

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held remotely on Wednesday 17 February 2021 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.20pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge (Chairman), T M Perchard (Vice-Chairman), J M Ducker, A P Harland, A R R McAslan OBE, Ms S Matthews (from Minute 9.05), I G C Pearson, J A Swift QC, A Whyles.

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

9.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2021 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

9.02 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 setting of his Council's budget for 2021/22 and the resultant increase in Council Tax attributable to his Council - £5.00 for a Band D property;
- Covid grants available, via his Council, for businesses and households;
- the resumption, imminently, of his Council's garden waste service;
- an increase of 17% in the number of planning applications submitted to his Council, compared to 2020.

Mr Dragonetti asked if the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee would apply for a grant from the fund at his disposal, in respect of a CCTV installation at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion. The Chairman of the Committee confirmed that that would be the case.

9.03 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Ms S Matthews of Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End, reiterated her interest in serving as a parish councillor;

9.04 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 8.06/21) The Clerk reminded the Council of the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the resignation of Ms S M Biggs and that notice of the vacancy had been given. The District Council's Returning Officer had advised, shortly after the last meeting, that no election had been called to fill the vacancy. It was, therefore, open to the Council to fill the vacancy by co-option.

Noting the continued interest of Ms S Matthews, it was

RESOLVED: That Ms S Matthews 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 Ms S M Biggs.

(Ms Matthews, being present, was deemed to have signed a declaration of acceptance of office, and joined the meeting.)

9.05 GRANTS

(cf 8.08/21) In a letter, the Director of Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens' Advice thanked the Council for its grant.

9.06 DEEP CLEANSE

(cf 8.13/21) It was reported that the District Council had cancelled the proposed deep cleanse, planned for February 2021, in light of the restrictions imposed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

9.07 RESTRICTED BYWAY 25

(cf 8.19/21) It was reported that the broken tree branch overhanging restricted byway 25 – Dysons Wood Lane – east of Dysons Wood, had been removed soon after it had been reported on FixMyStreet.

Reference was made to illicit vehicular use of the byway, particularly from its junction with Chalkhouse Green Road, Chalkhouse Green, which use invariably required subsequent recovery of the vehicle. It was suggested that more obvious signage might be necessary to deter the illicit use.

RESOLVED: That the Rights of Way Committee investigate the signage for restricted byway 25 and report thereon to a future meeting.

9.08 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £33,587.02.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£53.82
David Woodward-Design for Print – Replacement cheque	£4,235.00
R F Penfold – Renewal of 2 web domains (reimbursement)	£38.56
Ms S M Biggs – Refund of NDP grant balance (reimbursement)	£89.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£146.00
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£97.33

9.09 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the application for

replacement side extension, following the demolition of existing extension at Fairview, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common

had been permitted conditionally, and that the application for

changes to approved road layout for residential development of land to the rear of 44 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common [Parish of Sonning Common]

had been refused.

(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:

changes to approved road layout in respect of erection of 25 dwellings on land to the rear of 44 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common [Parish of Sonning Common];
proposed rear extension at Blossom Cottage, Hazelmoo Lane, Gallowstree Common;
single storey garden room rear extension at The Old Barn, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End.

(iii) District Council's Planning Committee

(The invitation referred to below was received too late to be included on the agenda for the meeting. However, the Council decided that it was of sufficient urgency to be considered at the meeting.)

(cf 10.15(iv)/20) In a letter, the Head of Planning of the District Council invited the Council to make oral representations at the meeting of his Council's Planning Committee, to be held on 23 February 2021, about the retrospective application for change of use of land and buildings from residential to a mix of residential and childcare at Kerak, Chalkhouse Green Road, Chalkhouse Green. Officers were recommending approval of the application, despite an objection on behalf of the County Council, as highways' authority.

RESOLVED: That the invitation to make oral representations to the Planning Committee on the above application be declined.

(iv) Reading Golf Club

(cf 7.11(iii)/20) It was reported that Reading Borough Council had received a revised planning application (number 210018), from Fairfax (Reading) Ltd and Reading Golf Club Ltd, for the residential development of that part of the Reading Golf Club course within the Borough. Noting that the application appeared little different to the withdrawn application, save for 3 fewer units, but including the promise of a 9 hole golf course on that part of the existing course in South Oxfordshire, complete with café/club house, it was

RESOLVED: That an objection to the revised application be submitted to Reading Borough Council, along similar lines to that submitted previously, and that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to draft and submit the letter.

(v) National Planning Policy Framework

The District Council, in one of its Town and Parish Updates, had referred to the consultation by the Government on draft revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework. The revisions covered implementation of policy changes in response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission's report "Living with Beauty": it was not a revision of the Framework in its entirety, which would follow in due course. The consultation would close on 27 March 2021.

9.10 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in January 2021, with particular reference to the paragraph about meetings, and the impact of the expiry of the legislation allowing virtual meetings.

9.11 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

The Council considered a report (20/21 -12) by Ms S M Biggs, on behalf of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group, and an explanatory note thereon by the Chairman of the Council (20/21 - 13).

Members discussed how the final draft Plan would be considered by the Council, in due course.

9.12 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that, although the Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council, the members of the Committee had met twice informally to discuss the future management of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion and the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. He considered that the meetings had been most useful, and undertook to circulate some notes he had made of issues covered at the meetings.

Arising from this, Member discussed aspects of the management of the facilities, and particularly asked the Chairman of the Committee to seek a view from the Kidmore End Cricket Club as to what it saw as its responsibilities in respect of the Ground and the Pavilion.

9.13 RIGHTS OF WAYS COMMITTEE

The Chairman commented that local landowners were concerned that users of public rights of way were straying from the definitive line of the paths, or using the margins of fields, because of the condition of paths. She reported that local residents had spread wood chips on some of the muddier paths in Kidmore End village.

An enquiry was made as to whether the Rights of Way Committee gave consideration to extensions to the current network of public rights of way. The Clerk indicated that that was not included in its terms of reference.

RESOLVED: That Mr A R R McAslan be appointed as a member of the Rights of Way Committee for the period ending at the Annual Meeting in 2021.

9.14 TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Mr A Whytes reported that the Transport Committee had agreed locations for the speed surveys with County Council officers, and was awaiting an estimate of the cost thereof.

9.15 KIDMORE END POND

The Chairman pointed out that the duck house on Kidmore End pond required repair. Members recalled that the Council had permitted the installation of the duck house, which was provided by public subscription, on the pond, circa the time of the Millennium. It had been repaired, around 2010/2011, by 2 then Members of the Council, apparently at their own expense. The Chairman had been advised that the repairs presently required would cost in the region of £360.

RESOLVED: That responsibility be taken for the duck house at Kidmore End pond and the cost of required repairs borne, to be met from the provision for unspecified projects.

9.16 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 22 April 2020 at 7.30pm.

9.17 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

The Chairman noted that Mr J M Ducker had attending a training course for new councillors. Mr A P Harland advised that he had attended the online Armed Forces' Champions' Conference arranged by the Ministry of Defence on 3 February 2021.