

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 23 March 2011 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.35pm.

Present: R S Young (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), Mrs S M Biggs, Mrs S Hall, Dr B J Knapp, Dr J D M McNie, R G McQuillan, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, T M Perchard, J A Swift QC, N J M Topham.

Also present: PCSO M Bellamy (Thames Valley Police), Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from R C Gutteridge, A K Martin.

10.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2011 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the deletion of extraneous numerals in the heading to Minute 9.13 and the correction to the spelling of the word "potholes" in Minute 9.21(b).

10.02 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

PCSO M Bellamy of the Thames Valley Police introduced himself as the officer, based at Sonning Common, responsible for the parishes of Kidmore End and Mapledurham. He advised that there had been a number of burglaries and associated vehicle thefts in the area, but some arrests had been made in connection with those crimes. There had also been reported thefts of farm machinery and diesel fuel from tanks on farms.

PCSO Bellamy advised that he patrolled his area on a bicycle, and was reporting potholes in roads to the highways authority.

Member reported anti-social behaviour by young people on the bridleway to the rear of the Abbey Rugby Football Club, between Chalkhouse Green and Emmer Green and to inappropriate parking in the vicinity of Kidmore End School. PCSO Bellamy commented that he would exercise his powers in respect of vehicles parked in contravention of the law, but felt that there was no clarity about the enforcement of zig-zag road markings near schools.

10.03 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, reported that her Council had established a "Big Society" Fund, of £600,000 which was to provide pump-priming monies for voluntary provision and management of community facilities: further details were to be found on her Council's website. Mrs S M Biggs advised that an application has already been made for funding for improved children's play facilities in the Parish. The Allotments' Manager enquired whether a grant might be available for the provision of a water supply to the allotments at Cane End.

Mrs Viney read out a press release issued by the Leader of her Council about the future of libraries in the County. The Leader indicated his strong support for the development of "friends" groups and the harnessing of volunteer effort, although he expected the County Council to maintain a core service, with qualified librarians. Mrs Viney indicated that her Council had yet to take decisions about the service, as a prospectus about its future was out for consultation.

10.04 OPEN SESSION

During the open session, Ms M Toomey of Chalkhouse Green, on behalf of the prospective tenants of the allotments at Cane End, hoped that the new entrance gate would be soon be installed at those allotments, while Mrs A D Thiam of Gallowstree Common urged PCSO M Bellamy to cycle around The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common.

10.05 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(i) Pavilion

(cf 9.04/11) The Council noted that, as at 22 March 2011, works completed on the project to replace the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground included timber roof structure and eaves joinery, slate roof covering, electrical services, mechanical plumbing services, wall cladding, fire detection wiring, rainwater goods, internal joinery and floor insulation.

The Clerk reported receipt of a grant payment of £43,068 from the District Council and receipt of the LEADER grant of £25,899. In addition, HM Customs & Excise had refunded the VAT paid until 31 December 2010.

(ii) Play equipment

Cf 9.16/11) The Chairman and Mrs S M Biggs reported on their research into prices for replacement play equipment at the Gallowstree Common Recreation, comparable to the equipment offered Arrow Playground. The prices had been found to be higher. It was also noted that the quotation from Arrow Playground included replacement of the cradle swing seats and chains.

RESOLVED: That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 11.1(h), the contract for the replacement of the swing seats and the steam engine play equipment at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground be let to Arrow Playground, on the basis of the quotation submitted to the last meeting.

10.06 KIFDMORE END PLAY AREA

Arising from the discussion about the play equipment at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground (see Minute 10.05(ii)), it was

RESOLVED: That quotations be obtained for replacement equipment at the Kidmore End Play Area.

10.07 REVIEW OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES

(Cf 9.05/11) Mr J A Swift reported an enquiry from a resident about the future of the bus service M1, operated by Motts Travel, between Watlington and Reading.

10.08 ALLOTMENTS, CANE END

(cf 9.06/11) By letter, Mr R James of Richard P James Ltd advised that the District Council had granted planning permission for the new access gate for the allotments at Cane End, subject to conditions requiring the former entrance to be fenced over and permanently stopped up by restoration of the highway verge and the approval of a vision splay for the new entrance. Mr James offered to seek the discharge of the condition regarding the vision splay.

The Chairman reported receipt of a revised quotation from Acorn Services for the digging out of the hedge and provision and erection of a gate to form the new entrance, in the sum of £650. Members noted that the previous quotation, accepted at the meeting in December 2010, had related to the insertion of a gate into the former entrance.

The Chairman advised that the owners of the field adjacent to the allotments had now erected a stock proof fence on the boundary.

RESOLVED: 1 That Richard P James Ltd be hired to seek the discharge of the planning permission condition relating to the vision splay for the new entrance to the allotments at Cane End.

2 That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 11.1(h), the quotation from Acorn Services, for digging out of the hedge and provision and erection of a gate to form the new entrance at the allotments, be accepted.

10.09 ELECTORAL REVIEW

(cf 9.08/11) In the absence of further information about the electorates of other parishes, it was

RESOLVED: That at submission be made to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England that the Parish should be included in an electoral division largely rural in nature.

10.10 RYDER-CESHIRE VOLUNTEERS

(cf 9.09/11) The Branch Manager of Ryder-Cheshire Volunteers, Oxfordshire, by letter, thanked the Council for its grant.

10.11 FOOTPATH 8

(cf 9.16/11) It was noted that the barrier on footpath 8 had been replaced.

10.12 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 9.21/11) It was noted that the duckhouse had been removed from Kidmore End pond, for repair.

10.13 KIDMORE END ROAD, EMMER GREEN - FLOODING

(cf 9.21/11) The Assistant Highways Manager of Reading Borough Council advised, in a letter, that his Council would shortly commence works to improve the drainage of Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green, at the bottom of the hill adjacent to Reading Golf Club.

10.14 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £183,399.99.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Sue Ryder – Nettlebed Hospice – Grant	£100.00
Richard P James Ltd – Pavilion project: professional fees	£3,764.94
Acorn Services – Replacement of barrier, footpath 8	£150.00
Hale Building Contractors Ltd – Pavilion project: stage payment	£142,473.46
R F Penfold – Clerk's salary	£654.25
South Oxfordshire District Council _planning condition discharge fee	£42.50

Financial Regulations

At the suggestion of the Responsible Financial Officer, it was

RESOLVED: That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 3.5, the unspent budgetary provision in the financial year 2010/11 under the following budget heads be carried forward, on 31 March 2011, into the financial year 2011/12

Clerk's expenses
Postages
Telephones
Hire of accommodation for meetings
Grant for churchyard maintenance
Grant for Rokeby Recreation Ground.

10.15 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:

single storey extension to link existing barn conversion to an existing detached store at Collegewood Barn, Cane End;
proposed garage with private gym above at 7 Craysleaze, Kidmore End;
extensions and alterations to eastern wing including removal of modern extensions with provision of new staff accommodation to match existing at Cane End House, Cane End (and listed building application);
2 storey rear and single storey side extensions to Highland Wood House, Mill Lane, Kidmore End

(ii) Butlers Farmhouse, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End – Proposed development

With letters, Mr D Hignell of Jeffrey Charles Emmett enclosed courtesy copies of planning applications submitted by his clients to the District Council for developments at Butlers Farmhouse, Kidmore End.

(iii) District Council's Local Development Framework

(cf 8.13(iii)/11) By letter, the District Council's Head of Planning Services advised that his Council had submitted its Submission Core Strategy to the Secretary of State, for independent examination.

(iv) Reading Borough Council's Local Development Framework

(cf 5.16(v)/09) The Head of Planning & Building Control of Reading Borough Council advised, in a letter, that her Council had produced a revised pre-submission Draft Sites and Detailed Policies Document, in connection with its Local Development Framework. None of revisions in the draft document, which set out detailed policies for deciding planning applications and identifying sites for future development, appeared to relate to sites near to the boundary with Parish. The Borough Council had also produced a Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Document. The consultation period for both documents was 21 February to 4 April 2011.

10.16 STREET PARTIES

In an e-mail, an officer from Highways & Transport at the County Council gave information regarding his Council's approach to street parties to celebrate the wedding of HRH Prince William or the Big Lunch, with particular reference to insurance.

10.17 PROVISION OF ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPPING

(cf 2.11/10) The Authority Liaison Officer of the District Council advised that the Council's contractor licence with his Council for the use of Ordnance Survey data expired on 31 March 2011. If the Council wished to be licensed for any mapping supplied to it by the District Council, it needed to become a member of the Public Sector Mapping Agreement, a centrally funded agreement with Ordnance Survey for

the supply of mapping to the whole public sector.

RESOLVED: That the Council become a member of the Public Sector Mapping Agreement.

10.18 COMMUNITY POLICING AWARDS

With a letter, a Communications Officer of the Thames Valley Police gave details of the Community Policing Awards 2011, a competition to celebrate the contribution made by police officers, staff and volunteers to communities.

10.19 HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES

The County Council's Waste Management Group advised, by letter, of a consultation exercise about the proposed revised household waste recycling centre strategy, which exercise ran from 7 March to 7 April 2011.

RESOLVED: That the consultation exercise about the County Council's proposed revised household waste recycling centre strategy be publicised in the Parish Newsletter.

10.20 CLERK'S SALARY

The Clerk reminded Members that, since he had been appointed, his salary had been paid gross, that he had declared that salary to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and that any income tax liability had been recovered via his main employer. By notice, HMRC indicated that, with effect from 5 April 2011, all parish councils were required to register as employers with HMRC and operate PAYE on the income their clerk earned, and deduct National Insurance contributions, where appropriate.

The Clerk indicated that this might well entail additional work on his part, as Responsible Financial Officer, and might be beyond his technical capabilities. If this proved to be the case, the Council might need to arrange a contract for the work.

10.21 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The District Council's Shared Electoral Services Team Leader, with letters, enclosed notices concerning the elections of district and parish councillors, to be held on 5 May 2011. The Clerk had supplied nomination papers to those existing parish councillors requesting them.

10.22 2011 CENSUS

By letter, the Chief Executive of the County Council requested that posters regarding the 2011 Census, to be held on 27 March 2011, be displayed on the Council's noticeboards.

RESOLVED; That posters about the 2011 Census be displayed on the noticeboards.

10.23 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had met on 9 March 2011, when there had again been a very full discussion about the management of the new Pavilion, and the likely date of it being handed over by the contractor. The Committee had also discussed the probable date for an official opening, in late July or early August 2011.

10.24 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr J A Swift reported orally on behalf of the Affordable Housing Sub-Committee, reminding the Council of decisions taken in respect of affordable housing at the meeting in September 2010 and of the

receipt of drawings of a possible configuration of an affordable housing scheme on land on the north of the Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

The Council considered recommendations of the Sub-Committee, presented orally.

RESOLVED: 1 That steps be taken towards a decision as to whether it approves the location in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common as a rural exception site for affordable housing, on the lines proposed by the District Council and the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council.

2 That, to assist it in making such a decision, the Council arranges a public meeting, to be held at the pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, in the first week of July 2011, between the hours of 7.30pm and 9.30pm.

3 That the public meeting be advertised in the Parish Newsletter and on the Council's website, the notice to include the drawings provided by Soha Housing Ltd and the explanatory policy letter from the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council.

4 That representatives of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, the District Council and Soha Housing Ltd be invited to attend the public meeting and each to make a short presentation and that full size plans of the proposed site and drawings of the accommodation be displayed.

5 That residents of the Parish be enabled to make representations in writing or in person within a reasonable time after the meeting.

6 That the Council decide as to whether it approves or rejects the site in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common as a rural exception site, and as to any further related matters, at its meeting following the public meeting referred to in resolutions 2 to 4 above.

10.25 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to questions, the Chairman

- a observed that the fixed speed camera at Cane End had been re-erected;
- b noted that the signs for the 40mph speed limit on the A4074 road through Cane End would be installed soon.