

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 18 February 2009 at 8.00 pm and concluded at 8.55 pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), Dr B J Knapp, R G McQuillan, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, J A Swift.

Also present: Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S M Biggs, Mrs S Hall, Dr J D M McNie, Mrs M S Rowland, R S Young, R A H Peasgood (district councillor).

9.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2009 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correction of the title in the resolution at Minute 8.10 to "Implementation".

9.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, reported that her Council had set its budget for 2009/10, which would entail an increase in Council Tax of 3.75%. No front line services would be reduced. Indeed, additional social workers would be engaged to deal with safeguarding children and increased provision had been made for adult residential and day care services. Provision would continue to be made for services to military families in the County.

Mrs Viney confirmed that her Council's stance in respect of the Reading Travel-to-Work Area Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) bid remained as set out in its Cabinet's resolution of January 2009.

9.03 THE LATE PROF T R MORRIS

(cf 8.05/09) At the commencement of the meeting, the Council stood in silence in memory of the late Prof T R Morris, who had died on 2 February 2009. The late Prof Morris had served as a Member of the Council since March 2005. The Chairman and Mr Swift reported that they had attended the funeral.

9.04 CHILTERN AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008 – 2013

(cf 8.11/09) The Chairman reported on the Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2008 – 2013, which he considered contained many aspirations, although he was not convinced that they were all achievable.

9.05 NEW COPSE, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 8.13/09) The Clerk reported that a representative of UPM Tilhill had advised him that there was no expectation that access to New Copse, Gallowstree Common would be reduced if UKWAS certification was achieved for the woods.

9.06 READING TRAVEL TO WORK AREA TRANSPORT INNOVATION FUND (TIF) BID

(cf 8.27/09) The Chairman of Eye & Dunsden Parish Council had arranged a meeting of representatives of the southern South Oxfordshire parish councils on 19 March 2009, further to discuss the proposals which might be included in the Reading Travel to Work Area Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) bid. Mr J A Swift suggested there might be advantage in inviting representatives of Reading Borough Council to attend the meeting, with a view to securing some clarity as to what might be included in the bid.

9.07 PARISH NEWSLETTER

(cf 8.28/09) The Chairman reported that Dr B J Knapp had agreed to serve as a member of the Editorial Board of the Parish Newsletter.

RESOLVED: That Dr B J Knapp be appointed to serve as a member of the Editorial Board of the Parish Newsletter for the remainder of the current municipal year.

9.08 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £16,357.36.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Kidmore End Royal British Legion – Wreath	£40.00
Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments	£38.16
Contractors Plant Hire (Reading) Ltd – Hire of roller	£109.49
Acorn Services – Work to drive at Gallowstree Common Rec Ground	£480.00

9.09 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:

2 storey extension and alterations at Summer Cottage, Cane End;
erection of single storey extension and front entrance porch at Hollywood House, Tokers Green;
erection of single storey side extension, chimney and detached car port at Little Croft, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green.

(ii) Consultation on planning applications

The Head of Planning Services of the District Council, in a letter, indicated the benefits to both his Council and parish councils of electronic consultation on planning applications, although the present hard copy consultation arrangements would continue. The Head of Planning Services explained how parish councils could facilitate their consultation exercises by use of internet connections etc.

(iii) South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011

By letter, the District Council's Head of Planning Services advised that certain policies contained in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2011 no longer had application, as they simply repeated national guidance or related to sites where the development had been completed.

9.10 COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY

The Partnerships Manager of the District Council enclosed, with a letter a copy of the Safer South Oxfordshire; community safety strategy 2008-11, prepared by the South Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership, and a copy of the final report on the 2005-8 strategy. Crime reduced by 10% over the period of the previous strategy. Priorities for 2008-11 were reducing antisocial behaviour, improving road safety and reducing acquisitive crime.

9.11 SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE RYDER-CHESHIRE VOLUNTEERS

The Chairman of the South Oxfordshire Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers, by letter, requested the Council to consider making a grant to the organisation, which provided opportunities for physically disabled people to take part in leisure and learning activities. Members noted that there was no provision in the budgets for either 2008/9 or 2009/10 for such a grant.

RESOLVED: That no contribution be made to the South Oxfordshire Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers in the financial years 2008/9 and 2009/10, but that consideration be given to making a grant to the organisation in a future financial year.

9.12 TOWNLANDS HOSPITAL, HENLEY

(cf 7.14/08) The Henley Hospital & Community Services Project Newsletter 4, and Report of Engagement, issued by the Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust were referred to Mrs J E O'Sullivan.

9.13 BUS SERVICES

(cf 6.08/08) The Clerk reported receipt of an e-mail from Reading Buses advising of the operator's proposals following the consultation on services 137 and 138 which ran from Reading to Sonning Common/Peppard Common. The Company intended to replace those routes with a route 2, offering a 30-minute interval service on Mondays to Saturdays from Sonning Common/Peppard Common through to Burghfield and Mortimer, with an evening and Sunday service between Sonning Common/Peppard Common and Reading. The Council's suggestion, about an extension to Gallowstree Common, had not been taken up.

9.14 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in January 2009. The Clerk had circulated the update to Members electronically, and Members decided to defer consideration of further circulation by this means to a future meeting.

9.15 UNDERSTANDING RURAL ISSUES

The District Council's Policy & Community Engagement Manager, in a letter, referred to research undertaken by her Council to help it understand the issues faced by people and communities in rural areas. Her Council wished to "test" the findings at 4 stakeholder workshops, to be held at various venues in late February and early March 2009.

RESOLVED: That Mrs J E O'Sullivan be appointed to represent the Council at a District Council stakeholder workshop about rural issues.

9.16 WASTE COLLECTION

(cf 6.14/08) By letter, the Head of Environmental Services of the District Council gave details of a series of presentations early in March 2009, at Crowmarsh, about her Council's new waste collection and street cleansing service, to be introduced in June 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman be appointed to represent the Council at a presentation on the new waste collection and street cleansing service.

9.17 OAKLEY WOOD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE

In a letter, the District Council's Head of Environmental Services advised that Oakley Wood Waste Recycling Centre would be closed for refurbishment for 3 months from 23 March 2009.

9.18 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was noted that the Playing Fields Committee had not met since that the last meeting of the Council.

9.19 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 18 March 2009 at 7.30pm.

9.20 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to questions, the Chairman advised that

- a approaches should be made to Oxfordshire Highways to replenish the salt bin at Kidmore End well;
- b the District Council should be advised of the accumulations of used condoms, observed by a Member, in Hazelmere Lane and Wyfold Road, Gallowstree Common.