

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on Wednesday 18 May 2022 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.05pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge, Prof J W Almond, T P Bowley, A P Harland, D P Malaperiman, Ms S Matthews, I G C Pearson.

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from J M Ducker.

The outgoing Chairman, Dr C D Aldridge, took the Chair.

1.01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Dr C D Aldridge be elected Chairman of the Council until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2023.

(Dr Aldridge thereupon signed a declaration of acceptance of office.)

1.02 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Mr A P Harland be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2023.

1.03 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2022 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

1.04 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

A report by Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, had been circulated prior to the meeting, covering

- the continued debate about the style of food to be served at County Council meetings;
- a transgender rights' motion considered by his Council;
- the Police view on the reduction of speed limits from 30mph to 20mph;
- support by his Council for Ukrainian refugees;
- his Council's commitment to increased tree planting.

1.05 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, referred to his previously circulated report, which covered

- the Joint Local Plan being developed by his Council and the Vale of the White Horse District Council, the initial consultation on which had been started;
- the support provided by his Council to Ukrainian refugee families;
- the financial support for families in respect of energy costs, being paid to qualifying residents by way of a Council Tax rebate.

1.06 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session

- Mr T Winter of Wood Lane, Kidmore End, outlined the amendments he had made to his planning application for the erection of an additional dwelling to the rear of his house, in an endeavour to address objections already made;
- Ms A Cronin-Scott and Ms J Wright, both of Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End, set out their objections to the planning application for demolition of existing structure and construction of a detached self-build dwelling and stabling on land north of Pond House, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End.

Both applications were considered by the Council later in the meeting (see Minute 1. 15(iii)).

1.07 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS, SUB-COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

RESOLVED: 1 That the following appointments be made for the period ending at the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2023:

Allotments' Manager	Mr D P Malaperiman
Wells' Manager	Mr J M Ducker
Finance Sub-Committee	Dr C D Aldridge, Mr A P Bowley, Mr I G C Pearson
Plans Sub-Committee	Prof K W Almond, Mr J M Ducker, Mr A P Harland, Ms S Matthews, Ms S M Biggs*, Ms L Stewart-Ashley*, Ms A Vorster*
Rights of Way Sub-Committee	Dr C D Aldridge, Ms S Matthews
Transport Sub-Committee (and Transport Representatives)	Mr A P Harland
Editorial Board of Newsletter	Dr C D Aldridge, Ms S Remenyi*
Representatives on Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group	Dr C D Aldridge, Mr I G C Pearson
Representatives on Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee	Mr A P Bowley, Mr A P Harland, Mr I G C Pearson
Website Liaison Councillor	Mr A P Bowley

* Not a member of the Council

2 That the appointment of the representative on the Oxfordshire Association Local Councils be deferred to the next meeting.

3 That, in principle, an Amenities' Sub-Committee be established, to advise the Council on the management of some of its assets (eg play areas) and on projects at other locations in the Parish.

1.08 WEBSITE

(cf 11.04/22) The Vice-Chairman referred to a paper he had circulated to Members setting out an analysis of the 19 responses submitted to the survey about the future direction of the Council's website. He urged Members to read the analysis.

1.09 TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

(cf 11.05/22) With e-mails, officers of the County Council gave notice of the temporary closures, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as follows:

- Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, on 15 May 2022, for a pole test;
- Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, between the junction with Wood Lane and the entrance to the Vines Farm grain store, on 12 June 2022, for overhead work;
- A4074 road, from Woodcote to Ipsden, for surface dressing, for the period of 16 to 18 May 2022, except from 0730 to 0930 and from 1530 to 1800hrs each day.

1.10 TOKERS GREEN – 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT

(cf 11.07/22) By e-mail, a technical officer in Traffic and Road Safety at the County Council responded to the comments made at the last meeting, regarding the 20mph speed limit in Tokers Green and Chazey Heath. He pointed out that, given the combined mean speeds recorded (19 to 21mph over 3 locations) during the surveys in Tokers Green Lane, and Rokeby Drive, national guidance was that a “signs-only change” would be appropriate. Further road marking roundels could be installed, if that was the general consensus, at a cost of c£1,200. The 20mph limit started just before the first house in Tokers Green, travelling north, ie where the character of the road changed. Repeater signs had been installed in accordance with national guidance. Finally, if Reading Borough Council reduced the speed limit in Kidmore Road, Caversham, at its junction with Shepherds Lane, to 20mph, his Council would consider reducing the limit in the length of Tokers Green Lane from the house named “Wachusett” to the county boundary.

1.11 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND - LAND ADJACENT TO NEW COPSE: TREES

(cf 11.10(iii)/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, a matter consideration of which had been deferred at the last meeting.

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

1.12 CELEBRATIONS OF THE PLATINUM JUBILEE OF HM THE QUEEN

(cf 11.11/22) Mr A P Bowley advised that he had posters, advertising the Parish-wide event to would be held at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on 5 June 2022, for display in other villages in the Parish.

1.13 TOKERS GREEN POND

(cf 11.22/22) In an e-mail, Ms J Allum of Dysons Wood Lane, Tokers Green complained about the installation of a bench on the green at Tokers Green, despite her opposition to the siting of the bench there, when canvassed previously. She requested the removal of the bench, which, she stated, was in front of her house, as it would “attract people and noise”

The Chairman advised that she had inspected the installation, observing that the seat was not positioned in such a way as users would sit looking into the complainant’s home, and that it was some distance from the house. She recommended that no action be taken on the complaint for the time being, but that matter be monitored over coming months.

RESOLVED: That no action be taken in response to the complaint by Ms J Allum, but that use of the bench on the green at Tokers Green be monitored.

1.14 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £38,546.06.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

R F Penfold – Printing	£14.40
I Beale – Bench for Tokers Green	£299.00
The Shield Group – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£10.39
Dr C D Aldridge – Printing Parish Newsletter (reimbursement)	£46.00
R F Penfold – Zoom licence (reimbursement)	£143.88
Geosphere Ltd – Subscription to Parish Online	£108.00
United Kingdom Debt Management Office – Loan repayment	£6,406.49†
South Oxfordshire District Council – Planning application fee (Gallowstree Common well)	£132.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£151.50
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£101.00

† *To be paid by direct debit*

1.15 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the application for alterations and extensions at Nutlowe, Elm Road, Tokers Green had been permitted conditionally and that the outline application for 4 detached dwellings on land between Coopers Pightle and Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End 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:

demolition of existing garage, erection of single storey front extension and replacement of flat roof with sloping roof at side of house at Penworth, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
formation of new field entrance on land adjacent to The Old Barn, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End;
variation of conditions attached to permission P21/S3140/FUL for demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a detached 3-bedroom 2 storey dwelling and a detached 4-bedroom 2-storey dwelling at Holmsdale, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green.

(iii) Applications

The Council considered applications referred to it since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: 1 That no objections be submitted to the application for removal of existing outbuilding and erection of a children's day nursery on land at Reading Abbey Rugby Football Club, Peppard Road, Emmer Green.

2 That observations be made as follows:

Application

Observation

Outline application for demolition of existing structure and construction of a detached self-build dwelling and stabling on land north of Pond House, Kidmore

See Appendix

Lane, Kidmore End

Erection of 2-storey dwelling at Kano, Wood Lane, Kidmore End (amended plan)

The amended plans do not address the comments submitted by the Council on 28 March 2022. Accordingly, the Council's objection still stands.

(iv) South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils Joint Local Plan

(cf 4.18(vi)/21) The District Council had announced on 12 May 2022 the consultation on its joint Local Plan, being developed with Vale of the White Horse District Council, seeking thoughts on the main issues facing the districts and how the Local Plan could be used to address those issues. It had not been intended to discuss the matter at the meeting, because insufficient notice had been given in accordance with Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972. However, as the date of the next meeting (see Minute 1.25 below) was beyond the end of the initial consultation period, it was

RESOLVED: That the Vice-Chairman and Prof J W Almond be authorised to draft and submit, on behalf of the Council, a response to the consultation on the Joint Local Plan.

1.16 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

It was reported that Mr T M Perchard had resigned as a parish councillor, by e-mail, on 23 April 2022. The Chairman paid tribute to Mr Perchard, in the following terms:

"I just wanted to say a few words to thank Trevor Perchard for all his hard work and commitment as a parish councillor. He resigned last month after serving on this Council for 10 years, and as Vice-Chairman since January 2021. I will miss his help, advice and common sense. I enjoyed working with Trevor, and I will miss his input into the Transport subcommittee, the Planning subcommittee and on the Rights of way subcommittee. I will particularly miss our Speed Watch mornings, which only happened because Trevor organised them. I want to thank Trevor for all his hard work and for the time that he gave to the Parish as a parish councillor. I would like to wish him all the very best for the future, which, I suspect, will include lots of holidays. Luckily, Trevor has volunteered to continue distributing the Newsletter in Tokers Green, and I am very grateful that he will continue to help in that way. Thank you, Trevor, from all of your colleagues on the Parish Council."

The Clerk reported that he had given notice of the vacancy. The District Council's Returning Officer had advised, on the day of the 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.

RESOLVED: That Mr T M Perchard be thanked for his service to the community, as a parish councillor since January 2011, and as Vice-Chairman since January 2021.

1.17 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council deferred consideration of an update for members, published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in April 2022, to the next meeting.

1.18 "NO MOW MAY"

In an e-mail, Mr I Beale of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, enquired whether the Council had a policy regarding "No Mow May", a campaign about not cutting grass during the month of May, designed to help wild flowers and encourage pollinators.

RESOLVED: That consideration of this matter be deferred to September 2022.

1.19 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

Dr K Harmer of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, by e-mail, drew attention to the damaged condition of one of the picnic tables at the Kidmore End Play Area, noted that the swing remained out of commission and asked about the inspection regime for the equipment. The Clerk had alerted the Chairman to the damaged table, and had advised Dr Harmer about the annual professional inspection and the routine observation of the equipment by local Members.

1.20 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

The Council noted that the report of the Examiner on the draft Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan was expected to be published imminently.

1.21 KIDMORE END PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Council considered a report (22/23 - 1) of the Clerk advising it of the outcome of the meeting of the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee held on 11 May 2022.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

1.22 LAND AT JUNCTION OF WOOD LANE AND HORSEPOND ROAD, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 10.09/22) The Council considered a report (22/23 - 2), submitted by Mr A P Bowley, setting out the work undertaken by local volunteers to remove the bramble growth on the parcel of land south east of the junction of Horsepond Road and Wood Lane, Gallowstree Common, and planned further activity at that site.

RESOLVED: That the cost of hiring a 13HP rotovator, to be used to remove the bramble roots from the parcel of land south east of the junction of Horsepond Road and Wood Lane, Gallowstree Common, be reimbursed, the cost to be met from the budget provision for unspecified projects.

1.23 NOTICEBOARDS

(cf 11.24/22) The Chairman reported that she had had to repair the temporary noticeboard at Kidmore End well. She suggested to the Council that the replacement board, to be sited at Kidmore End pond, be of a superior style to the existing boards in the Parish, all of which, she anticipated, would be replaced in due course.

RESOLVED: That the replacement noticeboard to be erected at Kidmore End pond be of superior style to the existing boards across the Parish.

1.24 LICENCES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

It was reported that the Chairman had approved the renewal of the Council's subscription to Parish Online and Zoom.

Parish Online had been accessed for the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group, and the cost charged to the NDP budget. The Steering Group had suggested cancellation of the subscription, now that that the NDP exercise had been completed. The Working Group looking into the Community Infrastructure Levy had requested access to the data available on Parish Online. The Chairman had, therefore, approved the renewal of the subscription.

Likewise, the Chairman had believed that the Council should continue with its Zoom licence, in order to facilitate the work of the sub-committees, and in case the law allowed a return to virtual meetings.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Chairman in respect of the Parish Online subscription and the Zoom licence be approved and confirmed.

1.25 DATES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED: 1 That meetings of the Council be held on the following Wednesdays at 8pm:

29 June 2022	23 November 2022	15 February 2023
20 July 2022	14 December 2022	22 March 2023
21 September 2022	18 January 2023	19 April 2023
19 October 2022		

2 That the Annual Meeting of the Council be held on 17 May 2023 at 8pm.

Comments on outline planning application for demolition of existing structure and construction of a detached self-build dwelling and stabling on land north of Pond House, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End

The Council **OBJECTS** to the application, for the following reasons.

The site is outside the built-up limit of Kidmore End village. The erection of a dwelling at this location would constitute an extension of the built-up limits of the settlement, within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The site is not infill, and it does not meet the criteria for South Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan policy H16.

The draft Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan holds weight, as it is at the examination stage, and any application should be viewed against that draft Plan. The draft Plan does not support residential development of this site.

The highways' authority, Oxfordshire County Council, recommended refusal of a previous application for this site - P20/S4080/FUL - and the Council believes that the reasons deployed then apply equally to the present application, ie visibility, carriageway and accessibility. In addition, it is observed that there is not enough land to sustain 3 horses on this site, so there would be more vehicle and horse access to Kidmore Lane than is suggested in the submitted transport report.

Finally, there are also questions about the accuracy of the application, as there is reference to 2 residential units, the proposed stables are not labelled in the key to the map, and there are presently no formal car spaces in what is a field.