

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 22 March 2017 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.10pm.

Present: Ms S M Biggs (Chairman), Dr C D Aldridge (Vice-Chairman), I G C Pearson, T M Perchard, J A Swift QC, H Thresher.

Also present: K Bulmer (county councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Ms S Forde, Mrs S Hall, Mrs S J Hunter, Ms A S O'Reilly.

10.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2017 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to correcting the name of Ms A S O'Reilly 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, covering, inter alia:

- his Council had decided how to spend an "additional" £1.9m in 2017/18;
- "FixMyStreet" website update;
- Oxfordshire's fire service co-responding with the South Central Ambulance Service;
- a caddy campaign to reduce food waste.

Mr Bulmer reported orally that his Council's proposals for changing the structure of local government in the County had been due to be presented to the Secretary of State that day: details of the proposals were available on his Council's website. A response from the Secretary State was expected in May 2017. If he supported the proposals, the new structure could come into operation in May 2019.

In addition, his Council had expressed concerns about the impact of the Government's funding formula for schools on the schools in the County.

A question was posed to Mr Bulmer about his Council's funding for highway verges.

10.03 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

The Chairman advised that PCSO W Pomroy had been appointed by the Thames Valley Police as the liaison officer for the Parish. She had had discussions with PCSO Pomroy about the community speed watch scheme.

10.04 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, which was extended with the consent of the Council to 20 minutes,

- Mr & Mrs A Miros of Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common raised concerns about the speed of traffic, in excess of the 30mph limit, through Gallowstree Common and the recent increase in heavy goods traffic using Horsepond Road;
- Mr A S R Lynch, a churchwarden, spoke about a letter he had sent to the Council about the war memorial.

10.05 KIDMORE END WAR MEMORIAL

(cf 9.03/17) The Vice-Chairman reported orally on the workshop she had attended about war

memorials. She advised that there were grants available for repairs to memorials, but establishing ownership was an important prerequisite.

In a letter, one of the churchwardens explained that the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish of Kidmore End and Sonning Common had approached its architect and the Diocesan Advisory Committee about technical aspects relating to the war memorial in the churchyard of St John the Baptist, Kidmore End.

As to ownership of the war memorial, the churchwarden indicated that the memorial was not the property of the church, nor did the PCC have any legal duty to maintain it. Ownership rested with the heirs in law of the people who erected it originally. The memorial had apparently been dedicated in 1921, so there was no prospect of any of original promoters still living.

Nevertheless, because the war memorial was situated on consecrated ground, any work to the memorial would require a faculty from the Chancellor of the Diocese.

The PCC had, pending any other action, placed tape and markers around the war memorial and adjoining area, with a view to preventing public access, on health and safety grounds.

RESOLVED: That consideration of this matter be deferred to the next meeting.

10.06 HIGHWAY MATTERS

(i) Highway verge cutting

(cf 9.04/17) The common seal of the County Council had been affixed to the agreement with the County Council, under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, to undertake highway verge cutting in the Parish, on 24 February 2017.

The Council considered the invitation of tenders for the verge cutting in accordance with the agreement.

RESOLVED: That tenders be invited from Ben Griswood, Ian Kendrick Ltd and MSK Ltd.

(ii) Kidmore End – hedges

(cf 9.16/17) With an e-mail, Mr R Butters of Tokers Green had submitted photographs of the overgrowing hedges adjacent to highways which he had previously reported. The hedges in question were in Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, in the vicinity of the junction with Butlers Orchard, and opposite the junction of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, with Rokeby Drive. The Chairman undertook to examine the hedges in question.

(iii) Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common – traffic speeds

Mrs C Miros, of Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common had, in an e-mail sent also to the county councillor, Mr K Bulmer, and the district councillor, Mr R Simister, drawn attention to the speed of traffic in Horsepond Road, arguing that many vehicles were driven in excess of the 30mph speed limit in force there. She commented that vehicle activated speed indicator device did not function properly, and that the 30mph markings on the highway had become faded or had been obliterated. She considered that traffic calming measures, for instance chicanes, needed to be installed at each end of the village.

The Chairman advised that the Transport Sub-Committee was in discussion with the Area Highways Steward of the County Council and PCSO W Pomroy about Mrs Miros' concerns.

(iv) Mill Lane, Kidmore End – condition of carriageway and inappropriate use

Mr & Mrs P Clee, of Mill Lane, Kidmore End, drew attention, in an e-mail, to the deteriorating

condition of Mill Lane, because of heavy vehicles using the lane to deliver goods to properties, and also by heavy vehicles misdirected into the road by satellite navigation devices, despite the warning signs at each end. This had led to significant damage to the carriageway and the severe erosion of the verges. Mr & Mrs Clee had alerted the highways' authority to this, and the matter had been reported in the local print media. In addition, because of lack of maintenance of gullies, there was significant ponding in the road in times of rainfall.

(v) Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green – temporary closure

With an e-mail, the County Council's Director for Infrastructure Delivery gave notice of a temporary closure, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, between its junctions with Beech Road and Elm Road, from 18 April 2017, for 2 days, for BT cabling works.

10.07 UNITARY LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(cf 9.06/17) County Council's Chief Executive reported, by e-mail, that his Council had devised a final proposal for the reorganisation of local government in the County – "A New Council for a Better Oxfordshire". This differed from previous models by having 15-20 area boards and recognition that there should be a city council, with certain functions, for Oxford. Subject, at the time of the e-mail, to approval by the Council's Cabinet, the proposal would be submitted to the Secretary of State. The Chief Executive invited parish councils to endorse the proposal.

10.08 WEBSITE

(cf 9.08/17) The Council considered a report (16/17 - 5) by the Vice-Chairman about the development of a revised website for the Council. A revised website was available for [private] viewing, and Members were invited to comment thereon.

10.09 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 9.20/17) The Chairman had approached Mr J A Williams, the contractor undertaking the work to the golden weeping willow tree at Kidmore End pond, to coppice some of the withies in less accessible parts of the pond. Mr Williams had quoted £80 for the work, and the Chairman had accepted the quotation. Mr Williams would undertake the work at the same time as the work to the weeping willow.

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

10.10 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £58,253.45.

(ii) Receipts

(cf 6.13(i)/16) The Clerk reported the receipt of the commuted wayleave payment - £40 – from Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks for the electricity supply cable to the fibre telecoms' cabinet at Kidmore End pond.

(iii) Accounts for payment

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

Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – Subscription	£40.00
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Community First Oxfordshire – Subscription	£70.00
Caversham Solicitors Ltd – Deposit in respect of registration of title	£50.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£375.29
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£250.26
R F Penfold – Printing agenda etc	£12.30

10.11 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 15 March 2017.

RESOLVED: 1 That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 3.5, the unspent budgetary provision in the financial year 2016/17 under the following budget heads be carried forward, on 31 March 2017, into the financial year 2017/18:

- Pavilion project - architect's fees
- Play equipment refurbishment project
- Water supply at Cane End allotments
- Telephone kiosks
- Clerk's salary
- Clerk's expenses
- Postages
- Telephones
- IT equipment for Clerk
- Hire of accommodation
- Grant to Parochial Church Council
- Grant to churchyard wall
- Grant to Mapledurham Parish Council
- Contribution towards Broadband

2 That no further grants to outside bodies be made in the financial year 2016/17.

3 That the assessment of risks adopted in 2012 be endorsed, subject to the internal audit frequency being extended to 12 months where previously a shorter period had been stipulated.

10.12 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

- proposed conversion of barn to single dwelling with new vehicular access and amenity space at The Coach House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End;
- open sided oak verandah with toughened glass roof at West Barn, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
- demolition of conservatory, erection of single storey rear extension and replacement garage at Astracot, Rosebery Road, Tokers Green;

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:

- proposed conversion of barn to single dwelling with new vehicular access and amenity space at

The Coach House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End (amended plan);
new dwelling house for self build on land within residential cartilage of Oldfield House, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common (2 amended plans);
alterations and extensions at Russells, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
single storey games' room and leisure facility to replace existing miscellaneous outbuildings at Greenwood House, Mill Lane, Kidmore End;
part demolition of existing house and conversion to garage store and workshop at Oakridge Farm, Wood Lane, Kidmore End.

(iii) Applications

The Council considered an application referred to it since the last meeting .

RESOLVED: That the following comments be made on the application for change of use of land from workshop to residential, demolition of existing workshop and store and construction of 2 storey detached house, retaining walls, landscape garden and parking area at The Piggery, Gravel Hill, Emmer Green for Mr A Thorne: "Refuse – site should be retained for employment, but, if not, the proposed structure will be out of keeping, dominant and unneighbourly to properties on south of the road".

(iv) Proposed development off Kennylands Road, Sonning Common

(cf 9.10(iv)/17) By letter, the District Council's Head of Planning had invited the Council to make representations, orally, at the meeting of the Planning Committee to be held on 1 March 2017, about the application for the construction of up to 95 houses on land off Kennylands Road, Sonning Common. The Chairman had appointed Mr I G C Pearson to represent the Council, and speak against the application, at the meeting.

The District Council's Planning Committee had decided to refuse to grant permission for the development, and notice of refusal had subsequently been issued.

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

(v) Curtis Farm, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green – Certificate of lawful development

The Head of Planning of the District Council, by letter, advised that he was processing an application for a certificate of lawful development in respect of the alteration to part of an existing barn for use as an office at Curtis Farm. Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End. It was noted that the application had been withdrawn as invalid.

(vi) Neighbourhood development plans

(cf 9.10(vi)/17) The Chairman voiced her concerns that the Parish would be susceptible to development unless a neighbourhood development plan, or plans, were adopted. She suggested that one of the District Council neighbourhood planning officers be invited to the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That a planning policy officer from the District Council be invited to the next meeting, to address the Council on neighbourhood development plans.

(vii) South Oxfordshire Local Plan

(cf 4.16(iii)/16) In an e-mail, the District Council's Head of Planning invited the Council to appoint a representative to attend a briefing on his Council's emerging Local Plan at Didcot on 28 March 2017.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman be appointed to represent the Council at briefing session on the South Oxfordshire Local Plan on 28 March 2017 and that her attendance be an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

10.13 BIG HEALTH CONSULTATION

The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group invited, by e-mail, participation in the Oxfordshire's health and care services – The Big Consultation – Phase 1, which had run from 16 January, and would end on 9 April. 2017. The consultation covered, amongst other things, changing the way hospital beds were used, acute stroke care and maternity services. Members felt that the best course would be for individual responses.

10.14 FISH MINIBUS SERVICE

(cf 7.13/16) The Council noted an e-mail from the FISH Volunteer Centre about continuation of the minibus service, from Gallowstree Common, Kidmore End and Chalkhouse Green to Friar Street, Reading, on 10 and 31 March and 7 and 21 April 2017.

10.15 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in January 2017, with particular reference to the paragraphs on backing-up data held on computers, the likely salary award for clerks and TOE2, the County's environmental funder.

10.16 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 5.13/16) It was reported that the District Council's Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee had met on 6 March 2017 to discuss, inter alia, the Council's request for a reduction in the maximum number of councillors, to 10. The Committee had agreed to undertake a community governance review in line with the request.

10.17 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND – NOISE NUISANCE

In a letter, Mr J McLean, of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common complained about noise nuisance on 7 March 2017, when he had been woken by grounds' maintenance activity on the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground at 7.15am.

RESOLVED: That the complaint by Mr J McLean be referred to the Playing Fields Committee for resolution.

10.18 TOWN AND PARISH FORUM

The District Council's Corporate Planning Officer advised, in an e-mail, that her Council would be holding a Town and Parish Forum on 5 July 2017 in Thame.

RESOLVED: That Mr H Thresher be appointed to attend the Town and Parish Forum on 5 July 2017, and that his attendance be an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

10.19 HOUSE NAMING

In e-mails, the District Council's Data Monitoring Manager & Street Naming and Numbering Officer advised that the property known as The Orchards, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green had been renamed Clusters, while the original names of Dysons Wood Farm and Dysons Wood Farm Cottages, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green had been reinstated .

10.20 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had met on 8 March 2017. The Committee had

- authorised works to the hot water and heating systems in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion;
- arranged for some of the movement sensitive lights in the premises to be repaired.

He also reported an approach, direct to him, from the Cricket Club, concerning the possibility of installing a solar powered electronic scoreboard at the Recreation Ground. It was suggested that the Cricket Club should, in the first instance, approach the planning authority, in case planning permission was required for such an installation.

10.21 PLAY AREAS

(cf 8.05/17) The Council gave further consideration to the project to complete the refurbishment of the play area at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and the replacement of the safety surfaces in that play area and that at Kidmore End, with reference to

- the decision recorded in Minute 2.05 of the meeting held in June 2016, and
- the recommendation in Minute 50 of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 15 March 2017.

The Chairman confirmed that Playdale Playgrounds Ltd had reduced their quotation for the supply and installation of the equipment to £41,618 (+ VAT), with the Council arranging its own contractors to remove the equipment to be replaced, and bark in the equipment pits, and to provide topsoil and lay turf. In this connection, the Chairman advised that Mr R S Young had offered to remove the equipment etc for the sum of £500 while quotations for the topsoil and turf had been received as follows:

Ian Kendrick Ltd	£6,650 or £6,050 (depending on grade of topsoil)
SAS Landscaping Ltd	£3,606

The Council noted that the revised cost of the project was, therefore, £46,374, net of VAT, while promised grants, and donations already received, totalled £41,094. The Responsible Financial Officer indicated that, with only a few days remaining in the current financial year, the Council would underspend its budget for the current year by at least the shortfall figure of £5,298.

RESOLVED: 1 That, in accordance with the decision in Minute 2.05 of June 2016, an order be now placed with Playdale Playgrounds Ltd for the supply and installation of equipment in the sum of £41,618 (+ VAT).

2 That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 11.1(h), the contract for the removal of the redundant equipment and the bark from the equipment pits be let to Mr R S Young in the sum of £500 (+ VAT) and the contract for the supply and laying of topsoil and turf be let to SAS Landscaping Ltd in the sum of £3,606 (+ VAT)

10.22 GO ACTIVE GOLD

(cf 7.11/16) The Chairman reported that, following the successful taster day at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion at Gallowstree Common on 28 February 2017, the District Council was sponsoring weekly Tai Chi and Nordic walking sessions at Gallowstree Common, under the aegis of GO Active Gold.

10.23 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

The Chairman reported on a recent meeting of the Campaign against Gladman in Eye & Dunsden (CAGE) and the progress made by the Campaign.