

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 19 July 2017 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.00pm.

Present: Ms S M Biggs (Chairman), Dr C D Aldridge (Vice-Chairman), T M Perchard, I G C Pearson, J A Swift QC, H Thresher.

Also present: R Simister (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Ms S Forde, Mrs S Hall, Ms A S O'Reilly.

3.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2017 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the substitution of the word "Manager" for "manger" in Minute 2.05 and of the house name "Tree Tops" for "Tall Trees" in Minute 2.15(i).

3.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The Council noted a written report by Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, covering, inter alia:

- the statement by Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service about fire safety in high rise towers;
- a new household waste recycling contract, under which the existing centres would remain open, but some changes for depositing waste, for instance DIY waste, would increase on 1 October 2017;
- his Council's Minerals and Waste Strategy which had been endorsed by a planning inspector;
- further funding for the Better Broadband project.

3.03 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session,

- Mrs C Toms of Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End expressed her support for the proposed 20mph speed limit in Kidmore End village, her interest in neighbourhood development planning and her support for the planning application for equestrian facilities at Kidmore Farm, Tanners Lane, Kidmore End, where her daughter rode occasionally, as a guest of the owners;
- Ms J Townend of Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green explained that the equestrian facilities at Kidmore Farm were not a commercial operation;
- Ms S Nelson of Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green outlined the reasons for her objection to the planning applications for equestrian facilities at Kidmore Farm;
- Mrs A Thiam of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common spoke of her interest in neighbourhood development planning;
- Mr R Butters of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green indicated an interest in neighbourhood development planning and urged opposition to the planning application for residential use of The Piggery, Gravel Hill, Emmer Green.

3.04 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr R Simister, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, reported on

- the proposed investment of c£650m in the Didcot Garden Town project, which was

- expected to deliver 16,000 additional homes and 20,000 additional jobs;
- the current situation regarding his Council's proposals for unitary local government;
- grants available from his Council for improving or replacing community facilities;
- grants available under the LEADER programme;
- his Council's councillor community grants' procedure, under which each councillor managed a sum of £5,000 for projects in his or her ward.

3.05 KIDMORE END WAR MEMORIAL

(cf 2.06/17) The Clerk reported on his discussions with a churchwarden about the inspection of the foundations of the war memorial in the churchyard of St John the Baptist. He and the churchwarden had agreed that the Council would pay the accounts for the excavations and the inspection, and that the Parochial Church Council would reimburse the net cost of the excavations. The inspection was to be carried out on 24 July 2017.

3.06 HOUSE NAMING

In e-mails, the District Council's Data Monitoring Manager & Street Naming and Numbering Officer advised that the property known as Long Hollow, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common had been renamed Stanley Cottage and that the former piggery at Kempwood, Cane End had been named Home Barn.

3.07 PLAY AREAS

(cf 2.08/17) The Chairman reported orally on progress with the project to complete the refurbishment of the play area at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and the replacement of the safety surfaces in that play area and that at Kidmore End. The turf had been laid – some had already had to be replaced – and watering continued.

The Clerk advised that the initial grant of £15,097 from the District Council was expected imminently.

3.08 CHILTERN EDGE SCHOOL

(cf 2.12/17) Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor the Goring division, forwarded, by e-mail, a statement by the County Council that its Cabinet had decided not proceed, at this time, with the publication of a statutory notice proposing the closure of Chiltern Edge School. In the meantime, it was understood that the County Council was in discussions with a potential partner to take the school from being a maintained school into academy status.

3.09 CONSULTATION ON CONSERVING FREE USE OF PUBLIC PARKS

(cf 2.19/17) The Vice-Chairman reported that she had responded, on behalf of the Council, to the consultation initiated by the Department for Communities and Local Government to make regulations to prohibit, limit or repeal powers of a local authority to make a charge for use of a public park. She had pointed that the Council Tax payers of smaller parishes, who maintained popular venues for events like Park Running, could face high bills for maintenance of the facilities.

3.10 CHILTERN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

(cf 2.24/17) The Council noted a copy of a letter sent by the Chair of the Chilterns Conservation Board to the Chair of Natural England seeking a review of the boundary of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and an extension of the powers of the Board.

On the suggestion of the Chairman, it was

RESOLVED: That the Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs be requested to

support the early review, and variation, of the boundary of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Beauty.

3.11 HIGHWAY VERGE CUTTING

(cf 2.26/17) It was noted that Ian Kendrick Ltd had undertaken the first linear cut of the highway verges in the Parish: Members commented favourably on the standard of the work. The Clerk advised that the promised grant - £705.82 – had been paid by the County Council.

3.12 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £33,103.67.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Henley Heating & Plumbing Ltd – Work to heating and hot water systems in Diamond Jubilee Pavilion	£3,854.44
Mrs O Around the World – Flyers re public meeting, Facebook advertising, website hosting	£174.42
Ian Kendrick Ltd – Strimming vision splays at Gallowstree Common	£120.00
The Henley College – Printing Parish Newsletter	£45.00
W A B Grove Ltd - Internal audit fee	£540.00
Caversham Solicitors Ltd – Fee for registration of restriction	£273.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£376.49
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£250.99
R F Penfold – Printing agenda etc	£13.50

(iii) Payment of accounts

As the Council was not due to meet in August 2017, it was

RESOLVED: That, notwithstanding Financial Regulations 5.2 and 6.3, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman be authorised to approve accounts received before 24 August 2017, for payment out of meeting.

(iv) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 30 June 2017, against the approved budget for 2017/18. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £305, excluding capital payments and if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

3.13 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

new infill extension to match existing dwelling, new chimney, new front entrance and reconfiguration of internal spaces at Waters Edge, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End; single storey side extension at Hillfield House, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common; first floor extension at Astracot, Rosebery Road, Tokers Green; 2 storey side and rear extensions at Summer Cottage, Cane 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:

single storey side extension, first floor side extensions and detached garage at Little Orchard, Park Lane, Cane End;
first floor extension at Astracot, Rosebery Road, Tokers Green;
2 storey side and rear extensions at Summer Cottage, Cane End (amended plan);
single storey rear extension and detached stables' building at Cuckoos, Dysons Wood Lane, Tokers Green (amended plan).

(iii) Applications

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

The Council noted e-mails from Ms S Nelson of Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green opposing the application relating to Kidmore Farm, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green and from Ms J Townend of Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green in support of that application.

RESOLVED: That observations be made as follows

Application

Observation

Installation of horse walker at Kidmore Farm, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green for Ms J Townend (amended plan)

Refuse, unless adequate screening is provided by a hedge of native species

Change of land use from workshop to residential, demolish existing workshop and store, construct 2 storey detached house, retaining walls and parking area at The Piggery, Gravel Hill, Emmer Green for Mr A Thorne

Refuse – site should be retained for employment

(iv) Planning appeals

(cf 6.12(iii)/16) A copy letter from the Planning Inspectorate indicated that the inspector, appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, had dismissed the appeal against the refusal of the District Council to grant planning permission for 5 new dwelling houses on land opposite Oldfield House, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common.

(v) Neighbourhood development plans

(cf 2.15(vi)/17) The Council considered a report (17/18 - 4) of the Clerk, to enable it to review the outcome of the public meeting about neighbourhood development plans and decide whether and how to take the matter forward.

The Council noted an e-mail by John Howell MP to which he attached the transcript of an adjournment debate in the House of Commons, earlier in the month, about neighbourhood planning by communities. Mr Howell indicated that he remained committed to the neighbourhood planning process and that the Planning Minister had affirmed the Government's ongoing support for neighbourhood planning.

Following a full debate, it was

RESOLVED: 1 That the drafting of a neighbourhood development plan, under the provisions of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Localism Act 2011, for the Parish of Kidmore End be supported and facilitated, the area to be covered by the plan being the whole Parish.

2 That a steering group be established, independent of the Council save for funding, to take the project forward on the Council's behalf.

3 That the Chairman and Mr I G C Pearson be appointed to serve on the steering group, representing the Council.

4 That the membership of the steering group be built-up incrementally, with the councillor members inviting 1 volunteer from each village, and the resultant core group inviting other persons to serve.

5 That the steering group report to the Council at all salient points during the preparation of the plan, and seek the endorsement of the Council to key matters.

6 That John Howell MP and the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward be advised of the above decisions.

(vi) District Council's Statement of Community Involvement

By e-mail, the Community Engagement Officer of the District Council advised that her Council had published its new statement of community involvement, which was designed to manage the Council's engagement with communities and businesses on planning matters.

3.14 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in June 2017.

3.15 DISTRICT COUNCIL'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE

In an e-mail, the Democratic Services Manager of the District Council advised that Mr D Hill had resigned as that Council's Chief Executive, and that Mr M Stone had been appointed as Acting Chief Executive, pending the appointment of a permanent replacement for Mr Hill.

3.16 THIRD THAMES BRIDGE

The Council noted a statement, forwarded by Mr R Simister, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, on behalf of his Council's Head of Planning, as to why there was reference in the emerging local plan to a possible third vehicular crossing of the River Thames in the vicinity of Reading.

3.17 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had met on 12 July 2017, when it had thanked the Council for its financial support over the rectification of heating and hot water systems in the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion.

The Committee had reviewed a long list of repair and maintenance works completed in recent months, but recognised that professional advice was required in respect of some further issues at the Pavilion.

The Committee had also carefully examined its finances, and had identified that electricity consumption and generation were critical issues. Against the background of its 2016/17 accounts, the Committee had decided to increase the hire rate to £12 per hour with effect from 1 October 2017.

An approach from a football club to use the Recreation Ground alongside Kidmore End FC had been rejected, because of concerns about over use of the football pitch.

3.18 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

Mr H Thresher reported on the District Council's Town and Parish Forum, held on 5 July 2017, when there had been presentations or discussions about the proposed unitary local government arrangements, grants, the District Council's flood plan, Didcot Garden Town, the predicted growth of Berinsfield and neighbourhood development plans.