KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground on Wednesday 23 September 2026 at 7.40pm and concluded at 9.10pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge (Chairman), A P Bowley, N A E Room, Dr C L Sharples.

Also present: Ms M Filipova-Rivers (county councillor), Mr P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from A P Harland, D P Malaperiman, Ms J P M Mather, I G C Pearson.

4.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2026 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

4.02 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

- local government reorganisation in Oxfordshire;
- her Council's review of 20mph speed limit schemes which had been introduced in 280 parishes and towns in the County;
- the gas main works on the A4074 road in Chazey Heath;
- the next round of highway gulley cleaning, which would happen in February and March 2027 in her division;
- the Oxford traffic filter trial;
- blood pressure checks which were available in every Oxfordshire library;
- free electric blanket safety checks;
- 2 new pieces of work on rural health, the Oxfordshire Rural Areas Data Pack and a report on health and wellbeing in rural towns and villages;
- steps being taken by her Council to resolve outstanding home to school transport arrangements.

Ms Filipova-Rivers said that she had asked County Council officers to arrange for the repair of highway defects and roadside damage in Rokeby Drive and Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, caused during the closures of the A4074 road In Chazey Heath. She also urged residents to report highway defects via FixMyStreet.

The Chairman thanked Ms Filipova-Rivers for her personal action to achieve early resolution of the local disruption caused by the 2 closures of the A4074 road in Chazey Heath.

4.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, reported orally about the Government's directives changing the process for determining planning applications by local planning authorities, with effect from November 2026.

4.04 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session,

- Ms S M Biggs, in her role as Chair of the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan Review Steering Group, advised of the Group's concerns about the operation of the Government's directions regarding the processing of planning applications and the impact of the new National Planning Policy Framework. She also mentioned the need to update the landscape assessment in the NDP, work which the consultants, terra firma, could undertake at a cost of c£1, 400 + VAT (see Minute 4.19 below);
- Mr J Nation of Vita Padel asked the Council to review its objection to his planning application for installation of 3 outdoor padel courts, a reception unit and the provision of associated carparking at the Abbey Rugby Football Club, Peppard Road, Emmer Green, in the light of the additional information he had supplied, and expanded upon that information (see Minute 4.14(iv)/26 below).

4.05 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 3.05/26) The Council noted that Ms S M Biggs had resigned as a Member of the Council on 29 July 2026. The Clerk had given notice of the vacancy for the office of parish councillor so caused. He had been advised by the District Council's Returning Officer that no request had been made for an election to fill the vacancy, and that it was, therefore, open to the Council to fill the vacancy by co-option.

4.06 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

(cf 3.06/26) In view, again, of the low attendance at the meeting, it was

RESOLVED: That the appointment of Vice-Chairman of the Council for the period to the next Annual Meeting be deferred to the next meeting.

4.07 WITHY COPSE, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 3.08/26) It was reported that there had not been a response from the District Council to the informal enquiries as to whether a tree preservation order could or would be made the whole of the Withy Copse, or just that part where the recent works had occurred.

By e-mail, the Geospatial Data Officer – Rights of Way Legal of the County Council advised that the owner of the land at the north end of Withy Copse had given notice, under Section 31(6) of the Highways Act 1980, which might prevent unrecorded public rights of way from being legally recorded in the future on the basis of presumed dedication. Rights of way that were already legally recorded were unaffected.

4.08 QUIET LANES' PROGRAMME

(cf 3.10/26) The Council considered a report (26/27 - 12), by Ms J P M Mather , setting out the results of informal consultation with residents of the road on the possible designation of Hazelmoor Lane, between Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End, as a quiet lane under the County Council's pilot scheme. Were the road to so designated, a barrier would be installed to preclude through vehicular traffic. The majority of respondents had supported the designation, with one dissentient response.

RESOLVED: That the above-mentioned report be forwarded to the County Council, indicating public support for the designation of Hazelmoor Lane, between Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End, as a quiet lane.

4.09 KIDMORE END WELL

(cf 3.11/26) Members recalled that on 28 July 2026, the Chairman had advised them that the roof of the Kidmore End well head structure was rotten and beyond repair. Even taking it apart carefully would result in damage, because the wood was so old it was brittle, or if not brittle, then rotted. Part of the roof structure was salvageable and could be kept. However, the roof needed to be watertight to prevent damage to the renovated sections below. Following a meeting with Architect, the Chairman had received a quote from the contractor of around £6,000 for the roof repair, excluding the cost of materials. There were sufficient funds in "Unspecified projects" in the budget for the current year to pay for this additional work.

The Chairman had pointed out the advantages of doing the repairs to the roof at that time:

- the road closure was in place;
- the craftsman was in place;
- It was the school summer holiday;
- the District Council's listed buildings' officer had indicated informally that the roof repairs could proceed;.
- it would not result in additional costs for renting traffic management paraphernalia;
- leaving repairing the roof until next year could result in potential water damage to the renovated sections, potentially resulting in a loss of longevity for the whole structure.

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The Chairman had believed that the Council needed to finish the whole renovation to the highest standard possible. Members had agreed informally and the Chairman had, therefore, authorised, as a matter of urgency, the roof renovation work to proceed.

The Chairman reported at the meeting that the renovation work was virtually completed – there remained one roof rib to be fitted. The County Council had been advised of the ending of the traffic order to close the road.

It was proposed that the renovated well head structure be "opened" at an event at the well on 10 October 2026 at 3.00pm. The Church authorities had agreed to provide refreshments from the Church of St John the Baptist.

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

2 That the renovation of the Kidmore End well head structure be celebrated at an event at the well on 10 October 2026.

4.10 PROPOSED BUS SHELTERS AT CANE END

(cf 3.12/26) The Clerk reported that Ipsden Parish Council had advised that the County Council had arranged the installation of the bus shelters at the North Stoke bus stop on the A4074 road, at no cost to the Parish Council. As a result, the Clerk had made approaches to the County Council about the possibility of a similar installation at the Cane End bus stop.

4.11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN OXFORDSHIRE

(cf 3.23/26) It was noted that the Government had announced on 7 September 2026 that it would review its decisions, previously announced, on preferred options for local government reorganisation across England, including those for Oxfordshire. The review was intended to provide confidence that the process had been followed correctly and that any future decisions aligned with the Government's priorities, were sustainable and could be implemented successfully. The Government aimed to complete the review by mid October 2026.

4.12 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the meetings of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 27 July, 17 August and 14 September 2026.

RESOLVED: 1 That the Members' Allowances' Scheme be amended with effect from 1 October 2026, by increasing the rate for use of cars or vans to 55p per mile.

2 That the OALC/SALC Payroll Service be joined with immediate effect.

4.13 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £80,665.25. This included the 2nd half of the precept - £31,500, £1,398.59 from Crowdfunder Ltd, £2,538.08 being the further proceeds of Save the Well Fayre, £305 from the Quiz Night in support of the well project, £387.55 miscellaneous for the Well fund, and donations of £235 towards the cost of the works at the Kidmore End Well.

(ii) Accounts paid

It was reported that, in accordance with the authority granted by the Council at its last meeting and Financial Regulation 5.2, the Chairman and the Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee had approved the payment of the following accounts on 3, 17 and 25 August 2026:

Andrew B Jarvis – Works to Kidmore End well: invoice 2	£11,230.33
Ian Kendrick Ltd - Mowing highway verges	£954.00
Shield Maintenance Ltd – Servicing dog hygiene bin	£13.26
Gpeto AI Ltd – Subscription to Planning AI	£30.00
Moore – 2nd reminder letter re AGAR	£48.00
Carter Electrical Installations Ltd – Replacement PV inverter at Diamond Jubilee Pavilion (KEPFC)	£891.60
Glyn Williams – Treating wasp nest at Gallowstree Common play area	£60.00
M Makower & Co – Management etc of works at Diamond Jubilee Pavilion	£300.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£188.65
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£125.77
Castle Water – Water for Pavilion (KEPFC)	£1,550.53

(iii) Accounts for payment

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

GpetoAI Ltd – Subscription	£30.00
Kingspan Water & Energy Ltd – Service plan for biodigester (KEPFC)	£383.30
Shield Maintenance Ltd – Emptying dog hygiene bin (including underpayment)	£16.94
Jeff Sheldon – Mowing of Recreation Ground, 2025 (KEPFC)	£1,000.00
EDF – Electricity for Pavilion (KEPFC)	£1,118.60*
Andrew B Jarvis – Work at Kidmore End well: final invoice	£6,450.16
M Makower & Co – Management etc of works at Diamond Jubilee Pavilion	£300.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax (including arrears)	£226.13
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£150.75

* *To be paid by direct debit*

(iv) Correction to statement in Minutes

(cf 3.14/26) The Council was advised that, following the last meeting, further clarification revealed that the list of credits in Minute 3.14(i) was incorrect. The donation of £100 referred to therein had transpired to be towards the planning appeal fund, not the Well fund. Accordingly, the figures in Minute 3.14(vi) needed to be adjusted, leaving the Council's net expenditure as £3,064.45, not £3,164.45.

4.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

extension to dormer bungalow to form a 2-storey dwelling with demolition of the part of the existing detached garage at Newhaven, Rosebery Road, Tokers Green;
erection of 2/single storey rear extensions, repositioning of front porch, conversion of and extension of existing garage to create ancillary accommodation and new double car port at Wingfield, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
variation of condition 2 (approved plans) for erection of single storey extension to rear etc at Church View, Tokers Green 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:

demolition of existing stable and garage block and erection of a new self-build dwelling on land to the rear of 2 Rosehill Farm Cottages, Peppard Road, Emmer Green;
proposed erection of 2 to 3 dwellinghouses on land north west of Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;
proposed erection of single storey front porch extension and a single storey outbuilding following the partial demolition of existing outbuilding at Goodacres, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green.

(iii) Applications

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

RESOLVED*:* That no comments be submitted in respect of the applications for demolition of existing dwelling and detached outbuilding and erection of replacement self-build dwelling and detached outbuilding at Newlyn, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green and installed upgraded forest access track, saw mill pad, band sawmill and log feeder for lawful forestry operations to enhance and restore woodland immediately east of Deadmans Lane, Goring Heath [Parish of Goring Heath]

(iv) Application for padel courts at Abbey Rugby Football Club

(cf 3.15(ii)/26) The Council was reminded that it had objected to the planning application for installation of 3 outdoor padel courts, a reception unit and the provision of associated carparking at the Abbey Rugby Football Club, Peppard Road, Emmer Green. A planning and development officer of the District Council enquired, by e-mail, whether the Council's objection to the application remained, in the light of further information/justification in response to that objection. The information focused on accessibility for those with mobility difficulties, lighting of the proposed facilities and disposal of waste water. Members also recalled the oral comments made the applicant, earlier in rhe meeting, and concluded that he had satisfactorily addressed the concerns expressed in its original response to the

application.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED: That the objections previously made to the application for installation of 3 outdoor padel courts, a reception unit and the provision of associated carparking at the Abbey Rugby Football Club, Peppard Road, Emmer Green be withdrawn.

(v) Use of land at Bishopswood Camp as possible heavy goods' vehicle yard

It had been noted that some of the land at Bishopswood Camp, Horsepond Road, Sonning Common was being marketed for sale as a potential site for a heavy goods' vehicle depot, based on alleged previous use of the site. Concerns had been expressed about this, and the matter had been taken up with the Clerk to Sonning Common Parish Council. He had reassured the Chairman of the Council that his Council had raised the matter with the local planning authority.

(vi) South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Joint Local Plan 2045

The Communications' Team at the District Council advised, by media briefing, that its Council and the Vale of White Horse District Council had launched a consultation on their second Joint Local Plan, running from 8 to 29 September 2026. The first stage of the process to make the plan was the scoping consultation, designed to get an idea of what communities, businesses and planning industry tthought the plan should include and how the Councils should approach future engagement.

The Council considered a draft response (report 26/27 - 13) by the Chairman, drawing together thoughts from the Plans Sub-Committee and the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan Review Steering Group.

RESOLVED: That the circulated draft response be adopted and submitted to the District Council.

(vii) Reading Local Plan

(cf /26) The Planning Policy Team of Reading Borough Council indicated, in an e-mail, that it's Council had made modifications to the Reading Local in the light of a number of observations by the inspector examining the plan, in order for the Plan to be "sound and legally compliant". That Council was inviting comments on the modifications, the consultation ending on 29 October 2026. The Plans Sub-Committee had been requested to consider whether the Council should comment on the modifications.

(viii) Changes to the planning process

The Council received, and noted with some concern, a report (26/27 - 14) of the Chairman, setting out an overview of the statutory changes, coming into force on 31 October 2026, which would affect the handling of all future planning applications.

4.15 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted the update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in August 2026, with particular reference to the paragraphs about the Association's Spring Conference, training and grants available from TOE's Local Environment Fund.

4.16 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MATTERS

(i) Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green – use by heavy goods vehicles

Members were aware of the traffic chaos in the south of the Parish, when the A4074 road in Chazey Heath had twice been closed to through traffic on an emergency basis, due to leaks to a gas

main, in late August and early September 2026. Pending the installation of suitable warning signs and other action, Rokeby Drive and Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, had carried very high volumes of traffic, including heavy goods vehicles in both north and south directions. This had led to Tokers Green Lane in particular being blocked by vehicles unable to pass on the narrow carriageway.

Against this background, Mr D F Neville of Tokers Green had asked, by e-mail, the Council to press for the installation of permanent signs on Tokers Green Lane, between Kidmore End village and the county boundary, indicating that the road was unsuitable for heavy goods' vehicles. Members supported the proposal and observed that it was unfortunate that the Council had not been notified formally about the closure of the A4074. In the latter connection, the Chairman advised that she had been invited to the weekly update sessions with SGN, who were undertaking the gas main renewal.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be requested to install signs indicating that Tokers Green Lane was unsuitable for use by heavy goods' vehicles between Kidmore End and the county boundary.

(ii) 20 mph speed limits

By e-mail, the County Council's Senior Officer – Vision Zero advised that his Council was seeking views of parish and town councils on how the 20mph speed limits were working in their communities, acknowledging that it would take time for a culture of lower speeds to become the norm. In this connection, the County Council was seeking information about roads where

- it was considered the limits were working well, and why that was the case; and
- the limits were not working effectively or as hoped, what the cause of that was and what might be required to make it more effective.

The information was requested by the end of November 2026.

RESOLVED: That consideration of a response to the survey be deferred to a future meeting.

4.17 COMMUNITY FIRST OXFORDSHIRE

The Council noted the invitation to be represented at the Annual General Meeting of Community First Oxfordshire, to be held on line, on 8 October 2026. The Chairman advised that she was able to attend.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman be appointed to represent the Council at the annual general meeting of Community First Oxfordshire.

4.18 KIDMORE END PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Council received, and noted, the confirmed minutes of the meeting of the Kidmore End Playing Fields Committee held on 13 July 2026 (report 26/27 - 15).

It was noted that the Committee had met on 14 September 2026. At that meeting, the Committee had decided, in response to concerns expressed by residents of Gallowstree Common, to request the Council to install 2 speed bumps on the entrance drive to the Recreation Ground, to be funded from the Community Investment Levy monies. However, at this stage, the Committee was unable to advise of the likely full cost of the project.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the request to install 2 speed bumps on the entrance drive to the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground be deferred, pending receipt of details of the cost of the project.

4.19 KIDMORE END NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW STEERING GROUP

The Council considered the report (26/27 - 16) of the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan (KENDP) Review Steering Group.

The Council noted the request of the Group to obtain consultancy support from The terra firma Consultancy Ltd with updating the landscape aspects in the made Kidmore End Neighbourhood Plan. The Company, who had assisted the development of the original plan, had suggested that the cost would be c£1,400 plus expenses + VAT. Members noted the waiver set out in Financial Regulation 11.1(a)(ii) about competitive quotes/tenders not being required for professional support of this nature and that the budget for current financial year contained provision of £5,000 for updating the Plan..

RESOLVED: That a contract be entered into with The terra firma Consultancy Ltd for landscape architectural services in connection with updating the landscape aspects in the made Kidmore End Neighbourhood Plan, in the sum of £1,400+ VAT and expenses.

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4.20 AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council considered the report (26/27- 17) of the Amenities Sub-Committee, with particular reference to the sections about the play areas.

RESOLVED: 1 That the picnic bench in the Kidmore End Play Area be removed, with a view to its replacement when funds allow.

2 That further consideration be given to the repair of the fence on the boundary between the Kidmore End Play Area and the property “Astwell” in Butlers Orchard.

4.21 ROAD SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE

Although no appointments had yet been made to the Road Safety Sub-Committee, reference was made to the following matters

- the reduced speed limits on the A4074 road through the Parish had come into effect on 23 July 2026;
- the vehicle speed indicator device in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common had been replaced by a sign calibrated to 20mph;
- a complaint had been received about a vehicle often parked, partly on the footway, near the western junction of The Hamlet with Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

RESOLVED: That the complainant about the above-mentioned parked vehicle be advised to refer it to the Police.

4.22 WEBMASTER

A report (26/27- 18) by the Webmaster had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. In the absence of Mr A P Harland, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report be deferred to the next meeting.

4.23 WILD FIRE RISKS AND PROCEDURES

In light of the hot and dry conditions in the summer, and incidents elsewhere in the country, the Chairman suggested that the Council assess the risk of wild fires in the Parish, and consider whether to formulate procedures to be invoked in the event of such fires.

RESOLVED: That, as a first step, the Chairman arrange informal discussions with farmers and landowners in the Parish about steps to mitigate the risk of wild fires.

4.24 THE PEOPLE'S EMERGENCY BRIEFING

The Chairman suggested that the Council arrange a local screening of the film "The People's Emergency Briefing", about the climate and nature crisis, as, aside from any other considerations, it might lead to volunteers enthused to help with aspects of the review of Neighbourhood Development Plan.

RESOLVED: That the suggestion be pursued.

4.25 CLIMATE AND HEAT RESILIENCE/HEAT SAFE HOMES PROJECT

The Council considered 2 reports (26/27 – 19 and 20) by the Chairman arising from workshops on climate and heat resilience and the Heat Safe Homes project.

RESOLVED: That further consideration be given to the issues raised in the reports.

4.26 CHALKHOUSE GREEN – PROPOSED DEFIBRILLATOR AND NOTICE BOARD

The Council considered a report (26/27 - 21) by Dr C L Sharples, setting out quotations received for a replacement community noticeboard and the supply and installation of a defibrillator in the former telephone kiosk at Chalkhouse Green.

RESOLVED: 1 That a "Prestige" notice board be purchased from, and installed at Chalkhouse Green by, the Parish Notice Board Company for the sum of £2,243 + VAT, the cost in excess of the provision in the budget for 2026/27 to be met from the provision for "Unspecified Projects"

2 That, in accordance with the decision in Minute 4.07/26 (September 2025), a defibrillator, and emergency bleed kit, be purchased from, and installed in the former telephone kiosk at Chalkhouse Green by, Turtle Medical for the sum of £1,890 + VAT.

4.27 REPORTS OF MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

The Chairman reported that she had attended a meeting of the Joint Parishes Action Group, when there had been general disappointment about the stance of Natural England towards the expansion of the Chiltern National Landscape to embrace the whole of the Parish and the River Thames riparian parishes between Mapledurham and Henley.