

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held remotely on Wednesday 21 October 2020 at 8.00pm and concluded at 8.45pm.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Ms A S O'Reilly, P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

5.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2020 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5.02 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, had circulated a report, in advance of the meeting, covering

- his Council's operations, with particular reference to its proposed new headquarters' building in Didcot and taking previously outsourced functions back in-house;
- the consultation on his Council's corporate plan;
- his Council's new website;
- consultation on the main modification to his Council's Local Plan;
- the operation of his Council's Planning Committee;
- changes to the response to Covid-19;
- progress with the introduction of decriminalised on-street parking enforcement in the District.

5.03 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Mr I Beale of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, enquired of progress with awarding a contract for the clearance of silt from Tokers Green pond.

5.04 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 4.02/20) It was reported that Mr A Whyles of Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common had confirmed his interest in serving as a parish councillor. Mr Whyles was asked to provide biographical information, to enable the Council to consider co-opting him.

5.05 PLAY AREAS – EQUIPMENT

(cf 4.04/20) The Chairman reported that more durable signs, about the Covid-19 restrictions, had been erected at the play areas at Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End: Ms C Skinner of Cane End had sourced the signs.

Playdale Playgrounds Ltd, the suppliers of the rope ladder at the Gallowstree Common play area, had advised, by e-mail, that the equipment was no longer under warranty. The Company had indicated that it would supply the required parts and fit them, within the quoted price of £459.79 +VAT.

RESOLVED: That the quotation of Playdale Playgrounds Ltd, for repairing the rope ladder at the Gallowstree Common Play Area, in the sum of £459.79 + VAT, be accepted.

5.06 CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END

(cf 4.05/20) It was noted that the Finance Sub-Committee had still yet to consider the request for a grant towards the cost of repair of the roof of the Church of St John the Baptist.

5.07 GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON PLANNING AND RELATED ISSUES

(cf 4.20/20) The Council considered a report (20/21 - 8) by the Vice-Chairman and Mr J M Ducker setting out observations on the White Paper, "The Future of Planning" and a suggested response to the consultation thereon, which included radical proposals for changing the current planning system.

Mr I G C Pearson had also produced a suggested response to the consultation.

RESOLVED: That a response be submitted to the consultation on the White Paper "The Future of Planning", combining the points in the drafts mentioned above, and indicating support for the response submitted by the Town and Country Planning Association.

5.08 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

(cf 4.21/20) The Clerk advised that the District Council continued to hold the Community Infrastructure Levy monies due to the Council - £38,232, deriving from 4 planning permissions.

5.09 THE REFORMATION PUBLIC HOUSE, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 4.22/20) It was reported that the Vice-Chairman and Mr J M Ducker were working on the Council's fifth nomination of the Reformation public house, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common to be listed as an asset of community value. They were waiting for a response from the District Council to a request, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, for sight of correspondence between the District Council and Brakspear Ltd concerning the public house.

5.10 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £45,523.97.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Castle Water Ltd – Water for allotments	£14.64
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£53.82
Moore – Accounts' statement reminder letter	£48.00
Dr C D Aldridge – Signs for play areas	£51.24
R F Penfold – Printing various documents	£7.62
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£146.00
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£97.33

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 30 September 2020, against the approved budget for 2020/21. The report showed a predicted underspend at year end of £612, excluding capital payments and if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

5.11 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

proposed front outhouse with demolition of existing front garage at Soccoro, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
erect 1.8m acoustic fence to the front elevation of and part side elevation of Well Cottage, Reading Road, Cane End;
variation of condition 2 of permission for 25 dwellings on land between 42 and 44 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common [Parish of Sonning Common];
proposed demolition of existing dwelling and garage and erection of replacement dwelling and garage at Oakbank, 19 Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green

had been permitted conditionally and that the application to demolish existing dwelling and detached garage and erection of 3 dwellings and formation of additional access at Oldfield House, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common had been withdrawn.

(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:

single storey extension to rear of Corner House, Russell Road, Tokers Green;
2 storey extension to existing detached dwelling at May Lodge, Park Lane, Cane End.

(iii) Planning Appeal

(cf 4.12(vii)/20) It was reported that the public inquiry in respect of the appeals against enforcement notices issued by the District Council about of use of land at The Copse, Mill Lane, Kidmore End, due to be held on 13 and 14 October 2020, had been postponed, as one of the appellants was in hospital.

(iv) South Oxfordshire Local Plan

(cf 4.12(xi)/20) The Council considered a report (20/21 - 9), being a suggested response, compiled by the Chairman and the Plans Sub-Committee, to the consultation on the modifications, required by the inspector, to the South Oxfordshire Local Plan.

RESOLVED: That suggested response to the consultation on the modifications, required by the inspector, to the South Oxfordshire Local Plan be adopted and submitted to the District Council.

(v) Oxfordshire Plan 2050

(cf 12.08(vii)/19) The Council noted an e-mail from Mr I Ashley, on behalf of the Need not Greed Oxfordshire coalition, drawing attention to the public consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, due early in 2021

(vi) Reading Borough Council Affordable Housing supplementary planning document

The Planning Policy Team Leader of Reading Borough Council, by e-mail, advised that his Council was consulting on a draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document which gave

guidance on how that Council would secure contributions towards affordable housing from new developments. The consultation was to end on 13 November 2020.

5.12 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in September 2020, referring in particular to the paragraphs about publication schemes and winter resilience programmes.

5.13 PARISH NEWSLETTER

The Chairman reminded Members that the Parish Newsletter had only been published on-line since the introduction of restrictions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was intended to continue this practice, but to produce paper copies for those who requested hard copy. In the longer time, it was intended to survey readers about the medium of delivery of the Newsletter.

5.14 RURAL GIGABIT VOUCHERS

In an e-mail, the County Council's Digital Infrastructure Team requested parish councils to publicise the vouchers, worth up to £7,000, available to qualifying residential and business premises, to increase broadband speeds up to 1000Mb/s on a full fibre connection.

RESOLVED: That the availability of Rural Gigabit vouchers be advertised on the website.

5.15 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

The Vice-Chairman reported that the NDP Steering Group had met on 6 October 2020.

The Group had decided to ask the Council to endorse the [current] draft of the Plan for the purposes of the "Regulation 14" consultation, ie the consultation prior to submission of the draft plan to the local planning authority. The draft plan had been made available to Members, electronically, on 14 October 2020.

A grant of £4,389 had been awarded for the necessary consultation exercise, which, because of the restrictions imposed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, would be virtual, on-line. Responses would be by e-mail or via an on-line survey. If the Council endorsed the draft, the consultation would run for 6 weeks from 7 November 2020.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman congratulated the Steering Group on reaching this point in the process and thanked the Group for the tremendous work involved.

RESOLVED: That the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan, as supplied to Members of the Council on 14 October 2020, be endorsed for the purposes of Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, as amended.

5.16 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council. However, additional signs about the Covid-19 restrictions had been posted at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, which premises had been re-opened for hiring, under revised conditions. That said, only one of the regular hirers had thus far returned. Discussions were proceeding with a junior football team who wished to play matches at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on weekends.

5.17 TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

The Vice-Chairman advised that the Transport Committee had collated the concerns about traffic speeds expressed by members of the public at the last meeting, and that a meeting with an officer of the County Council had been arranged to discuss those concerns. It was also reported that SpeedWatch activity was being arranged for Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

5.18 WEBSITE

The Webmaster had reported that the framework for the website needed to be replaced, in order to ensure satisfactory performance going forward, and that she could undertake the work free of charge, although there would be a software cost of £80+VAT. The Chairman had authorised the work to proceed, in accordance with Financial Regulation 11.1(a)(vi).

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