

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on Wednesday 23 November 2022 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.25pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge (Chairman), A P Bowley, J M Ducker, Ms C Mason (from Minute 7.05), Ms J P M Mather, I G C Pearson.

Apologies for absence were received from A P Harland, D P Malaperiman, P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

7.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2022 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correct spelling of the word "INFRASTRUCTURE" in the heading of Minute 6.09 and the word "attended" in Minute 6.18.

7.02 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

- his Council's review of the performance of its contractors, for waste collection, carparks and leisure facilities;
- opposition to the Government's proposed Investment Zones;
- his Council's decision to impose a maximum tariff on hackney cabs plying in the District;
- light aircraft noise.

7.03 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Ms C Mason of Bardolph's Close, Chazey Heath, introduced herself, in connection with her interest in serving as a parish councillor (see Minute 7.04).

7.04 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 6.04/22) The Council was reminded that there were 2 vacancies for the office of parish councillor.

Ms C Mason of Bardolphs Close, Chazey Heath 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.

It was reported that that the District Council's Returning Officer had advised that no election had been called to fill the vacancy caused by Ms S Bew ceasing to be a councillor. It was, therefore, open to the Council to fill the vacancy by co-option.

RESOLVED: That Ms C Mason 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 S Matthews.

(Ms Mason, being present, signed a declaration of acceptance of office, and joined the meeting.)

7.05 WEBSITE

(cf 6.05/22) The Webmaster reported orally on progress with the project to rebuild and develop the Council's website. The new structure was now in place.

On a related issue, the Chairman referred to a virtual seminar for parish councils on cyber security which had been organised by the Council's insurers.

7.06 DOGS FOULING PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

(cf 6.07/22) The Council again considered the request by Mr J A Swift of Chalkhouse Green for the Council to educate the public about nuisance caused by dogs fouling bridleways and footpaths. Ms C Mason and Ms J P M Mather undertook to investigate the issue and report thereon to a future meeting.

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

7.07 FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND

(cf 6.10/22) It was suggested that the Council could seek advice from the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association, a body of which it was a member, about the future management of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

7.08 20's PLENTY

(cf 6.14/22) The Chairman referred to her notes arising from the "20's Plenty" national annual conference held on 20 October 2022, which notes she had previously circulated to all Members of the Council. Arising from the notes, she proposed that the County Council be requested to reduce the speed limit on all roads maintained at public expense in the Parish to 20 mph. Recognising that Members had not had sufficient notice of the proposal, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the proposal to request the County Council to reduce the speed limit on all roads maintained at public expense in the Parish to 20 mph be deferred to the next meeting.

7.09 VILLAGES TRAFFIC GROUP

(cf 6.17/22) The Chairman reported on the virtual meeting of councillors and volunteers interested in securing lower vehicle speeds on roads in the Parish. Members recalled that the Council had appointed 3 representatives to serve on an independent group for this purpose. The volunteers, all, as it happened from Gallowstree Common, were Ms N Atherton, Mr C Collins, Ms D Collins, Ms M Goodyear, Ms J P M Mather, Mr M Plant, Ms E Wright and Mr S Wright. The group was entitled Kidmore End Road Safety Initiative.

The group intended to focus initially on Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, with a view to establishing what could and could not be achieved. To this end, a meeting was being sought with an appropriate officer of the County Council, as highways' authority. Approaches would also be made to Thames Valley Police.

7.10 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £40,786.11.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Shield Maintenance Ltd – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£10.39
Moore – Accounts' reminders	£96.00

Ian Kendrick Ltd - Mowing and verge cutting	£2,996.40
Dr C D Aldridge – Concrete for noticeboard installation (reimbursement)	£18.07
Dr C D Aldridge – Expenses in attending 20's Plenty conference	£21.60
United Kingdom Debt Management Office – Loan repayment	£6,339.24
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£151.50
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£101.00
The Poppy Appeal - Donation towards cost of wreath	£50.00

7.11 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

installing a P-shaped conservatory to the rear of 3 Fox Heath Gardens, Cane End;
demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension at Bramley, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End;
variation of conditions of permission for demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling at Farm Cottage, Chalkhouse Green

had been permitted conditionally and that the applications for

demolition of existing structures and construction of a detached dwelling and stabling on land north of Pond House, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End;
prior notification for installation of 9 wooden telecommunications' poles at Cane End;
proposed 2-storey side extension and redevelopment of existing dwelling at The Cottage, Park Lane, Cane End

had been refused.

(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:

variation of condition 2 on permission P21/S4379/FUL, for demolition of existing building and construction of replacement dwelling at Farm Cottage, Chalkhouse Green;
demolition of existing bungalow and garage and construction of new 4-bedroomed chalet bungalow at Leewood, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common;
erection of new dwelling, with access off Coopers Pightle, at Gabriels, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End.

7.12 KIDMORE END – FACILITIES

Dr K Hamer of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End raised, in an e-mail, a number of issues relating to the condition of facilities in the village of Kidmore End, viz:

- Council noticeboard;
- village "gateways" in Chalkhouse Green road and Wood Lane;
- salt bin at the well;
- the well;
- the play area.

Members

- noted that the replacement noticeboard had been erected (see Minute 7.21 below);
- recalled that the Transport Sub-Committee had been requested to consider and make recommendations on the future of the village "gateways";
- observed that highways' salt bins were provided by the County Council;
- recognised that, as its owner, the Council was responsible for the upkeep of the well, and appointed a councillor as Wells' Manager;
- noted that a grant had been received towards the cost of replacing the toddlers' swing and bench in the play area (see Minute 7.20 below), that the play equipment was inspected regularly and that it was repaired as necessary, as funds permitted.

RESOLVED: That Dr K Hamer be advised as above.

7.13 CHALKHOUSE GREEN - ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

The Council noted an e-mail by Prof J W Almond concerning a road traffic accident which had occurred in Chalkhouse Green Road, Chalkhouse Green on 15 October 2022. The accident had involved one vehicle.

7.14 IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT WITH PARISH COUNCILS

In an e-mail, the Comms Team of the District Council set out arrangements introduced by that Council to improve engagement with parish and town councils, comprising briefings on new policies or projects and monthly bookable surgeries.

7.15 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted the update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in October 2022, with particular reference to the paragraphs about internal audit, precepts and budgeting and village halls.

RESOLVED: That the Finance Sub-Committee review the arrangements for internal audit.

7.16 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

In a press release, the District Council gave notice of its new Active Communities' strategy, a new approach to health and well-being to help residents to take part in sport, health and recreational activities and sustainable transport, like walking and cycling.

RESOLVED: That the District Council's Active Communities' strategy be drawn to the attention of the Kidmore End Road Safety Initiative.

7.17 OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH AND VALE CITIZENS' ADVICE

The Chief Officer 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 10 residents from the Parish in 2021/22.

It was noted that the Finance Sub-Committee had discussed the request and would make a recommendation thereon to the Council at its next meeting.

7.18 WASTE AND RECYCLING

By e-mail, a Waste and Recycling Officer of the District Council offered to give talks about waste and recycling in locations like village halls.

RESOLVED: That the offer of a talk on waste and recycling be accepted.

7.19 KIDMORE END PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Council considered a report (22/23 - 11) of the Clerk advising it of the outcome of the meeting of the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee held on 9 November 2022.

The Chairman of the Committee drew attention to the progress being made in implementing the recommendations arising from the health and safety inspection of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion. He pointed out that implementation of some of the recommendations would fall on the Council, as the owners of the building, for example additional lighting.

Members noted the concerns of the Committee about its finances: the cost of electricity used at the Pavilion alone was not met by income presently generated by hiring fees. Members suggested that the Committee come forward to the next meeting with some recommendations for reducing expenditure at the Pavilion.

7.20 PLAY AREAS

The Chairman reported that she had, on behalf of the Council, submitted an application to the District Council for a grant, under its Everyone Active scheme, towards the cost of a replacement toddlers' swing and bench at the Kidmore End Play Area. She was pleased to report that the application had been successful, and a maximum grant of £730 had been awarded. She had accepted the grant on the terms specified by the District Council. The Chairman asked the Council to approve and confirm her action.

The Chairman went on to report that she had completed her examination of the reports issued by Playsafety Ltd arising from their inspections of the play equipment at the play areas at Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End. The Chairman had, with the assistance of Ms J P M Mather, undertaken the necessary works at the Kidmore End play area.

As to the Gallowstree Common facility, complaints had been made about the condition of the play train there. Members recalled that earlier in the year the Council had decided to dismantle that item of equipment. However, residents of Gallowstree Common had offered to refurbish it, which offer had been accepted. Sadly, for a variety of reasons, the project had not started. In the circumstances, the Chairman proposed that the original decision be implemented.

RESOLVED: 1 That the action of the Chairman be approved and confirmed.

2 That the play train in the Gallowstree Common be dismantled, and that volunteers be sought to undertake the task.

7.21 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 4.14/22) The Chairman reported that the new noticeboard had been erected at Kidmore End pond, with assistance from Ms J P M Mather and some residents. Residents had been very complimentary about the board.

The Chairman also referred to the installation of a new post box at the pond, in replacement of that previously in Tokers Green Lane. Unfortunately, no notice had been given by Royal Mail about the installation of the box, despite the site being in the ownership of the Council.

RESOLVED: 1 That Mr & Mrs R Lynch and Ms N Kendall be thanked for their assistance with the erection of the noticeboard at the Kidmore End pond.

2 That complaint be made to Royal Mail about the installation of the new post box at the pond, without the consent of the Council.

7.22 AIRCRAFT NOISE

The Council received a report (22/23 - 12) by Prof J W Almond asking whether aircraft noise impacted the quality of life in the Parish and whether the Council should take a position on the issue.

In view of his absence from the meeting, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report by Prof. J W Almond be deferred to the next meeting.

7.23 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

The Chairman referred to the training session on 27 October 2022 about the Code of Conduct adopted earlier in the year. Some Members requested a link to the recording of the session.

7.24 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
Allotments	1

7.25 ALLOTMENTS

The Council noted a report by the Clerk about the allotments at Cane End and Gallowstree Common, granted the tenancy of a whole vacant plot at the Gallowstree Common site, notwithstanding the Council's policy about dividing vacant plots at that site, reminded 2 tenants at Gallowstree Common that their rents were outstanding and warned those tenants that their tenancies would not be renewed at Michaelmas 2023 if there was no cultivation activity on their plots during 2023.