

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 17 December 2014 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.15pm.

Present: Ms S M Biggs (Chairman), Ms C D Aldridge (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S Hall, Mrs S J Hunter, Mrs J E O'Sullivan, I G C Pearson, T M Perchard, Mrs K J Rolfe (from Minute 7.03).

Also present: R Simister (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from J A Swift QC, H Thresher.

7.01 MINUTES

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

7.02 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 10.15/12) In a letter, Mrs K J Rolfe of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, expressed her interest in serving as a member of the Council, to fill one of the vacancies caused by the resignations, in 2013, of Dr B J Knapp and Mr R G McQuillan.

RESOLVED: That Mrs K J Rolfe be co-opted, in accordance with Section 89 of the Local Government Act 1972, to fill the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the resignation of Dr B J Knapp.

(Mrs Rolfe thereupon signed a declaration of acceptance of office)

7.03 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- his Council winning an award for work with reservists;
- Government grants to protect homes from future flooding;
- the programme for rolling out superfast Broadband;
- his Council's reaction to an Ofsted report into child exploitation in other parts of the country
- winter gritting arrangements.

7.04 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

In an e-mail, Supt A Boyd, the commander of the South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse Local Police Area of the Thames Valley Police, reported on a number of issues relating to his area, covering a sudden and unexplained death of a child in Faringdon, protecting vulnerable adults, burglaries in Wantage and alcohol abuse.

PCSO C Boyes forwarded the Henley Sector Neighbourhood Team Newsletter for December 2014, giving information about crimes in the sector.

7.05 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Mr L Fairlea of Kidmore End commented on the better performance of the M1 bus service, following it being taken "in house" by the County Council, observed, however, that the vehicle deployed was often too small for the number of potential passengers, and asked about changes to the service.

7.06 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr R Simister, a district councillor for the Shiplake ward, reported that his Council was likely to make about £2,500 available for the repair of the path from Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End to the cemetery, the money to be spent by 31 March 2015.

Mr Simister advised that he was likely to stand for election to the District Council in the revised ward covering the Parish, at the election in May 2015.

7.07 KIDMORE END CEMETERY

(cf 6.07/14) In an e-mail, Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring Division, advised that officers of his Council had indicated that, as the path to Kidmore End cemetery was not a public highway, his Council would be unable to make a financial contribution to any remedial works to the path.

The Chairman advised that she had yet to approach the Chairman of the District Council about the matter.

7.08 TRACTOR

(cf 6.08/14) The Clerk reported that tractor had been sold at auction on 19 November 2014 for £706.20, net of entry fee and commission.

7.09 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

(cf 6.18/14) Mr T M Perchard reported that he and Mr H Thresher had been unable yet to carry out repair works to the former telephone kiosks at Chalkhouse Green and Kidmore End.

Members discussed uses for the kiosks, favouring their use for the provision of visitor information and community noticeboards.

7.10 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £37,363.60.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Club SC - Grant	£100.00
Public Works Loan Board – Loan repayment	£7,384.20
R F Penfold – Fee for registration of website domain name	£21.89
R F Penfold - Photocopying agenda papers	£14.00

7.11 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 27 November 2014.

RESOLVED: That the precept for the financial year 2015/16 be set so that the element of the Council Tax, attributable to the Council, for a Band D property, be no more than £52.00 per annum.

7.12 ESTIMATES, 2015/16

The Council considered a report (14/15 - 1) of the Responsible Financial Officer, being draft estimates for the financial year 2015/16. The Responsible Financial Officer answered questions about the draft estimates.

RESOLVED: 1 That the base estimates for 2015/6 be adopted

2 That budgetary provision be made for the following:

Additional provision for water supply to Cane End allotments	£2,500
Provision for adaptations to telephone kiosks	£200
Provision for IT hardware for Clerk	£500
Contribution towards cost of repair of churchyard wall	£800
Contribution towards cost of extending superfast Broadband	£3,000

3 That a precept be issued for the sum of £34,650 in 2015/16.

4 That the base estimates and additional provision in resolution 2 above be confirmed as the Council's budget for 2015/16 for the purposes of Financial Regulation 3.2.

7.13 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

construction of 2 detached houses with detached garages on land at rear of Chippendale Lodge, Tokers Green, Tokers Green;
side extension for new garage at ground floor level, bedroom extension at first floor level, rear extension for kitchen, dining and living area, replacement barn with link to house for living area at Cobnar, Chalkhouse Green Road, 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:

installation of 4 floodlights on 8m high poles at rugby ground, Peppard Road, Emmer Green;
erection of 2 storey side and single storey front entrance at Byways, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End.

(iii) Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan

(cf 6.11(v)/14) Members were reminded of there would be a public exhibition of the draft Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan, in Sonning Common on 6 and 7 February 2015.

7.14 BUS SERVICES

(cf 4.16/14) An Assistant Public Transport Officer of the County Council, in a letter, advised of consultation by his Council on proposed alterations to the M1/M2 bus service operating between Watlington and Reading, some journeys of which served Kidmore End and Chalkhouse Green. The County Council had observed, from loading surveys, a steady decline in patronage over the years: latest

observations showed the routes carried, on average, under 10 passengers each day. Accordingly, it was proposed that the service should operate on the basis of one return journey each Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, serving Kidmore End, but no longer travelling through Chalkhouse Green to Emmer Green. Comments were invited on the proposals by 30 January 2015.

The Chairman had requested the Clerk to arrange for the information to be placed on the Council's website, and notice given on the noticeboards.

7.15 MOWING CONTRACT

(cf 4.09/14) By letter, Mr I Kendrick of Ian Kendrick Ltd advised that, following the changes to the mowing contract previously agreed, the cost of the contract in 2015 would be £1,650 + VAT.

7.16 DEFIBRILLATOR

Mrs L Hull, the Headteacher of the Kidmore End Primary School indicated that the School was minded to install a defibrillator, for general use, in a cabinet on the outside wall of the front of the school. She enquired whether the Council would support the project financially - the cost was estimated at c£1,600.

The Chairman advised that she had spoken to the headteacher and explained that there was a first responder living in Kidmore End, so that there might be no need for a defibrillator at the school.

7.17 CANE END ALLOTMENTS – WATER SUPPLY

(cf 5.08/14) In a letter, a director of Savills advised that Mr A J Adams was prepared to give an easement for a water pipe to the allotments at Cane End for a nominal fee of £1, on the condition that the Council would be responsible for his professional costs. The legal fees were estimated at £1,500 + VAT and surveyors' fees would be £500 + VAT. Members appreciated Mr Adams' generous offer.

RESOLVED: 1 That the terms offered for an easement for a water supply pipe to the allotments at Cane End be accepted.

2 That Caversham Solicitors Ltd be instructed to act for the Council in respect of the legal formalities of the transaction.

7.18 HAZELMOOR LANE, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - FLOODING

Mrs F Ives of Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common, in an email reported on her informal discussions with officers of the highway authority about the flooding of her property from the highway. They had agreed to look into remedial action, but had suggested that the clearance of the ditch on the opposite side of the highway might help the situation. The ditch was adjacent to the Gallowstree Common allotments, and they had suggested, therefore, that the Council, as managers of the allotments, should clear the ditch.

RESOLVED: That Vines Farm be requested give a quotation for the cost of clearing the highways' ditch adjacent to the allotments at Gallowstree Common.

7.19 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in October 2014.

7.20 CLERK'S SALARY

The Clerk advised that, as a result of the concluded national negotiations, his salary would

increase to £2,701 per annum with effect from 1 January 2015.

7.21 WINTER IN OXFORDSHIRE

The County Council's Marketing & Consultation Manager enclosed, with a letter, some posters in connection with her Council's winter awareness campaign, covering a wide range of topics from gritting reports and advice on snow clearance, to tips on staying warm, and consumer advice.

7.22 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

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

7.23 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

Reference was made to the persistent flooding of Horsepond Road, Cane End, near the property Beryspytle, after heavy rainfall. There had been flooding incidents at this site for many years, but the situation had deteriorated in recent months, to the extent that drivers voluntarily instituted single direction working.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be alerted to the situation, with a request that appropriate remedial action is taken.

7.24 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Chairman reported that she had, as customary, laid a wreath, on behalf of the Council, at the ceremony at the war memorial on 9 November 2014.