

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Kidmore End Church of England (Aided) School, Kidmore End on Wednesday 23 March 2022 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.00pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge (Chairman), T M Perchard (Vice-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 Ms S Bew, K Bulmer (county councillor).

10.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2022 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

10.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- his Council's budget-setting meeting on 8 February 2022;
- his Council's campaign about rogue traders;
- his Council's proposals for restrictions on cars in Oxford and the Zero Emission Zone to be introduced in the City;
- a bid to fund electric buses in the greater Oxford area;
- disengagement from the agreement between his Council and Cherwell District Council on shared services;
- consultations initiated by his Council.

10.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- the acquisition of property to enable it to discharge its obligation to provide emergency housing;
- his Council's budget for 2022/23;
- increased charges for using his Council's carparks;
- support for Ukrainian refugees;
- consultations by his Council on its schemes for Community Infrastructure Levy and developers' contributions.

10.04 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Mr J Donahue, the Chairman of Whitchurch-on-Thames Parish Council, enquired as to any relationship between the Council and full fibre broadband suppliers. He was advised that there were no such relationships, presently.

10.05 WEBSITE

(cf 9.04/21) The Council considered a report (21/22 - 25) by the Webmaster and Mr A P Harland about a proposed survey of residents of the Parish about the future direction of the Council's website.

Members, in noting that there would be a fee of £25 for the collation of the results, were asked to submit

comments on the survey questions by 25 March 2022.

RESOLVED: That the survey proceed as proposed, but that paper copies be available for those residents who request them.

10.06 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

(cf 9.12/22) The Council considered a report (21/22 - 26) by the Clerk, seeking to remind the Council about the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), and to update it on the investigations of the projects or schemes which it had selected on which the CIL monies might be spent.

The report listed the projects previously put forward by Members and residents of the Parish. Members discussed possible further projects, eg remedial works to the Gallowstree Common well-head structure or the creation of cycle paths.

RESOLVED: That a working party, comprising Prof J W Almond, Mr J M Ducker and Mr A P Harland, be established further to review possible schemes upon which the Council could spend its "share" of Community Infrastructure Levy monies, and report thereon to the Council at its meeting in May 2022.

10.07 TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

(cf 9.13/22) With an e-mail, an officer of the County Council gave notice of the temporary closure, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, of the A4074 road between Woodcote and Ipsden on 14 and 15 May 2022, to facilitate surface dressing works. Whilst outside the Parish, the closure might well impact on residents travelling north.

10.08 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

(cf 9.14/22) The District Council's Senior Planning Policy Officer (Neighbourhood), in an e-mail, passed on the thanks of the Examiner for the Council's response to his second clarification note in respect of the draft Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Examiner had requested a further period of consultation, limited to the amendments to Appendix D7 (Housing Allocation) of the draft plan. The consultation had started on 3 March 2022 and ended on the day of the meeting.

10.09 GALLOWSTREE COMMON – LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS

(cf 9.16/22) By e-mail, the County Council's Corporate Director for Environment and Place indicated that his Council had no objection to the work to remove the brambles on the land on the south east side of the junction of Wood Lane and Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common. The only stipulation was that those undertaking the work recognised that they were working adjacent to the carriageway, and take appropriate care.

10.10 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 9.18/22) The Chairman had received quotations for the clearance works, specified at the last meeting, at Kidmore End pond, net of VAT, as follows:

Ian Kendrick Ltd - £1250
SAS Landscaping - £1750.

Although the Council's Financial Regulations (11.1(h)) required 3 quotes, the Chairman and the Clerk considered that a 3rd quotation was unnecessary in this case, as both local potential contractors had offered prices. Accordingly, the Chairman had, as a matter of urgency, awarded the contract for the work to Ian Kendrick Ltd.

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

10.11 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

(cf 9.19/22) The Chairman reported that, in accordance with the authority granted by the Council at its meeting in February 2022, she had let the contract for the replacement of a gatepost at the vehicular access into the Kidmore End Play Area to SAS Landscaping Ltd, the contractor providing the lower of the 2 quotations, in the sum of £405 + VAT. In the event, the other gatepost at the site had had to be reset, at additional cost.

10.12 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 8 March 2022.

Attention was drawn to Minute 136 in the report. As a matter of urgency, the Chairman had adopted the recommendation in that Minute. However, subsequently, residents of Gallowstree Common, led by Mr & Mrs D Beddis of The Hamlet, had offered to repair the play railway engine at the Gallowstree Common Play Area, on a materials' cost-only basis. Accordingly, the proposed hire of a refuse skip was not necessary.

RESOLVED: 1 That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 3.5, the unspent budgetary provision in the financial year 2021/22 under the following budget heads be carried forward, on 31 March 2022, into the financial year 2022/23:

- Pavilion remedial works
- Pavilion – Sinking Fund
- Allotments
- Wells – maintenance
- Enhancements at Tokers Green pond
- Postages
- Telephones
- Audit fees
- IT equipment for Clerk
- Grants to outside bodies
- Cleaning war memorial/wreath/appeal
- Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Traffic management measures
- Unspecified projects

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

- Citizens' Advice Oxfordshire South & Vale - £100
- Mapledurham Parish Council - £210.

3 That the offer of Mr & Mrs D Beddis and other residents, to repair the play railway engine at the Gallowstree Common Play Area, on a materials' only basis, be accepted.

4 That the contract with the District Council for the servicing of the dog hygiene bin be terminated on 31 March 2022, and, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 11.1(h), a new contract be arranged with the Shield Group with effect from 1 April 2022.

10.13 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £27,126.20.

(ii) Account paid

It was reported that, as a matter of urgency, and in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.2, the Chairman had approved the following payment on 26 February 2022:

Radcot Guttering – Guttering for Pavilion (deposit)	£2,302.20
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RESOLVED: That the action of the Chairman be approved and confirmed.

(iii) Accounts for payment

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

Vines Farm – Cutting roadside hedges at allotments	£216.00
Mr J M Ducker – Lock for barrier at Gallowstree Common well	£6.80
Dr C D Aldridge - Photocopying Parish Newsletter	£46.00
SAS Landscaping Ltd – Gate posts at Kidmore End play area	£600.00
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£107.64
Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee – Hire of Pavilion for meetings	£48.00
Citizens' Advice Oxfordshire South & Vale – Grant	£100.00
Mapledurham Parish Council – Grant re Rokeby Recreation Ground	£210.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax (including arrears)	£177.80
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£118.13

10.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

side and rear extension, including first floor study, at Ambleside, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;

demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a 3-bedroom 2 storey dwelling and a detached 4-bedroom dwelling at Holmsdale, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;

demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling at Pool Cottage, 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:

demolition of existing bungalow and garage, construction of new 4-bedroomed dwelling at Leewood, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common;

side and rear extension at Felix Lodge, Wood Lane, Kidmore End (amended plan);

proposed replacement of stables, stores and outdoor arena for equestrian use at Kidmore Farm, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;

erection of 4 detached dwellings with parking and on-site turning on land between Coopers Pightle and Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End (amended plan); alterations and extensions at Nutlowe, Elm Road, Tokers Green.

(iii) Application for development at Kano, Wood Lane, Kidmore End

(cf 9.08(iii)/22) It was reported that, after the submission of the Council's response to the application for erection of a 2-storey dwelling with detached garage at Kano, Wood Lane, Kidmore End, members of the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had drafted a more detailed objection. The Steering Group had invited the Council to adopt that objection, perhaps for use if the application was referred to the District Council's Planning Committee. Members of the Plans Sub-Committee had supported the Steering Group's objection.

RESOLVED: That the objection to the application for erection of a 2-storey dwelling with detached garage at Kano, Wood Lane, Kidmore End drafted by the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group be put before the District Council.

(A copy of the objection is attached to the minutes to be signed.)

(iv) Fox Heath Gardens, Cane End

(cf 8.10(v)/22) The District Council's Development Management Team Leader (Applications) advised, in a letter, that as the development at Fox Heath Gardens, Cane End remained unoccupied, the development was not in breach of the requirement to provide the footway link to the bus stop. That said, elements of the landscaping scheme and boundary treatments were being investigated by his Council's Enforcement Team. The Team Leader had subsequently been advised by the Clerk that one of the dwellings appeared to have been occupied since October 2021.

The Council noted correspondence between the County Council and Bellwood Homes Ltd in which the County Council pointed out that some the fences and hedges at Fox Heath Gardens, fronting Reading Road and Horsepond Road, were unlawful encroachments on the public highway, and required the removal of the fence and hedge. The work was understood to be in hand.

(v) Kerak, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End

(cf 9.09(iii)/21) In the letter from the District Council mentioned in Minute 10.14(iv) above, it was reported that although the District Council had resolved to grant planning permission for the retrospective change of use of Kerak, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End, this had been subject to the completion of a legal agreement to cover the cost of travel plan monitoring by the County Council. That agreement had yet to be completed by the applicant.

(vi) Summer Cottage, Cane End – alleged unauthorised development

Ms C Skinner, of Reading Road, Cane End, had forwarded copies of e-mails she had sent to the District Council's Planning Enforcement Team, drawing attention to what she considered unauthorised development at Summer Cottage (and Summer Barn), Cane End.

Another resident of Cane End had contacted the Vice-Chairman orally with his concerns about development at Summer Cottage, and had subsequently submitted, anonymously, a dossier on the subject.

RESOLVED: That the dossier from the resident of Cane End on alleged unauthorised development at Summer Cottage, Cane End be forwarded to the District Council.

(vii) The Piggery, Gravel Hill, Emmer Green

(cf 10.08(iii)/22) It was reported that the District Council was considering an application claiming that the demolition of the existing workshops and erection of 2 detached dwellings at the Piggery, Gravel Hill, Emmer Green was permitted development.

(viii) Reading Golf Club

(cf 8.10(vi)/22) The Council noted that the application for the development of that part of the Reading Golf Club course with the Borough of Reading (the third such application) had been considered by the Borough Council's Planning Applications' Committee on 2 March 2022. The Council had been invited to speak at the meeting, but the Chairman had decided not to take up the application, given that residents of the Borough, and organisations based there, had greater priority. The Committee had accepted officers' advice, and had approved the application.

The applicants had also appealed to the Secretary of State against the decision of the Borough Council to refuse the second application.

By e-mail, Keep Emmer Green (KEG) had urged the Council to support the request for the application to be "called in", to be determined by the Secretary of State.

RESOLVED: That the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Community be advised that the Council supports the request by Councillor C Mitchell of the Reading Borough Council for the Secretary of State to invoke his powers under Section 77 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, as amended, to call-in the application for the development of that part of the Reading Golf Club course within the Borough.

(ix) Design Guide

(cf 9.08(vii)/22) It was reported that comments, as drafted by Mr J M Ducker, had been submitted on the District Council's draft Joint Design Guide.

(x) Central and Eastern Berkshire Minerals and Waste Plan

(cf 10.08(viii)/21) The Planning Policy Team Leader at Reading Borough Council, advised, by e-mail, that Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and Wokingham Borough Council were consulting on modifications to their joint Minerals and Waste Plan from 28 February to 11 April 2022.

10.15 LAND AT JUNCTION OF WOOD LANE AND HORSEPOND ROAD, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

Members were reminded of the parcel of land south east of the junction of Horsepond Road and Wood Lane, Gallowstree Common, which appeared to be highway waste, resulting from the realignment of the junction in the 20th century. It had been assumed, certainly since 1973, that the land formed part of the highway, and/or was owned by the County Council.

The land was mentioned in the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) as an important green space. The County Council had commented, in connection with NDP, that the land was not owned by the County Council, but was registered village green. On the instruction of the Chairman, the Clerk had written to the Chief Executive of the County Council to clarify the ownership and status of the land, and to enquire whether her Council would contest the registration of land as village green.

In a letter, the County Council's Corporate Director of Environment and Place acknowledged that there was an error in his Council's response to the draft NDP – the land in question was partly owned by his

Council and was not registered as village green. The County Council owned the land to the east of the junction, but not the original, straight-line, approach of Wood Lane: that latter land was unregistered, but was highway land. As to registering the land as village green, because it formed part of the highway, no application to register it would succeed.

(This land is also referred to in Minute 10.09 above)

10.16 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in February 2022, with particular reference to the paragraphs about chairs' Q & A sessions, Operation London Bridge, Section 137 expenditure and the OALC training programme.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman and Ms S Matthews be appointed to discuss issues about Operation London Bridge with the established church authorities.

10.17 TOKERS GREEN – 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT

(cf 7.07/21) It was noted that the signs had been erected on Dysons Wood Lane, Rokeby Drive and Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, denoting the 20mph speed limit, which had been brought into effect earlier in the month

Comment was made that the reduced limit did not extend south in Tokers Green Lane from the old dairy to the County boundary, a matter of regret.

10.18 CHILTERN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

(cf 10.10/20) Mr D Woodward, the Chair of Eye & Dunsden Parish Council, by e-mail, drew attention to the national consultation on new protected landscapes, and enquired whether this afforded an opportunity again to press for the enlargement of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). He suggested an inter-parish group to foster this approach.

Bearing in mind that it was the Council's policy to secure the inclusion of the whole Parish within the AONB, it was

RESOLVED: 1 That the Council support the inter-parish approach to expand the boundaries of the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in southern South Oxfordshire.

2 That Ms S M Biggs be appointed to lead the exercise for the Parish.

10.19 CLERK'S SALARY

In accordance with the decisions of the Council in 2005 and 2019, following agreement reached nationally as to salary scales, the Clerk's salary would be £3,030 per annum, with effect from 1 April 2021.

10.20 GIGACLEAR LTD

With a letter, the Head of Strategic Partnerships of Gigaclear Ltd enclosed a network access agreement seeking to install fibre broadband equipment on land owned by the Council, on a pole at the entrance to the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the network access agreement be deferred to the next meeting.

10.21 KIDMORE END PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Council considered a report (21/22 - 27) of the Clerk advising it of the outcome of the meeting of the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee held on 14 March 2022.

RESOLVED: 1 That the report be noted.

2 That consideration of the request for approval to the creation of a fenced storage compound at the northern corner of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, as a change of use of the Ground, be deferred, pending circulation of a plan showing the proposed compound.

10.22 DIAMOND JUBILEE PAVILION, GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND

The Chairman had given notice of the following motions

“1. The parish council would like to instruct KECC to remove the pallets and outdoor bar area from the veranda on the pavilion by 30 April. They are unsightly and pose a fire hazard.

“2. The parish council would like to instruct the KEPFMC to fill the hole under the pallet at the rear of the pavilion”.

Following discussion, the Chairman accepted amendments to the motions. The amended motions were put to the vote and declared carried

RESOLVED: 1 That the Parish Council requires Kidmore End Cricket Club to remove the pallets and outdoor bar area from the veranda of the Pavilion, as, given the total relaxation of restrictions relating to the Covid-19 pandemic, the pallets and outside bar are no longer required.

2 That the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee be instructed to cover safely and securely the hole under the pallet at the rear of the Pavilion, near the bin store.

10.23 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 20 April 2022 at 7.30pm.

10.24 CELEBRATIONS OF THE PLATINUM JUBILEE OF HM THE QUEEN

It had been intended to discuss the local events arranged in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee of HM the Queen, but time did not permit this

10.25 UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

The Council noted a report (21/22 - 28) by Mr J M Ducker concerning proposals by residents of Gallowstree Common to house and support refugees from the Russian invasion of Ukraine and a briefing from the National Association of Local Councils, received via the Oxfordshire Association, on what parish councils might do to support refugees.

10.26 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	5

10.27 MINUTES

The Part 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2022 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.