

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 20 November 2013 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.05pm.

Present: Ms S M Biggs (Chairman), R G McQuillan (Vice-Chairman), Ms C D Aldridge, Mrs S Hall, Mrs S J Hunter, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, I G C Pearson, T M Perchard, J A Swift QC, H Thresher, Mrs J M Williams.

Also present: K Bulmer (county councillor), R Simister (district councillor),

6.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2013 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the substitution of the name "Kidmore End" for "Tokers Green" in Minute 5.07.

6.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, had nothing to add to his circulated report, which covered the "Talking Oxfordshire" public meetings and the meetings about home to school transport.

6.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- grants available from his Council's Community Investment Fund, for capital projects;
- the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, an exercise which the District Council was required by Government to do. The exercise was being undertaken on a pan-Oxfordshire basis. The report was expected in January 2014.

Mr Simister asked whether the Council had received a reply from the Chief Executive of the District Council about the path to Kidmore End cemetery. The Clerk replied that no response had yet been received.

6.04 OPEN SESSION

During the open session,

- Ms A D Thiam of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common, asked whether planning permission had been granted for the proposed affordable housing in Gallowstree Common: she was advised that it had. Mrs Thiam asked whether the permission included any conditions relating to traffic management measures: she was advised that the permission did not contain any such conditions.
- Mrs Thiam also asked about carparking provision in the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan: she was advised to pose that question to the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan Group;
- Mr L Lee of Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green, commented, having attended the stakeholders' meeting, on the possible impact of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and challenged the concept of the District Council's [LDF] Core Strategy being treated as a local plan;
- Mr Lee asked whether the Clerk had had a telephone conversation with a Democratic Services Officer of the District Council, that day, about Mr Lee's belief that a Member of the Council had acted inappropriately in connection with a telephone conversation with the Chairman of the Emmer Green Residents' Association. The Clerk confirmed the telephone conversation with the officer, and pointed out that complaints about parish

councillors should be directed to the Monitoring Officer of the District Council.

The open session was resumed during Minute 6.07(ii).

6.05 LAND AT GRAVEL HILL/HIGHDOWN AVENUE, EMMER GREEN – POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT

(cf 5.06/13) By e-mail, Mr L Lee of Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green, had asked the Council 2 questions, viz:

“1) Why and who initiated the call to EGRA on behalf of KEPC to allay fears about possible development of my site?

“2) Why was the KEPC message given to EGRA not the same as that given to myself being that any planning application made for my site would be treated "fairly and squarely"? The inconstancy of messages formally originating from KEPC need to be explained, and accounted for”.

Following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Clerk had replied to Mr Lee, in broad terms, that the telephone call had not been instigated by the Council, but presumably made by an unidentified parish councillor, that the content of the call was not known, that the Council's position was as previously stated to Mr Lee and that the comments to the Chairman of the Emmer Green Residents' Association were made by an individual parish councillor, who could have, quite properly, been expressing a personal view. Copies of the full text of the letter had been sent to each Member.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Clerk be approved and confirmed.

6.06 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

(cf 5.07/13) The Clerk reported that the grant promised from the LEADER fund, towards the refurbishment of the Kidmore End Play Area, had been claimed.

The Chairman advised that Wicksteed Leisure Ltd would return to the site later in the month, to complete outstanding works.

6.07 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(i) Water supply

(cf 5.08(i)/13) By letter, Caversham Solicitors Ltd reported that the easement for the water supply pipe for the Recreation Ground at Gallowstree Common had been completed in October 2013.

(ii) Cricket sight screens

(cf 5.08(ii)/13) The Vice-Chairman reported orally on his meeting, in the company of Mrs J E O'Sullivan and Mr J A Swift, with the Chairman of the Cricket Club, on 11 November 2013, when the Council's request, for the cricket sight screens to be moved to another position in the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, had been put. The Chairman of the Cricket Club, whilst putting forward a number of reasons for the retention of the screens in their present position, indicated that he would discuss the matter with members of his Club.

The Vice-Chairman reported orally on a further meeting, on 18 November 2013, when he and the Chairman of the Cricket Club had discussed a possible compromise, by which other items near the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion would be moved, which would facilitate an adjustment to the position of the sight screens, so that they would not totally block the view from the home of Mr & Mrs J McLean of Duart Cottage, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common.

Members discussed how the matter might be progressed, noting that there appeared to be a reluctance, on the part of the Cricket Club, to move the screens. In particular, Members considered what steps might be taken to resolve the situation, and whether to seek legal advice as to the Council's rights and liabilities as owner of the Recreation Ground,

The Open Session was re-opened, during which Mr & Mrs J McLean made observations on the statements and comments attributed to the Chairman of the Cricket Club from the meetings on 11 and 18 November 2013. Ms P Kogel of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common, spoke in support of Mr & Mrs McLean.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Mrs J E O'Sullivan, seconded by Mr J A Swift, to require the Cricket Club to move, within 3 weeks, the sight screens to a position or positions where they would not impact on the enjoyment of the normal amenities of their gardens by the Council's neighbours at the Recreation Ground. The proposal was put to vote and declared carried, by 10 votes to 1.

RESOLVED: That the Kidmore End Cricket Club be required to move, within 3 weeks of notice of this decision, the 5 cricket sight screens to a position or positions at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground where the screens will not impact on the reasonable enjoyment of their gardens by neighbours.

(iii) Play equipment

(cf 5.08(iii)/13) The Clerk advised that, following the last meeting, after receipt of the inspection of the play equipment at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and after comparing the quotations received, the Chairman had decided that the quotation of Ian Kendrick Ltd should be accepted, as representing best value, for the replenishment of the bark in the play pits at the Recreation. Members recalled that that Company's quotation had been in the sum of £2400 + VAT.

It was noted that the Company intended to undertake the work early in 2014. Members felt that an earlier execution of the work, so that the play equipment could be used in the school Christmas holiday, would be preferred.

The Council considered a report by the Chairman and Ms C D Aldridge (13/14 - 2) on the possible refurbishment of the play area. The report by Play Safety Ltd, arising from an inspection of the equipment in June 2013, was appended to the report. Members discussed possible ways forward.

RESOLVED: I That the action of the Chairman, in awarding the contract for the replenishment of the play bark in the equipment pits at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, be approved and confirmed.

2 That Ian Kendrick Ltd be requested to bring forward the works, to enable the existing serviceable equipment to be used during the school Christmas holidays, 2013/1014.

3 That provision for new play equipment be made in the budget for 2014/15, in order to ensure match funding to support applications for grants for the refurbishment of the play equipment.

4 That, in the meantime, quotations be sought from Arrow Playgrounds, Ian Kendrick Ltd and SAS Landscaping for the repair of the existing play equipment at the Recreation Ground, as identified in the inspection report of Play Safety Ltd

6.08 HIGHWAY MATTERS

(i) Winter Plan

(cf 5.11(i)/13) The Chairman reported that she would approach the County Council about the supply of the additional salt bins, as approved at the last meeting. In the meantime, salt had been supplied to existing bins.

(ii) A34 road, Beedon – Bridge refurbishment

(cf 5.11(iii)/13) In an e-mail, a Communications Manager of the Highways Agency reminded of refurbishment works on a bridge on the A34 road at Beedon, near Newbury. The works would entail closure of the A34 road for some nights, and over a further weekend in November 2013. The official diversion was via the M4, A404 and M40 roads: it was recognised that drivers might seek shorter routes, like, for instance, the A4074 road.

6.09 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 5.12/13) The Chairman reported that she had yet to hear from the County Council exactly when the work to clear silt from Kidmore End pond was to happen.

6.10 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 5.17/13) The Clerk advised that no election had been called to fill vacancy caused by the resignation of Ms K Foxton. It was, therefore, open to the Council to fill the vacancy by the co-option of a suitably qualified person.

6.11 COUNTY COUNCIL SPENDING

(cf 5.19/13) Mrs J M Williams advised that she had not wished to attend the event about County Council spending at Woodstock on 21 November 2013.

6.12 TOWN AND PARISH FORUM

(cf 5.21/13) Mrs J E O'Sullivan reported that she had been unable to attend the District Council's town and parish forum at Crowmarsh on 6 November 2013.

6.13 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £21,872.30.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Oxfordshire & Vale Citizens' Advice Bureau – Grant	£90.00
Club SC – Grant	£100.00
PlaySafety Ltd – Inspection of Gallowstree Common play area	£78.00
Ian Kendrick Ltd – Mowing	£1,722.00
Caversham Solicitors Ltd – Legal fees, easement for water pipe, Gallowstree Common (balance)	£288.00
Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments	£145.14
Public Works Loans Account – Loan repayment	£7,517.04

6.14 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 12 November 2013.

RESOLVED: 1 That, with effect from the financial year 2014/15, all the running costs of the

Diamond Jubilee Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground be met by the Playing Fields Committee.

2 That the precept for the financial year 2014/15 be set so that the element of the Council Tax, attributable to the Council, for a Band D property, be no more than £52.02 per annum.

6.15 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally:

raising of roof to create first floor accommodation and front, side and rear extensions to bungalow at Merrymead, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;
replacement dwelling with garage following demolition of existing house and outbuildings at Oakridge Farm, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
erection of 2-storey rear extension at Kano, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
erection of pair of semi-detached 2 storey 1 x 3-bedroom and 1 x 2-bedroom dwellings and 2 storey block of 2 x 2-bedroom and 2 x 1-bedroom flats, incorporating parking and access, on land adjacent to 1 Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common

and that the application for erection of 2-storey, 6-bedroom dwelling and detached double garage at Leawood, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green had been refused.

(ii) Action of Plans Sub-Committee

RESOLVED: That the action of the Plans Sub-Committee in respect of the following application, as set out in the register of action, be approved:

erection of garden room to replace shed at Strathfillan, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End.

(iii) Strategic Housing Market Assessment

(cf 5.04/13) Members were reminded of the somewhat belated invitation to the stakeholders' meeting in respect of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, being conducted jointly on behalf of the 5 local planning authorities in the County, in Oxford on 1 November 2013. No Member had been able to attend.

(iv) South Oxfordshire Local Plan

The Clerk advised that, in the light of comments made in open sessions at meetings of the Council, and comments in digests from organisations like the Local Government Information Unit, he had enquired of the District Council's Head of Planning whether that Council had a local plan, in terms recognised by the National Planning Policy Framework.

(v) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan

(cf 4.13(vii)/13) Reference was made to a letter, from a resident of Reades Lane, Sonning Common, distributed to some residents of Kidmore End, drawing attention to the inclusion of Chiltern Edge School in the area of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan.

(vi) Annual Chilterns AONB Planning Conference

(cf 5.14(v)/13) Mrs J M Williams reported orally on the Annual Chilterns AONB Planning Conference, which she had attended.

6.16 CHILTERNES CONSERVATION BOARD

In a letter, the Chairman of the Chilterns Conservation Board requested the Council to consider making a grant towards the cost of the work of the Board in seeking to conserve the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

RESOLVED: That no grant be made to the Chilterns Conservation Board in the financial year 2013/14.

6.17 WAR MEMORIALS

The Director of the War Memorials Trust, by letter, reminded that the centenary of the start of World War I would occur in 2014 and urged the regular examination and maintenance of public war memorials. Members noted that the war memorial in the churchyard at St James the Baptist Church had in the past been maintained by the Kidmore End Branch of the Royal British Legion, and that the Council had contributed to the cost of maintenance, when approached. Provision was included in the budget each year for maintenance of the war memorial.

6.18 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in October 2013.

6.19 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

In an e-mail, the Assistant County Officer of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils sought nominations to serve on the Smaller Councils' Committee of the National Association of Local Councils.

6.20 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

The County Council's Admissions & Transport Services Manager enclosed, with a letter, details of a series of meetings as part of his Council's consultation on proposals to change its home to school transport policy. Currently, his Council's policies and practices led to a more generous service than the legal minimum. Members noted that the nearest meeting would be at Watlington on 2 December 2013.

6.21 OXFORDSHIRE CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP

The Consultation Manager of the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, by e-mail, indicated the Group had launched consultation on its Strategic Direction 2013-2018, which sought to deal with the challenges facing NHS Oxfordshire over the 5 years in question. Aside from commenting on the document via the Group's website, a series of meetings had been arranged, the nearest being in Wallingford on 19 December 2013.

6.22 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

(cf 4.07/13) By letter, the Chief Executive of the District Council advised that his Council's Community Governance Review had commenced on 1 November 2013. He enclosed the terms of reference for the review, which included possible alterations to the Parish's boundaries with the Parish of Sonning Common. Initial consultation on the proposals would close on 31 January 2014. Draft proposals would be made by his Council, for consultation, in February 2014.

6.23 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Vice-Chairman reported that the Playing Fields Committee had met on 13 November 2013. The meeting had been dominated by discussion on the siting of the cricket sight screens. In addition, the Committee had made arrangements for small items of repair and maintenance to the Diamond Jubilee

Pavilion. Electricity consumption was being monitored and maintenance contracts for plant and equipment were being explored.

6.24 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council was pleased to note that planning permission had been granted for the proposed affordable housing in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

6.25 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr J A Swift reported that he had alerted the County Council to the apparent non-performance of the vehicle activated speed indicator device in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

The Chairman remarked that the yellow lines and zig-zag markings had been repainted near Kidmore End School.