

DRAFT

To be confirmed when the Council next meets KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting had been scheduled to be held on 21 April 2021. However, this would have required it to be summoned no later than 15 April, during the period of official mourning for HRH Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh. Calling the meeting during the period of mourning would have been contrary to the provisions of Section 245 of the Local Government Act 1972. Consequently, the Chairman had authorised the postponement of the meeting to 27 April.

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held remotely on Wednesday 27 April 2021 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.45pm.

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, I G C Pearson.

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

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

11.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2021 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

11.02 HRH PRINCE PHILIP, THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

The Chairman referred to death of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, on 9 April 2021, aged 99 years. Mr A P Harland paid tribute to, and gave his personal recollections of, the Duke.

11.03 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 garden waste service, which remained closed, and its contractors' activities in response complaints of litter;
- new car park charges, to come into force on 1 June 2021;
- his Council's application to undertake civilian parking enforcement had been submitted to the Department for Transport;
- the question and answer session on assets of community value, to be held on 12 May 2021;
- the arrangements for counting the votes at the various elections and referenda to be held on 7 May 2021.

11.04 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Mr A Bowley of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common asked a number of questions relating to the siting, extension and use of the cricket practice nets at the eastern corner of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. Mr I G C Pearson, the Chairman of the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee, offered to meet Mr Bowley imminently, in an endeavour to answer his questions.

11.05 DEEP CLEANSE

(cf 10.04/21) The Clerk advised that he had asked the District Council to add the following roads, which had footways, to the list to be covered by the proposed deep cleanse in the Parish – the roads bordering Kidmore End pond, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End, Gaskells End, Tokers Green and Orchard

DRAFT

To be confirmed when the Council next meets

Field, Gallowstree Common.

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

11.06 CHILTERN CONSERVATION BOARD

(cf 10.11/21) It was reported that Mrs S Rowland had been elected as a parish member representing Oxfordshire on the Chilterns Conservation Board.

11.07 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND

(i) Cricket practice nets

(cf 10.15/21) Subsequent to the last meeting, Mr A Bowley of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common had, by e-mail, written to the Chairman, advising that he had alerted the District Council to the perceived breach of planning approval by the Parish Council, in extending the length of the cricket practice nets at the eastern corner of the Gallowstree Common, not dismantling the net frames across the winter not painting the new frames the agreed colour and removing the required landscaping.

The District Council's Development Management Team Leader (Enforcement) had, by e-mail, on 31 March 2021, pointed out the conditions attached to the planning permission for the nets granted in 2000, which only allowed for the nets to be in place from 22 April to 8 October and that the frame should be painted black. She requested, therefore, that the nets be taken down. The Clerk had advised the Team Leader that the works to extend the nets had been undertaken by the Kidmore End Cricket Club without notice to, or consent from, the Parish Council. He had passed a copy of the e-mail to the Secretary of the Cricket Club.

Members of the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee had met the Chairman of the Cricket Club informally on 8 April 2021. Notes prepared by the Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee (20/21 – 16) of that meeting had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting, and were received.

Later in the meeting, the Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee read paragraphs from a letter of apology from the Secretary of the Cricket Club, addressed to the Committee and the Council. The Chairman of the Committee also advised that the Club was in contact with the local planning authority.

(ii) Play Area

(cf 10.19/21) By e-mail, Wicksteed Leisure Ltd had quoted a sum of £876.24 + VAT to repair (ie both parts and labour) the basket swing in the play area at the Gallowstree Recreation Ground. Given that the item of equipment had been made and supplied by the Company, it was

RESOLVED: 1 That, in accordance with Financial Regulation 11.1(a)(iii), the quotation of Wicksteed Leisure Ltd for the repair of the basket swing, in the sum of £876.24 + VAT, be accepted.

2 That the cost of the works be met from the provision in the budget for the financial year 2021/22 for "Unspecified projects".

11.08 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £53,528.06.

(ii) Accounts for payment

DRAFT

To be confirmed when the Council next meets

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

Ms A S O'Reilly – Design service for website (reimbursement)	£87.00
Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Subscription	£272.62
Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – Subscription	£42.00
Community First Oxfordshire – Subscription	£55.00
Ms S M Biggs – Subscription to Parish Online (NDP) (reimbursement)	£108.00
Bluestone Planning Partnership LLP – Settlement character appraisal and basic conditions' statement (NDP)	£6570.00
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£53.82
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 at year-end, against the approved budget for 2020/21. The report showed an underspend of £11,732.

11.09 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

2-storey side extension and single storey rear extension at Oldfield House, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
replacement of 2 existing modern timber sheds with a studio room and additional storage/workshop space at Butlers Farmhouse, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End;
rear garden room, porch extension, alterations with rear decking extension at Hunters Lodge, Mill Lane, 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:

proposed replacement of 2 existing modern timber sheds with a studio room and additional storage/workshop space at Butlers Farmhouse, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End;
excavation and installation of new swimming pool and associated plant in the curtilage of Trees, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
outline application for erection of a 1.5 storey dwelling, incorporating access, layout and landscaping and all other matters reserved at Kano, Wood Lane, Kidmore End (and amended plan);
rear garden room, porch extension, alterations with rear decking extensions at Hunters Lodge, Mill Lane, Kidmore End (amended plan);
replace existing outbuildings with single storey rear and side extensions at Haystacks, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common (amended plan).

(iii) South Oxfordshire Local Plan

DRAFT

To be confirmed when the Council next meets

(cf 7.11(iv)/20)) The Council noted from e-mails from the District Council that it would develop the next iteration of its Local Plan jointly with Vale of White Horse District Council and that Bioabundance CIC had appealed against the decision of the court to refuse its application for judicial review of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan.

11.10 THE REFORMATION PUBLIC HOUSE, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 8.04/21) In a letter, the Head of Corporate Services of the Vale of White Horse District Council had advised that the District Council had decided not to list the Reformation public house, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common as an asset of community value. He set out the detailed tests set out in the Localism Act 2011 which the application had failed, leading to the Council's decision. The District Council reserved the right, given the number of applications already submitted to list the Reformation, not to consider any further applications. Members expressed disappointment at the decision to deny listing.

The District Council's Community Enablement Team passed on an offer from Brakspear (the owners of the premises) of a conversation to discuss whether the Parish Council or a community group wanted to make an offer on the property.

RESOLVED: That no further action be taken on this matter.

11.11 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in March 2021, with particular reference to the paragraph about the "20 is Plenty" campaign.

11.12 HOUSENAMING

By e-mail, the GIS Team Leader & Street Naming and Numbering Officer of the District Council advised that the new property south of The Coach House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End had been named The Old Barn.

11.13 LITTER BINS

In letters and e-mails, Ms M Lawrie of Chalkhouse Green Road, and Ms J Lynch, of Wood Lane, Kidmore End drew attention to the continued misuse of the litter bin opposite Kidmore End well, into which bin people deposited domestic waste, to the extent that the facility often overflowed. Residents had suggested a range of remedies, including removal of the bin.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the matter be deferred, pending a report by Mr A R R McAslan on litter and bins generally.

11.14 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

The Clerk reported that Mr S Hall had resigned as a member of the Council, by letter received on 10 April 2021.

The Chairman paid tribute to Mrs Hall and read a tribute from Mr J A Swift. The tributes are set out in the Appendix hereto.

The Clerk advised that he had given notice of the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the resignation.

RESOLVED: That Mrs S Hall be thanked for her service to the community as a Member of the Council since November 2001.

DRAFT

To be confirmed when the Council next meets

11.15 READING ROAD, CANE END – SPEED LIMIT

By letter, Mr C Rollin of Reading Road, Cane End drew attention to his concerns about the speed of traffic on Reading Road, Cane End, a road he had to cross on foot daily, on his return home from work by bus. The Clerk, in acknowledging the letter, had referred to the present exercise to review the speed limits on some roads in the Parish, including Reading Road.

RESOLVED: That the letter from Mr C Rollin be referred to the Transport Sub-Committee.

11.16 “THE BIG ASK”

The Chairman advised that she had arranged for the webmaster to include information on the website about “The Big Ask”, the consultation with children initiated by the Children’s Commissioner for England. Children would be asked to set out their priorities for improving childhood post-Covid.

11.17 TOKERS GREEN LANE, TOKERS GREEN – ENCROACHMENT ON HIGHWAY

The Council noted a copy of a letter from the County Council’s Director. Environment and Place, to Mr & Mrs H Olley of Russell Road, Tokers Green , requiring them to remove the fence they had erected adjacent to carriageway in Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, which the officer considered to be unlawful encroachment on the public highway, by 18 May 2021. Mr & Mrs Olley had responded to the County Council pointing out that they owned the land, and that the line of their fence followed that used by others with property boundaries to Tokers Green Lane.

11.18 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

The Council noted a report (20/21 -17) by Ms S M Biggs, on behalf of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group.

11.19 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council, but reported orally as follows (aside from issues relating to the cricket practice facilities at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground – see Minute 11.07(i)):

- the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion was ready, with signs and hand sanitizer etc, to re-open when this was permitted;
- the flooring in the players’ entrance to the Pavilion had been repaired;
- the bar operated by the Cricket Club had re-opened for outdoor service.

11.20 PROPOSED POST-COVID FAMILY EVENT

The Chairman requested the Council to promote the proposed family event at the Recreation Ground on 2 July 2021, so that the event could be covered by the Council’s insurance policy.

RESOLVED: That the Council exercise its power under Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 to promote the proposed post-Covid family event.

11.21 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

The Chairman advised that gates were being installed in place of stiles on Footpath 10 between Chalkhouse Green Road and Emmens Lane, Kidmore End.

11.22 TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

DRAFT

To be confirmed when the Council next meets

The Council noted that the results of the traffic speed surveys were awaited.

11.23 CANINE FAECES

Ms S Matthews referred to the increased incidence of deposits of canine faeces in the public realm in the Parish, particularly the village of Kidmore End, and suggested ways in which the issues could be addressed.

RESOLVED: That consideration of this matter be deferred, pending receipt of a report by Ms Matthews and Mr A R R McAslan on the subject.

11.24 ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETINGS AFTER 6 MAY 2021

(cf 10.20/21) The Council considered a report (20/21 -18) of the Clerk, to enable it to decide how to proceed when the legislation allowing virtual meetings of parish councils expired, on 6 May 2021.

RESOLVED: 1 That, pending changes in the relevant legislation, and whilst the restrictions imposed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic remain in force, the functions of the Council be discharged by the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, under the provisions of Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, with effect from 7 May 2021.

2 That, before exercising the powers delegated to him, the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer consult all Members of the Council informally.

11.25 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the public be excluded from the meeting, pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, during consideration of the following items on the grounds that exempt information, under paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Act shown below, would be discussed:

Item	Paragraph
Part 2 Minutes	3
Former telephone kiosk, Cane End	3

11.26 PART 2 MINUTES

The Part 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2021 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

11.27 FORMER TELEPHONE KIOSK, CANE END

The Council was reminded that local residents had suggested that a defibrillator be installed in the former telephone kiosk at Cane End, a structure owned by the Council. Such a project had been included in the list of potential schemes on which the Council's "share" of the Community Infrastructure Levy might be spent, but had not been adopted for further investigation.

Nevertheless, a local resident had discussed the project with the Chairman, and Mr A R R McAslan, and as a result had proposed initially that the kiosk be repaired and repainted. Mr McAslan indicated that he would arrange the repair of the kiosk, largely the replacement of some glass window panes and the refurbishment of the door, which works he estimated would cost £865.40 + VAT. 2 quotations had been received for the repainting, as follows

DRAFT

To be confirmed when the Council next meets

Harland Decorating Services - £450
Caversham Decorator - £650.

Members noted that there was no specific budgetary provision for the project.

RESOLVED: 1 That the cost of refurbishment of the former telephone kiosk at Cane End be met from the provision in the budget for the financial year 2021/22 for "Unspecified projects".

2 That a contract be let to Harland Decorating Services for repainting the kiosk, in the sum of £450.

3 That the offer of Mr A R R McAslan to repair the kiosk, in the estimated sum of £865.40 + VAT, be accepted.

DRAFT

To be confirmed when the Council next meets

APPENDIX

TRIBUTES TO MRS S HALL

The Chairman said

“I am very sad that Sarah Hall has resigned from the Parish Council. Sarah was first co-opted onto the Council on 21 November 2001. This means that has been on the Council for longer than some of us have lived in the Parish. Sarah has worked tirelessly and with great enthusiasm and commitment for the benefit of all, taking huge pleasure in managing the allotments and wells. Her hard work, humour and straight-talking will be missed, and I would like to thank Sarah for her many years of service.

“Now for some words from John Swift, who was not able to attend the meeting this evening.

“From my first experience as a KEPC Councillor it was clear that Sarah was a formidable and fearless protector of the interest of the Parish. The “Henley Standard” would be alert to any frosty comment from Sarah on the conduct of any person or institution which posed a threat to those interests, and any OCC or SODC Councillor who came unprepared to a parish meeting would rapidly regret their errors. All, of course, delivered with the greatest charm and a winning smile. A splendid contribution over 20 years.

“Thank you Sarah from all your friends and colleagues for all your hard work over the years.”