

## KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 20 February 2008 at 8.00 pm and concluded at 9.45pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), R S Young (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S M Biggs (from Minute 9.07), Mrs S Hall, Dr J D M McNie, R G McQuillan, Prof T R Morris, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, Mrs M S Rowland.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs C Toms, R A H Peasgood (district councillor), Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

### 9.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2008 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the substitution of the word "last" for the word "lat" in Minute 8.12(iv).

### 9.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

In presenting her apologies for absence, Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, had reported that her Council had, as expected, set its budget for 2008/9 at 3.875%

Mrs Viney had also reported that her Council had been in consultation with neighbouring landowners about felling dangerous trees close to the A4074 road in Green Dene Wood. The County Council was committed to felling trees on land it owned, and the Mapledurham 1997 Trust had agreed to fell trees on its land. Works were also proposed to improve existing traffic aids, including bend warning signs and a coloured high friction surface treatment.

### 9.03 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Mrs S M Biggs of Highfields, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End advised that the occupier of Felix Lodge, Wood Lane, Kidmore End had received notice from agents acting for the owners that the owners had lodged an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate against the refusal of the District Council to grant planning permission for the 2 dwellings on the site.

### 9.4 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

#### (i) A4074 road, Cane End

(cf 8.04/07) With an e-mail, Mrs C Y Viney forwarded exchanges of e-mails with an arboricultural officer of her Council and with her Council's Lead Member for Transport Implementation about the proposed felling of trees beside the A4074 road through Green Dene Bottom. Her Council would only accept responsibility for those trees which it owned, and it had taken time to establish the ownership of the various parcels of land in question. The project was moving forward, albeit slowly, and 2 road closures would eventually be required – one for the tree felling work, and the other for work on the carriageway.

A senior engineer of Oxfordshire Highways advised, by letter, that bend warning signs were to be installed on the road through Green Dene Wood, and a buff coloured high friction treatment applied to the road surface.

Members, noting the proposal to close the A4074 road twice, expressed concern that the diverted traffic should not all be routed through the inadequate roads in the Parish.

#### (ii) Vehicle activated speed indicator device

(cf 7.03(ii)/07) One of the invoices submitted for payment at the meeting (see Minute 9.07(ii)) was

from the County Council for the installation of a solar powered vehicle activated sign in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, in the sum of £5,000 plus VAT.

RESOLVED: That consideration (and payment) of the account from the County Council for the solar powered vehicle activated sign be deferred pending comments thereon from Mrs C Toms.

#### 9.05 TOKERS GREEN POND

(cf 8.05/07) Mr D Saunders of Tokers Green, by letter, listed the persons who had volunteered to undertake maintenance works at Tokers Green pond.

RESOLVED: That, for the purpose of insurance cover, the following volunteers be considered as employees of the Council when they are undertaking maintenance work on behalf of the Council at Tokers Green pond:

Mrs J and Mr M Evans of Tamarisk, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green  
Mr H and Mrs S Omran of Brickies, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green  
Mrs B and Mr C Pilbrow of Ambleside, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green  
Mr D and Mrs P Saunders of Beechwoods, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green.

#### 9.06 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 8.10/07) The Clerk had given notice of the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the resignation of Mrs J A Appleton, on 18 January 2008. He had not been advised by the Returning Officer of the District Council that an election has been called to fill the vacancy. Accordingly, it was open to the Council to fill the vacancy by co-opting a suitably qualified person.

The notice of casual vacancy had indicated that persons interested in co-option should send a brief biography to the Clerk by 19 February 2008. One such submission had been received, from Mrs S M Biggs of Highfields, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End. Each Member was provided with a copy of Mrs Biggs' letter.

RESOLVED: That Mrs S M Biggs 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 Mrs J A Appleton.

(Mrs Biggs thereupon signed a declaration of acceptance of office)

#### 9.07 FINANCE

##### (i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £15,880.39.

##### (ii) Accounts for payment

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

Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments	£11.92
Chiltern Society – Subscription	£25.00
South Oxfordshire District Council - Emptying dog hygiene bin	£65.34
Playing Fields Committee – Grant	£800.00
Mapledurham Parish Council – Grant towards cost of Rokeby Recreation Ground	£100.00

## 9.08 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

### (i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally

first floor extension over garage to provide one additional bedroom at Westdene, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;  
alterations and additions including raising roof plus new detached garage with room above at Stonecliffe, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;  
raising of roof to form first floor with dormer windows, rear and side extensions and enlargement of garage at Sundown, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;  
demolition of detached garage to rear, erection of single storey rear extension at The Oak House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End.

### (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 of double garage with accommodation over at The Old Vicarage, Wood Lane, Kidmore End (amended plan);  
loft conversion, insertion of 4 dormer windows (2 front, 2 rear), insertion of 2 roof lights on south elevation, modification of rear hipped roof to gable end at Kees, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;  
retention and continued use of a double classroom unit and a single unit for 5 years at Chiltern Edge School, Reades Lane, Sonning Common;  
part conversion of existing barn to create ancillary office accommodation to main dwelling at The Coach House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End;  
single storey front extension, replacement pitched roofs to dormer windows and alterations to garage front at Treetops, Elm Road, Tokers Green.

### (iii) Applications

The Council considered applications referred to it since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: 1 That no strong views be submitted on the applications for  
erection of 2-storey extension and replacement roof to existing conservatory at Common Farm, Gallowstree Common for Mr & Mrs A Ford;  
rear 2 storey and single storey rear extensions at Chauste, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green for Mr & Mrs D J Carlsson;  
replacement double garage with accommodation over at The Old Vicarage, Wood Lane, Kidmore End for Mr & Mrs B Williams (amended plan);  
erection of 2 storey extension to north elevation and single storey extension to west elevation at Walnut Cottage, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End.

2 That observations be made as follows

Application	Observation
One bedroom dwelling on side of 10 Craysleaze, Kidmore End for I McNaught	No strong views, although extension will impact on light for No 9
Erection of replacement garaging/ancillary accommodation at Lavender Cottage, Reading Road, Cane End for Mr & Mrs A Williams	No strong views, but should be tied to use of Lavender Cottage

2 storey side and rear extension, erection of garage with storage over at 10 Craysleaze, Kidmore End for I Mc Naught Refuse – overdevelopment

(Mr A K Martin disclosed a personal interest, under Article 7 of the Code of Conduct, in respect of, and withdrew from the meeting, under Article 10 of the Code, during discussion on the application relating to Common Farm, Gallowstree Common. The Vice-Chairman took the Chair in his absence.)

(iv) South Oxfordshire Local Development Framework

(cf 8.12(iv)/07) The Clerk had circulated to Members the response sent to the District Council, approved by the Vice-Chairman, on the basis of the decision at the last meeting, to that Council's Core Strategy – Issues and Options document. The response had been in the following terms:

"The Council wishes to make the following comments in connection with the Issues and Options, and the specific questions posed by your Council.

- 1 The villages surrounded by the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty should be excluded from development plans: these include Stoke Row, Checkendon and Rotherfield Peppard.
- 2 *Question 7, Option 5c.* Although we are in favour of some mixed development within the existing perimeter of Sonning Common, to support the continued use of existing services, we strongly oppose any development on its southern boundary towards Reading.
- 3 The same applies to *Option 5d.* This opens up once again the possibility of redrawing the County boundary."

#### 9.09 OXFORDSHIRE PUBLIC TRANSPORT GUIDE

The County Council's Public Transport Information Manager enclosed, with a letter, a copy of the winter edition of the Oxfordshire Public Transport Guide, which had been delivered with free newspapers throughout the County. It was intended to publish 2 editions of the guide each year, and views were sought on improving the circulation of the guide.

#### 9.10 EXTERNAL AUDITOR

By letter, the Audit Appointment & Fees Manager of the Audit Commission advised that the Commission proposed to appoint BDO Stoy Hayward LLP as auditor to the Council for the 5 years commencing with the accounts for 2007/8.

#### 9.11 FISH VOLUNTEER CENTRE

The Co-Coordinator of FISH Volunteer Centre in Sonning Common requested the Council to consider making a grant to the Centre in the financial year 2008/9, and enclosed a copy of the organisation's accounts for 2006.

Members recalled that the budget for 2008/9 contained provision for a grant of £50 to the Centre. Members observed, from its accounts, that the Centre had enjoyed an excess of income over expenditure in 2006 of £2,755 and that it held balances at the year-end of £20,789.

RESOLVED: That, given the excess of income over expenditure and its healthy balances, the FISH Volunteer Centre be requested to indicate why it is seeking a grant from the Council.

#### 9.12 REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION

(cf 6.08/07) In a letter, a Trustee of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council reported that the County Council's review of primary schools had changed significantly, as the Government had requested the Council to submit its strategic plan for primary school provision in June 2008. 5 of the planned locality reviews would have been concluded by that date, but the rest of the County, including the southern South Oxfordshire area, would now be reviewed as a paper exercise, using centrally held data. A draft of the County Council's strategy would be prepared by the end of March 2008.

#### 9.13 TOWN AND PARISH FORUM

(cf 4.18/07) With a letter, the Assistant Chief Executive of the District Council enclosed a copy of the proceedings of the town and parish council forum held on 8 October 2007, together with a report updating on progress against actions identified at the 2006 forum.

RESOLVED: That the report of the District Council's 2007 Town and Parish Council Forum be referred to Mrs S Hall for consideration and report.

#### 9.14 PARISH REMUNERATION PANEL

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services of the District Council, with a letter, enclosed a copy of the report of her Council's Parish Remuneration Panel on the payment of basic allowances and travelling and subsistence allowances to members of parish and town councils, which report had been issued in January 2008, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report of the Parish Remuneration Panel be deferred to the next meeting.

#### 9.15 CODE OF CONDUCT

(cf 6.05/07) The District Council's Head of Legal and Democratic Services advised, by letter, that a training session for clerks, chairmen and members of parish councils on the code of conduct had been arranged to be held at Henley on 3 April 2008.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman and Clerk be appointed to attend the training session on the code of conduct.

#### 9.16 TRAINING COURSES

The Council noted details of training courses, arranged by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in 2008, for new councillors, and on parish council financial matters, chairmanship and responses to planning applications.

#### 9.17 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council.

#### 9.18 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 19 March 2008 at 7.30pm.

#### 9.19 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to a question, the Chairman advised that he would ask the Clerk to enquire of the

District Council as to the status, in planning terms, of the lighting at the Pack Horse public house, Chazey Heath.

#### 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
Tenders for mowing contract	8

#### 9.21 MOWING CONTRACT

The Council opened tenders received, as follows, for the mowing contract in the years 2008 - 10:

Creative Landscape Co Ltd	£2,520 per annum (plus VAT)
Ian Kendrick Ltd	£165 per cut (plus VAT)

RESOLVED: That the contract for the mowing in 2008, 2009 and 2010 be let to Ian Kendrick Ltd.