

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting had been scheduled to be held on 21 September 2022. However, this would have required it to be summoned no later than 14 September, during the period of national mourning for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. 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 28 September.

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on Wednesday 28 September 2022 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.00pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge (Chairman), Prof J W Almond, A P Bowley, J M Ducker, D P Malaperiman, I G C Pearson.

Apologies for absence were received from A P Harland, Ms J P M Mather, P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

5.01 HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Council noted the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on 8 September 2022.

The Chairman made the following statement:

“We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Her Majesty, The Queen. On behalf of Kidmore End parishioners and all my parish councillors, I want to offer our most sincere condolences to Your Majesty, King Charles III, and all the Royal Family as you mourn your loss. For many of us, Queen Elizabeth II was a constant throughout our lives. For the past 70 years, her example of selfless duty and unwavering service was an inspiration to us all. She will be missed. God Save the King.”

5.02 MINUTES

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

5.03 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- his Council's ambition to eliminate all road deaths and serious injuries by 2050;
- consultation by his Council on support for transgender residents;
- the position of Thames Valley Police on enforcement of 20mph speed limits;
- the cost of ending the partnership between his Council and Cherwell District Council;
- issues about low traffic neighbourhoods being introduced in Oxford;
- his Council receiving permission to enforce non-speeding traffic regulations;
- a motion before his Council about seeking subsidised bus and travel, the provision of financial support for consumers of heating oil, bottled gas and solid fuels and a reduction in VAT;
- consultation on the draft Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan.

5.04 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session,

- Mr & Mrs R N Copeland of Hearn Lane, Gallowstree Common asked questions about the planning application for 2 gypsy pitches at Bishopswood Camp, Sonning Common (see Minute 5.14(iii) below);
- Mr I G C Pearson, of Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End, spoke in opposition to the proposal for the future management of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground (see Minute 5.27, below);
- Mr A P Bowley of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common, spoke in support of the proposal for the future management of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground (see Minute 5.27, below).

5.05 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

It was reported that Ms S Matthews had resigned as a parish councillor, by e-mail, on 10 September 2022. The Clerk advised that he had given notice of the vacancy so caused.

The Clerk reminded the Council that Ms S Bew had been co-opted as a Member on 16 February 2022. However, she had not attended a meeting of the Council, or a body to which the Council had appointed her, since her co-option. The Clerk further reminded the Council that Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 provided that a member ceased to hold office if he or she failed through a period of 6 consecutive months from the date of his or her last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority. The Council considered that Ms Bew had ceased to be a member of the Council.

RESOLVED: 1 That Ms S Matthews be thanked for her service to the community, as a parish councillor, since February 2021.

2 That an office of parish councillor be declared vacant, under the provisions of Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, vice Ms S Bew.

5.06 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS, SUB-COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

In light of the resignation of Ms S Matthews as a Member of the Council, it was

RESOLVED: That Dr C D Aldridge be appointed as a member of the Plans Sub-Committee for the period to the Annual Meeting in 2023.

5.07 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18 MAY 2022

The Chairman moved the following motion, of which notice had been given with the agenda for the meeting:

"That the start of the second paragraph of Minute 1.13 of the meeting held on 18 May 2022 be amended to read "The Chairman and Vice-Chairman ..." and the word "she" be replaced by the word "they" thereafter".

The motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

RESOLVED: That the start of the second paragraph of Minute 1.13 of the meeting held on 18 May 2022 be amended to read "The Chairman and Vice-Chairman ..." and the word "she" be replaced by the word "they" thereafter.

5.08 WEBSITE

(cf 4.03/22) The Webmaster reported orally on progress with the project to rebuild and develop the Council's website.

5.09 FIBRE-TO-PREMISES BROADBAND NETWORKS

(cf 4.05/22) The Chairman reported that she had attended a virtual meeting with representatives of Gigaclear Ltd, a company wishing to provide fibre-[cable]-to-premises Broadband networks in Cane End, Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End.

The Chairman also advised that the request to Airband Community Internet Ltd (Airband), for a meeting about that Company's proposal to erect 9 9m (above ground) wooden poles in Park Lane and Reading Road, Cane End, to carry cables, had not yet been answered. Accordingly, in accordance with the authority granted at the last meeting, she had submitted the following objection to the District Council in respect of the application P22/S2449/T28, regarding the erection of the poles:

"The Council has sought a meeting with Airband personnel about application P22/S2449/T28. However, this has yet to take place.

"Accordingly, in order to preserve its position, the Council OBJECTS to the application to erect 9 poles in Cane End. A long-standing resident of Cane End argues that the posts are unnecessary, given existing telephony ducts in the area, and some of the proposed posts will impede the sight lines for access from homes onto the A4074 road, which road suffers a notorious reputation for road traffic accidents".

It was understood that the Company had removed one of the proposed poles from its application.

5.10 CODE OF CONDUCT

(cf 4.09/22) The Chairman reminded Members about the Code of Conduct training sessions, the second of which had been re-arranged for 27 October 2022: she hoped that all Members would attend.

5.11 DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

(cf 4.10/22) The Chairman reported that she had completed the survey by National Association of Local Councils on dementia friendly councils.

5.12 VENUE OF MEETINGS

(cf 4.15/22) It was reported that the Parochial Church Council had decided not to seek a new lease for the Parish Room, which would, therefore, revert to the Diocesan authorities.

5.13 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £42,556.64.

(ii) Accounts paid

It was reported that, in accordance with the authority granted by the Council at its last meeting and Financial Regulation 5.2, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman had approved the payment of the following accounts on 25 August 2022:

Shield Maintenance Ltd – Servicing dog hygiene bin	£20.78
David Woodward: design for print – Design and printing of posters etc (NDP)	£660.00
Wicksteed Leisure Ltd - Repair of timber nest swing, Kidmore End Play Area	£1,152.02
Notice Board Company (UK) Ltd – Supply of noticeboard	£2,248.80

Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee – Hire of Diamond Jubilee Pavilion	£54.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£151.50
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£101.00

(iii) Accounts for payment

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

Mr J M Ducker – Bench for Gallowstree Common well (Reimbursement)	£254.94
Green Maintenance & Interiors Ltd – Repointing etc work at Gallowstree Common well	£545.00
R F Penfold – Replacement cheque for OALC (reimbursement)	£132.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£151.50
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£101.00

5.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

extension to existing garden annex to rear of 3 Rosehill Farm Cottages, Peppard Road, Emmer Green;
removal of existing outbuildings and erection of a children’s day nursery on land at Reading Abbey Rugby Football Club, Emmer Green;
proposed garden room at The Old Orchard, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
replacement house at Little Orchard, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
variation of conditions (approved plans, landscaping implementation, vision splay protection, parking and turning areas and off-site highways works) at Fox Heath Gardens, Reading Road, Cane End;
erection of 2-storey dwelling at Kano, Wood 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:

sport mitigation measures associated with residential application, including a replacement multi use games area (MUGA), alterations and extensions to existing sports’ hall building and replacement cricket strip at Chiltern Edge Secondary School, Reades Lane, Sonning Common;
conversion of existing garage to habitable accommodation and associated alterations, and erection of new detached double garage at Pahalgam, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;
demolition of B1c workshop and construction of 2 detached dwellings at The Piggery, Gravel Hill, Caversham (amended plan);
demolition of existing structures and construction of a detached self-build dwelling and stabling on land north of Pond House, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End (amended plan).

(iii) Applications

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

RESOLVED: 1 That no strong views be submitted on the application for a new dwelling within the residential curtilage and to the rear of Gabriels, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End, with existing access off Coopers Pightle.

2 That the observations set out in the Appendix hereto be submitted on the application for 2 gypsy pitches with dayrooms, associated parking, access and services on land at Bishopswood Camp, Gallowstree Road, Sonning Common [Parish of Sonning Common].

(iv) District Council's Planning Committee

(cf 1.15(iii)/22) 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 31 August 2022, about the application to erect an additional house on land at Kano, Wood Lane, Kidmore End. Officers were recommending approval of the application, to which the Council had lodged objections.

Following discussion with Plans Sub-Committee, the Chairman had authorised Ms A Vorster to address the Planning Committee, on the Council's behalf, in opposition to the application and the circulation of the terms of that objection to the members of the Planning Committee, prior to the meeting.

The Planning Committee had approved the application (see Minute 5.14(i) above).

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

(v) Proposed development at Leewood, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common

In a letter, a representative of J A Partners Ltd advised that, having withdrawn an earlier application for the redevelopment of Leewood, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common, the Company had revised the design in the light of comments made, and intended to submit a revised application. The representative invited comments on the revised drawings, before submitting the planning application.

Members noted past practice, not to comment on proposals prior to being consulted by the local planning authority on an application, in order to prevent, for instance, accusations of pre-determination.

RESOLVED: That no comments be made on the proposed redevelopment of Leewood, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common in advance of the submission of an application for that site.

5.15 DOGS FOULING PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Mr J A Swift of Chalkhouse Green Road, Chalkhouse Green drew attention, by e-mail, to the nuisance caused by dogs fouling bridleways and footpaths, particularly those between Chalkhouse Green and Kennylands Road, Sonning Common, which went through arable fields, and the person in control of the dog not removing the faeces. He urged the Council to take action to educate the public about the nuisance, which could be an offence under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, and erect appropriate signs.

RESOLVED: That consideration of this request be deferred to a future meeting.

5.16 PROPOSED CHURCH NOTICEBOARD, KIDMORE END

By e-mail, a churchwarden of St John the Baptist Church, Kidmore End, enquired whether the Council would have any objection to the Church authorities erecting a notice board on the highway verge opposite to Kidmore End well.

RESOLVED: That no objections be raised to the erection of noticeboard for St John Baptist Church opposite the well at Kidmore End.

5.17 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted updates for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in July and August 2022, with particular reference to the paragraph about the 13th edition of the textbook "Local Council Administration".

5.18 ACCESS TO COUNCIL SERVICES

In an e-mail, the Communications' Team of the District Council reported that that Council was asking residents to share their views on how the Council could make it easier for people to access its services, support and information. In this connection, a short survey had been issued, with a closing date for responses on 19 September 2022.

5.19 CANE END ALLOTMENTS

Mr M Steyn, the tenant of a plot at the Cane End allotments, reported, by e-mail, that during February 2022, a large overhanging branch broke from the trees on neighbouring land to the southern boundary of the allotments, nearly damaging tenants' sheds. He pointed out other overhanging large branches and asked that the Council trim back the branches in question, to the site boundary.

The Allotments' Manager indicated that he would inspect the trees in question.

5.20 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

(cf 10.06/22) The Infrastructure Claims Team of the District Council, in an e-mail, requested the Council to discuss formally whether it wished the District Council to continue to hold the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies due to the [Parish] Council. Members recalled that a working party had been set up to review possible schemes on which the Council could spend these funds, but that the working party had yet to report.

RESOLVED: That, for the time being, the District Council be requested to continue to retain Community Infrastructure Levy monies due to this Council.

5.21 EXTERNAL AUDIT APPOINTMENT ARRANGEMENTS

SAAA Ltd reminded, by e-mail, that under the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, the Company was responsible for appointing external auditors to all applicable opted-in smaller authorities, for setting the terms of appointment for limited assurance reviews and for managing the contracts with the appointed audit firms. The next 5-year appointing period ran from 2022-23 until 2026-27 and SAAA had undertaken a procurement exercise to appoint auditors to each County area from 1 April 2022. The Company advised that the Council had the option to opt-out of the next round of 5-year audit appointments.

RESOLVED: That the Council do not opt-out of the centrally arranged external auditor appointment system.

5.22 OXFORD TRANSPORT PROPOSALS

The Central Oxfordshire Locality Team of the County Council, by e-mail, advised that, following the start of consultation on the Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan, that Council was refining its proposals for a workplace parking levy, traffic filters and an expanded city centre zero emission zone in Oxford. Initial focus was on traffic filters, and consultation on this would run until 3 October 2022.

5.23 SPEED LIMITS

(i) Enforcement

In an e-mail, Mr C Bezuidenhout of Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green drew attention to the number of vehicles being driven in that road apparently in excess of the speed limit of 20mph, and urging that action was taken to enforce the limit.

The Chairman commented that she was seeking to foster a group or groups of residents interested in methods of securing greater adherence to the speed limits on roads in the Parish.

(ii) Sonning Common

A technical officer (Traffic and Road Safety) of the County Council, with an email, gave details of a proposed traffic regulation order which would introduce a 20mph speed limit throughout the Parish of Sonning Common, replacing the majority of the existing 30mph limits: some of the latter, along with an existing 40mph limit, would be retained, however. It was proposed that the 20mph limit would extend to the whole of Kidmore Lane and Reades Lane, part of both roads being in this Parish. The closing date for objections to the proposals was 21 October 2022.

Members welcome the proposals relating to Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End and Reades Lane, Gallowstree Common.

RESOLVED: That no objections be raised to the proposals for the introduction of 20mph speed limits in Sonning Common, particularly as they affected roads in the Parish.

5.24 HOUSENAMING

By e-mail, the GIS Team Leader & Street Naming and Numbering Officer of the District Council advised that the new property adjacent to Yew Tree Cottage, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common had been named Pentland Cottage.

5.25 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

Although there was no report, per se, from the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group, the Council was updated on the NDP.

The referendum about the adoption of the NDP had been held on 28 July 2022. The question had been "Do you want South Oxfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Kidmore End to help it to decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?" and the result had been

YES – 322
NO – 67,

with 1 spoilt paper. Turn-out, at 390 electors, had been 36.4%.

Members had been approached about some final [and technical] amendments to the Plan, proposed by the NDP Steering Group, in mid-August 2022. There being no dissentient views, the Chairman had approved submission of the changes, as below, to the District Council:

Section	Proposed Change	Reason/Justification
Front cover	Delete 'Referendum' and replace with 'Made'	Factual correction
Front cover	Change date to September 2022	Factual correction
Throughout document – top of even number pages	Delete 'Referendum' and replace with 'Made'	Delete 'Referendum' and replace with 'Made'

The District Council had formally adopted the Plan on 8 September 2022.

It was reported that a further grant, of £1,450, had been received from Groundwork towards the cost of production of the Plan.

RESOLVED: 1 That the action of the Chairman be approved and confirmed.

2 That the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group be thanked formally for its extensive and unstinting work in the production of the Plan and congratulated on the adoption of the Plan as part of the planning framework for the Parish.

5.26 KIDMORE END PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

Although the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council, the Chairman of the Committee spoke to a report he had circulated to Members on the day of the meeting, with particular reference to the charges for the electricity used in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion.

5.27 FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND

The Council considered a report (22/23 - 10) by the Chairman on her request to create and register a new charity which would be tasked with managing the Recreation Ground and the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion at Gallowstree Common.

After a full discussion, it was

RESOLVED: 1 That consideration of the report be deferred to the meeting of the Council in December 2022, pending consultation on the proposals in the report with stakeholders - principally, the Kidmore End Cricket Club and the regular hirers of the Pavilion.

2 That Mr D P Malaperiman be appointed to undertake the above consultation, reporting progress to the Council at its meetings in October and November 2022.

(Mr A P Bowley and Mr I G C Pearson declared "other interests" in this matter, under the Code of Conduct, as members of the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee, and withdrew from the meeting.)

APPENDIX

Comments on planning application P22/S3244/FUL, for 2 gypsy pitches with dayrooms, associated parking, access and services on land at Bishopswood Camp, Gallowstree Road, Sonning Common [Parish of Sonning Common]

The Council supports the objections raised by Sonning Common Parish Council and **OBJECTS** to this planning application for the following reasons:

1. There is no requirement for another permanent traveller site in the District, as the Local Plan 2035 already provides for 10 permanent pitches in nominated sites (Didcot, Chalgrove Airfield, Culham Science Village).
2. A previous application for two houses on the site (P16/S1110) was rejected and the same reasons for rejection still apply.
3. The Government's "Planning policy for traveller sites" states (section 4 Policy H, point 25) that "Local authorities should very strictly limit new traveller development in open countryside ...". This site is not in the Sonning Common built environment, but is in a countryside area, within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
4. The site does not have safe and appropriate pedestrian and vehicular access: this section of road has no pavements and is only subject to the national speed limit (60mph).