

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 19 March 2014 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.30pm.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Hall, K Bulmer (county councillor).

10.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the

- substitution of the name "Thames" for "Themes" in Minute 9.04;
- insertion of the word "dangerous" between the words "prove" and "to" in Minute 9.08.

10.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The Council noted a written report by Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, about

- his Council's budget for the financial year 2014/15, which would result in his Council's element of the Council Tax bill rising by 1.99%;
- his Council's response to the widespread flooding incidents over the winter period;
- the Strategic Housing Market Assessment being undertaken by the principal authorities in the County;
- the roll out of Better Broadband across the County;
- his Council's draft Minerals and Waste Plan.

10.03 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session,

- Mr J MacLean of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common asked about the large manlid in the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, near his back garden: the Vice-Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee undertook to investigate the matter;
- Mr L Lee of Emmer Green thanked the Council for its answer to his question about his proposed gift to the Parish, but commented that he was in discussions with another party about his land off Gravel Hill and Highdown Avenue, so a meeting with the Council would be inappropriate pending the conclusion of those discussions: he would contact the Council if the situation changed.

10.04 BUS SERVICE

(cf 9.06/14) By letter, the County Council's Bus Services Manager advised that he had been aware of the problems caused to bus service M2, through Kidmore End and Chalkhouse Green to Reading, by the road works in Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green. He had been in close contact with the operator, and members of his team had made 2 unannounced checks on the service, in Kidmore End, during the past month: on each occasion, the service was operating correctly. The Bus Services Manager hoped that there would not be any further problems with the service, but would be happy to investigate if any were reported to him.

10.05 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

(cf 9.08/14) The Chairman reported that Wicksteed Leisure Ltd had completed the remedial work at the Kidmore End Play Area: The Clerk advised that the Company had told him, in writing, that no further monies were due from the Council in respect of the project. He had, therefore, claimed the balance of the grant available from the District Council.

The Clerk reported a telephone conversation with the owner of Astwell, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End, who stated that the fence between his property and the Play Area was not mentioned in the title documents of his property. He was of the view that the fence was the responsibility of the Council. The Clerk observed that this was borne out by the "fair face" of the fence being towards Astwell.

In the light of this information, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Mr I G C Perason had removed the damaged chain link fence, and erected plastic netting, to mark the boundary. The Council thanked them for doing this work. They proposed that a single strand wire fence be erected in the short term, and a hedge planted behind the fence.

RESOLVED: That the fence on the boundary between the Kidmore End Play Area and Astwell, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End be replaced, temporarily, with a single strand of wire.

10.06 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - PLAY EQUIPMENT

(cf 9.09/14) It was reported that Wicksteed Leisure Ltd would install the items of replacement equipment at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on 27 March 2014.

Complimentary remarks had been made about the refurbishment thus far.

It was suggested that the "old" playhouse, once repaired, be resited at the Kidmore End Play Area.

RESOLVED: That the existing play house at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground be resited at the Kidmore End Play Area, once repaired.

10.07 RIGHTS OF WAY MANAGEMENT PLAN

(cf 9.14/14) Mrs J E O'Sullivan reported that the Rights of Way Committee was drafting comments on the County Council's draft Rights of Way Management Plan, but had yet to complete the exercise. As comments and representations had to be submitted before the next meeting of the Council, it was.

RESOLVED: That the Rights of Way Committee be authorised to make comments on the County Council's draft Rights of Way Management Plan on behalf of the Council.

10.08 CHILTERN EDGE SCHOOL

(cf 9.15/14) Mr I G C Pearson reported on the stakeholders' meeting, arranged by the Governors of Chiltern Edge School, about an application being made by the School to the Secretary of State to sell part of the school site for development. The Governors needed funds to undertake much needed maintenance of the school premises and believed that the sale of part of the site would provide funds of c£1.8m. The application for consent to sell would be submitted in the near future.

10.09 COMMUNITY RIGHT TO BID

(cf 9.18/14) Mr J A Swift and Mrs J M Williams advised that they were researching the community right to bid scheme, under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, and would report thereon to a future meeting.

10.10 STREETNAMING

(cf 9.20/14) By letter, the District Council's Head of HR, IT & Customer Services advised that the affordable houses and flats to be built off Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common would be known as 1 to 6 Paddick Close.

10.11 COMMUNITY INFORMATION NETWORK

(cf 9.23/14) The Chairman reported that she had attended a meeting about the Community Information Network on 4 March 2014. She felt that there might be the prospect of a local "branch" of the Network being established in Sonning Common.

10.12 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £18,530.94.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Course fee	£78.00
Oxfordshire Rural Community Council – Subscription	£65.00
Ian Kendrick Ltd – Replenishing bark at play equipment, Gallowstree Common	£2,880.00
Mapledurham Parish Council – Grant towards upkeep of Rokeby Recreation Ground	£105.00
Royal British Legion – Wreath	£40.00
BT Payphones – Purchase of telephone kiosks	£2.00

10.13 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 5 March 2014.

RESOLVED: 1 That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 3.5, the unspent budgetary provision in the financial year 2013/14 under the following budget heads be carried forward, on 31 March 2014, into the financial year 2014/15

Pavilion project – architect's fees
Clerk's salary
Clerk's expenses
Postages
Telephones
Hire of accommodation for meetings
Grants to outside bodies.

2 That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 3.5, the following sum be carried forward, on 31 March 2014, into the budget for the financial year 2014/15:

Works to play equipment at Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground	£910.
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10.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a replacement dwelling at Cilve Cottage, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End;
proposed raising of roof to create additional living accommodation and erection of new front porch at Strathfillan, Kidmore End;

had been permitted conditionally.

(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:

demolition of existing single storey sun room and utility and construction of 2 storey side extension at Hollywood, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
erection of double garage with store and games room over at Cedar House, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
erection of first floor front extension at Field Close, Wood Lane, Kidmore End.

(iii) Highland Wood House, Mill Lane, Kidmore End – Access

Mr & Mrs N Topham advised, by e-mail, that the District Council had indicated that they would not need planning permission to resite the access to their property at Highland Wood House, Mill Lane, Kidmore End.

(iv) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan

(cf 9.13(v)/14) Mrs J M Williams reported on a meeting of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan Working Group held on 11 March 2014. Drafting the Plan was behind schedule, but once drafted, the Council would be a consultee. It seemed increasingly likely that a site at Chiltern Edge School would be identified for housing development. Relationships with Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council (part of that Parish was included in the Plan area) appeared to have deteriorated.

Mrs Williams advised that she would be unable to attend the next meeting of the Working Party, on 1 April 2014.

RESOLVED: That Mr I G C Pearson be appointed to represent the Council at the meeting of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan Working Party on 1 April 2014.

10.15 THE LATE MR M E WYATT

(cf 9.17/07) In a letter, Ms R Johnson of Fareham referred to the bequest of her late Father, Mr M E Wyatt, who had been a member of the Council for many years, for a bench to be provided as a memorial to him, with a particular plaque. The Council was reminded that it had accepted the bequest in 2007, and that a site for the seat had been identified in Tokers Green.

RESOLVED: That Ms R Johnson be advised of the Council's decision in 2007, and that she be requested to source a suitable bench for the memorial.

10.16 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

(cf 4.20/10) The Council was reminded of its decision in September 2010, to adopt the 3 telephone kiosks in the Parish, in the event that British Telecommunications plc declared them redundant. Although the Company had not taken that decision, it had been clear from the very low recorded usage that the kiosks were no longer required for telephony purposes. It was, therefore,

RESOLVED: 1 That the telephone kiosks at Chalkhouse Green and Craysleaze, Kidmore End be purchased from British Telecommunications plc.

2 That the Clerk be authorised to sign the agreement for the sale and purchase from the Company, on behalf of the Council.

3 That views be sought, via the website, as to possible future uses for the kiosks.

10.16 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in February 2014, with particular reference to the paragraphs about the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the reporting, by the public, of council meetings.

10.17 TOKERS GREEN POND

(cf 10.03/08) In e-mails, Mr D Saunders of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green referred to remedial works which he felt should be undertaken at the Tokers Green pond, such as the removal of rotting vegetable matter from the pond, and the pruning and pollarding of trees and bushes to ensure the efficiency of the drainage girdle around the pond. He advised that the County Council had already drained to the 2 sumps on the highways drains entering Tokers Green pond. Local residents had volunteered to undertake the remedial works. Members were pleased to hear of these offers.

RESOLVED: 1 That consent be given for the remedial works at Tokers Green pond identified by Mr D Saunders.

2 That arrangements be made for the volunteers undertaking the work to be covered by the Council's insurance policy.

10.18 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) Possible Additional Crossing of River Thames

John Howell MP, in an e-mail, reported on a meeting he had arranged, with Rob Wilson MP (Reading East constituency), at the House of Commons, concerning the possibility of an additional crossing of the River Thames in the vicinity of Reading, in the light of the lengthy closure of the B478 road in Sonning Eye, because of flooding. The meeting had been attended by representatives of the principal authorities from both Oxfordshire and Berkshire.

Mr Howell stated:

“Having heard the case put forward by Reading Borough Council, it is clear that they have a long way to go in convincing us that we would benefit from a bridge. However, the meeting agreed to share information on traffic data. This will enable us all to see exactly what the situation is. Clearly the situation is exacerbated at present with the closure of Whitchurch Bridge due to repairs and Sonning Bridge due to flood water damage on the approach road. However, it was made quite clear that a bridge needs to be justified in the good times as well as in bad.

“In a spirit of cooperation, we have agreed to meet again to look at the data. It is likely that this meeting will take place in early June.

“A key concern of mine is that all the talk is of a bridge but there has been no mention of infrastructure which would be critical on this side of the river, should a bridge ever be built. This, of course, would add considerably to the cost and so, in my view, must be taken into account at the start”.

(ii) Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green

With an e-mail, an officer of the County Council had forwarded a copy of an order made by his Council to close part of Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green temporarily, under the provisions of the Road Traffic Act 1984, from 18 to 20 March 2014, to facilitate BT safe access to overhead cabling work.

10.19 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

(cf 8.12/14) The Chief Executive of the District Council set out, with a letter, the decisions of his Council on formal draft proposals, arising from in Community Governance Review, for changes to parish boundaries etc. One of the recommended proposals was for the whole of the site of Chiltern Edge School to be transferred from the Parish to the Parish of Sonning Common. Representations were invited on the proposals by 31 May 2014.

Members observed that they did not object to the principle of the proposed transfer. However, they were of the view that the transfer should be restricted to the area of the school site which is included in the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan area. The playing fields to the south of Reades Lane, and immediately west of the school buildings, laid outside the Neighbourhood Plan area, and formed part of the green gap between Sonning Common and Gallowstree Common. Members felt that potentially affected residents of the Parish would want that green gap to be maintained.

RESOLVED: 1 That an objection be submitted to the proposal for the transfer of the whole site of Chiltern Edge School to the Parish of Sonning Common, but that there would be no objection to the transfer of the area of the School site covered by the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan.

2 That enquiries be made of Sonning Common Parish Council as to whether it would support this Council's position, as set out above.

3 That residents be encouraged to respond to the consultation on the proposals, by means of a message on the Council's website.

10.20 OXFORDSHIRE PLAYING FIELDS ASSOCIATION

The Council noted an invitation to be represented at the National County Playing Fields Association conference to be held on 4 June 2014 at Leamington Spa.

10.21 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Vice-Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had met on 12 March 2014, when it had

- discussed the incidence of dog defecation at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, which was a popular resort for dog walkers,
- decided to erect signs requesting those with dogs to keep them on leads in the Recreation Ground;
- noted maintenance works undertaken at, and the introduction of the winter cleaning arrangements for, the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion;
- distributed a revised version of the draft service level agreement with the Cricket and

Football Clubs, with a view to any comments being received by 31 March 2014.

10.22 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE

It was noted that safety fencing had been erected around the site for the affordable housing in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

10.23 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr J A Swift reported that he had observed Police under vehicle speed checks in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

It was noted that one of the combined place name and speed limit signs in Horsepond Road had been damaged.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be requested to replace the damaged place name and speed limit sign in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

10.24 BROADBAND

(cf 7.26/13) Mr H Thresher advised that faster Broadband would be available from the Kidmore End telephone exchange (in Sonning Common) during the course of 2014/15, when fibre optic cable would be laid to cabinets in the exchange area, although he was not aware whether the cabinets serving most of the Parish, in Kidmore End and Gallowstree Common, would be included.