

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on Wednesday 21 January 2026 at 7.30pm and concluded at 8.30pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge (Chairman), A P Bowley, A P Harland, I G C Pearson.

Apologies for absence were received from D P Malaperiman, Ms J P M Mather, N A E Room, Ms M Thornton Gray.

8.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2025 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

8.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

A report by Ms M Filipova-Rivers, the county councillor for the Goring and Woodcote division, had been circulated prior to the meeting, covering

- the impact of the government funding settlement for the next 3 years on her Council's finances and its budget setting exercise for 2026/27;
- changes to the operation of the household waste and recycling centres, including the introduction of a mandatory booking system.

8.03 FOOTPATH 5

(cf 7.15/25) The Clerk reported that the cost of a standard pedestrian gate, as identified by the County Council's Countryside Access Officer (South East), would be between £275 and £300, excluding VAT. In the light of the information, it was

RESOLVED That a standard pedestrian gate, as identified by the County Council's Countryside Access Officer (South East), be purchased for installation on footpath 5, just north of its junction with Goring Heath bridleway 43, in replacement for a broken wooden gate there.

8.04 KIDMORE END NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

(cf 7.20/25) The Chairman reported that a meeting had been arranged to be held on 22 January 2026 for persons interested to serve on the group to review the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan.

8.05 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £56,480.08.

(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	£14.30
GpetoAI Ltd – Subscription	£25.00
Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Training course fee	£60.00
R W Butler Garden and Paddock Services – Works at Kidmore End Play	

Area	£1,752.00
SAS Landscaping – Replacement post at Kidmore End pond	£154.08
Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance – Subscription (2025)	£50.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£188.65
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£125.77

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 31 December 2025, against the approved budget for 2025/26. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £573, excluding capital payments and if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

8.06 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the application for new pedestrian gate at allotments, Park Lane, Cane 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 application, as set out in the register of action, be approved:

erection of 4 semidetached dwellings with parking and on-site turning on land between Coopers Pightle and Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End.

(iii) Halla Farm, Chalkhouse Green – highway verge

(cf 4.17/25) By e-mail, a Planning Officer (Enforcement) of the District Council advised that, following an investigation, the now exposed fence at Halla Farm in Kidmore End Road, Chalkhouse Green had been in place for well over a period of 4 years and was thus immune from enforcement action. However, his Council's Ecology Team was still investigating the removal of the hedgerow.

(iv) South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse Joint Local Plan

(cf 7.13(iv)/25) The Council noted that that the examination of the South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse Joint Local Plan was proceeding, following the Minister's withdrawal of the requirement "to co-operate with neighbouring authorities". The next stage of examination of the Joint Plan was to be held in Abingdon on 12 February 2026.

(v) Eye & Dunsden Parish Neighbourhood Plan

(cf 7.13(v)/25) The Council considered a report (25/26 - 20) of the Plans Sub-Committee, being a proposed response to the submitted Eye & Dunsden Parish Neighbourhood Plan, which had been published for consultation.

RESOLVED: That the circulated response to the submitted Eye & Dunsden Parish Neighbourhood Plan be adopted and forwarded to the District Council.

(vi) Reading Borough Local Plan

(cf 7.13(vi)/25) It was reported that the Plans Sub-Committee would meet imminently to discuss whether to make representations at the Stage 2 hearings of the examination of the Reading Borough Local Plan Partial Update.

(vii) Neighbourhood planning event

By e-mail, the District Council's Neighbourhood Planning Team invited parish and town councils to be represented at a neighbourhood planning event to be held on 28 January 2026 in Didcot. The main purpose of the event was to help neighbourhood planning groups understand how recent and proposed changes to the planning system would affect plans. The Chairman proposed that some members of the nascent group to review the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan attend the event.

(viii) Training for councillors

The Head of Planning of the District Council, by letter, invited the Council to appoint up to 2 councillors to attend a planning training session covering, inter alia, updates on changes to the planning system. The sessions had been arranged to be held on 26 February 2026 in Wantage and 3 March 2026 in Didcot. The Chairman proposed that the places be offered to members of the Plans Sub-Committee in the first instance.

(ix) Councillor training on responding to planning applications

(cf 7.22/25) RESOLVED: That consideration of the report on councillor training on responding to planning applications be deferred to a future meeting

8.07 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted the update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in December 2025, with particular reference to the paragraphs about the Association's AGM in Jun 2026 and the consultation on the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

8.08 CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END

The Council received a briefing note (report 25/26 - 21) from Mr N A E Room, in his role as a churchwarden, about phases 1 and 2 of the works at the church of St John the Baptist, Kidmore End.

8.09 KIDMORE END PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was noted that the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee had met on 12 January 2026.

The Chairman of the Committee advised of the Committee's continuing difficulties with its bankers and that Gigaclear would be installing fibre broadband at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion in February 2026.

8.10 AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received and noted a report (25/26 - 22) by the Amenities Sub-Committee.

8.11 KIDMORE END WELL

(cf 6.06/25) Arising from the report of the Amenities Sub-Committee (see Minute 8.11 above), the Chairman reported orally on her meeting earlier in the week, about road closures around the wellhead in Kidmore End, when the remedial works will be undertaken. She intended to report fully at the next meeting of the Council.

8.12 ROAD SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council considered a report (25/26 - 23) of the Road Safety Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED: That, subject to the addition of the Aurora Rowan School, the proposed list of recipients of the community speed guidance letter be adopted.

8.13 REPORT OF THE TENURE OF THE CRICKET CLUB WORKING PARTY

In presenting his apologies for absence, the Vice-Chairman had reminded the Clerk that some members of the Council were meeting informally to discuss finances prior to a meeting of Tenure of the Cricket Club Working Party with representatives of the Kidmore End Cricket Club concerning the proposed lease of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion to the Club.

8.14 WEBMASTER

The Webmaster reported orally about devising the policies required by the annual governance statement, use of a chat function and content of the website.

8.15 PROPOSED FOOD & BEER FESTIVAL

(cf 6.17/25) The Council considered an information sheet (report 25/26 - 24) compiled by Kidmore End Cricket Club, setting out the details of the proposed food and beer festival to be held at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on 2 and 3 May 2026, and seeking approval for the event. It was noted that the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee supported the application.

RESOLVED: That the proposed food and beer festival, to be held at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on 2 and 3 May 2026, as detailed in information sheet, be approved, subject to confirmation that the gates to the Play Area will not be locked, in other words, that the play area will remain available for public use, during the event.

8.16 DIAMOND JUBILEE PAVILION, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 7.20/24) The Council considered a spreadsheet (report 25/26 - 25), compiled by Mr I G C Pearson, setting out the remedial works required to the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion in the Gallowstree Common Recreation, identified in the reports submitted to the Council in December 2024 by Ajenda TDD Ltd and Shakespeare, Pullen & Slade Ltd, and proposing an allocation of those works outstanding between the Council, Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee and Kidmore End Cricket Club.

In this connection, Members discussed the benefit of hiring a project manager to ensure completion of the works, and routine maintenance of the Pavilion going forward, acknowledging that funds had been earmarked in the budget for the financial year 2026/27 for this purpose.

RESOLVED: That responsibility for the works at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion allocated in the spreadsheet to the Council, as owners of the premises, be accepted, and the works progressed as quickly as the requisite funds become available.

8.17 GALLOWSTREE COMMON ALLOTMENTS

It was noted that, during one of the named storms earlier in January, there had been power interruptions in Gallowstree Common, which, according to engineers on site from Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks, was attributed, in part, to interference with overhead cables from trees growing in the roadside hedge of the Gallowstree Common allotments in Hazelmoor Lane.

RESOLVED: That permission be given, as owners of the trees in question, for Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks to cut back the foliage of trees growing in the roadside hedge of the Gallowstree Common allotments in Hazelmoor Lane, in order to eliminate interference with the power supply cables.

8.18 REPORTS OF MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

The Chairman reported that the mental health training for councillors' session she had enrolled on had been cancelled. She also referred to the invitation from the Oxford Dialogue Society to councillors to attend the Ramadan Community Iftar at Aureus Secondary School, Didcot on 24 February 2026.