KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on Wednesday 18 October 2023 at 7.30pm and concluded at 8.15pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge (Chairman), A P Bowley, D P Malaperiman, Ms D V C Page, G Readings.

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor)

Apologies for absence were received from A P Harland, Ms C Mason, Ms J P M Mather, I G C Pearson, N A E Room.

5.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2023 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- the decision of his Council to refuse planning permission for the HIF road in the Didcot area;
- the national review of low traffic neighbourhoods and 20mph speed limits on roads;
- the publication of details as to how his Council will monitor and evaluate the impact of splitting Oxford into 4 sectors by using traffic filters;
- a trial of longer-lasting road surfaces;
- the Government's intention to abolish charges for non-household waste, eg do-it-yourself waste, at recycling centres;
- the cost of severance etc pay to members of his Council's staff made redundant;
- an unfavourable report by OFSTED/the Care Quality Commission on his Council's support for children and young people with special educational needs;
- the withdrawal of the Labour Group from his Council's ruling coalition and the resultant changes to the personnel serving in the Council's Cabinet;
- the limited incidence of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in schools in the County, both those maintained by his Council and those which had become academies.

5.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- his Council's Councillor Community Grants;
- the work of the Local Integrated Care Board, which was responsible for commissioning dentistry, optometry and pharmacy services;
- his Council's decision that its contractors should pay the Real Living Wage to their employees;
- the importance of checking that waste put in recycling bins is actually recyclable: during 2022, 11% of waste in such bins was not actually recyclable.

5.04 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session

- Mrs A D Thiam of the Hamlet, Gallowstree Common commented on the discussions about the future management of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion and hoped that those discussions would involve all clubs using the premises, and local residents;
- Mr M Jan-Janin, of Dysons Wood, Tokers Green, noting that funding had been agreed for the project, asked the Council to award the contracts for the enhancement works at the Tokers Green village green and pond to the respective lowest tenderness (see Minute 5.12 below). He also asked about the review and revision of the Council's mowing contract, vis-à-vis the Tokers Green village green.

5.05 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Mr D P Malaperiman be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council until the Annual Meeting in May 2024.

5.06 CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END

(cf 4.03/23) Mr N A E Room, in his role as a churchwarden of the church of St John the Baptist, Kidmore End, by e-mails, requested the Council to consider

- issuing a general statement of support for the proposed renovations at, and development of, the Church, as outlined at the last meeting;
- contributing towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard: the Parochial Church Council had already spent £1820 on works to trees, mowing and repairs to the wall, and expected to spend £3060 on further work to trees.

Members were favourably disposed to the first request, although they were anxious not to give the impression that the Council would definitely contribute towards the cost of the project.

As to the second request, Members recognised that the Council had habitually contributed towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard, and, to that end, provision of a grant of up to £1,620 was included in the budget for the financial year 2023/24.

RESOLVED: 1 That general support be indicated for the project for development of the facilities at St John the Baptist Church, as set out in the Parochial Church Council's Bulletin 1, welcoming the prospect of additional community facilities in the village, but it be made clear that, at this stage, the support should not be seen as a commitment to provide financial assistance with the project.

2 That a grant of £1,620 be made to the Parochial Church Council towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard at St John the Baptist, Kidmore End in the financial year 2023/24.

5.07 20's PLENTY

(cf 4.06/23) By e-mail, the County Council's 20 Limits Project Manager advised that where existing 30mph vehicle activated speed indicator signs could not be recalibrated for use in 20mph limits, his Council would replace them, at its expense. He confirmed that the sign in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common was on the list.

5.08 TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

(cf 4.07/23) With e-mails, officers of the County Council gave notice of the temporary closure of the following road, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984:

Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, on 17 October 2023, for emergency cable renewal
Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, from 15 to 17 November 2023, for new water connection works.

5.09 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND – FUTURE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

(cf 4.09/23) In a letter received just before the last meeting, but too late to be considered thereat, the President and Hon Secretary of the Kidmore End Cricket Club expressed concern about the content of the schedule of comments and questions about the future of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion and the Galllowstree Common Recreation Ground, as published on the Council's website.

RESOLVED: That the President and Hon Secretary of the Kidmore End Cricket Club be advised of the decisions taken at the last meeting, and recorded in resolutions 2, 3 and 4 of Minute 4.09 of that meeting.

5.10 WINTER PREPAREDNESS

(cf 4.15/23) The Chairman advised that she had inspected the highway salt bins at various locations in the Parish, and reported that each bin contained salt.

5.11 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

(cf 4.23/23) By letter, the Infrastructure Implementation and Funding Team of the District Council advised that a further £11,415.92 of Community Infrastructure Levy monies would be transferred to the Council by the end of October 2023.

5.12 TOKERS GREEN VILLAGE GREEN

(cf 4.24/23) The Council was delighted to note that the National Lottery Community Fund had awarded a grant of £10,000 to the Tokers Green village green and pond project.

The Council considered the request of Mr M Jan-Janin made during the Open Session (see Minute 5.03 above) about the award of the contracts for the work involved in the project. Details of the quotations received had been reported to the Council at the last meeting.

RESOLVED: 1 That the contracts for works in connection with the Tokers Green village green and pond project be let as follows:

- to Creative Landscapes Ltd for the landscaping etc works, in the sum of £11,924 + VAT;
- to Mr F Williams of Hansen Tree and Garden Maintenance for removal of 2 sycamore trees, in the sum of £1,120.

2 That Mr M Jan-Janin be appointed to supervise the above contracts.

5.13 CANE END ALLOTMENTS – TREES

(cf 4.25/23) The Council discussed supervision of the contract for the removal of overhanging branches from trees on the southern boundary of the Cane End allotments. On the suggestion of Ms M Toomey, a tenant at the Cane End site, it was

RESOLVED: That Mr M Steyn, at tenant at the site, be appointed to supervise the contract for removal of overhanging branches at the Cane End allotments.

5.14 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £106,872.72.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Sonning Common Green Gym – Work at Tokers Green village green and pond	£30.00
Mr S Marshment – Materials for work at Tokers Green village green and pond	£96.50
Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee – Grant (part)	£1,000.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£163.25
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£108.83

5.15 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS - APPLICATIONS

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

RESOLVED: 1 That no strong views be expressed in respect of the following applications:

- a replacement 5 bedroom dwelling at Trees, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
- erection of 18 ground mounted solar panels on front lawn of The Old Farm House, Reading Road, Cane End.

2 That the following comments be made on the amended plans relating to the application for sport mitigation measures associated with adjacent residential application at Chiltern Edge Secondary School, Reades Lane, Sonning Common [partly in Parish of Sonning Common]. – “The Council has no observations on the additional material posted on the District Council's website on 29 September 2023”.

5.16 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted the update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in September 2023.

5.17 HIGHWAY VERGE CUTTING AGENCY AGREEMENT

In a letter, the County Council’s Corporate Director, Communities, referred to the agreement, under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972,,made between his Council and the [Parish] Council in February 2018, by which the [Parish] Council took responsibility for highway verge cutting in the Parish. In February 2023 the County Council had adopted a revised Highway Verge and Vegetation Management policy. As a result, Schedule 1 to the agency agreement had been reviewed and amended in line with that policy and the County Council wished to replace the existing Schedule 1 to the agreement. The focus of the revised policy was to undertake a nature led and risk-based approach to verge maintenance, with cutting regimes seeking to enhance biodiversity.

RESOLVED: That, subject to discussions with the present verge cutting contractor, the revised schedule 1 to the agency agreement be accepted.

5.18 CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY BILL

In an e-mail, a representative of Zero Hour asked the Council to express its support for the Climate and Ecology Bill, which was due for its second reading in Parliament, and to join the 168 parish and town councils across the UK already supporting the Bill. The Bill sought, inter alia, to provide an adequate, commensurate response to the emergency of the natural world, parks, villages and towns, landscapes and wildlife.

RESOLVED: That the Climate and Ecology Bill be supported.

5.19 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.

5.20 TENURE OF THE CRICKET CLUB WORKING PARTY

The Council considered the draft brief to tender for legal advice (report 23/24 - 8) compiled by the Tenure of the Cricket Club Working Party.

RESOLVED: That the draft brief tender for legal advice be adopted, for issue to potential suppliers.

5.21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Clerk apologised that he would not be able to attend the next meeting of the Council on the scheduled date, 22 October 2023, because of a family commitment.

RESOLVED: That the next meeting of the Council be re-arranged to be held on 20 October 2023.

5.22 EXCLUSION OF THE 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
Part 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2023	1

5.23 PART 2 MINUTES

The Part 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2023 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.