

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting had been summoned, in accordance with the law, to be held on the previously agreed date, 18 February 2026. However, only 3 Members attended – Dr C D Aldridge(Chairman), Mr D P Malaperiman (Vice-Chairman), and Mr I G C Pearson – all other Members having previously submitted apologies for absence. There being insufficient Members present to form a quorum, under the provisions of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Standing Order 3w, no business could be transacted. The Members present decided, nevertheless, to hear a report from the district councillor and the statements or questions from members of the public who had attended to participate in the open session.

The meeting was re-arranged by the Chairman and Clerk to be held on 24 February 2026.

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on Tuesday 24 February 2026 at 7.35pm and concluded at 8.55pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge (Chairman), Ms J P M Mather, I G C Pearson, N A E Room.

Apologies for absence were received from A P Bowley, A P Harland, D P Malaperiman, Ms M Thornton Gray.

9.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2026 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the pages being renumbered from 210 to 214.

9.02 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, had spoken, at the inquorate meeting, to his previously circulated report, covering

- his Council's budget for the financial year 2026/27;
- the impending retirement of his Council's Head of Planning;
- the review of local government in the County;
- local applications for the councillor community grants.

9.03 OPEN SESSION

The Council was advised that the applicant, and his planning consultant, had addressed the Members present at the inquorate meeting, in support of the planning application for extensions to bungalow to form a 2-storey dwelling at Newhaven, Rosebery Road, Tokers Green.

During the Open Session, Ms S M Biggs of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, had expressed a wish to serve again as a parish councillor, especially in light of the appeal against the refusal of planning permission for residential development of another part of the former Reading Golf Club course (see Minute 9.07(ii)).

9.04 KIDMORE END NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

(cf 8.04/26) The Chairman reported orally on the meeting held on 22 January 2026 for persons interested to serve on the group to review the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan: a further meeting was arranged for 26 February 2026. In the meantime, there were volunteers from each of the 5 villages/settlements in the Parish wishing to participate, there had been meetings with relevant officers from the District Council and material from the "old" NDP website site was being migrated to the Council's current web platform.

9.05 DIAMOND JUBILEE PAVILION, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 8.16/26) The Council considered a report (25/26 - 26), of the Clerk, to enable the Council to decide, in principle, whether to offer a contract for services to manage repair and maintenance works at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion in the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: That, in principle, a contractor (or contractors) be hired to undertake the following role:

- implement the repairs and maintenance items from the Agenda TDD Ltd surveys and the spreadsheet compiled by Mr I G C Pearson in November 2024;
- obtain quotations and make recommendations thereon to the Council/the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee (KEPFC) and liaise with/supervise the selected contractors on behalf of the Council/KEPFC;
- monitor the condition of the Pavilion, services and grounds and report to the Council/KEPFC and make recommendations for future work;
- liaise with the Council/KEPFC and Kidmore End Cricket Club on current issues and works;
- inspect works, liaise with contractors and certify payments to the Council/KEPFC.

9.06 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £53,979.47.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

R F Penfold – Renewal of web domains (reimbursement)	£55.18
Parish of Kidmore End & Sonning Common – Grant towards works to support churchyard yew tree	£1,090.00
Shield Maintenance Ltd – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£14.30
Chiltern Society – Subscription	£30.00
Starboard Systems Ltd – Scribe accounts renewal	£504.00
Starboard Systems Ltd – 3 months' subscription to Civic.ly	£97.20
GpetoAI Ltd – Subscription	£30.00
Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance – Subscription (2025 and 2026)	£100.00*
Southern Electric Power Distribution plc – Electricity service alteration at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion	£884.64
GFC Tech Ltd – Setting up NDP website on new hosting etc (NDP)	£207.50
Ms T Gordon – Cleaning Diamond Jubilee Pavilion (KEPFC)	£195.36
R F Penfold – Reimbursing expenditure on behalf of Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee (KEPFC)	£2,017.02
Scottish Power Ltd – Electricity for Pavilion (KEPFC)	£1,413.27
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£188.65
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£125.77

* The Clerk advised that the cheque drawn at the last meeting, for the 2025 subscription to the Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance, had not been presented.

(iii) Community Infrastructure Levy

The Clerk indicated that he expected the District Council to credit the Council with further Community Infrastructure Levy monies, of approximately £8,000, in April 2026.

9.07 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) 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:

extensions to dormer bungalow to form a 2-storey dwelling with demolition of part of the existing attached bungalow at Newhaven, Rosebery Road, Tokers Green

(ii) Planning appeal

In a letter, the Head of Planning of the District Council advised that an appeal had been lodged against the decision of his Council to refuse planning permission for outline development of up to 70 homes, new vehicular access, associated parking and landscaping on land west of Kidmore End Road, Emmer Green, ie part of the former Reading Golf Club course. The appeal would be determined on the basis of an inquiry.

The Head of Planning had enquired whether the Council wished to apply for Rule 6 status in respect of the appeal: the Council would be able to present its evidence on a formal basis at the inquiry, if it had that status. It had been hoped that the Council would consider that enquiry at its meeting summoned to be held on 18 February 2026. However, the meeting had been inquorate.

In the circumstances, the Chairman had decided, as a matter of urgency, that the Council should seek Rule 6 status at the inquiry. That status had been granted.

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

(ii) Aurora Rowan School, Dysons Wood

(cf 5.15(v)/25) By e-mail, the District Council's Team Leader Development Management (East) advised that he was seeking information from the Aurora Rowan School, Dysons Wood regarding current pupil numbers and the number who stayed overnight at the site. If the number was not as high as set out within the relevant planning application, it might be that the school was not operating within the current lawful use of the site.

(iv) National Planning Policy Framework

The Council considered a draft response (report 25/26 - 27), compiled by the Plans Sub-Committee, to the consultation issued by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government entitled "National Planning Policy Framework: proposed reforms and other changes to the planning system".

RESOLVED: That the circulated draft response be adopted and submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

(v) Neighbourhood planning event

(cf 8.06(vii)/26) It was noted that the Chairman and Ms S M Biggs had attended the neighbourhood planning event held on 28 January 2026.

(vi) Training for councillors

(cf 8.06(viii)/26) It was reported that Ms J P M Mather and Ms L Ashley had enrolled to attend the planning training sessions covering, inter alia, updates on changes to the planning system, to be held on 26 February 2026 and 3 March 2026.

9.08 CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KIDMORE END

In a note, Mr N A E Room, in his role as a churchwarden, advised that the Parochial Church Council had had to commission works, on safety grounds, to remove and replace the support for the yew tree at the main entrance to the churchyard of the Church of St John the Baptist, Kidmore End. The work had been undertaken by Heights Tree Care Ltd, at a cost of £1,320.20 + VAT

Noting that £1,090 remained in the budget for donations to the PCC, it was

RESOLVED: That a donation of £1,090 be made the Parochial Church Council towards the cost of removing and replacing the support for the yew tree at the main entrance to the churchyard of the Church of St John the Baptist.

9.09 GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

The District Council's Waste Prevention & Reduction Officer gave details, in an e-mail, of her Council's support for the Great British Spring Clean, to be held from 13 to 29 March 2026.

The Chairman reported that Mr G Hayne of Kidmore End had volunteered to organise local activity in connection with the event.

9.10 NEW COPSE, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

With an e-mail, the Site Manager – Oxfordshire of The Woodland Trust enclosed a copy of the Trust's management plan for New Copse, Gallowstree Common. The Trust had been formulating a 10 year plan and was inviting comments thereon by 4 March 2026. Copies of the management plan had been circulated to the Members of the Council living in Gallowstree Common.

9.11 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted the update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in January 2026.

9.12 TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

With e-mails, officers of the County Council gave notice of the temporary closure of the following roads, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984:

- Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, on 24 February 2026, for replacing a telecommunications' pole;
- Wood Lane, Kidmore End, 3 to 5 March 2026, for a water supply connection.

The Clerk advised that, in the case of the Wood Lane closure, the diversion route, via Hazelmoor Lane, had been challenged as unsuitable, as had the operating hours, which included school start and end times.

9.13 KIDMORE END PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Council received, and noted, the draft minutes of the meeting of the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee held on 12 January 2026 (report 25/26 - 28).

The Chairman of the Committee reported that the electricity meter at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion would be moved on 15 April 2026, when a smart meter would be installed. The boiler in the Pavilion had been serviced and quotations received for servicing the CCTV installation and alarm systems.

The Chairman of the Committee drew attention to the Committee's difficulties with banking arrangements. He requested the Council, as owner of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, which the Committee managed on its behalf, to receive monies due to, and make payments on behalf of, the Committee, pending restoration of the Committee's banking facilities.

RESOLVED: That, pending the restoration of the banking facilities of the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee, monies be received, and payments made on behalf of, the Committee, subject to the Committee reimbursing the Council in due course.

9.14 AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council considered a report (25/26 -29) by the Amenities Sub-Committee.

Arising from the report, the Council was advised that the quotations for the replacement of the damaged post at Kidmore End pond were as follows:

Ian Kendrick Ltd - £175 + VAT (softwood), £210 + VAT (hardwood)
SAS Landscaping - £145 + VAT (softwood), £175 + VAT (oak).

In addition, the Council discussed the proposal in the report about extending the mowing contract to cover 2026.

RESOLVED: 1 That the contract for the replacement, in oak, of the decayed post at Kidmore End pond be let to SAS Landscaping in the sum of £175.00 + VAT.

2 That, subject to confirmation of price by Ian Kendrick Ltd, the existing contract for mowing and strimming be extended to cover the 2026 season.

9.15 ROAD SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE

Members discussed the preparation and distribution of the community speed guidance letter.

9.16 REPORT OF THE TENURE OF THE CRICKET CLUB WORKING PARTY

It was noted that it now seemed unlikely that the proposed lease of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion to the Kidmore End Cricket Club would be signed before July 2026.

9.17 WEBMASTER

The Chairman reported orally, on behalf of the Webmaster, about progress with devising the various policies required by the annual governance statement.

9.18 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN OXFORDSHIRE

(cf 7.07/25) The Council received and noted a report (25/26 - 30) by the Chairman, arising from her attendance at a meeting, held on 9 February 2026, and organised by the District Council, about the role of town and parish councils during and after local government reorganisation in the County.

The Chairman invited the Council to express a preference among the 3 proposals, for the future local government structure in the County, upon which the Government was consulting. Members, noting that they had favoured the 2 unitary authority option throughout the process thus far, confirmed that that remained their preferred outcome.

RESOLVED: That the creation of 2 unitary authorities – one comprising the present districts of South Oxfordshire and Vale of the White Horse, together with the existing unitary authority of West Berkshire (in Berkshire) and the other authority comprising the other districts in the County – be the preferred option for the structure of local government in Oxfordshire in the future.

9.19 KIDMORE END WELL

(cf 8.11/25) The Council received and noted a report (25/26 - 31) by the Chairman, being the notes of the site meeting at Kidmore End well on 19 January 2026.

9.20 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 22 April 2026 at 7.00pm.

9.21 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
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme	1

9.22 DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

The Council noted the names of a number of volunteers, all minors, who were undertaking community projects under the aegis of the Council, as part of their work in connection with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

PART 2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 24 FEBRUARY 2026

9.23 DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD SCHEME

It was reported that the following minors were undertaking voluntary works, under the aegis of the Council, as part of their commitment to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme:

Ms E Davidson
Ms E Davies
Ms A Hutchison
F Wright

The various works were being supervised by the Chairman, and the parents of the volunteers had given their written consent to their offsprings' participation. Their details had been forwarded to the Council's insurers.