

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on Wednesday 20 April 2022 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.30pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge (Chairman), T M Perchard (Vice-Chairman), Prof J W Almond, A P Bowley, J M Ducker, A P Harland, I G C Pearson.

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Ms S Bew.

11.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2022 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

11.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, had submitted a report which covered

- a farmers' protest outside County Hall when his Council's Cabinet met on 15 March 2022;
- his Council's Fire & Rescue Community Risk Management Plan;
- a large number of initiatives focussed on the City of Oxford;
- action by his Council to tackle fly tipping;
- the priorities of his Council's administration.

11.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, reported orally about

- support for Ukrainian refugees;
- car sharing arrangements in Henley;
- the intention of his Council to move from its present rented offices in Milton to the Abbey House, Abingdon, on a temporary basis.

11.04 WEBSITE

(cf 10.05/21) It was reported that, as the response had been low thus far, the closing date for responses the survey about the future direction of the Council's website had been delayed to 30 April 2022.

11.05 TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

(cf 10.07/22) With an e-mail, an officer of the County Council gave notice of the temporary closure, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, on 12 April 2022, for pole replacement.

11.06 DOG HYGIENE BIN

(cf 10.12/22) It was reported that the Shield Group had taken over emptying the dog hygiene bin at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground with effect from 1 April 2022.

11.07 TOKERS GREEN – 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT

(cf 10.17/22) In an e-mail, Mr R Butters of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green commented on the 20mph speed limit in Tokers Green and Chazey Heath, as implemented by the County Council. He cited, in particular

- the limit did not extend south in Tokers Green Lane from the property “Wachusett” to the County boundary;
- insufficient repeater signs in Tokers Green Lane;
- lack of carriageway surface markings.

RESOLVED: That the above comments be referred to the County Council.

11.08 CHILTERN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

(cf 10.18/22) It was reported that the inter-parish group pursuing the enlargement of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was meeting that evening.

11.09 GIGACLEAR LTD

(cf 10.20/22) The Council considered a request by Gigaclear Ltd for consent to install fibre broadband equipment on land owned by the Council, at the entrance to the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, a matter consideration of which had been deferred at the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That consent be granted to Gigaclear Ltd to install fibre broadband equipment at the entrance to the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, and that the requisite network access agreement be completed by the Clerk on behalf of the Council.

11.10 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND

(i) Proposed storage compound

(cf 10.21/22) The Council considered a request from the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee for approval to the creation of a fenced storage compound at the northern corner of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, a matter consideration of which had been deferred at the last meeting. A plan, showing details of the proposed compound, had been circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the creation of a fenced storage compound at the northern corner of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, as a change of use of the Ground, be approved.

(ii) Diamond Jubilee Pavilion – verandah

(cf 10.22/22) It was reported that Kidmore End Cricket Club had removed the pallets and related structures from the verandah at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, as requested at the last meeting.

The Council noted a letter from the President and Hon Secretary of the Club decrying the formality of the Council’s decision and the apparent failure to recognise the benefit the Club brought to the Parish.

(iii) Land adjacent to New Copse – trees

(cf 9.06/22) The Council considered the report by Ligna Consultancy Ltd following the Company’s survey of the trees on the land between the Recreation Ground and New Copse.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the tree survey report be deferred to a future meeting.

11.11 CELEBRATIONS OF THE PLATINUM JUBILEE OF HM THE QUEEN

(cf 10.24/22) Members recalled that it had been intended to discuss the local events arranged in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee of HM the Queen at the last meeting, but time had not permitted this.

Residents of Tokers Green, together with their neighbours in Chazey Heath, would hold their customary Big Lunch as a celebration of the Platinum Jubilee at the Rokeby Recreation Ground on 4 June 2022.

A Parish-wide event would be held at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on 5 June 2022. An outline was given of the various elements of the celebrations. The organisers sought authority to spend £150 on bunting for the event. First aid cover for the event was proving elusive, given the number of events nationally on that day.

RESOLVED: 1 That expenditure of up to £150 be approved for bunting for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations at Gallowstree Common.

2 That enquiries be made of the Council's insurers as to whether they would require the presence of first aid cover at the Platinum Jubilee celebrations at Gallowstree Common.

11.12 UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

(cf 10.25/22) It was reported that residents of Gallowstree Common were intending to accommodate 5 families displaced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine: one family had arrived, while the other 4 were awaiting clearance to come to the United Kingdom.

11.13 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £46,295.83.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Subscription	£277.47
Community First Oxfordshire – Subscription	£70.00
Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – Subscription	£45.00
Radcot Guttering – Replacement guttering at Diamond Jubilee Pavilion (balance)	£4,741.80
Ligna Consultancy Ltd – Tree survey at Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground	£408.00
Groundwork UK – Refund of unspent grant (NDP)	£1,955.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax (including arrears)	£151.50
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£101.00

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure at year-end, against the approved budget for 2021/22. The report showed an overspend of £972.

11.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling and garage at Farm Cottage, Chalkhouse Green;
side and rear extension at Felix Lodge, Wood Lane, Kidmore End

had been permitted conditionally, that the application for prior approval for barn for storing hay and equipment on land at Bishopswood Farm, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common [Parish of Sonning Common] had been refused and that the application for demolition of existing bungalow and garage, and construction of a new 4 bedroom dwelling at Leewood, The Hamlet, 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 application, as set out in the register of action, be approved:

prior approval for demolition of B1c workshops and construction of 2 detached dwellings at The Piggery, Gravel Hill, Caversham.

(iii) Application for development at Kano, Wood Lane, Kidmore End

(cf 10.14(iii)/22) The Council noted the District Council's case officer had accepted the Council's additional representations on the application for erection of a 2-storey dwelling with detached garage at Kano, Wood Lane, Kidmore End.

(iv) Fox Heath Gardens, Cane End

(cf 10.14(iv)/22) In e-mail correspondence with Bellwood Homes Ltd, officers of the County Council advised that, the hedges and fences having been removed/moved, there were no longer any unlawful encroachments on the public highway at Fox Heath Gardens, Cane End, fronting Reading Road and Horsepond Road.

Members observed that the proposed footway link, through Fox Heath Gardens, to the bus stop had yet to be provided.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be reminded about the provision of the footway link through Fox Heath Gardens, Cane End.

(v) Summer Cottage, Cane End – alleged unauthorised development

(cf 10.14(vi)/22) The District Council's Planning Enforcement Team had advised, by e-mail, that the dossier from a resident of Cane End on alleged unauthorised development at Summer Cottage, Cane End had been added to its file on the case.

The Vice-Chairman reported an enquiry from another resident of Cane End about Summer Cottage: he had referred them to the District Council.

(vi) The Piggery, Gravel Hill, Emmer Green

(cf 10.14(vii)/22) The Council noted that the District Council had sought views on the application claiming that the demolition of the existing workshops and erection of 2 detached dwellings at the Piggery, Gravel Hill, Emmer Green was permitted development (see Minute 11.14(ii) above).

(vii) Chambers Copse, Kidmore End Road, Chalkhouse Green - possible development

(cf 6.13(iii)/21) By letter, the Head of Planning of the District Council advised that he was processing a notification seeking a determination by his Council whether proposed development at Chambers Copse, Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green - change of use of 2 agricultural buildings into 3 dwellings - would require prior approval to proceed under permitted development rights. The District Council had to determine whether there was no highway, transport, noise, contamination or flooding impacts or risks. If prior approval was refused, the applicant could appeal against that decision to the Secretary of State.

The District Council had to serve notice, under the prior notification procedure, on adjoining owners or occupiers. The District Council was unable to take into account any comments on the notification from the Parish Council.

(viii) Oakridge Farm, Wood Lane, Kidmore End – alleged unauthorised development

(cf 6.11(iii)/20) The Chairman reported that she had received oral representations that the recently constructed garage/workshop building at Oakridge Farm, Wood Lane, Kidmore End was equipped with cooking and sanitary/washing facilities.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be alerted to the above observations about the facilities in the garage/workshop at Oakridge Farm, Wood Lane, Kidmore End.

(ix) Reading Golf Club

(cf 10.14(viii)/22) It was noted that the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Community had not called-in the planning application for the development of that part of the Reading Golf Club course within the Borough of Reading.

11.15 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in March 2022, with particular reference to the paragraph on charity training.

The Chairman encouraged the Plans Sub-Committee to become familiar with recent and imminent changes to the planning system.

11.16 ETHICAL STANDARDS

The Monitoring Officer of the District Council advised, in an e-mail, that the Government had not accepted a large proportion of the recommendations of the Committee for Standards in Public Life, following the latter's review of ethical standards, in 2019. That said, all principal authorities in the County were being recommended to adopt a new code of conduct based on the model produced by the Local Government Association. The code would have more detailed advice about disclosure of interests. Parish councils would be invited to adopt the code, in order to secure consistency across the County.

11.17 VIRTUAL MEETINGS

In an e-mail, the County Officer of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils recalled that, at

the Q & A for Council Chairmen on 5 April 2022, she had been asked to draft a template letter to enable councils to write to their Members of Parliament requesting the latter to support legislation to make virtual meetings lawful for parish councils. She attached a template to her e-mail.

RESOLVED: That John Howell MP be requested to support legislation to enable parish councils lawfully to take decisions at virtual as well as, rather than solely in-person, meetings.

11.18 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

The Council was reminded that there was a vacancy for the office of parish councillor.

Mr D P Malaperiman of Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End had, by e-mail, provided some biographical details, which details had been circulated to each Member, in support of his interest in serving as a councillor.

RESOLVED: That Mr D P Malaperiman 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 Mr A Whyles.

11.19 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

The Council noted a report (21/22 – 29) by Ms S M Biggs, on behalf of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group.

11.20 KIDMORE END PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was noted that the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council.

11.21 STANDING ORDERS SUB-COMMITTEE

(cf 4.09/21) The Council considered the minutes of a meeting, held on 12 April 2022, of the Sub-Committee established in September 2021 to advise on the adoption of alternative wordings in the model standing orders published by the National Association of Local Councils.

RESOLVED: That the Standing Orders set out in the Appendix to the minutes of the Sub-Committee be adopted with effect from 1 May 2022.

11.22 TOKERS GREEN POND

(cf 8.03/22) By e-mail to the Chairman, Mr I Beale of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, on behalf of residents of Tokers Green, sought permission to site a second bench on the green at Tokers Green, between Dysons Wood Lane and the pond, facing the pond, the bench to be acquired at the expense of the Council. A plan showing the location of the bench had been circulated.

RESOLVED: That consent be given for the purchase and installation of a bench on the green between Dysons Wood Lane and the pond at Tokers Green, facing the pond.

11.23 BENCHES AND PICNIC TABLES

The Chairman referred to a source of benches and picnic tables made from recycled plastic. Comment was made about the condition of one of the picnic tables at the Kidmore End Play Area.

11.24 NOTICEBOARDS

(cf 8.16/22) The Chairman reported on her ongoing research into sources of noticeboards, given that a number of the existing boards in the Parish needed replacement.

The Chairman suggested that the noticeboard in Kidmore End might be better sited at the pond than opposite the well.

RESOLVED: That a replacement noticeboard be erected at Kidmore End pond instead of opposite the well at Kidmore End.

11.25 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

The Chairman reported on 2 events she had attended – a question and answer session for chairmen of councils arranged by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils and the annual general meeting of the Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance. She had circulated written notes of the events.