

## KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 21 February 2007 at 8.00 pm and concluded at 10.10pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), R S Young (Vice-Chairman), R E Bayliss, Mrs S G Hall, Dr D J M McNie, Prof T R Morris, R M Naish, Mrs C Toms.

Also present: Mrs C Y Viney (county councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J A Appleton, Dr R J Potter, Mrs M S Rowland.

### 9.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2007 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the deletion of the second word "enclosed" in Minute 8.18.

### 9.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mrs C Y Viney, the county councillor for the Sonning Common division, reported that her Council had been rated as "excellent" in the recently announced results of Comprehensive Performance Assessments for county and unitary authorities. Her Council had set its budget for 2007/8 on the basis of an increase in Council Tax of 4.0%: this included additional funding of £2.5m for adult services.

Mrs Viney also reported that the Thames Valley Police Authority had set its budget for 2007/8, with an increase of 4.9%, which represented £6.61 for each Band D property per year. Savings had to be made to achieve such a modest increase, particularly in the light of the impact of changes to Government grant.

Mrs Viney referred to results, published by Reading Borough Council, of the public consultation which formed part of its North Area Access Study.

### 9.03 WEBSITE

(cf 8.05/07) By letter, Dr & Mrs C W Bradford of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End enquired whether the minutes of meetings would appear on the website [www.kepc.info](http://www.kepc.info). As a result, Members discussed what documents should be published on the website. During the debate, Prof T R Morris proposed, seconded by Mrs C Toms, that unconfirmed minutes be published on the website. This proposal was put to vote, with 4 members voting in favour and 4 against. The Chairman exercised his casting vote in favour of the motion.

RESOLVED: That the following documents published by the Council be made available routinely on the website [www.kepc.info](http://www.kepc.info):

- agenda for meetings of the Council
- unconfirmed minutes of meetings of the Council
- register of planning applications considered by the Plans Sub-Committee
- agenda for parish meetings
- Parish Newsletter
- any public notices issued by the Council.

### 9.04 CHILTERN'S CONSERVATION BOARD

(cf 8.06/07) Mr R E Bayliss reported on the 2005/6 Annual Review of the Chilterns Conservation Board which set out the role of that Board and what it had achieved. 2006 had marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

### 9.05 KIDMORE END PRE-SCHOOL

(cf 8.07/07) The Vice-Chairman reported that he and Mrs M S Rowland had met 2 representatives of the Kidmore End Pre School. It was clear from the discussions that the Pre School was taking the concerns about parking seriously, and reminded, at least once a term, the parents/carers of children attending to the Pre School to park considerately. The Pre School sought to foster car-sharing and had made approaches to the occupiers of neighbouring properties as to use of their driveways in peak periods. The representatives had indicated that they wished to maintain a dialogue with the Council on the parking issue.

#### 9.06 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

(cf 8.08/07) At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed Mr R M Naish to the Council.

It was reported that, in resigning from the Council, Mr H Thresher had ceased to be the Council's representative on the Chiltern Edge Community Association.

RESOLVED: That Mr R M Naish be appointed to represent the Council on the Chiltern Edge Community Association, until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2007.

#### 9.07 POLICING

(cf 8.09/07) In presenting her apologies for absence, Mrs M S Rowland had submitted a report (06/07 - 7), which the Clerk circulated to Members present, arising from her attendance at a briefing held about police community support officers (PCSOs) and neighbourhood policing and on the Thames Valley Police Authority Strategic Plan, 2005 – 2008. Mrs Rowland had been unable to the meeting of the County Council's Community Safety Scrutiny Committee on 5 February 2007

#### 9.08 REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PROVISION

(cf.8.11/07) Mrs C Toms reported that she had responded to the first phase of the County Council's review of primary school provision, broadly in support of the aims of the exercise.

#### 9.09 HORSEPOND ROAD, GALLOWSTREE COMMON – VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN

(cf 8.12/07) The Clerk reported that the County Council had acknowledged the order for the installation of a vehicle activated speed indication sign in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

#### 9.10 MEMORIAL SEAT

(cf 8.13/07) The Clerk advised that Kidmore End Cricket Club had paid £552.50 towards the cost of a memorial seat.

#### 9.11 HOME TO SCHOOL TRAVEL

(cf 8.20/07) Mrs C Toms reported on discussions between the Governors of Kidmore End School and an officer of the County Council about home to school travel. She advised that the School might be interested in a park and walk scheme.

Members discussed the possibility of the parents of out-of-county pupils arranging some form of collective school bus transport.

Mrs Toms was encouraged to ensure the matter remained high on the agenda for the Governors.

## 9.12 POSSIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION

(cf 8.21/07) With a letter, the Leader of the County Council enclosed a copy of the response sent by his Council to the Secretary of State, outlining his Council's opposition to the abolition of his Council and the creation of 3 unitary authorities in the County.

## 9.13 KIDMORE END POND

(cf 8.22 /07) During the Open Session, Mrs S Biggs of Kidmore End reported that she had approached the County Council to place a salt or grit bin near Kidmore End pond, with a view to residents gritting the roads nearby in icy conditions.

The Council recalled that it had made budgetary provision for the cutting back of the willow trees at Kidmore End pond.

RESOLVED: That quotations be sought, in accordance with the Financial Regulations, for the cutting back of the willows at Kidmore End pond and that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to accept a quotation for the work.

## 9.14 THE LATE MR M E WYATT

(cf 8.24/07) Prof T R Morris reported that a site had been identified at Tokers Green for a seat as a memorial to the late Mr M E Wyatt.

## 9.15 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND

(cf 8.25/07) It was noted that some of the accumulations of mostly grounds' maintenance materials remained undisturbed at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

Some Members commented on the shabby appearance of the Pavilion.

RESOLVED: That, following an inspection of the premises, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Mr R E Bayliss report to the next meeting on what works might be required at the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

## 9.16 FINANCE

### (i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £11,073.88.

### (ii) Accounts for payment

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

Thames Water Utilities Ltd – Water for allotments	£5.80
The Chiltern Society – Subscription	£25.00
Playing Fields Committee – Grant	£800.00

## 9.17 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

### (i) Decisions

The Council noted that the following applications had been permitted conditionally

demolish existing garage and erect new single garage at Duart Cottage, The Hamlet, Gallowstree

Common;  
addition of 2 velux windows to rear elevation and alterations to roof over garage at Foxlands, Elm Road, Tokers Green.

(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:

installation of solar panels on rear, south facing, single storey roof slope at Fairhaven, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;  
erection of double garage at Collegewood Farm House, Cane End;  
new single storey side extensions to side elevation with repositioned entrance at 1 Well Cottage, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;  
single storey rear conservatory at Newhaven, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;  
erection of single storey infill extension at Mallorn, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End;  
erection of porch at Collegewood Barn, Caner End (amendment to permission P06/E1028).

(iii) Land west of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green

With a letter, the Jeffrey Charles Emmett Consultancy enclosed a copy of a planning application submitted to the District Council, on behalf of clients, for retrospective permission for a storage shed on land to the west of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green, just north of the county boundary. The Consultancy had enquired when the Council might consider the application. The Clerk had responded setting out the Council's usual practice, ie that applications were considered by the Plans Sub-Committee.

(iv) Oxfordshire Minerals & Waste Development Framework

With a letter, the County Council's Director for Environment & Economy enclosed a copy of his Council's Preferred Options Consultation Paper, in connection with the Core Strategy of the Oxfordshire Minerals & Waste Development Framework. The closing date for comments was 23 March 2007.

RESOLVED: That the County Council's Preferred Options Consultation Paper be referred to Mr R M Naish, for consideration and report.

(iv) Reading Borough Council Local Development Framework

With letters, the Director of Environment, Culture & Sport of Reading Borough Council enclosed consultation leaflets in connection with the Core Strategy Document and Preferred Options for the Reading Central Area Action Plan, in connection with its Local Development Framework.

#### 9.18 OXFORDSHIRE JUNIOR CITIZENS' TRUST

In a letter, the Chair of the Oxfordshire Junior Citizens' Trust requested the Council to consider making a grant to the Trust, an independent partnership established to provide safety education to children across the County. Members observed that there was no provision in the budgets for the current year or 2007/8 for a grant to the Trust.

RESOLVED: That no grant be made to the Oxfordshire Junior Citizens' Trust in the current financial year or 2007/8.

#### 9.19 FARMING & WILDLIFE ADVISORY GROUP

The Office Administrator of the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group, by letter, invited the Council to take membership of the Group, which worked with farmers and landowners to conserve and restore wildlife habitats.

RESOLVED: That the invitation to take membership of the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group be

declined.

#### 9.20 CODE OF CONDUCT

With a letter, the Deputy Director, Local Democracy in the Department for Communities & Local Government enclosed a copy of a consultation paper seeking views on a draft of a proposed new model code of conduct for local authority members, in line with the Government's announcement to put in place a clearer, simpler and more proportionate code. The closing date for comments was 9 March 2007.

RESOLVED: That the consultation on Amendments to the Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members be referred to Mrs M S Rowland, and that Mrs Rowland be authorised to send comments thereon, on behalf of the Council, to the Department for Communities & Local Government.

#### 9.21 OXFORDSHIRE CARERS' FORUM

By letter, the Chair of the Oxfordshire Carers' Forum, which aimed to improve the well being of carers in the County, sought financial assistance from the Council. Members observed that there was no provision in the budgets for the current year or 2007/8 for a grant to the Forum and that the Council supported financially the South & Vale Carers' Centre.

RESOLVED: That no grant be made to the Oxfordshire Carers' Forum in the current financial year or 2007/8.

#### 9.22 QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL SCHEME

A civil servant from the Rural Social and Communities Division of the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, by letter, advised that the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill included provision to confirm the Government's commitment to extend the power of well-being to all parish and town councils. If the Bill was enacted as drafted, there would be statutory scheme which would effectively replace the present Quality Town and Parish Council Scheme.

#### 9.23 ST GEORGE'S DAY

The Council noted a letter from UK Celebrations & Commemorations Ltd, urging the celebration of St George's Day, 23 April 2007.

#### 9.24 APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR

By letter, the Manager, Audit Policy & Practice of the Audit Commission advised that, subject to any comment from the Council, BDO Stoy Hayward had been appointed as the Council's external auditors for the financial year 2006/7.

#### 9.25 GARDEN WASTE SCHEME

In a letter, the District Council's Head of Public Amenities advised of changes to her Council's garden waste scheme with effect from April 2007 – the provision of smaller wheeled bins and biodegradable sacks.

#### 9.26 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Clerk circulated Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils County Circular 1/2007 to Members present.

RESOLVED: That consideration of County Circular 1/2007 from the Oxfordshire Association of Locals Councils be deferred to the next meeting.

#### 9.27 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council.

The Chairman of the Committee reported that the architect had submitted the planning application for the replacement for the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground to the District Council, but that Council had yet to register the application.

Reference was made to repairs required to the play equipment at the Kidmore End Play Area and to a dead tree at that site.

#### 9.28 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

Dr D J M McNie suggested that maps showing the public rights of way in the Parish might be displayed at or near some of the Council's notice boards. He undertook to research the matter further.

#### 9.29 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 21 March 2007 at 7.30pm.