

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held remotely on Wednesday 16 December 2020 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.35pm.

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, A Whyles.

Apologies for absence were received from Ms S Hall, P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

7.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2020 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the substitution of the word “resigned” for the word “retied” in Minute 6.18.

7.02 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

- the decision of his Council reluctantly to approve the Local Plan 2035, and the local political repercussions of that decision;
- the modest fund from which he could give grants to local worthy causes;
- the setting up, by his Council, of a mechanism and structure to deliver Council-owned housing and community facilities.

7.03 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session,

- Mr A McAslan of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, indicated his interest in serving as a parish councillor;
- Mr M Foxtton of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, reported on his contact with Mapledurham Parish Council and Reading Borough Council about a possible reduction of the 30mph speed limit in Tokers Green and Chazey Heath;
- Ms S Matthews of Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End indicated her interest in serving as a parish councillor.

7.04 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2020

(cf 6.03/20) In an e-mail sent to the Chairman following the last meeting, Mr A McAslan of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End stated that he was “disappointed with the Council’s decision not to correct the minutes of that {the October} meeting. This was not a minor clerical error but a misrepresentation of the position of the Council on an important issue”. Mr McAslan went on to say that, if the minutes were not “corrected”, he intended to raise the matter with the District Council, the district councillor for the Kidmore End and Whitchurch Ward and the independent examiner of the proposed Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Having circulated the e-mail and a draft reply to her colleague councillors, the Chairman had responded to Mr McAslan, as set out in the Appendix hereto.

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

7.05 TOKERS GREEN POND

(cf 6.04/20) Mr A P Harland reported that he was awaiting a response from a possible contractor to clear the sediment from Tokers Green pond.

7.06 THE REFORMATION PUBLIC HOUSE, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 6.07/20) The Vice-Chairman advised that the Council's fifth nomination of the Reformation public house, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, to be listed as an asset of community value, had been submitted.

7.07 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

The Clerk reported that Ms A S O'Reilly had resigned as a member of the Council, by e-mail, on 20 November 2020. Ms O'Reilly had undertaken to continue as Webmaster.

The Clerk advised that he had given notice of the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the resignation. He had yet to hear from the District Council's Returning as to whether an election had been called to fill the vacancy.

In the meantime, Mr A McAslan, of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, and Ms S Matthews of Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End, had indicated, by e-mail, that they wished to serve as members of the Council.

RESOLVED: 1 That Ms O'Reilly be thanked for her service to the community as a Member of the Council since December 2016.

2 That consideration of the filling of the vacancy caused by the resignation of Ms O'Reilly be deferred, pending advice from the Returning Officer as to whether an election has been called.

7.08 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 30 November 2020.

In connection with Minute 103 of the Sub-Committee's report, the Responsible Financial Officer reported that Mr W A B Grove, the internal auditor, had completed his exercise, and had given affirmative answers to all pertinent questions in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. The Responsible Financial Officer suggested, as a result, that the Council could give affirmative answers to questions 6 and 7 in Section 1 of the Return.

RESOLVED: 1 That the summary receipts and payments accounts for the year ended on 31 March 2020, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Sub-Committee's report, be approved.

2 That Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2020, as set out in Appendix 2 of the Sub-Committee's report, be approved and confirmed, and that affirmative answers be given to question 6 and 7 in Section 1 of the Return.

3 That the precept for the financial year 2021/22 be set so that the element of the Council Tax, attributable to the Council, for a Band D property, be no more than 2% higher than the figure for the present year.

4 That the following grants be made in the financial year 2020/21:

Homestart Southern Oxfordshire - £100
Club SC - £250

5 That, using the Council's powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, a grant of £500 be made towards the cost of the repair of the roof of the Church of St John the Baptist, Kidmore End, in the financial year 2020/21, to be met from the provision for grants to outside bodies.

6 That Dr C D Aldridge be appointed as a member of the Finance Sub-Committee, for the period to the annual meeting of the Council in May 2021.

7.09 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £39,431.63.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Lexis Nexis – Copy of Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration 12 th ed	£119.99
Ms A S O'Reilly – Reimbursing cost of Envato Market Wordpress Theme	£60.00
Homestart Southern Oxfordshire – Grant	£100.00
Club SC – Grant	£250.00
Parish of Kidmore End and Sonning Common – Contribution towards cost of repairs to roof of Church of St John the Baptist	£500.00
Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Course fees (Mr J M Ducker)	£120.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£146.00
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£97.33

7.12 ESTIMATES, 2021/22

The Council considered a report (20/21 - 10) of the Responsible Financial Officer, being draft estimates for the financial year 2021/22. The Responsible Financial Officer answered questions about the draft estimates.

RESOLVED: 1 That the base estimates for 2021/22 be adopted, as presented.

2 That budgetary provision be made for the following:

traffic management measures	£6,000
maintenance of wells	£2,000
coppicing willows at Kidmore End pond	£1,000
enhancements at Tokers Green pond	£2,000
Gallowstree Common allotments – trough	£1,000
unspecified projects	£9,875

3 That a precept be issued for the sum of £40,800 in 2021/22.

4 That the base estimates and additional provision in resolution 2 above be confirmed as the Council's budget for 2021/22, for the purposes of Financial Regulation 3.2.

7.11 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

proposed alterations and extensions and new detached garage at Bluehills, 13 Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
construct an outbuilding to accommodate a new larger lockable garage and a garden room at Collegewood Barn, Cane 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 application, as set out in the register of action, be approved:

refurbishing and extending an existing house, lifting the roof by 1.2m, creating an extension and an underground basement at The Old Dairy, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green.

(iii) Reading Golf Club

(cf 4.12(viii)/20) It had been announced by Reading Borough Council that the applicants had withdrawn their application, to that Council, for the residential redevelopment of part of the Reading Golf Club course, on 25 November 2020. It was anticipated that the applicants would submit a revised application.

(iv) South Oxfordshire Local Plan

(cf 5.11(iv)/20) The District Council's Planning Policy Manager, by e-mail, reported that her Council had received the Inspector's report on the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035. The Inspector had concluded that, with his recommended Main Modifications, the Local Plan satisfied the requirements of Section 20(5)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and was sound. In a subsequent press release, it was reported that the District Council had voted to adopt the Plan.

7.12 TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

With e-mails, officers of the County Council gave notice of temporary closures, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as follows:

- Dysons Wood Lane, Tokers Green, during the day, from 19 to 22 January 2021, for laying of ducting;
- the A4074 road, Cane End from the junction with Horsepond Road northwards to Woodcote, during night-time, from 5 to 10 February 2021, for carriageway patching works.

7.13 REVIEW OF LICENSING POLICY

In an e-mail, the Licensing Team of South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse District Councils advised that its councils were running a consultation on the proposed changes to the Joint Statement of Licensing Policy of the 2 councils, which policy covers licensable activities such as the sale and supply of alcohol, regulated entertainment and late night refreshment. The deadline for comments was 17 December 2020. However, the Chairman, having examined the proposed changes, commented that there was nothing, in her view, warranting comment by the Council.

7.14 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in November 2020, with particular reference to the paragraphs about the "20's Plenty for Oxfordshire" campaign and the textbook "Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration".

7.15 "ARNOLD-BAKER ON LOCAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION"

In response to a request by the Clerk, it was

RESOLVED: That a copy of the 12th edition of the text book "Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration" be purchased.

7.16 FORMAL COMPLAINT

In an e-mail sent to the Chairman, Mr E Madejski and Ms J Twibill (address not known), the owners of land south of Coopers Pightle, Kidmore End, made a complaint against the Council, which was summarised by the Clerk as

"Appendix B5 of the draft Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan, published on 28 November 2020, does not reflect the current views of South Oxfordshire District Council, as local planning authority, in respect of ecological issues, and Oxfordshire County Council, as highways' authority, in respect of highways and transport issues, relating to the suitability for development of site CFS10 [the site owned by the complainants]".

The Clerk observed that the complaint was directed to the Council because it was the qualifying body, under Sections 61E and 61F of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended, for the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Members noted that Appendix B5 was a facilitation report, written by AECOM Infrastructure & Environment UK Ltd, to provide advice to the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group relating to information the complainants had provided about site CFS10. The report had been commissioned by Locality, a charity which was the national membership network supporting local community organisations to be strong and successful, and which provided support to neighbourhood planning groups on behalf of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The report was copyrighted by the Company, but was reproduced as an appendix to the draft Plan, with the consent of the Company. It represented technical work by the Company, based upon the material sent by the complainants to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, which information was reproduced in the report. Members were of the opinion that any perceived failings in the facilitation report could not be laid at the Council's door.

The Clerk referred to a request made by the complainants, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, for copies of all correspondence between the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, AECOM and the District Council's Planning Department relating to site CFS10 in the draft Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk advised that he and the Chair of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group had the compilation of the response to the request in hand.

RESOLVED: That the complaint by Mr E Madejski and Ms J Twibill be not upheld.

7.17 STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING

(cf 10.09/20) By e-mail, the GIS Team Leader & Street Naming and Numbering Officer of the District Council advised that the houses constructed on the site of the one-time Fox public house – 1 to 6 Fox Heath Gardens, Cane End – had been renumbered as a result of the revised access to the site, from Horsepond Road.

7.18 KIDMORE END WELL

The Council was reminded that the Chairman had consented to a request for a Christmas tree to be placed at Kidmore End well, during the run-up to the festive season.

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

7.19 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

The Vice-Chairman reported that the consultation of the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan, under Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, had been extended to 16 January 2021, for technical reasons. She advised that responses to consultation were being received.

The Clerk reported receipt of the promised grant of £4,389 from Groundwork UK.

7.20 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council.

The Chairman of the Committee advised that the gate to the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground had been secured shut at dusk, but that the chain securing the gate had been severed by a person or persons unknown, seemingly using bolt croppers. The Police had been advised of the incident, and a new chain had been acquired. The Chairman of the Committee expressed his deep concern for the security of the Ground and the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion. He had received advice from the Police suggesting the installation of CCTV equipment. As an alternative, shutters could be installed on the doors and windows of the Pavilion.

The junior football team had resumed use of the Recreation Ground when the lockdown had been lifted on 2 December 2020. The Chairman of the Committee had applied for grants towards the renovation of the floodlights at the Ground.

Mr J M Ducker commented on an undercurrent of resentment against the Kidmore End Cricket Club amongst residents of Gallowstree Common, while the Chairman of the Committee observed that many residents of that village had enjoyed the hospitality provided by the Club after Covid-19 restrictions had been relaxed in July 2020.

Mr A P Harland referred to a proposed informal meeting of the members of the Playing Fields Committee to discuss the future management of the Pavilion and Recreation Ground.

7.21 RIGHTS OF WAYS

The Chairman reported that kissing gates were to be installed in place of stiles of footpath 10, between Chalkhouse Green Road and Emmens Lane, Kidmore End, and on footpath 15, between Dysons Wood Lane, Tokers Green and Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green.

7.22 TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

The Vice-Chairman reported on her discussions with the members of the public who had raised concerns about traffic speeds at the September 2020 meeting of the Council, following her meeting with an officer of the County Council, as reported at the last meeting. She suggested that the first stage of any further activity would be to commission vehicle speed surveys in the settlements concerned.

7.23 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

(cf 4.21/20) The Council recalled that it had decided, in September 2020, that the potential projects or schemes on which the Community Infrastructure Levy monies could be spent should be reviewed at this meeting.

Noting that the Finance Sub-Committee had deferred consideration of the list of possible projects (see Minute 7.08), it was

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

RESPONSE FROM CHAIRMAN TO MR A MCASLAN

Thank you for your e-mail of 23 November 2020, which I have considered carefully.

As a former member of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group, you will know that the Council, when it established the Group, instructed the Group to seek the Council's endorsement to key matters viz

- the area to be covered by the plan;
- the draft plan for public consultation;
- and the draft plan to be submitted to the District Council.

The Steering Group was, therefore, at the meeting of the Council in October, seeking the Council's endorsement of the draft plan, to enable the next stage of the process, the Regulation 14 consultation, to take place. The Council endorsed the draft plan, as the minutes show, "... for the purposes of Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 ...". That is the extent of the Council's endorsement of the draft plan.

The Minutes of that meeting were confirmed at the last meeting, with particular reference to Minute 5.15, which relates to the NDP. When confirming those Minutes, councillors had before them your e-mails of 15 and 16 November 2020.

I note that you continue to challenge the accuracy of that minute, citing a statement made by one councillor, John Swift, about the draft plan, during the discussion on 21 October. As you know, Mr Swift is not an advisor to the Council, but an elected Member, one of 7 such councillors present at the meeting. His views, although very much respected by his colleagues, carry no more weight in Council meetings than the views of those colleagues.

I will draw this correspondence to the attention of the Council, although I do not propose to invite it to review the confirmed minutes of the October 2020 meeting.

I acknowledge your right to raise this matter with the District Council, with Mr Peter Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End and Whitchurch Ward and, indeed, with the inspector, when the NDP is at Examination In Public.

Finally, I am sure that you will have noted the current vacancy for a parish councillor.