

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 18 April 2018 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.25pm.

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

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

11.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2018 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to

- the deletion of the letter "o" in Minute 10.13;
- the addition of the following payment in Minute 10.11(ii) – "South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin £12.56";
- substituting the word "pursue" for the word "purse" in the final sentence of Minute 10.20.

11.02 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 completion of the growth deal delivering £251m investment in transport infrastructure and affordable housing in the County;
- the 2 bids from the County to the Housing Infrastructure Fund which had gone through to stage 2, one being the Didcot Garden Town bid for £171m for transport improvements;
- the councillor priority fund scheme;
- repair of potholes in roads, following the depredations of the winter;
- the death of the former Deputy Leader of the County Council, Mr R Rose.

Members sought more information about how Mr Bulmer intended to disburse his priority fund.

11.03 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

(cf 10.05/18) Although the Clerk had circulated a report designed to help the Council address the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), the report had been received by Members too late for consideration at the meeting.

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

11.04 FISH VOLUNTEER CENTRE

(cf 10.10/18) The Chair of the Trustees of the FISH Volunteer Centre thanked the Council, by letter, for its donation to the charity.

11.05 TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

(cf 10.15/18) Members referred to the temporary closure, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, of Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End, earlier in April 2018, to enable ducting works to be undertaken.

Members were reminded that notice of the closure had been given on the Council's website. Subsequently, a company called Nationwide Traffic Solutions Ltd had sent letters to potentially affected residents about the temporary closure. The detail in the diagrams set into the letter had been virtually illegible to the reader. Furthermore, the information issued by the County Council, as well as the letter, had inferred that Emmens Lane could be used as an alternative route, despite the lane being shown on the Definitive Map of Rights of Way as a restricted byway.

RESOLVED: That the above matters be drawn to the attention of the County Council.

11.06 BROADBAND

(cf 9.08/18) Arising from discussion of the temporary road closure (see Minute 11.05 above), it was noted that the cabinets had been installed for the fibre-optic cables at Cane End, Chalkhouse Green and Tokers Green (north).

11.07 KIDMORE END VILLAGE – 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT

(cf 10.19) The Clerk advised that he had alerted the County Council to the fact that one 30mph speed limit repeater sign remained in Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End, although it was somewhat obscured by a bush. He had also notified the County Council that one of the 20mph repeater signs in Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End was understood to have been removed.

11.08 CHILTERN'S AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

(cf 10.20/18) The Chairman advised that she had no further intelligence regarding the status of the Council's proposal, for the whole of the Parish to be included in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). In the circumstances, she suggested that, for the avoidance of doubt, the Council should formally ask the Chilterns Conservation Board to support the proposal.

RESOLVED: That the Chilterns Conservation Board be requested to include the Council's proposal, for the inclusion of the whole Parish into the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), in any changes to the AONB boundary promoted by the Board.

11.09 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £43,461.88.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Subscription	£247.50
Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – Subscription	£42.00
Community First Oxfordshire – Subscription	£70.00
Glasdon (UK) Ltd – Bench	£500.02
Ian Kendrick Ltd – Cutting hedge in play area, Gallowstree Common	£240.00
Ms S M Biggs – Printing for NDP household survey	£518.37
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£376.49
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£250.99
R F Penfold – Printing agenda etc	£21.35
CAGE - Contribution to fund	£1,500.00

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, at year end, against the approved budget for 2017/18. The report showed an underspend of £6,897.

(iv) Annual Governance and Accountability Return

Moore Stephens, who had been appointed as external auditor for the parish, provided information, in a letter, about the annual governance and accountability return for the financial year 2017/18, which would be subject to a basic limited assurance review. The Council would be required to complete a "part 3" return, as its gross income or gross expenditure was above £25,000. The Return needed to be submitted by 10 July 2018. The exercise of public rights regarding inspection of the accounts and vouchers was recommended to be from 4 June to 13 July 2018.

11.10 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the application for demolition of existing dwelling and the erection of a new 2-storey 5-bedroom dwelling with detached 3-bay garage/carport and formation of new access with entrance gates at Beechwood, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green had been permitted conditionally and that certificates of lawful use or development had been issued in respect of

joining of 2 residential units to form one unit at Hunters Lodge and Rosedale, Mill Lane, Kidmore End;

erection of decking in 2011 at Hunters Lodge, Mill Lane, Kidmore End.

(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:

2-storey and single storey rear extension and internal alterations at Merville, Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common;

single storey rear extension and first floor dormer extensions with rooflights at Hadley, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;

renovation of detached dwelling, including infill extension, garage conversion, rear single storey extension, new porch and alterations to driveway and parking area at Signal Elm, Wood Lane, Gallowstree Common (amended plan);

part demolition of existing house and conversion to a garage store and workshop at Oakridge Farm, Wood Lane, Kidmore End (amended plan);

erection of 4 detached and a pair of semi-detached dwellings, together with garaging and landscaping, with access to A4074 Reading Road and footpath link to bus stop, following demolition of restaurant building and hardstanding car park area at The Palm Tree, Reading Road, Cane End (amended plan).

(iii) Planning appeals

(cf 10.12(iv)/18) By letter, the Head of Planning of the District Council advised that the appeal against the refusal of the District Council to grant planning permission for up to 245 houses on land off Peppard Road, Emmer Green [Parish of Eye & Dunsden] would be heard at a public inquiry before a planning inspector, at Henley Rugby Club, Henley, starting on 1 May 2018.

The Chairman reported on progress by the Campaign Against Gladman in Eye & Dunsden (CAGE) with the preparation of its case to be presented at the public inquiry; she referred to an-email she had circulated to all Members containing the CAGE documents.

The Council considered a report by the Clerk (17/18 - 12), about whether to make a donation to CAGE towards the latter's costs in securing representation at the public inquiry, consideration of which matter had been deferred at the last meeting.

The Chairman sought the authority of the Council to speak, on its behalf, at the public inquiry.

The Council noted a copy of a letter from Caversham Globe Group (Go Local on a Better Environment) to the District Council, requesting that Council to consider making a tree preservation order covering the linear woodland on the west side of Peppard Road, Emmer Green, running north from the boundary of the District with Reading, to the entrance of the Abbey Rugby Football Club's ground. The land in question lay on the opposite side of Peppard Road from the appeal site, and in the Parish.

RESOLVED: 1 That, in exercise of the Council's powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, a donation of £1,500 be made to Campaign Against Gladman in Eye & Dunsden, towards the Campaign's costs in securing representation at the public inquiry into the proposed development on alnd at Bryants Farm, Emmer Green.

2 That the Chairman be authorised to represent the Council at the above-mentioned public inquiry, and that her attendance be an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

3 That the District Council be urged to make the tree preservation order sought by the Caversham Globe Group, in order to preserve the woodland, important to the local landscape, and potentially threatened by development on land nearby, notably on the east side of Peppard Road.

(iv) Barnside, Wood Lane, Gallowstree Common – Tree preservation order

With a letter, the District Council's Head of Planning enclosed a copy of the South Oxfordshire District Council (Gallowstree Common Area) Tree Preservation Order number 18S04, covering trees at Barnside, Wood Lane, Gallowstree Common. The order covered 1 ash, 1 cherry, 2 sycamore and 3 oak trees, and a group of sycamores trees adjacent to the south-east boundary.

(v) Reading Borough Local Plan

(cf 2.15(viii)/17) The Planning Policy Team of Reading Borough Council advised, by e-mail, that its Council had submitted its Local Plan and Proposals map, along with supporting documents, to the Government on 29 March 2018. An independent inspector would be appointed to hold an examination into the documents to decide whether they were "sound". Public hearings for this purpose were expected to be held later in 2018.

11.11 TOWN & PARISH FORUM

By letter, a Corporate Planning Officer of the District Council gave early notification of the summer town and parish forum on 26 June 2018 at Didcot.

RESOLVED: That Mr H Thresher be appointed to attend the Town and Parish Forum on 26 June 2018, and that his attendance be an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

11.12 CANE END ALLOTMENTS

(cf 7.07(ii)/17) A director of Savills commented, in an e-mail, that it would make sense for the Council to register its title to the Cane End Allotments at the same time as the easement for the water supply was registered.

RESOLVED: That Caversham Solicitors Ltd be requested to advise as to the likely cost of registering the Council's title to the Cane End allotments at the Land Registry.

11.13 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

The Clerk reported that Mrs S J Hunter had resigned as a member of the Council, by e-mail, on 22 March 2018.

The Clerk advised that he had given notice of the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the resignation of Mrs Hunter. If no election was called to fill the vacancy, the Council could co-opt a qualified person at the May meeting.

RESOLVED: That Mrs S J Hunter be thanked for her service to the community as a Member of the Council since May 2011.

11.14 TOKERS GREEN LANE – TRAFFIC SPEEDS

In an e-mail, Ms P Conway [address not given] advised of 2 incidents during March 2018 when she had been driving her vehicle in Tokers Green Lane and had been forced, by the speed of other vehicles, to take avoiding action, into the highway verge or bank. She suggested that the incidents coincided with the end of the school day. Further information as to the locations on the road had been requested, but not supplied.

11.15 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in March 2018.

11.16 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

The Chairman reported that there had been no meeting of Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group since the last meeting of the Council. That said, the household survey form had been designed, and would be distributed starting on 20 April 2018. Forms should be returned by 6 May 2018, and the collated results were expected by the end of May 2018.

11.17 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

It was noted that the Playing Fields Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council.

11.18 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

The Chairman reported orally that a cherry tree in the Kidmore End Play Area had shed a bough. The occupiers of a neighbouring property had expressed concerns about the stability of the tree in general. As a matter of urgency, and notwithstanding Financial Regulation 11.1(i), the Chairman had arranged for the fallen bough to be removed by Mr L Williams for the sum of £80.

The Chairman had further obtained quotations for taking the cherry tree down by 1/3, felling the tree and removal of the stump, as follows:

Reducing height

Heights Tree Care - £300 + VAT
Ron Brown Forestry - £385
Tree-Cycle - £450

Felling

Heights Tree Care - £540 + VAT

Ron Brown Forestry - £660 (including stump removal)
Tree-Cycle - £900

Stump removal

Heights Tree Care - £90 + VAT
Tree-Cycle - £190.

Notwithstanding insufficient notice having been given of this item of business, it was

RESOLVED: 1 That the action of the Chairman, regarding the fallen bough, be approved and confirmed.

2 That, as a matter of urgency, the cherry tree in the Kidmore End Play Area be felled and that the contract for the work be awarded to Heights Tree Care in the sum of £540 + VAT.

11.19 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to questions, the Chairman indicated that

- the bench had been installed adjacent to the former telephone kiosk in Kidmore End;
- she felt that the Council should thank Mr G Hayne of Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End for arranging the litter blitz in the Parish;
- she had heard rumours about the future of the Kidmore End Pre-School.