

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on Wednesday 19 February 2025 at 7.30pm and concluded at 8.50pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge (Chairman), D P Malaperiman (Vice-Chairman), A P Bowley, A P Harland, Ms D V C Page, I G C Pearson, N A E Room.

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

9.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2025 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

9.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- possible reorganisation of local government in Oxfordshire;
- the restructure of the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board;
- his Council's revised plans for street lighting turn-off;
- grants available from the Thames Valley Police Community Fund, focussing on projects tackling anti-social behaviour and vehicle crime.

9.03 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 covering

- local government re-organisation in Oxfordshire;
- his Council's budget for 2025/26;
- his Council's 5 year housing land supply;
- performing arts' grants available from his Council;
- charges for the collection of garden waste.

9.04 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End – school signage

(cf 8.06/25) It was noted that the "School" signs in Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End had been installed.

(ii) Highway salt bins

(cf 8.17/25) An Officer – Highway Schemes in Highways and Operations at the County Council requested the completion a form regarding the proposed salt bin at Coldnorton corner, Wood Lane, Kidmore End. The Clerk indicated that he had this in hand.

(iii) Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End and Tokers Green – road signage

By e-mail, Ms S M Biggs of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, asked, in light of the number of heavy goods vehicles using the road, whether “not suitable for large vehicles” signs could be installed at either end of Tokers Green Lane, and at Tokers Green pond.

RESOLVED: That the above request be referred to the County Council.

(iv) Designation of streets as traffic sensitive

With an e-mail, the Head of Network Management in Highways and Operations at the County Council enclosed his Council’s response to the feedback resulting from the consultation, in 2024, on the proposal to designate certain streets as traffic sensitive, ie where roadworks had the potential to cause significant delays and disruption to road users. It was noted that the following were proposed traffic sensitive streets in the Parish – the A4074 road, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common (from the junction with the A4074 road in Cane End to the junction with Reades Lane) and Reades Lane, Gallowstree Common.

9.05 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MATTERS

(i) Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common – vehicle speed survey

(cf 8.07/25) It was noted that the results of the vehicle volume and speed surveys undertaken in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common in December 2024 had been received.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the results of the vehicle volume and speed surveys undertaken in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common be deferred to the next meeting.

(ii) A4074 road – speed limit reductions

The Senior Officer – Vision Zero from the County Council’s Environment & Highways Directorate invited comments on a proposed scheme to reduce some speed limits on the A4074 road between Nuneham Courtenay and the County boundary in Caversham. The impact of the proposed scheme in the Parish would be that a 40mph limit would replace 50mph, between the existing 40mph limit in Cane End and the existing 30mph limit in Caversham.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be advised that the proposed speed limit reduction scheme would be supported in respect of the A4074 road in the Parish.

9.06 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 8.10/25) It was reported that that the District Council’s Returning Officer had advised that no election had been called to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr G J Readings. It was, therefore, open to the Council to fill the vacancy by co-option.

9.07 MOWING CONTRACT

(cf 8.11/25) The Council recalled that the role of supervisor of the mowing contract was vacant following Mr Readings’ resignation as a councillor.

RESOLVED: That Mr N A E Room be appointed to supervise the contract for mowing and strimming services in 2025.

9.08 FOOTPATH 5

(cf 8.18/25) In an e-mail, the Countryside Access Officer (South East) of the County Council intended to visit the site on footpath 5, north of its junction with Goring Heath bridleway 43, to assess whether the existing gate could be replaced by a kissing gate, although he pointed out that such a device could restrict access for mobility scooters and pushchairs, which could legitimately use footpaths. However, ultimately responsibility for the structures rested with the landowners.

9.09 TOKERS GREEN VILLAGE GREEN AND POND

(cf 8.20/25) The Chairman was pleased to report that the Council's application for a grant from the District Council's Councillor Community Grant Scheme 2024/25 had been successful. The Council had been awarded a grant of £2,200 towards the Tokers Green Village Green project.

In the circumstances, the Council was requested to consider the quotations shown in the report submitted to the Council in October 2024 (see Minute 5.22 of that meeting). The lowest, for the work to drain the pond on Tokers Green village green and to inspect the exposed brickwork etc, had been from Drain Surgeons Ltd, in the sum of £2,200 + VAT: the Company had recently confirmed that the quotation stood, despite the passage of time.

RESOLVED: 1 That the contract for emptying and removing the contents of the pond on Tokers Green village green, conducting a visual survey of the pond and providing an assessment of any recommendations and costs to maintain the safety and ongoing working of the pond be let to Drain Surgeons Ltd, in the sum of £2,200 + VAT.

2 That Mr M Jan-Janin of Dysons Wood, Tokers Green be appointed to supervise the contract.

9.10 POSSIBLE BUS SHELTER(S), CANE END

(cf 8.23/25) The Chairman advised that she had heard from the residents of Fox Heath Gardens Cane End, that, as the owners of the road serving the development, they were opposed to the insertion of gate to allow access from their road to the highway land, in order to facilitate access to the proposed bus shelter

9.11 GLEBE LAND, KIDMORE END

(cf 8.25/25) By e-mail, Bidwells, the agents of the Oxford Diocesan Board of Finance, advised that they were consulting their clients about possible alternative uses for the glebe land off Wood Lane, Kidmore End.

9.12 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £84,409.85.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Course fee	£72.00
Starboard Systems Ltd – Scribe Accounts set up, subscription and professional support	£1,041.60
Shield Maintenance Ltd – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£13.26
R F Penfold – Renewal of web domain names [reimbursement]	£51.58

Dr C D Aldridge – Printing Parish Newsletter [re-imburement]	£46.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£182.80
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£121.86

9.13 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

construction of an oak-framed outdoor storage outbuilding at Walnut Tree Cottage, Cane End;
carport to replace demolished garage and lean-to carport at Beryspytle, Horsepond Road, Cane End;
build new double garage with storage over and relocate entry at Hazel Grove, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common

had been permitted conditionally.

(ii) Action of Plans Sub-Committee

RESOLVED: That the action of the Plans Sub-Committee in respect of the following application, as set out in the register of action, be approved:

single-storey extension, conversion of garage to habitable accommodation with internal alterations, a new single storey outbuilding/garage and removal of one access point at Boundary Cottage, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common.

(iii) Applications

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

RESOLVED: That no objections be submitted to the applications for

variation of condition 2 on permission P24/S0248/73, viz repositioning and increased height of garage, first floor office to garage, additional porch and additional velux windows to north east elevation at The Cottage, Park Lane, Cane End;
replace 2 roof lights on front elevation with one pitched roof window and 2 pitched roof windows on rear elevation with a single dormer across the rear at Greenways, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
link canopy from existing garage/outbuilding to proposed replacement store/outbuilding at Cedar House, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green.

(iv) Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance

The Council received a report (24/25 - 23) by the Chairman about the annual general meeting of the Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance held on 25 January 2025.

RESOLVED: That the Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance be joined formally, and the membership fee of £50 for the current year paid.

(v) Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Chairman reported that volunteers were being sought to reform the steering group to lead the review of the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan.

9.14 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted the update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in January 2025, with particular reference to the Oxfordshire County Council Day, arranged for 7 April 2025.

9.15 SUBSIDISED BUS SERVICES

The County Council's Public Transport Planner, with an e-mail, provided information about new contracts for subsidised bus services, which would begin on 30 March 2025. The Watlington to Reading service, with some journeys through Gallowstree Common, Kidmore End and Chalkhouse Green (service 122/123, by Red Rose Travel), would be operated by Carousel Buses, and the services renumbered as 112/113. There would be no timetable changes.

9.16 KIDMORE END PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Council received, and noted, the draft minutes of the meeting of the Kid more End Playing Fields Committee held on 13 January 2025 (report 24/25 - 24).

9.17 AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

It was reported that the works to the trees at the entrance to the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground had been completed and that the members of the Amenities Sub-Committee were compiling an assets' register, using the Civic.ly tool.

9.18 TENURE OF THE CRICKET CLUB WORKING PARTY

The Vice-Chairman indicated that the Tenure of the Cricket Club Working Party would meet its counterparts from the Cricket Club in March 2025.

9.19 WEBSITE

(cf 7.22/24) Mr A P Harland and the Webmaster reported orally on their work with the Council's contractor, GFC Tech Ltd, on the Council's new website and on the feedback received from Members about the website. A report by Mr Harland had been circulated following the last meeting explaining the objectives of the project, together with a web link to the new site, and inviting Members to preview the format and structure of the new website. Many of the comments received had been about the detail on the site.

RESOLVED: That, subject to a further review at the meeting in April 2025, the general concept of the new website be endorsed.

9.20 GOV.UK WEB ADDRESS

(cf 8.09/25) The Council considered a report (24/25 - 25) by the Webmaster, addressing whether the Council should migrate to a gov.uk web domain.

RESOLVED: That the kepc.info domain continue to be used for the time being.

9.21 STREAMING PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS

The Council discussed the possible streaming of its meetings, a matter raised at the last meeting. Members acknowledged that streaming meetings would give residents greater opportunity to become involved in the business of the Council. However, they felt that there were technical issues which would

need to be resolved, and the cost of their resolution would outweigh the benefit at this time. Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED: That no action be taken to stream the proceedings of meetings of the Council for the time being.

9.22 THE BIG LUNCH

Mr A P Harland had circulated, prior to the meeting, the presentation from a webinar he had attended on 30 January 2025 about the Big Lunch – “Building stronger communities together”. The Big Lunch was the United Kingdom’s annual get together for neighbours and communities. Locally, there would be a Big Lunch at the Rokeby Recreation Ground, Chazey Heath, on 7 June 2025.

Members, in noting the presentation, were of the view that, if there were other similar events in the Parish, the Council might need to take up a co-ordinating role.

9.23 NOTICEBOARD, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 6.09/24) Mr A P Bowley reported that he had received 2 quotations to provide a replacement noticeboard at the Gallowstree Common well, and was expecting a 3rd quotation imminently.

RESOLVED: That consideration of quotations for the replacement of the noticeboard at the Gallowstree Common well be deferred to the next meeting.

9.24 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

The Chairman advised that she had attended

- a seminar on the use of ChatGPT and Claude.ai on 28 January 2025;
- a zoom meeting about the Climate Engagement Route Map held on 29 January 2025;
- a councillors’ forum organised by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils.

She had circulated notes about the first 2 events.

9.25 TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: That Civic.ly be included on the agenda for the next meeting.