

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a special meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 6 June 2018 at 7.30pm and concluded at 8.30pm.

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

Also present: R Simister (district councillor).

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

2.01 SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

(cf 1.14(vii)/18) Shortly after the last meeting, the District Council's Planning Policy Project Lead had, by e-mail, confirmed the outcome of the meeting of her Council concerning the South Oxfordshire Local Plan. The Council had decided to do more work to determine the most suitable locations for strategic development before submitting the Local Plan. As a result, the District Council was looking again at all available sites for major housing development, including sites already proposed in the Plan, previously considered, but dismissed, sites and some additional sites, which had not previously been the subject of consultation.

The District Council had identified 15 potential sites for strategic allocations, including 2 in the Parish – Reading Golf Club (extending to Chalkhouse Green) and Palmers Riding Stables, Emmer Green. All 15 sites would be subject to “desk-top” review. The Chairman had been advised that the results of that exercise might be revealed in July 2018.

Reference was also made to a “question and answer” document issued by the Chairman of Reading Golf Club to members of that Club. This contained a statement that the Club was in discussion with potential developers and planning officers from both the District Council and Reading Borough Council. Members were of the view that this statement did not need to be pursued at this time.

Mr R Simister, the district councillor for the Kidmore End and Whitchurch Ward, explained how the decision had been reached by the District Council, his own view of the matter, and his understanding about how the matter would proceed. He observed that, for instance, following the review, the sites in question might not be taken forward by the District Council to be incorporated in the Local Plan.

Members discussed what action would be appropriate, and in the interests of residents of the Parish, in respect of the 2 sites, about which there had previously been no consultation by the District Council. Members present were disappointed by the District Council's decision to include the sites, pointing out that, were they to be developed, the open country “collar”, to the north of Caversham and Emmer Green, would be breached. In addition, it was observed that the inclusion of the sites could nullify the work already underway to compile a neighbourhood development plan.

A number of suggestions for action were put forward, but Members favoured an approach to the District Council expressing disappointment and concern about the inclusion of the 2 sites.

During the discussion, the meeting was adjourned twice, for a total of 15 minutes, to allow the public to address the Council. During these adjournments, Mrs J Williams of Wood Lane, Kidmore End asked about the status of the 2 sites, if they were deemed suitable for inclusion in the Local Plan, following the review, and Mr A McAslan of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End asked about the criteria for the review, and how the claims of developers might be rebutted.

RESOLVED; That the District Council be advised of the disappointment and concerns of the Council about the inclusion of Reading Golf Club and Palmers Riding School in the review of additional sites in relation to the South Oxfordshire Local Plan and that the letter be sent by the Chairman to the

Leader of the District Council.

2.02 LAND SOUTH OF COOPERS PIGHTLE, KIDMORE END

The Chairman reported that a resident of Coopers Pightle, Kidmore End had reported to her, on 29 May 2018, that trees were being felled and bushes cleared from land south of Coopers Pightle. The owner of the land, a Mr E Madejski, had advised the resident that he was clearing the land in preparation for the submission of a planning application for the residential development of the land.

The resident had alerted the Forestry Commission and the District Council to the work, most of the trees being aged over 40 years. A representative of the Commission had subsequently advised the Chairman that the work to date had been within the terms of the law, but that further clearance work would require a felling licence from the Commission. The District Council's Forestry Officer had been made aware of the work.