal, development of land at Little Sparrows (between Blounts Court Road and Widmore Lane), Sonning Common for 133 continual care retirement units, had been unsuccessful. The District Council had decided not to pursue the matter further.

7.20 BEACONS OF THE PAST NARRATIVE BOARD

(cf 2.16/20) A member of the South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group requested, by e-mail, the Council's approval for the installation of a narrative board at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground about the Castle Grove Camp (in the Parish of Checkendon), as part of the Chilterns Conservation Board Beacons of the Past programme. Members recalled that the Council had already agreed, in June 2020 (see Minute 2.16), to the installation, at no expense to the Council.

In addition, the South Oxfordshire Archaeology Group asked whether the Council

- ▼wished its logo included on the proposed board;
- ▼would support financially the board "unveiling" event, by, say, £500;
- ▼would waive the fee for use of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion for the "unveiling" event.

Members noted that the issue of use of the Pavilion was a matter for the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee. Whilst supportive of the Council's logo being included on the Board, Members did not feel that financial support of the "unveiling" event was appropriate.