

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on Wednesday 20 July 2022 at 8.10pm and concluded at 9.25pm.

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

Apologies for absence were received from A P Bowley, J M Ducker, D P Malaperiman, Ms J M Mather, Ms S Matthews, P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

4.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 22 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

4.02 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

In presenting his apologies for absence, Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, had submitted a report, which covered

- monitoring performance against his Council's Corporate Plan;
- the Ukrainian refugee scheme;
- his Council's councillor grant scheme;
- the removal of the process for reporting fly-tipping on "FixMyStreet";
- the recently introduced taxi tariffs.

4.03 WEBSITE

(cf 3.07/22) The Council considered a report (22/23 – 7) by the Vice-Chairman and Mr A P Bowley, proposing the rebuilding of the Council's website on a newer platform, to improve the functionality of the website, to make it easier to maintain and to future-proof it, and the adoption of a quotation for the work.

Members thanked the Vice-Chairman and Mr Bowley for their endeavours in connection with the project.

RESOLVED: 1 That the Council's website be rebuilt and developed to accord with the 5 objectives outlined in the report.

2 That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 11.1, the contract for the project be let to GFC Tech Ltd of Epsom in the sum of £1,000.

4.04 TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

(cf 3.08/22) With an e-mail, an officer of the County Council gave notice of a change to the diversion route when Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, had been closed for pole replacement works.

4.05 FIBRE-TO-PREMISES BROADBAND NETWORKS

(cf 3.21/22) The Chairman reminded Members of an informal virtual meeting with Mr C Bower of the County Council's Better Broadband Team on 14 July 2022, about fibre-[cable]-to-premises Broadband networks. Her notes of the meeting had previously been circulated. She also reminded Members that a meeting had been arranged with representatives of Gigaclear Ltd, a company wishing to provide such networks in Cane End, Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End.

By e-mail, the Project Co-Ordinator of Airband Community Internet Ltd (Airband) gave notice of a proposal to erect 9 9m (above ground) wooden poles in Park Lane and Reading Road, Cane End, to

carry cables. This had been submitted to the District Council, under the telecommunications' code system, on 28 June 2022 and a plan attached to the notice indicated the location of the poles. The notice had been published on the Council's website, although it was recognised that the installation of the poles was permitted development in terms of the planning legislation. Nevertheless, objections could be made to any specific pole sites, to the District Council. It was understood that 3 residents had submitted objections, to the proposed sites of some of the poles, on grounds of road safety – the poles would, for instance, impede sight-lines for house accesses.

Members discussed the possibility of the proliferation of poles, given that no geographical monopoly was being granted to any one provider.

A meeting had been sought with Airband about the Cane End proposals, without response. In the circumstances, the Chairman asked for authority to lodge objections with the District Council, if no meeting was arranged during the consultation period for the proposal.

RESOLVED: That, if it proves necessary, the Chairman be authorised to submit objections to the District Council about the proposals by Airband Community Internet Ltd for the installation of roadside poles in Cane End, on grounds of road safety.

4.06 MAIDEN ERLEGH CHILTERN EDGE SCHOOL

(cf 3.22/22) It was reported that, after consideration, no comments had been submitted to AMR Consult Ltd on the proposed sport mitigation works at Maiden Erleigh Chiltern Edge School.

4.07 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £27,388.36.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Ian Kendrick Ltd – Works at Kidmore End pond and first cut of highway verges	£2,550.00
Dr C D Aldridge – Printing Parish Newsletter	£46.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£151.50
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£101.00

(iii) Payment of accounts

As the Council was not due to meet in August 2022, it was

RESOLVED: That, notwithstanding Financial Regulations 5.2 and 6.3, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to approve accounts received before 24 August 2022, for payment out of meeting.

(iv) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 30 June 2022, against the approved budget for 2022/23. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £312, excluding capital payments and if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

4.08 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

certificate of lawful use or development for construction of a detached garage in rear garden with new access at Gabriels, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;
infilling between 2 existing dormers at Kees, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;
demolition of conservatory, single storey front extension, garage conversion, part conversion of roof space by adding 4 flat roof dormers, and detached garage at Silver Trees, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green.

had been permitted conditionally and that the application for proposed 2-storey side extension and redevelopment of existing dwelling at The Cottage, Park Lane, Cane End had been withdrawn.

(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:

improvements to the graveyard – new paving on routes, external lighting and railings to protect yew trees – at St John the Baptist Church, Kidmore End;
infilling between 2 existing dormer windows at Kees, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;
proposed garden room at The Old Orchard, Wood Lane, Kidmore End.

(iii) Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge School, Sonning Common

It was noted that the District Council had not sought comments on the planning application to develop playing fields at Chiltern Edge School, Sonning Common, for 50 houses, despite the site, in the Parish of Sonning Common, being adjacent to the parish boundary. Nevertheless, the Chairman had authorised the submission to the District Council of the following comments, on behalf of the Council, on the recommendation of the Plans Sub-Committee:

“The site lies adjacent to the boundary of this Parish and was in this Parish until the most recent boundary review.

“The Council shares the concerns of Sonning Common Parish Council over the application, especially in respect of increased traffic in Reades Lane. Accordingly, the Council fully supports the response to the application submitted by Sonning Common Parish Council”.

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

4.09 CODE OF CONDUCT

In e-mails, the Monitoring Officer of the District Council advised that his Council, along with the other principal authorities in the County, had adopted a model Code of Conduct, to provide consistency across all tiers of local government. He formally commended the Code to the Council and urged the Council to adopt it. The Monitoring Officer had arranged 2 remote training sessions on the Code for parish councillors, on the evenings of 15 and 28 September 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Code of Conduct adopted by the District Council earlier in 2022, be adopted, pursuant to Section 27(2) of the Localism Act 2011, with immediate effect.

4.10 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local

Councils in June 2022, with particular reference to the paragraph on dementia friendly communities.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman be authorised to complete, on behalf of the Council, the survey on dementia-friendly councils issued by the National Association of Local Councils.

4.11 MYVISION OXFORDSHIRE

A fundraising assistant at My Vision Oxfordshire (formerly known as Oxfordshire Association for the Blind), in an e-mail, requested the Council to consider making a financial contribution to the work of the organisation, which sought to provide any person with a visual impairment in the County with the tools and skills they needed to live independent and active lives.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the request be deferred to later in the financial year.

4.12 KIDMORE END PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Council considered a report (22/23 - 8) of the Clerk advising it of the outcome of the meeting of the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee held on 13 July 2022. Arising from this, the Vice-Chairman advised that he would be circulating a spreadsheet covering the recommendations resulting from the health and safety inspection of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion to all Members of the Committee.

A report submitted by the Cricket Club to the meeting of the Committee had been circulated to all Members. Members commented that there was no reference in the Club's report to the proposed outdoor performance of a Shakespeare play, then scheduled to have been held on 17 July 2022. They discussed how such reporting might be seen by the Cricket Club.

The Chairman indicated that she proposed to submit a report to the next meeting on the relationship between the Council and the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report of the meeting of the Playing Fields Committee be noted.

4.13 GALLOWSTREE COMMON WELL

(cf 7.28/21) The Council considered a report (22/23 - 9) by Mr J M Ducker about works of repair to the Gallowstree Common well and the provision of a bench there.

RESOLVED: 1 That, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 11.1, the contract for the pointing and other repair works at the Gallowstree Common well, as approved by the Conservation Officer of the District Council, be let to Green Maintenance and Interiors Ltd, in the sum of £545.

2 That a bench, both functional and aesthetically suitable to the location, be purchased and installed at the well, at a cost not exceeding £300.

4.14 NOTICEBOARDS

(cf 1.23/22) In accordance with previous decisions, the Chairman proposed that a noticeboard be purchased from the Noticeboard Company, as set out in a quotation circulated to all Members in advance of the meeting, in the sum of £1809 + VAT, for installation at Kidmore End pond.

RESOLVED: That a noticeboard be purchased from the Noticeboard Company in the sum of £1809 + VAT, under the provisions of Financial Regulation 11.1(a)(vi), the cost beyond the provision for Noticeboards in the budget for the year financial 2022/23 being met from the provision for Unspecified projects.

4.15 VENUE OF MEETINGS

(cf 7.30/21) The Council was reminded of its decision in December 2021 to meet in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, as no other suitable room was available.

Members commented that, particularly given the uncertainty about the future of the Parish Room, the circumstances remained the same as in December 2021. Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED: That, for the time being, as no other suitable room is available, meetings of the Council continue to be held in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.