

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on Wednesday 21 May 2025 at 7.35pm and concluded at 9.05pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge, A P Bowley, A P Harland, Ms D V C Page, I G C Pearson, N A E Room, Ms M Thornton Gray.

Also present: Ms M Filipova-Rivers (county councillor)

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

The outgoing Chairman, Dr C D Aldridge, took the Chair.

1.01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Dr C D Aldridge be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

(Dr Aldridge thereupon signed a declaration of acceptance of office.)

1.02 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Mr D P Malaperiman be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

1.03 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2025 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to renumbering from Minute 11.18 onwards.

1.04 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, had, in presenting his apologies for absence, submitted a report, which had been circulated, covering

- the seasonal opening of the open air swimming pool at Wallingford;
- swimming in the River Thames at Wallingford;
- new accessible boat moorings on the Thames at Crowmarsh;
- the changes to his Council's garden waste service;
- the outcome of the County Council election;
- the joint administration of his Council formed by a partnership of the Greens and the Liberal Democrats;
- the examination of his Council's Local Plan, due to start on 3 June 2025;
- the upgrading of his Council's IT system, commencing on 24 May 2025.

1.05 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Ms C McAslan of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, welcomed the erection of hoarding around the Kidmore End well head structure, as a prelude to works of repair. She asked questions about the Council's procedures for securing the works, and enquired whether the hoarding could be decorated with public art.

1.06 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS, SUB-COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

The Council considered a report (25/26 -1) of the Clerk to enable it to review its sub-body structure and appointments, and to make appointments for the “municipal” year 2025/26.

RESOLVED: That the following appointments be made for the period ending at the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2026:

Allotments' Manager	Ms J P M Mather
Webmaster	Mr A P Bowley
Wells' Manager	Mr N A E Room
Amenities Sub-Committee	Dr C D Aldridge, Ms D V C Page, Mr N A E Room, Ms M Thornton Gray
Community Infrastructure Levy Sub-Committee	All Councillors
Finance Sub-Committee	Dr C D Aldridge, Mr A P Bowley, Mr I G C Pearson
Plans Sub-Committee	Dr C D Aldridge, Mr A P Harland, Ms J P M Mather, Ms D V C Page, Ms M Thornton Gray, Ms S M Biggs*, Ms L Stewart-Ashley*, Ms A Vorster*
Tenure of the Cricket Club Working Group	Mr A P Bowley, Mr D P Malaperiman, Ms J P M Mather, Ms A Vorster*, Clerk of the Council*
Editorial Board of Newsletter	Dr C D Aldridge, Ms D V C Page, Ms S Remenyi*
Representatives on Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee	Mr A P Bowley, Mr A P Harland, Mr I G C Pearson
Representative on Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils	Mr A P Harland
Transport Representative	Mr A P Harland

* Not a member of the Council

1.07 POSSIBLE FOOTWAY IN HORSEPOND ROAD, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 11.03/25) Arising from the question raised in the Open Session at the last meeting, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the request for the provision of a footway alongside Horsepond Road, from Gallowstree Common to Cane End be deferred to the next meeting.

1.08 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MATTERS

(i) Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common – vehicle speeds

(cf 11.04(i)/25) In the absence of Ms G McCarter, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the possible provision of vehicle activated speed indicator devices in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, be deferred to the next meeting.

(ii) Reades Lane, Gallowstree Common

(cf 11.04(ii)/25) Mr A P Harland reported orally on his discussion with the Chair of Village Centre & Transport Working Party of Sonning Common Parish Council about the designation of Reades Lane, Gallowstree Common (and Kennylands Road, Sonning Common) as “unsuitable for HGVs”. Mr Harland advised that he was awaiting further information from Sonning Common Parish Council.

(iii) Temporary road closures

With an e-mail, an officer of the County Council gave notice of the temporary closure of the following road, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

- Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green, 13 to 15 May 2025, for water OSV exchange and visible leak repair.

1.09 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 11.05/25) The Chairman welcomed Ms M Thornton Gray to the Council. Ms Thornton Gray responded by thanking the Council for co-opting her as a Member.

1.10 TOKERS GREEN VILLAGE GREEN AND POND

(cf 11.06/25) It was reported that the work to create a concrete wall in front of the eroded blockwork at the base of the retaining wall of the pond on Tokers Green village green would be undertaken between 27 and 30 May 2025.

1.11 GLEBE LAND, KIDMORE END

(cf 11.07/25) It was reported that Bidwells, the agents of the Oxford Diocesan Board for Finance, were understood to have found a tenant for the glebe land off Wood Lane, Kidmore End. Local informal calculations suggested that grazing land of 6.65 ha would attract a rent of c£4,800 per annum.

1.12 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND - DRIVE AND CARPARK

(cf 11.09(i)/25) The Council noted that signs suggesting a speed limit of 5mph had been installed on the driveway in the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

Mr I G C Pearson reported receipt of a quotation for installing a speed hump on the driveway. However, he suggested that the Council defer installation of such a device, pending experience of the behaviour of drivers visiting the Recreation Ground.

1.13 VE DAY

(cf 11.14/25) The Chairman reported that many residents had displayed flags and bunting to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day.

1.14 ROYAL BERKSHIRE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

(cf 11.17/25) At the suggestion of Ms D V C Page, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of her report on the current strategy of the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust be deferred to a future meeting.

1.15 PLAY AREAS

(cf 11.18/25) It was reported that approaches were being made to a local resident about carrying out routine inspections of the equipment in the play areas at Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End.

1.16 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £68,615.84. This included payment of CIL monies - £8,747.42.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Mr N A E Room – Expenses is attending meeting	£21.60
Ms F Harland – Hire of toilet for Big Lunch [reimbursement]	£120.00
Shield Maintenance Ltd – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£13.26
R F Penfold – Printing documents [reimbursement]	£6.50
Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Fees for training courses	£276.00
Playsafety Ltd – Inspection of Play Areas	£192.00
Mr A P Harland – Refreshments for participants at website training day	£22.74
Dr C D Aldridge – Printing Parish Newsletter [reimbursement]	£46.00
R F Penfold – Zoom licence [reimbursement]	£155.88
Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd – Insurance premium	£3,950.08
United Kingdom Debt Management Office – Loan repayment	£6,002.99*
Chiltern Woodcraft – Solid walled temporary structure around Kidmore End well	£1,130.00
Wicksteed Leisure Ltd – Pin head hexagonal key	£24.28
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£182.80
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£121.86

* To be paid by direct debit

1.17 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

link canopy from existing garage/outbuilding to proposed replacement rear extension, rebuilding of existing conservatory and new front porch at 6 Craysleaze, Kidmore End; alterations, front and rear extensions at Westering, Wood Lane, Kidmore 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 applications, as set out in the register of action, be approved:

existing double garage to be removed, new replacement garage and gym with games room on first floor at Waters Edge, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;
erection of a dwarf wall Victorian style greenhouse in rear garden of Red House, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green.

(iii) Certificates of lawful development

(cf 11.09(v)/25) The Council noted that the application for a certificate of lawful use or development for infill of existing front porch at Sundown, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common had been withdrawn

The District Council's Head of Planning advised, by letter, that he was processing an application for a certificate of lawful use or development for a new access and gate on land opposite Lovegroves Barn, Wyfold Road, Gallowstree Common. As the application only sought to establish whether the proposed works could be undertaken as permitted development, the Head of Planning was not seeking comments on the planning merits of the proposal.

(iv) Reading Borough Local Plan

(cf 7.14(v)/24) The Planning Policy Team of Reading Borough Council advised, by e-mail, that that Council had submitted the Submission Draft of the Local Plan Partial Update and Submission Draft Proposals Map to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government on 9 May 2025. In due course an inspector would be appointed to hold an examination into the documents, which would include public hearings.

(v) The Caversham and District Residents' Association

(cf 11.12(vii)/25) The Council noted a report (25/26 – 2) by the Chairman on the Annual General Meeting of the Caversham and District Residents' Association, held on 13 May 2025.

Arising from her report, and with particular reference to the development of the former Reading Golf Club course, the Chairman proposed that the Council take membership of the Association.

RESOLVED: That the Council become a member of the Caversham and District Residents' Association, for the coming 3 years.

1.18 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted the update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in April 2025, with particular reference to the paragraphs about its policies for parish councils and the "Talking Tables" event.

1.19 CHILTERN NATURAL LANDSCAPE

(cf 11.18/24) In a letter, the Chilterns Conservation Board reported that Natural England had stopped work on the boundary extension project for the Chilterns National Landscape. The Chairman advised that the Joint Parishes AONB Group, comprising Eye and Dunsden, Harpsden, Kidmore End, Mapledurham, Shiplake and Sonning Common Parish Councils (JPAG) had met to discuss this news and the next steps.

The Chairman had circulated the press release/statement drafted by JPAG which it was intended to send to local news organisations, district councillors, members of parliament and other interested parties, to raise awareness of the decision and to ask questions about how it was taken, whether the project would be returned to in the future, and what steps were going to be taken to release the completed reports already submitted.

The Chairman had given prior notice of the following motion, which she moved:

"Following the disappointing announcement on 9 May from Natural England that the Chilterns Natural Landscape boundary review has been cancelled and scrapped, I propose that the Council

supports the press release/statement written by JPAG and supports continuing efforts made by JPAG to raise awareness of this news in the media and in central government".

The motion was put to the vote and declared adopted.

RESOLVED: That the press release/statement set out in the Appendix hereto be supported.

1.20 HOME-START SOUTHERN OXFORDSHIRE

By letter, the Development Manager of Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire requested the Council to consider making a donation to the organisation, which supported more than 230 families across southern Oxfordshire who were going through difficult times.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the request be deferred to later in the financial year.

1.21 KIDMORE END PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was noted that the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee had met on 12 May 2025. The Chairman of the Committee reported orally that the Committee had

- considered an approach from Henley Exiles Football Club to play home games at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, and had deputed the Chairman of the Committee to meet representatives of the Club, to explain the current position regarding the use of the Ground for football. The Chairman indicated that that meeting had taken place, and that the Club's response had been positive;
- noted the potential impact of Martyn's Law - the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 - on the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion and its managers.

1.22 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- her election to the County Council;
- the County Council's budget for 2025/26;
- Oxfordshire residents being the best in the country for recycling, reusing and composting;
- the County Council's road resurfacing plans for 2025/26;
- the highways' gulley cleaning schedule for 2025/26;
- her Council's plans for improving bus travel;
- the Local Nature Recovery strategy;
- local government re-organisation in Oxfordshire;
- the allocation of school places;
- the Oxfordshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan;
- grants available from her Council.
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Ms Filipova-Rivers introduced herself, and spoke to her report. She intended to send written reports to, and hoped to attend, parish council meetings. Members asked questions about road defects, the provision of roadside footways and watering trees planted by the County Council on highways margins.

1.23 AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr N A E Room reported that the reports arising from the inspection of the equipment in the play areas had been received from Playsafety Ltd. The inspectors had recommended that one of the swings at the Gallowstree Common Play Area be taken out of commission, as it was in danger of failing. In the absence of the Chairman, Mr Room had taped off the swing as a matter of urgency, pending further

investigation. The Sub-Committee had consideration of that recommendation, and other observations of the inspectors, in hand.

RESOLVED: That the action of Mr N A E Room be approved and confirmed.

1.24 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr N A E Room reported on further correspondence with the relevant officer of the County Council about the possible installation of bus shelters at Cane End. The Clerk was following up on the correspondence.

1.25 TENURE OF THE CRICKET CLUB WORKING PARTY

Mr A P Bowley advised that the Tenure of the Cricket Club Working Party had yet to meet its counterparts from the Cricket Club to discuss further the draft heads of terms for the proposed lease of the Recreation Ground and the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion to the Club.

1.26 WEBSITE

(cf 11.23/25) Mr A P Harland reported orally on the development of the Council's website, following the training day he and the Webmaster had attended with the contractor, GFC Tech Ltd. It was intended that the new website would be launched on 1 June 2025. In this connection, Mr Harland referred to policies which the Council would need to adopt, and which would be published on the website.

On behalf of the Council, the Chairman thanked Mr Harland and the Webmaster for the time they had devoted to reconfiguring the website.

1.27 KIDMORE END WELL

(cf 1.09/24) The Council was advised that following the last meeting of the Council, Mr N A E Room had pursued the securing and refurbishment of the well head structure in Kidmore End. By way of background, the Council had agreed in November 2023 (see Minute 6.24) to erect a fence around the structure.

Mr Room had made contact with Mr A Jarvis of Chiltern Woodcraft, who had first identified that the structure was decaying and becoming unstable. They discussed how to fence off and secure the structure, which was, according to the County Council's maps, in the public highway. Mr Jarvis had devised a plan which would require some occupation of the highway, and, potentially, a temporary closure of part of highway around the well. Mr Room had approached a previously-contacted County Council officer about this solution. The officer pointed out that a road closure entailed a 12-week notice period.

Following further discussions with Mr Jarvis, and with the consent of the Church authorities, it was suggested that the well head be fenced off on the line of flagstones around its base, and that the churchyard be used as a working area. This would negate the need for any closure of the highway. Mr Jarvis had quoted approximately £1,130 to undertake those fencing works. County Council officers had been advised of the proposed course of action: no adverse comments had been received.

The Chairman, as a matter of urgency, had approved the award of the contract for the fencing, notwithstanding Financial Regulation 11.1, to Chiltern Woodcraft. Members were reminded that there was provision of £2,500 in the budget for 2025/6 for repairs etc to the well. The fencing works had been completed earlier in May 2025.

Members noted that the next stage of the exercise would be to undertake a condition survey of the structure to establish the extent of the repair works required.

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

1.28 CANE END ALLOTMENTS

(cf 7.11/24) Members were advised that, following the comment during the open session at the meeting of the Council in April 2025, the Chairman had, following consultation with the Allotments' Manager and the Clerk, appointed Ms M Toomey, a tenant at the allotments, as the Council's agent for the submission of the planning application to widen the access to the Cane End allotments, which application had been authorised by the Council at its meeting in December last year (see Minute 7.11).

It was reported that the tenants had asked whether a second water tank could be installed at the south side of the allotments at Cane End, fed from the existing tank, the cost of the installation to be met collectively by the tenants.

RESOLVED: 1 That the action of the Chairman be approved and confirmed.

2 That consideration of the request of the tenants, for the installation of a second water tank at the Cane End allotments, be deferred to the next meeting

1.29 DATES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED: 1 That meetings of the Council be held on the following Wednesdays at 7.30pm:

18 June 2025	19 November 2025	18 February 2026
23 July 2025	17 December 2025	18 March 2026
17 September 2025	21 January 2026	22 April 2026
22 October 2025		

2 That the Annual Meeting of the Council be held on 20 May 2026 at 7.30pm.

1.30 TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: That road safety and traffic management in the Parish be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

Text of statement/press release by the Joint Parishes Action Group

We are extremely disappointed that the review of possible extension to the Chilterns National Landscape (AONB) has been abruptly cancelled by the Government.

Kidmore End, Eye and Dunsden, Sonning Common, Shiplake, Mapledurham and Harpsden parish councils are united in their belief that there are significant opportunities to identify new National Landscape in their parishes. Once the review began, we commissioned expert consultants to carefully assess the potential areas of expansion. They found there was a strong case. This report has been circulated to relevant bodies.

Many local organisations have been pushing for a boundary review for more than 10 years. Natural England's consultants LUC's expensive technical report was almost complete and public consultation was about to begin.

We want answers from Government.

Why has the work been scrapped rather than put on hold?

Will the work done so far be made public?

Why has public money been used for a review/report that is currently not going to be used? Public money should not be wasted