

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 14 December 2011 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.00pm.

Present: A K Martin (Chairman), R S Young (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S M Biggs, Mrs S Hall, Mrs S J Hunter, Dr B J Knapp, R G McQuillan, T M Perchard,.

Also present: PCSO T Forrest (Thames Valley Police).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J E O'Sullivan, J A Swift QC.

7.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2011 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correction of the spelling of the word "noticeboards" in the final line of Minute 6.18.

7.02 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

PCSO T Forrest of the Thames Valley Police reported on Police activity in connection with

- home security, where advice was available to residents about steps to reduce domestic burglaries, like leaving some lights on;
- parking at Kidmore End School, where warning notices had been issued to inappropriately parked vehicles, but no fixed penalty notices, thus far;
- 2 burglaries in Kidmore End, which had resulted in more patrols in the area;
- the use of the "101" telephone number to report non-urgent information to the Police.

PCSO Forrest advised that there had been no metal thefts in the Parish as far as he knew. He asked that he and his colleagues be alerted to any particularly vulnerable residents, so that they could be visited.

7.03 RECREATION GROUND, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - PAVILION

(cf 6.08/11) The Council considered a report (11/12 - 6) of the Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee about identified additional works at the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, not included in the original contract.

It was reported that "snagging" works on the building continued, as a result of which the final certificate had yet to be issued by the architect. That, said the final account had been received from Hale Building Contractors Ltd. This showed the total cost of the works by the contractors had been £585,000, against an original contract figure of £590,000.

Members noted that the District Council had granted the Playing Fields Committee full relief on the national non-domestic rates payable on the building.

RESOLVED: 1 That Hale Building Contractors Ltd be requested to

- install 2 additional soffit downlights to the main entrance, activated by PIR control,
- fit PIR external movement control to operate existing lamp over tractor store,
- fit 16amp floodlight circuit breaker with 8 IP rated fused spurs,
- install 1 pair D handles to each of the door sets opening on to the veranda,

at the Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, as an addition to the main contract, at an estimated cost of £992 + VAT

2 That notwithstanding Financial Regulation 11.1(h), the quotation from Acorn Services to provide a concrete apron from the disabled parking area to the pedestrian gate at the Recreation Ground, in the

sum of £400, be accepted.

7.04 DISTRICT COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN

(cf 6.11/11) Mrs S M Biggs reported on the District Council's draft corporate plan 2012 - 2016. She encouraged all Members to respond individually to the District Council's consultation exercise thereon

7.05 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

(cf 6.13/11) The Council considered further the "issues arising" report by BDO LLP resulting from the Partnership's audit of the Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2011, a matter deferred at the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That a sub-committee, comprising Dr B J Knapp, Mr T M Perchard and Mr J A Swift, be appointed to complete a risk assessment, as required by Regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 and as indicated by BDO LLP, before the end of the current financial year, and to make recommendations thereon to the Council.

7.06 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £11,313.38.

(ii) Accounts for payment

RESOLVED: That the following accounts, listed in the schedule under Financial Regulation 5.2, be approved for payment, as funds permit, and, in the case of that from Hale Building Contractors Ltd, on receipt of the final certificate from the architect:

South & Vale Carers Centre – Grant	£40.00
Hale Building Contractors Ltd – Pavilion project: final payment	£17484.94

7.07 ESTIMATES, 2012/13

(cf 6.12(iii)/11) The Council considered a report (11/12 - 7) of the Responsible Financial Officer, being draft estimates for the financial year 2012/13.

RESOLVED: 1 That the base estimates for 2012/13 be adopted.

2 That the precept include a sum of £8,885, towards the restoration of the Council's balances.

3 That a precept be issued for the sum of £36,000 in 2012/13.

4 That the base estimates be confirmed as the Council's budget for 2012/13 for the purposes of Financial Regulation 3.2.

7.08 REVIEW OF PROJECTS

The Council reviewed the list of projects approved in the past, and for which financial provision was included in the budget for the current financial year. In the light of the financial position of the Council, it was

RESOLVED: That specific projects, for which budgetary provision had been made, not started by 31 March 2012, be then abandoned.

7.09 KIDMORE END CEMETERY

Arising from consideration of the budget for 2012/13, Members commented that the surface of the footpath from Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End to the cemetery was deteriorating, causing some mourners to have difficulty when using the path.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be asked again to repair the surface of the path to the cemetery from Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End.

7.10 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) 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:

single storey rear extension at Cynisca, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;
2 storey extension to side and rear with garage at The Yews, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common (amended plan).

(ii) Applications

The Council considered an application referred to it since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That no strong views be submitted on the application for demolition of greenhouse, construction of new 2 storey rear extension, rear conservatory, single storey front extension and re roof of single storey flat roof side extension with pitched roof at Cherryfield House, Cane End for Mrs L Gupta.

(iii) Planning Appeal

(cf 4.11(iv)/11) A letter from the Head of Planning of the District Council advised that the public inquiry, into the appeal about the application for outline permission for the erection of up to 50 dwellings on land at Kennylands Road Sonning Common, would be held in Crowmarsh on 4 January 2012.

RESOLVED: That Mrs S M Biggs be appointed to represent the Council at the public inquiry into the appeal about development of the land at Kennylands Road, Sonning Common, in support of the District Council's decision to refuse planning permission, and on the basis of the Council's observations about the application.

(iv) Sonning Common Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Proposal

The Chairman reported receipt of an e-mail from the Clerk to Sonning Common Parish Council, in which the latter indicated that his Council intended to produce a neighbourhood plan, under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011, better to resist speculative developers' planning applications like that for the erection of 50 dwellings in Kennylands Road, Sonning Common. His Council hoped that the proposed neighbourhood plan would be developed with the co-operation of this Council and Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council. His Council sought collaboration, not financial commitment.

RESOLVED: That, in principle, collaboration with the development of the Sonning Common Neighbourhood Plan be supported, and that Mr R G McQuillan be appointed to liaise with Sonning Common Parish Council over the development of the Plan.

(v) "How to Respond to Planning Applications"

(cf 6.14(iv)/11) Mrs S M Biggs advised that she had read the publication "How to Respond to Planning Applications".

(vi) “Planning Explained”

With a letter, the Supporting Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning Officer of the Campaign to Protect Rural England enclosed a copy of the publication “Planning Explained”, which had been produced by his organisation and the National Association of Local Councils. The guide sought to show when and how people could get involved with local plans and provided an introduction to neighbourhood plans.

RESOLVED: That “Planning Explained” be referred to Mrs S M Biggs for consideration and report.

7.11 HIGH SHERIFF'S AWARDS

In an e-mail, the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire invited nominations for her awards, in the categories care for the elderly, bravery, helpfulness in the neighbourhood and long and/or meritorious service.

7.12 VINTAGE SPORTS CAR RALLY

By letter, Mr C B Leach of Hughenden, Buckinghamshire gave notice that the Vintage Sports-Car Club Measham Rally would pass through Kidmore End around 3am on 15 January 2012.

7.13 DISTRICT COUNCIL BUDGET

The Head of Corporate Strategy of the District Council, in a letter, advised of her Council's consultation on its budget for 2012/13, inviting views about what services should be prioritised, how the Council should operate with reduced funding and whether Council Tax should remain “frozen”. Members felt that the best course would be for them to respond individually, if wished.

7.14 OXFORDSHIRE RURAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORT TEAM

By letter, the Assistant Public Transport Officer of the County Council referred to the funding by his Council of the 3 transported-related pots at the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, which funding was under review. The County Council was reminded to reduce the funding, so that it might support only one post. Views were invited on the proposal, by 20 January 2012.

7.15 TANNERS LANE, CHALKHOUSE GREEN

Notice had been given by the County Council, pursuant to Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, of the temporary emergency closure of Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green, outside Redholme, to allow the repair of a water main on 8 December 2011.

7.16 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

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

7.17 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE

It was noted that the Affordable Housing Sub-Committee was considering proposals by Soha Ltd for the provision of affordable housing on the identified site off Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common and that the Sub-Committee would report thereon at the next meeting.

7.18 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

Mrs S M Biggs reported that the Transport Sub-Committee had yet to meet the County Council's Area Highways Steward.

It was reported that the "Give Way" signs at the junction of Rokeby Drive with Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green had fallen over.

Reference was made to the large puddles in the highway in the vicinity of Kidmore End pond.

RESOLVED: That the fallen "Give Way" sign at the junction of Rokeby Drive with Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green be referred to the County Council.