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To be confirmed at the meeting to be held on 18 January 2023

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on Wednesday 14 December 2022 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.10pm.

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

Apologies for absence were received from P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

8.01 MINUTES

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

8.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- various traffic management schemes by his Council, particularly relating to the City of Oxford;
- a resolution by his Council to seek the introduction by Government of various subsidies and a cut to the rate of VAT;
- action by his Council and other agencies to reduce homelessness in the County;
- the compilation of his Council's budget for 2023/24;
- his Council's decision not to participate in the Government's investment zones initiative;
- his Council's efforts to retain bus services in the City of Oxford;
- the adoption, by his Council, of a 10-year plan to manage and rationalise its property estate;
- the outcome of academic research about the impact of reducing vehicle speed limits from 30mph to 20mph.

8.03 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session,

- Mr J D Sheldon, the President of Kidmore End Cricket Club, addressed the Council about his letter regarding his Club's tenure of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and re-iterated the questions posed in that letter (see Minute 8.19(ii));
- Mr A P Harland of Russell Road, Tokers Green, urged Members to put aside previous differences and work together for the good of the whole Parish.

8.04 WEBSITE

(cf 7.05/22) The Chairman reported orally on the virtual seminar for parish councils, organised by the Council's insurers, which she had attended, about cyber security.

8.05 DOGS FOULING PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

(cf 7.07/22) Ms C Mason and Ms J P M Mather advised that they intended to meet Mr J A Swift of Chalkhouse Green to discuss his request for the Council to educate the public about nuisance caused by dogs fouling bridleways and footpaths.

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8.06 20's PLENTY

(cf 7.08/22) Members were reminded that the Council had, at its last meeting, deferred consideration of the proposal by the Chairman to request the County Council to reduce the speed limit on all roads maintained at public expense in the Parish to 20 mph.

The Chairman moved the proposal, seconded by Ms J P M Mather. The proposal was put to the vote, and declared carried, with 7 votes for and none against.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be requested to reduce the speed limit on all roads maintained at public expense in the Parish to 20 mph.

8.07 KIDMORE END ROAD SAFETY INIATIVE

(cf 7.09/22) The Chairman reported that she had made contact with a Technical Officer - Traffic & Road Safety in the County Council seeking a meeting to establishing what could and could not be achieved in an endeavour to reduce vehicle speeds in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common. The officer indicated that he would be happy to meet 3 representatives of the Council.

Ms J P Mather reported that the Kidmore End Road Safety Initiative group had made contact, and had fruitful discussions, with a representative of the Thames Valley Police. The group was expecting soon to embark on some Speed Watch activity.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman, Ms J P M Mather and Prof J W Almond or the Vice-Chairman be appointed to meet the County Council's Technical Officer - Traffic & Road Safety to discuss speed reduction measures in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

8.08 WASTE FACILTIES

The Chairman referred to tours, arranged by the District Council, of the Severn Trent Green Power food waste facility at Wallingford and the Viridor energy recovery facility at Ardley

8.09 AIRCRAFT NOISE AND POLLUTION

(cf 7.20/22) Prof J W Almond spoke to his report on how aircraft noise impacted the quality of life in the Parish and whether the Council should take a position on the issue, a matter consideration of which had been deferred at the last meeting.

Prof Almond moved the recommendations in his report, which were voted upon and declared carried.

RESOLVED: That the West London Aero Club and similar flying clubs that use airspace above the Parish be respectfully asked to establish a code of conduct for their members to avoid recreational flying above the Parish between noon and 3pm and after 6pm on Saturdays, and all day Sundays and Bank holidays, from April to October inclusive.

8.10 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 16 November 2022.

RESOLVED: 1 That, subject to any "capping" announcements by Government, the precept for the financial year 2023/24 be set so that the element of the Council Tax, attributable to the Council, for a Band D property, be no more than 5% higher than the figure for the present year.

2 That the following grant be made in the financial year 2022/23:

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- Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens' Advice - £150

8.11 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £31,883.09.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Shield Maintenance Ltd – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£10.39
Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens' Advice – Grant	£150.00
Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee – Hire of Diamond Jubilee Pavilion for meetings	£135.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax (including arrears)	£257.25
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£171.50

8.12 ESTIMATES, 2023/24

The Council considered a report (22/23 – 14) of the Responsible Financial Officer, being draft estimates for the financial year 2023/24. The Responsible Financial Officer answered questions about the draft estimates.

Following full discussion, it was

RESOLVED: 1 That the base estimates for 2023/24 be adopted, as presented.

2 That budgetary provision be made for the following:

Additional grant to the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee	£3,000
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3 That a precept be issued for the sum of £44,500 in 2023/24.

4 That the base estimates and additional provision in resolution 2 above be confirmed as the Council's budget for 2023/24, for the purposes of Financial Regulation 3.2.

8.13 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the application for variation of condition on permission for demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling and garage at Farm Cottage, Chalkhouse Green had been permitted conditionally and that the application for siting 2 gypsy pitches with dayrooms on land at Bishopswood Camp, Sonning Common [Parish of Sonning Common] 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:

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conversion of existing garage to habitable accommodation and erection of new detached double garage at Pahalgam, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green (amended plans); garden outbuilding at Arenal, Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End.

(iii) Water's Edge, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End - development

In an e-mail, Mr I G C Pearson observed that no PV solar panels had been installed on the new roof at Water's Edge, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End, and felt that that should have been a requirement of the planning permission. It was suggested that such matters would be covered by the Building Regulations, rather than the planning process.

8.14 CLERK'S SALARY

In accordance with the decisions of the Council in 2005 and 2019, following agreement reached nationally as to salary scales, the Clerk's salary would be £3,265 per annum, with effect from 1 April 2022.

8.15 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted the update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in November 2022.

8.16 WARM SPACE PROJECT

Arising from the update from the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (see Minute 8.15 above), Members discussed the possibility of providing a warm space, as a refuge for people suffering from fuel poverty in their homes during the winter months, in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. A number of suggestions were made, which Members agreed to investigate further.

8.17 NATURE RESERVES

In the e-mail mentioned in Minute 8.13(iii) above, Mr I G C Pearson asked whether some of the woodlands around the Parish could be designated as nature reserves. It was suggested that this was an issue for the owners of the land concerned, in the first instance.

8.18 TRAFFIC GENERATION

In the e-mail mentioned in Minutes 8.13(iii) and 8.17 above, Mr I G C Pearson commented that there could be significant increases in traffic in Chalkhouse Green and Kidmore End via Kidmore End Road, Chalkhouse Green Road and Wood Lane, when the new houses on that part of the former Reading Golf Club course, in the Borough of Reading, were built and occupied. He wondered whether the route could be designated as a no through road, except for residents and deliveries. Members felt that there was little prospect of such a designation.

8.19 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND

(ii) Future management

(cf 7.07/22) The Council was reminded that it had deferred, to this meeting, consideration of the report of 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. Consideration of the report had been deferred to enable consultation on the proposals in the report with stakeholders – principally, the Kidmore End Cricket Club and the regular hirers of the Pavilion. Mr D P

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Malaperiman had been appointed to conduct the consultation, and his report (22/23 - 15), arising from that consultation, was also before the Council.

Mr Malaperiman's report recommended that the Chairman's proposals were not adopted. As this was a direct negative, it could not be treated as an amendment to the Chairman's report. Any discussion on Mr Malaperiman's report had, therefore, to follow the determination by the Council of the Chairman's proposal.

The Chairman moved, seconded by Mrs J P M Mather, the following motion, of which notice had been given prior to the meeting,

"That consideration of the report is further deferred in order to seek advice from the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association as to an appropriate constitution for any body to manage the Recreation Ground on behalf of the Council".

The motion was voted upon and declared carried.

Accordingly, it was acknowledged that the first recommendation in Mr Malaperiman's report was also deferred.

The Council then considered recommendations 2 and 3 in Mr Malaperiman's report, both of which were put to the vote and declared carried, unanimously.

RESOLVED: 1 That consideration of the Chairman's report (22/23 - 10) be further deferred in order to seek advice from the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association as to an appropriate constitution for any body to manage the Recreation Ground on behalf of the Council.

2 That an assessment be undertaken of the current finances of Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee, to understand where cost savings can be achieved and ongoing efficiencies gained, including an assessment of all costs and current revenue generated, and exploring the viability of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion being available for use throughout the year.

3 That a detailed business plan should be created that explores how additional revenue streams can be created, access to grants and other fundraising initiatives explored, alongside continued cost saving measures, with the aim of securing the financial viability of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion.

(iii) Tenure by the Cricket Club

(cf 3.24/22) In a letter, the President of Kidmore End Cricket Club pointed out that funding bodies, like the England and Wales CricketBoard, now required applicants for funding to demonstrate that they had 25 years' security of tenure of the premises they used. He reminded the Council that it had, in 2003, agreed, in principle, to grant the Club a licence to use the Recreation Ground for 25 years. The President posed the following questions:

- Will the Council provide a timely letter to confirm continued KECC security of tenure for at least 25 years so the Club can access sport and local authority funding in January 2023?
- Can the Council share the problems that have prevented it from providing a timely commitment on security of tenure for the Club?

Members recalled that they had, at the Council's meeting in June 2022, not agreed to the retrospective deletion of the words "in principle" from the 2003 resolution. However, they had remained committed to the principle of the 2003 decision, provided that the formal lease, licence or memorandum of understanding, covering the Club's use of the Recreation Ground, had been signed by both parties, and was in place, by 31 December 2022.

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Reference was made to the suggestion in the report by Mr D P Malaperiman (see Minute 8.19(i) above) for a service agreement between the Council (as landlords) and the Club and Members felt that that might prove an appropriate way forward.

RESOLVED: That a working party, comprising Mr A P Bowley, Ms J P M Mather and Mr D P Malaperiman, be appointed to formulate a draft service agreement, following discussion with Kidmore End Cricket Club, between the Council and the Club, to formalise the Club's use of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, and to recommend the draft to the meeting of the Council in February 2023.

(The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes during consideration of the above matter to enable the representatives of the Cricket Club to discuss issues with Members of the Council).

8.20 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 circulated a spreadsheet (report 22/23 – 16) showing the progress being made in implementing the recommendations arising from the health and safety inspection of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion. He again pointed out that implementation of some of the recommendations would fall on the Council, as the owners of the building.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the implementation of those recommendations arising from the health and safety inspection of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion felt to fall to the Council be deferred to the next meeting.

8.21 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 item on the grounds that exempt information, under paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Act shown below, would be discussed:

Item	Paragraph
Minutes	1

8.22 MINUTES

The Council confirmed the Part 2 Minutes of the last meeting as a correct record.

8.23 ALLOTMENTS

The Clerk updated the Council on the implementation of its decisions at the last meeting.