

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on Wednesday 16 February 2022 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.10pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge (Chairman), T M Perchard (Vice-Chairman), A P Bowley, J M Ducker, A P Harland, I G C Pearson.

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Prof J W Almond, Ms S Matthews.

9.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2022 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record. A suggestion to amend the wording of Minute 8.14 was, after discussion, not pursued.

9.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- the budget adopted by his Council for the financial year 2022/23, which would result in a 5% increase in its share of the Council Tax;
- the termination of his Council's joint working arrangement with Cherwell District Council.

9.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, spoke to a report, circulated before the meeting, which covered

- the vindication of his Council's earlier decision to cancel the contract for outsourcing some central functions;
- consultation on his Council's new Design Guide;
- the availability of household support vouchers, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr Dragonetti advised that his Council would settle its budget for 2022/23 on 17 February 2022.

9.04 WEBSITE

(cf 8.05/21) The Chairman advised that the Webmaster and Mr A P Harland would be presenting proposals to the Council, at a future meeting, concerning the Council's website.

9.05 OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY PLAN

(cf 8.13/22) The Transport Sub-Committee regretted that its review the County Council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan had not occurred.

RESOLVED: That no comments be submitted in respect of the County Council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.

9.06 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND – LAND ADJACENT TO NEW COPSE

(cf 8.15/22) The Chairman advised that she had obtained 2 quotations for the compilation of a report on the condition of the trees growing on "The Slip", the land between the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and New Copse, as follows:

Ligna Consultancy Ltd - £340 + VAT
Ringrose Tree Services - £600 + VAT.

RESOLVED: That the contract for a survey of the trees on the land between the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and New Copse be let to Ligna Consultancy Ltd in the sum of £340 + VAT.

9.07 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £30,499.54

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

M Green – Works at Gallowstree Common well (replacement cheque)	£680.00
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£107.64
Chiltern Society – Membership subscription	£30.00
R F Penfold – Renewal of web domains	£40.93
Bluestone Planning Partnership LLP – Work on NDP	£240.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£146.00
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£97.33

9.08 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

single storey pitched roof rear extension at Byfield, Reades Lane, Gallowstree Common;
demolition of existing 3 bay garage, construction of new outbuilding at Butlers Farmhouse, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End;
single storey side extension to replace existing conservatory at Fairlea, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
change of use of, and extension to, former public house to provide veterinary surgery, demolition of outbuilding and erection of 1 x 3-bed and 1 x 4-bed detached house at The Reformation, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common

had been permitted conditionally.

In a letter, the Head of Planning of the District Council had invited the Council to make oral representations at the meeting of his Council's Planning Committee, to be held on 2 February 2022, about the above application for development at The Reformation, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common. Officers were recommending approval of the application: the Council had submitted an objection.

Neither Mr J M Ducker nor the Vice-Chairman was able to attend the Committee's meeting. The Chairman, therefore, appointed the Clerk to attend the meeting. However, in the event, the Clerk had been unable to attend. Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End and Whitchurch Ward, had kindly read the Clerk's statement, in opposition to the application, to the Planning Committee.

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

(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:

barn for storing hay and equipment on land at Bishopswood Farm, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common [Parish of Sonning Common];
demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling at Pool Cottage, Cane End.

(iii) Applications

The Council considered an application referred to it since the last meeting.

Members noted e-mails from Ms S Brown, Mr & Mrs R Lynch and Ms C Wright, all of Wood Lane, Kidmore End, objecting to the application for development at Kano, Wood Lane, Kidmore End.

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made on the application for erection of a 2-storey dwelling with detached garage at Kano, Wood Lane, Kidmore End for Mr T Winter: "The Council objects to this application because the size and bulk of the proposed 2-storey house on this back land site will be unneighbourly to nearby properties in terms of overlooking and reduction in privacy".

(iv) Planning appeal

(cf 6.14(iv)/21) A copy letter from the Planning Inspectorate indicated that the inspector, appointed by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing, Communities and Local Government, had allowed the appeal against the refusal of planning permission, by the District Council, for a side and rear extension at Felix Lodge, Wood Lane, Kidmore End.

(iv) Tree preservation orders

(cf 4.18(iv)/21) In a letter, the Head of Planning of the District Council advised that his Council had confirmed the South Oxfordshire District Council (Kidmore End Area) Tree Preservation Order No 21S16, covering 6 oak trees at Goodacres, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green.

With another letter, the Head of Planning enclosed a copy of the South Oxfordshire District Council (Kidmore End Area) Tree Preservation Order No 22S04, covering all trees located within the western side of The Maples, Dysons Wood, Tokers Green, which order had been made on 27 January 2022.

(vi) Planning Enforcement

(cf 8.10(vii)/22) Mr A P Bowley reported orally on the virtual briefing he had attended about the District Council's updated Planning Enforcement Statement 2021, on 26 January 2022. The presentation slides used at the briefing had been circulated to all Members.

(vii) Design Guide

The District Council's Head of Planning sought, in an e-mail, views on the draft Design Guide, developed jointly with Vale of the White Horse District Council, which sought to provide guidance on how new development in the District could be designed and constructed to the highest quality and sustainability. As a Supplementary Planning document, it would be a material consideration in any future decisions made on planning applications. The consultation would end on 15 March 2022.

RESOLVED: That Mr J M Ducker be appointed to draft and submit, on behalf of the Council, comments on the District Council's Joint Design Guide

(viii) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan

In an e-mail, the Head of Planning of the District Council consulted the Council on the reviewed Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan, which, if adopted, would replace the similar such plan adopted in 2016. The consultation period would end on 17 March 2022.

RESOLVED: That the reviewed Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan be supported.

9.09 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

The Council was reminded that there were 2 vacancies for the office of parish councillor.

Ms S Bew of Park Lane, Cane End had, by e-mail, provided some biographical details, which details had been circulated to each Member, in support of her interest in serving as a councillor.

RESOLVED: That Ms S Bew 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 Mr A R R McAslan.

9.10 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in January 2022, with particular reference to the paragraphs about the petition regarding virtual meetings, the NACO Tree Planting Day and training courses.

9.11 EMERGENCY PLANNING SURVEY

The County Council's Emergency Planning Officer invited, by e-mail, the completion of the annual survey regarding emergency planning by town and parish councils.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be reminded of the availability of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, in the event of a local emergency.

9.12 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

(cf 4.12/21) The Infrastructure Claims Team of the District Council, in an e-mail, requested the Council to discuss formally whether it wished the District Council to continue to hold the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies due to the [Parish] Council. In this connection, Members recognised that, although the Council had produced a short-list of projects upon which to spend the CIL monies due to it, it had yet to decide with which projects to proceed.

RESOLVED: 1 That, for the time being, the District Council be requested to continue to retain Community Infrastructure Levy monies due to this Council.

2 That the short-list of projects upon which to spend the CIL monies, and other projects previously suggested, be reviewed at the next meeting.

9.13 TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

With an e-mail, an officer of the County Council had given notice of the temporary emergency closure, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, from 25 to 27 January 2022, for emergency service pipe repairs.

9.14 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

(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.

The Vice-Chairman in the Chair.)

The Council noted a report (21/22 - 22) by Ms S M Biggs, on behalf of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group.

With an e-mail, the Senior Planning Officer Policy Officer (Neighbourhood) of the District Council had attached a second clarification note from the Examiner of the draft Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Examiner had requested a response from the Council by 21 February.

The Council considered the draft response, compiled by the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group, to the second note of clarification. The draft response had been circulated to Members on 10 February 2022.

RESOLVED: That the circulated draft response to the second note of clarification issued by the Examiner be adopted.

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

9.15 KIDMORE END PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

(The Chairman of the Council resumed the Chair)

The Council considered a report (21/22 - 23) by the Chairman of the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee.

In response to a question, the Chairman of the Committee indicated that the Committee would examine the advertisements displayed the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and on the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion.

RESOLVED: 1 That the proposed outdoor theatre production at the Recreation Ground be supported.

2 That the installation of projector and screen facilities in the main room at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion be approved, as a change to the use of the premises.

3 That the contract for the replacement of the rainwater guttering on the front face of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion be let to Radcot Guttering in the sum of £5,645 + VAT

9.16 GALLOWSTREE COMMON – LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

The Council considered a report (21/22 – 24) by Mr A P Bowley identifying some possible projects to enhance Gallowstree Common in commemoration of the platinum jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen.

RESOLVED: 1 That, subject to no adverse comment from the District Council's Conservation and Design Team, permission be granted for the siting of a bench at the Gallowstree Common well.

2 That, pending a decision on any scheme to enhance the land on the south east side of the junction of Wood Lane and Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, approaches be made to the County Council for permission to remove the bramble growth on the land.

9.17 ALLOTMENTS – HEDGES

The Allotments' Manager reported that, whilst the highway faces of the hedges at the allotments' at Cane End and Gallowstree Common were cut by a contractor, no such arrangements were made for the internal faces. However, the Farm Manager of Vines Farm had undertaken to cut the "inside" face of the hedge at the Cane End allotments adjacent to the field, free of charge, while tenants had agreed to trim the inside face of the roadside hedge there.

In addition, Mr L Williams of Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common had offered to remove the ivy from the tees on the boundary of the Gallowstree Common allotments with Hazelmoor Lane.

9.18 KIDMORE END POND

The Chairman reported that she had, with others, cut down the willow growth at Kidmore End pond and that she had sought quotations for further works, as follows:

clearing brambles and Carex (including roots, clearing dead wood, replacing 2 rotten wooden posts, concreting in one post, making good with top soil and grass seed and replacing chain.

9.19 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

The Chairman advised that one of the posts for the gate at the vehicular access into the Kidmore End Play Area was rotten, and needed replacing. She had, therefore, sought quotations from Ian Kendrick Ltd and SAS Landscaping Ltd for the replacement of the gate post, a project likely to cost less than £500.

RESOLVED: That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 11.1(h), the Chairman be authorised to let the contract for the replacement of a gatepost at the vehicular access into the Kidmore End Play Area to the contractor providing the lower of the 2 quotations.

9.20 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
Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground	5

9.21 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND

The Council considered informal legal advice as to how to review the relationship between the Council and the major user of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, and agreed to hire the services of a solicitor as mediator.