

## KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 24 January 2018 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.35pm.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Ms S L Forde, Mrs S Hall, Mrs S J Hunter, Ms A S O'Reilly, J A Swift QC, R Simister (district councillor).

### 8.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2017 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 8.02 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

In presenting his apologies for absence, Mr R Simister, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, had reported, in writing, on

- judicial reviews of planning inspectors' decisions;
- some high profile planning enforcement cases;
- progress with his Council's Local Plan;
- progress with various neighbourhood development plans;
- his Council's response to the Government's consultation on planning for homes.

### 8.03 REPORT OF AREA BEAT OFFICER

The Chairman reported that PCSO W Pomroy of the Thames Valley Police had contacted her about attending future meetings of the Council.

### 8.04 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session,

- Dr K Hamer of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End advised that he was merely observing;
- Mr M Denness of JPP Land Ltd spoke in the support of the planning application for the redevelopment, for housing, of the former Palm Tree Restaurant, Cane End, explained the public consultation undertaken by the Company in connection with the application and answered questions from Members about the proposal.

### 8.05 KIDMORE END VILLAGE – TRAFFIC SPEEDS

(cf 7.05/17) The Clerk reported that an officer of the County Council had advised, in an e-mail, that the order for the installation of the 20mph signs in Kidmore End village had been issued on 17 January 2018, and that the work was expected to be completed by his Council's contractor in 4 to 6 weeks.

### 8.06 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

(cf 7.06(ii)/17) The Council gave further consideration to the hinged panel in the fence of Willow House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, adjacent to the Kidmore End play area, a matter deferred at the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That no further action be taken in respect of this matter.

#### 8.07 ALLOTMENTS

(i) Water supply at Cane End

(cf 7.07(ii)/17) Caversham Solicitors Ltd advised, by e-mail, that they were in contact with Simmons & Simmons, solicitors instructed by Mr A Adams, in respect of the deed of easement for the water supply to the allotments at Cane End. As it had been agreed that the Council would meet the legal and surveyors' fees incurred by the grantor, Caversham Solicitors requested payment £2,400 so that they would be "in funds".

(ii) Gallowstree Common – Water

(cf 6.10/17) The Clerk reported that, despite previous contact with the Company, Castle Water Ltd were sending escalating estimated bills for water used at the Gallowstree Common allotments: the most recent account had suggested a debt of £601.53. In accordance with previous decisions, the Clerk had continued to contest the account. The Company had appointed Engage Services Ltd, a specialist debt recovery company, to pursue the matter. The Clerk had notified Engage of the ongoing dispute with Castle Water Ltd.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That no payment be made to Castle Water Ltd in respect of the water supplied to the allotments at Gallowstree Common until the Company presents an account based upon a recent actual reading of the meter serving the property.

#### 8.08 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

(cf 7.08/17) It was suggested that a Member be appointed to attend one of the imminent seminars arranged by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils on the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

RESOLVED: 1 That consideration of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) be again deferred to the next meeting.

2 That Ms A S O'Reilly be appointed to attend a seminar organised by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils on the GDPR, and that her attendance be an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

#### 8.09 THIRD THAMES BRIDGE

(cf 7.09/17) In presenting his apologies for absence, Mr J A Swift had advised that he had attended the meeting, organised by Highmoor Parish Council, for parish councils thought to be opposed to an additional bridge over the River Thames in or near Reading, on 18 January 2017. The minutes of the meeting were awaited, but Mr Swift had reported, in the meantime, that John Howell MP had considered the strategic case compiled on behalf of Berkshire authorities was "shot full of holes". Mr Howell felt that no further action was called for, pending the possibility of funding for such a project.

#### 8.10 GRANTS

(cf 7.11/17) The Clerk reported that letters or e-mails of thanks had been received from Be Free Young Carers, the Chiltern Conservation Board, Citizens' Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale and the Sue Ryder – Nettlebed Hospice, in response to the grants made by the Council.

## 8.11 ESTIMATES, 2018/19

(cf 7.13/17) In a statement to the House of Commons on 19 December 2017, the Secretary of State for Communities, Housing & local Government advised that the Government intended to defer the setting of referendum principles for parish and town councils for 3 years, subject to the sector taking all possible steps to mitigate Council Tax increases and the Government seeing evidence of restraint. The Secretary of State had also announced that, for the generality of principal councils, an increase in Council Tax of up to 3% would not activate a referendum.

## 8.12 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

(cf 7.19/17) It was reported that the District Council had formally designated the area for the Kidmore End Neighbourhood Development Plan and that the promised grant, of £5,000, had been received from that Council.

## 8.13 BROADBAND

(cf 7.20/17) It was indicated in a bulletin from Better Broadband for Oxfordshire that superfast Broadband infrastructure for the Parish had been delayed to completion in the first half of 2018. This was because of various factors reported by Mr H Thresher at the last meeting. However, the agency wished to reassure residents that the outstanding work would be completed as soon as was practicable.

## 8.14 FINANCE

### (i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £31,277.55.

### (ii) Accounts for payment

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

Owlsworth IJP Ltd – Repositioning cross on Kidmore End well	£168.00
<i>Payee to be determined</i> - Domain renewal	£15.99
Acorn Services – Repairing notice board at Gallowstree Common	£180.00
Caversham Solicitors – Disbursement funds for easement	£2400.00
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£12.56
Chiltern Society – Subscription	£30.00
Playing Fields Committee – Grant (2017/18)	£1000.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£376.49
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£250.99
R F Penfold – Printing agenda etc	£8.50

### (iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 31 December 2017, against the approved budget for 2017/18. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £237, excluding capital payments and if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

## 8.15 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

### (i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

single-storey rear extension to house at Cuckoos, Dysons Wood, Tokers Green;  
retrospective permission for the insertion of two velux windows to the north elevation of existing garage and a casement window to the west elevation of the existing garage, addition of a log store to the south elevation at Field View Barn, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;  
extension of residential property to form 2 new bedrooms, family bathroom, bike room, swim and changing room at Idlemede, Chalkhouse Green Road, 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:

residential development of 50 dwellings, access, public open space and landscaping and provision of land for community sports/recreational facilities on land at Bishopswood Middle Field and Memorial Hall, Reades Lane, Sonning Common (amended plan) [Parish of Sonning Common];  
erection of single storey rear extension with dual pitched roof and 2 rooflights at Hazeley Cottage, Coopers Pightle, Kidmore End.

(iii) Applications

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

RESOLVED: 1 That no strong views be submitted on the application for single storey front and rear extensions at 1 Orchard Field, Gallowstree Common for Mr T Pearce.

2 That observations be made as follows

Application

Change of use of land from agricultural to residential and formation of a swimming pool with glass canopy over at Holly Tree Farm, Kidmore Lane, Kidmore End for Mr L Stone

Erection of 4 detached and a pair of semi-detached dwellings, together with garaging and landscaping, with access to Reading Road and footpath link to bus stops, following demolition of existing restaurant building and removal of hard standing car park area at the former Palm Tree Restaurant, Reading Road, Cane End for JPP Land Ltd

Observation

Refuse, because the change of use of the land effectively extends the village envelope. This could be mitigated by the removal of permitted development rights on the land in question, or the imposition of a suitable Article 4 direction.

No strong views

- provided that there is adequate parking on site;
- local residents are concerned about traffic speeds on the A4074 road.

(iv) The Elms, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green – Tree preservation order

(cf 2.15(v)/17) By letter, the District Council's Head of Planning reported that his Council had confirmed the South Oxfordshire District Council (Kidmore End and Mapledurham area) Tree Preservation Order No 17S17 on 13 December 2017. The order covered a wood, a group of trees and individual trees on land on the west side of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green (the land known "The Elms").

(v) Oxfordshire Minerals & Waste Local Plan

The County Council's Minerals & Waste Policy Team reported, in an e-mail, that that Council had adopted the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Plan: Part 1 – Core Strategy on in September 2017. It was now preparing Part 2 of the Plan – Site Allocations, to which end it had published a methodology for the selection of sites and had called for the identification of sites for possible allocation within the Plan.

8.16 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

By letter, the Director of the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind requested the Council to consider making a financial contribution to the work of the Association, which provided specialist information, advice and support to the c21,000 people in the County living with some degree of sight loss.

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

8.17 LONDON OXFORD AIRPORT

The Airport Manager of London Oxford Airport (at Kidlington), in an e-mail, advised of a public consultation by the airport on its proposals to redesignate local uncontrolled airspace to controlled airspace. This change related to new procedures designed to enhance levels of safety at the Airport. The consultation would end on 22 March 2018.

RESOLVED: That consideration of this matter be deferred, pending a review by Mr J A Swift.

8.18 DISTRICT COUNCIL'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE

(cf 3.15/17) The District Council's Communications' Team, by e-mail, advised that the District Council had appointed Mr M Stone as its Chief Executive: Mr Stone had been Acting Chief Executive since the resignation of Mr D Hill.

8.19 ROYAL AIR FORCE BRIZE NORTON

RAF Brize Norton, in an e-mail, announced that it had launched a public consultation in respect of a proposal to make changes to the airspace arrangements around that airfield, to protect aircraft operating in and out of it. The consultation would end on 22 March 2018.

RESOLVED: That consideration of this matter be deferred, pending a review by Mr J A Swift.

8.20 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in December 2017, with particular reference to the paragraphs about the General Data Protection Regulations.

8.21 FISH VOLUNTEER CENTRE

By letter, the Chairman of the FISH Volunteer Centre in Sonning Common requested the Council to consider making a financial contribution to the work of the Centre, which provided support and transport for the local community.

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

8.22 POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER PRECEPT

The Council noted a survey, issued by e-mail from the Office of the Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner, about a possible increase in the police element of the Council Tax bill by £1 a

month for a Band D property. The increase was designed to help protect operational policing, and formed part of the assumptions made by Government when announcing an increase of £450m in police funding across England and Wales.

#### 8.23 REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The District Council's Monitoring Officer, by e-mail, requested that Members ensure that their entry in the register of interests was up-to-date, and, if not, that they submitted amendment forms to her.

#### 8.24 ENRYCH OXFORDSHIRE

A representative of Enrych Oxfordshire, by e-mail, requested the Council to consider making a financial contribution to the work of the organisation, which sought to pair adults with physical disabilities with volunteers, to facilitate their access to leisure and learning activities.

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

#### 8.25 TELEPHONE KIOSKS

(cf 6.08/17)The Interim Head of Corporate Services of the District Council, by letter, advised that Mr R Simister, the district councillor for the Kidmore End and Whitchurch Ward, had offered the Council a grant of up to £520 towards the cost of providing a bench next to the former telephone kiosk in Kidmore End. The terms of the grant, as set out in the letter, had been circulated to all Members.

RESOLVED: That the terms and conditions of the grant offered by the District Council towards the cost of the bench to be sited next to the former telephone kiosk in Kidmore End be accepted.

#### 8.26 GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

The District Council's Waste & Recycling Officer gave, with an e-mail, information about the Great British Spring Clean, to be held on 2 to 4 March 2018. The District Council could lend equipment to support the event.

#### 8.27 ROKEBY RECREATION GROUND, CHAZEY HEATH

In a letter, the Clerk of the Mapledurham Parish Council requested the Council to release its accumulated grant to the costs of maintaining the Rokeby Recreation Ground, situated in the Parish of Mapledurham, on its boundary with the Parish. He also requested the Council to consider increasing its grants towards the costs of maintaining the facility in future years.

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

#### 8.28 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

The Council noted the minutes (report 17/18 -11) of the meeting of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group held on 18 January 2018.

#### 8.29 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had met on 10 January 2018, when the principal business had again been about the Committee's relationship with Kidmore End Football Club. He read from the draft minutes of the Committee's meeting, as set out in the Appendix hereto.

#### 8.30 CONDITION OF ROADS, CHALKHOUSE GREEN

It was reported that, although they had yet to raise the matter formally with the Council, residents of Chalkhouse Green, and from Tanners Lane in particular, were becoming agitated about the condition of the roads, citing numerous potholes, significant and lingering puddles/flooding and untrimmed roadside hedges. The Chairman suggested that she raise the concerns with the County Council's Area Highways' Steward.

RESOLVED: That the County Council's Area Highways' Steward be alerted to the concerns about the condition of roads in Chalkhouse Green

#### 8.31 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to a question, the Chairman indicated that she had not been impressed by the work of, presumably, a contractor to the County Council, in trimming hedges alongside the A4074 road through the Parish and beyond.

**REDACTED EXTRACT FROM DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE,  
10 JANUARY 2018 (see Minute 8.29)**

The Committee considered the response from Mr X, on behalf of the Football Club, to the Club's account for use of the Recreation Ground and Pavilion during the financial year 2016/17, £1,523.09,

The circumstances of the Club had changed dramatically during to the 2016/17 season. The Club had found itself unable to field a second team, and had had to withdraw that team from the League. This had financial ramifications, as well as leading the Club to making less use of the facilities than expected. Mr X suggested that the Club would be prepared to pay £1,000 against the account, because of the circumstances outlined. The Committee agreed to abate the charge to the Club by £523.09, on the strict understanding that it was not to be seen as a precedent for future years.

The Committee further considered the Club's use of the facilities in the current season, and the account which would be raised, in April 2018, for this. It was noted that the Club had tenants who used the facilities in the current season. Mr X indicated that he would not charge the Committee for the mowing which he had undertaken, and would undertake, at the Recreation Ground during the season. In return, the Committee would not charge the Club for one third of the total mowing costs for a financial year, which has been the pattern since before 1973. The Committee agreed the proposal.

Finally, the Committee discussed the future, ie the 2018/19 football season and beyond. Members recognised that, given the national and local trends in terms of participation in sports, and football in particular, the Committee's relationship with the Football Club might well change. The Committee agreed to explore this matter further at its next meeting.