

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 19 October 2011 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.45pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), R S Young (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S M Biggs, Mrs S J Hunter, Dr B J Knapp, R G McQuillan, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, T M Perchard, J A Swift QC.

Also present: R Simister (district councillor)

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Hall, Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

5.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2011 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

In presenting her apologies for absence, Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, submitted a report covering:

- funding available from Government in order that local authorities could avoid raising Council Tax in 2012/13;
- the development of a joint fire control facility by her Council and the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority;
- progress with the Chiltern Edge youth club, following the withdrawal of funding by the County Council: the youth club would concentrate on young people in the age range 10 to 16, having secured support from Sonning Common Parish Council and local businesses;
- the decision, expected in December 2011, on the status of Sonning Common Library, and, therefore, its future funding.

Mrs Viney requested the Council to consider offering its moral support to the Chiltern Edge Youth Club.

RESOLVED: That the Council express support for the Chiltern Edge Youth Club.

5.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr R Simister, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, reported that

- advice on dealing with those seeking "tricks or treats" on Halloween was available from the Police;
- his Council's Chief Executive had apologised for the system failures endured during the District and parish councils' elections in May 2011;
- the examination of the Core Strategy of his Council's Local Development Framework was ongoing.

5.04 OPEN SESSION

During the open session, Mrs A D Thiam of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common expressed concern about the ability of residents to access services if the Parish suffered heavy snowfalls similar to those in the past 2 winters.

5.05 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(cf 4.05/11) The Clerk reported further correspondence with Mr H R Wates of Horsepond Road,

Gallowstree Common who had been under the impression that the Council had discussed affordable housing at the meeting held in September 2011.

5.06 REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER

(cf 4.06/11) In the absence of any expressions of interest from qualified persons, it was again

RESOLVED: That consideration of the co-option of a further suitably qualified person to serve as a parish councillor be deferred to the next meeting

5.07 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - PAVILION

(cf 4.07/11) Mr R James, of Richard P James Ltd, had proposed a statement about the proposed uses for the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, to be included in the application for the amendment of the condition of the planning permission for the building concerning its use, as follows:

1. Existing sports fixture matches, coaching, training including ancillary sports social events;
2. Events and sessions for community groups, for example: health /fitness classes, pre-school groups, etc;
3. Community group seminars, small conferences and training events;
4. Small community social events and controlled private functions.

The Vice-Chairman reported that the “snagging” exercise at the Pavilion, with the contractors and the architect, continued.

RESOLVED: That the statement about the proposed use of the Pavilion, set out above, be endorsed.

5.08 CAR PARKING

(cf 4.12/11) By letter, the District Council’s Head of Legal & Democratic Services advised that her Council’s Cabinet had agreed to make the Car Park Order 2011, on which her Council had previously consulted.

5.09 SALT BINS

(cf 4.16/11) Mrs S M Biggs reported that she had to receive a reply from Mrs C Y Viney concerning her enquiry about the County Council’s revised practices in respect of highway salt/grit bins.

The County Council’s Winter Operations Manager gave, in an e-mail, a reminder about the “Snow Day” arranged to be held at Drayton depot on 29 October 2011.

5.10 REVIEW OF SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES

(cf 4.17/11) In an e-mail, an Assistant Public Transport Officer of the County Council gave further details about the review of subsidised bus services in the Henley and Wallingford areas. A public meeting about the review had been arranged to be held in Wallingford on 9 November 2011.

The officer also advised, in a letter, that one journey on the part subsidised route 145 served the Parish, in that an afternoon journey from Woodcote to Henley passed through Gallowstree Common. Members felt that there would be little local patronage for the journey, given that there was no return trip.

5.11 EMERGENCY PLANS

(cf 4.21/11) Dr B J Knapp reported on his exploration of what local plans for emergencies might encompass. In the meantime, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the development of an emergency plan be deferred to a future meeting.

5.12 TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL FORUM

(cf 4.23/11) The Leader of the District Council enclosed, with a letter, the suggested programme for her Council's Town and Parish Forum, to be held on 22 November 2011, to which the Chairman and another representative were invited.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman and Mrs S M Biggs be appointed to attend the District Council's Town and Parish Forum, their attendance being an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

5.13 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £27,172.12.

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 30 September 2011, against the approved budget for 2011/12. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £5,791, if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

5.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that, since 1 April 2011, the applications for

erection of conservatory extension to rear of dwelling and widening of kitchen door to enable wheelchair access at Butlers Farmhouse, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End;

proposed single storey extension to replace existing at Kees, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;

internal and external works of alteration and improvement at Butlers Farmhouse, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End;

replacement dwelling and garage (amendment to permission P10/E1847) at Leawood, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;

erection of proposed replacement conservatory together with single storey link to games room, first floor bathroom/bedroom extension plus dormer extension to existing bedroom at Prospect House, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;

first floor extensions with new roof dormer windows at Owls Farthing, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;

demolition of a 2 storey rear extension and replacement with a 3 storey rear extension at Hillside, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;

single storey rear and side extension at 1 Woodside Cottages, Woodside Lane, Gallowstree Common;

demolition of existing 3 bay garages to be replaced with 2 bay garage and garden room (extension of permission P08/E0488) at Butlers Farmhouse, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End;

demolition of porch and erection of new 2 story and single storey extension at rear of Holly Tree Farm, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End;

had been permitted conditionally, that the applications for

replacement dwelling following demolition of existing house and outbuildings at Oakridge Farm,

Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
raising roof height in order to provide first floor accommodation and 2 single storey rear extensions at side and back at Red Roof, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
outline permission for the erection of up to 50 dwellings etc on land in Kennylands Road, Sonning Common (Parish of Sonning Common);
2 storey rear and single storey side extension, loft conversion, including insertion of dormer windows to front and rear, new front porch and associated alterations at Highlands Wood House, Mill Lane, Kidmore End;
erection of replacement staff accommodation at Cane End House, Cane End;

had been refused, that the application for erection of 2 storey extension to the existing house at Hillside, Horsepond road, Gallowstree Common had been withdrawn and that a certificate of lawful use or development had been issued in respect of the use of land and buildings as builders' yard and offices, workshops, covered storage and parking at Withy Copse, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

(ii) Planning Reforms

John Howell MP, in a letter, set out the rationale for the Government's reforms of the planning system – to provide a system “which helps to create communities which are sustainable, attractive and good to live in” and gave local people a greater say in shaping the areas in which they live. He also outlined the intentions behind the draft National Planning Policy Framework, which would introduce a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

In an e-mail, the Director, Campaign to Protect Rural England Oxfordshire, circulated extracts from a legal opinion about the draft National Framework, which took the view that the Framework would weaken protection of green belts and the wider countryside.

(iii) “How to Respond to Planning Applications”

The Project Manager, Supporting Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, enclosed, with a letter, a copy of a guide “How to Respond to Planning Applications” published jointly by his organisation and the National Association of Local Councils.

RESOLVED: That “How to Respond to Planning Applications” be referred to Mrs S M Biggs for consideration and report.

5.15 OXFORDSHIRE CARERS' FORUM

The Senior Administrator of the Oxfordshire Carers' Forum, in a letter, requested the Council to make a donation to the organisation, which sought to provide an understanding of carers' needs and views, with a view to influencing services and support for carers in the future. Members noted that there was no provision for such a grant in the budget for 2011/12.

RESOLVED: That no grant be made to the Oxfordshire Carers' Forum in the financial year 2011/12.

5.16 BROADBAND AND MOBILE PHONE COVERAGE

(cf 4.27/11) By e-mail, the Deputy Leader of the County Council forwarded the September issue of the OxOnline newsletter about the work of his Council to improve broadband speeds and mobile coverage in the County.

Members commented about problems locally with the speed of broadband, which was, apparently, related to difficulties at the British Telecom telephone exchange in Sonning Common.

5.17 DIAMOND JUBLIEE OF HM THE QUEEN

With a letter, the Pageantmaster of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons enclosed a guide to taking part in the proposed lighting of 2012 beacons in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen on 4 June 21012. It was noted that the proprietors of Vines Farm might host a celebratory beacon.

5.18 OXFORDSHIRE REPATRIATION MEMORIAL BELL APPEAL

The organisers of the Oxfordshire Repatriation Memorial Bell Appeal, in a letter, requested the Council to consider making a contribution towards the cost of locating a memorial bell in Norton Way, Brize Norton: the repatriation of deceased military personnel via RAF Brize Norton had recommenced in September 2011. Members noted that there was no provision for such a grant in the budget for 2011/12.

RESOLVED: That no grant be made to the Oxfordshire Repatriation Memorial Bell Appeal in the financial year 2011/12.

5.19 COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR FOURM

The Council noted an invitation from the District Council to be represented at the South and Vale Community and Voluntary Sector Forum at Wantage on 1 November 2011.

5.20 DISTRICT COUNCIL' CORPORATE PLAN

The District Council's Head of Corporate Strategy enclosed, with a letter, a draft of her Council's corporate plan for 2012 – 2016, upon which comments were sought by 3 January 2012.

RESOLVED: That the District Council's draft corporate plan 2012 - 2016 be referred to Mrs S M Biggs and Mrs J E O'Sullivan for consideration and report.

5.21 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Vice-Chairman reported that the Playing Fields Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council. However, on the instructions of the Committee, arrangements had been made for a regular trade waste collection service for the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

Reference was made to the difficulties experienced by wheelchair users going from the carpark at the Recreation Ground on to the playing surfaces, because of the gravel/shingle surface by the gate onto the field.

RESOLVED: That the Playing Fields Committee be requested to review the surface treatment of the carpark near the pedestrian gate onto the field at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

5.22 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council considered a report (11/12 - 3) of the Transport Sub-Committee about the Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan, winter highway maintenance and traffic associated with Kidmore End Primary School.

RESOLVED: That the Transport Sub-Committee be requested to pursue the following proposals or initiatives:

- 1 Engage with the County Council, as highways authority, with a view to securing measures to reduce vehicle speeds in and between Chalkhouse Green, Kidmore End and Tokers Green;

- 2 Invite quotations from potential local contractors for clearing snow from roads in the Parish not routinely treated by the County Council;
- 3 Enquire of other parish councils as to their reaction to the change of practices of the County Council relating to highway salt/grit bins and their replenishment, with a view to securing a practice which meets the needs of parish councils whilst remaining financially viable for the County Council;
- 4 Arrange a meeting with the headteacher, chair of governors and chair of parent/teachers' association of the Kidmore End Primary School, together with local police officers, with a view to establishing a plan to reduce traffic issues relating to the School, monitor progress with implementation of the agreed plan;
- 5 Invite parishioners to submit ideas for the School traffic reduction plan.

5.23 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

The Chairman reported that he had been unable, for family reasons, to attend the St Frideswide Civic Service at Christ Church, Oxford, on 18 October 2011.