

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 12 December 2018 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.10pm.

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

Apologies for absence were received from A B Gitsham, Ms A S O'Reilly, T M Perchard, J A Swift QC.

8.01 MINUTES

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

- the correct spelling of the word "Chairman" in Minute 7.15;
- the correction of the year in Minute 7.24 to 2018.

8.02 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND

(i) Grant application

(cf 7.05/18) Mr I G C Pearson reported that he had discussed the proposed application for a grant from the district councillor's fund with the Chairman. He had proposed, and the Chairman had agreed, that it would be more beneficial for the grant to be applied to remedial works to the football pitch at the Recreation Ground, eg clearing weeds, de-worming the soil and re-seeding.

RESOLVED: That the application for a grant from the district councillor's fund be focussed on refurbishment of the football pitch at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, rather than the provision of new football goals.

(ii) Boundary fence

In e-mails, Mr G Kew of Hewetts Solicitors (Mr Kew was understood to be a resident of Gallowstree Common) complained about the closure of a gap in the southern western boundary fence of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. He claimed to have been accustomed to enter the Recreation Ground through the gap via the adjacent field over many years, and that other persons also did so. He argued that a long-user right had been established.

The Clerk had responded to Mr Kew's first e-mail to explain that the fence had been repaired in recent months by the Playing Fields Committee, and that the wooden post and rail fence had been erected by the Council in the 1990s, to replace the pre-existing metal post and wire fence, which had been installed at or before the acquisition of the Recreation Ground. The Clerk had also pointed out that the Council only recognised the entrance into the Recreation Ground from The Hamlet, and that no public rights of way across the Recreation Ground were recorded in the Definitive Map.

In response, Mr Kew indicated that, if the gap was not restored, he would institute action to secure the right to enter the Recreation Ground from the adjacent field.

The agents for the owners of the adjacent field had been advised of the correspondence.

RESOLVED: That the e-mails from Mr G Kew, and his intended action, be noted.

8.03 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA - PLAYHOUSE

(cf 7.06(i)/18) It was reported that an order had been placed for the blockhouse with porch, for

siting in the Kidmore End Play Area.

8.04 VEHICLE SPEED REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

(cf 7.08(i)/18) It was noted that the gross cost of the vehicle speed reduction campaign posters would be £260.

8.05 CHILTERNES AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

(cf 7.10/18) Mr I G C Pearson reported that he had the review the draft Management Plan for the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in hand.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the draft 5 year Management Plan for the Chilterns AONB be deferred to the next meeting

8.06 GALLOWSTREE COMMON ALLOTMENTS

(cf 7.11(ii)/18) It was noted that the conifer tree had been removed from plot 5 of the Gallowstree Common allotments.

The Clerk reported that Mr J Bonner, latterly of Sonning Common, had been a tenant at the allotments from 1958 until his death earlier in December 2018. His family had requested permission to site a bench at the allotments, as a memorial to Mr Bonner.

RESOLVED: That consent be given for the installation of a bench at the Gallowstree Common allotments, as a memorial to the late Mr J Bonner.

8.07 HIGHWAYS' DEPOTS

(cf 7.12/18) The Vice-Chairman advised that she had sought further information from the County Council about the "Superusers" system for highway pothole reporting.

8.08 BROADBAND

(cf 7.13/18) By e-mail, the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire Team advised that the fibre optic connection to Kidmore End cabinet 12 was operational, providing faster Broadband to Chalkhouse Green.

8.09 JOHN HOWELL MP

(cf 7.15/18) The Council received the notes of the meeting with John Howell MP on 2 November 2018.

8.10 OXFORDSHIRE HOUSING & EXPRESSWAY

(cf 7.20/18) The Chairman reported that she had examined the documents circulated by Mr I Ashley of Garsington, and had concluded that the thrust of his arguments about the proposals for the Oxford Expressway, and the concomitant housing growth, was not consistent with the Council's ambitions regarding the South Oxfordshire Local Plan.

8.11 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 22 November 2018.

RESOLVED: 1 That the precept for the financial year 2019/20 be set so that the element of the Council Tax, attributable to the Council, for a Band D property, be no more than 2% higher than the figure for the present year.

2 That the following grants be made in the financial year 2018/19:

Chilterns Conservation Board - £100
Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens' Advice - £100
Club SC - £400,

subject, in the case of Club SC, to an indication, from the accounts of Sonning Common Parish Council, of the income and expenditure in respect of the Club.

8.12 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £36,277.56.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

United Kingdom Debt Management Office – Loan repayment	£6,887.24†
Chilterns Conservation Board – Grant	£100.00
Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens' Advice – Grant	£100.00
Club SC – Grant	£400.00
Eibe Play Ltd – Supply of blockhouse for Kidmore End Play Area	£2,720.72
Acorn Services – Removal of tree and stump at Gallowstree Common allotments	£100.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£379.29
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£252.86
R F Penfold - Printing agenda etc	£3.95

† *To be paid by direct debit*

8.13 ESTIMATES, 2019/20

The Council considered a report (18/19 - 6) of the Responsible Financial Officer, being draft estimates for the financial year 2019/20. The Responsible Financial Officer answered questions about the draft estimates.

RESOLVED: 1 That the base estimates for 2019/20 be adopted, as presented.

2 That budgetary provision be made for the following:

identified "landlord's" works at Diamond Jubilee Pavilion	£6,500
unspecified vehicle speed reduction measures	£2,500

3 That a precept be issued for the sum of £38,375 in 2019/20.

4 That the base estimates and additional provision in resolution 2 above be confirmed as the Council's budget for 2019/20, for the purposes of Financial Regulation 3.2.

8.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

single storey rear extension incorporating balcony, front extension of garage and conversion of existing garage to habitable accommodation at Acorns, Wood Lane, Gallowstree Common; installation of Charwood dual fuel burner in ground floor living room and reversible flue up chimney at Rock Cottage, Chalkhouse Green; construction of storage facility and double garage with first floor at Lower Lodge, Dysons Wood Lane, Tokers Green

had been permitted conditionally and that the application for proposed single storey extension, including conversion of ground floor into habitable accommodation, at The Old Farmhouse Flat, Cane End had been withdrawn.

(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:

outline application for erection of 2 new dwellings at Kempwood, Reading Road, Cane End; demolition of existing outbuilding, replacement sun room and construction of brick-built rear porch at The Orchard Manor, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common; new detached garage at Collegewood Farm, Cane End.

(iii) Tree preservation order

(cf 4.09(iv)/18) In a letter, the Head of Planning of the District Council advised that his Council had confirmed the South Oxfordshire District Council (Kidmore End Area) Tree Preservation Order No 18S13, relating to 2 oak trees on land due south west of Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green.

(iv) South Oxfordshire Local Plan

(cf 5.14(viii)/18) The Chairman had previously circulated to members the agenda papers for the District Council's Scrutiny Committee on 13 December 2018. The Committee would consider the publication version of that Council's Local Plan.

Members noted that the previously identified sites in the Parish – Palmers Riding Stables and Reading Golf Club – were not included in the strategic sites in the draft Plan before the Committee and that there was a change to policy for smaller villages, eg Kidmore End, in that there was no longer an expectation of housing growth between 5 and 10% over the period of the Plan. In general, Members felt comfortable to support the published draft, although clarification might be required on issues like the expected density of development.

The Chairman advised that she intended to attend the Scrutiny Committee meeting, to hear the debate on the draft Plan. She sought approval for Mr I G C Pearson to attend, if she felt it necessary, the meeting of the District Council's Cabinet on 18 December 2018, when the Plan would be further considered, and to address the Cabinet, if that was thought appropriate. The District Council was expected to approve a publication draft of the Plan at its meeting on 20 December 2018.

By e-mail, the District Council's Planning Policy Manager enclosed a briefing note about the draft Plan, confirmed the above sequence of meetings, and gave details of a briefing event, on 3 January 2019 at Didcot, regarding the Plan. Parish and town councils were limited to one delegate each. The Chairman advised that she was attending the briefing on behalf of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering

Group.

RESOLVED: 1 That, subject to clarification of some points, the published draft South Oxfordshire Local Plan be welcomed.

2 That the Chairman be appointed to attend the District Council's Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 13 December 2018, and that her attendance be an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

3 That Mr I G C Pearson be appointed, if necessary, to address the District Council's Cabinet, at its meeting on 18 December 2018, concerning the South Oxfordshire Local Plan, and that his attendance be an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

4 That Mr I G C Pearson be appointed to attend the briefing on the South Oxfordshire Local Plan at Didcot on 3 January 2019, and that his attendance be an approved duty for the purposes of expenses.

(v) Central and East Berkshire Joint Minerals & Waste Plan

(cf 2.15(x)/17) The Planning Policy Team Leader of Reading Borough Council, in an e-mail, drew attention to the draft Central and East Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan, being produced jointly by his Council, the Bracknell Forest Council, the Council of the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and Wokingham Borough Council. The Councils were inviting the identification of further sites for production, processing and transporting sand, gravel and waste, by 11 January 2019.

8.15 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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

8.16 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

The Chairman reported orally that the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group had met on 11 December 2018. Little further progress could be made with the formulation of the Neighbourhood Plan, pending a decision on the Local Plan by the District Council (see Minute 8.14(iv) above).

8.17 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

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

8.18 RIGHTS OF WAY

(i) Footpath 8

(cf 5.24(i)/18) The Clerk reported that 2 quotations had been received for the repair/replacement of the barrier on footpath 8 (the Church Path), at its southern end, as follows:

Acorn Services - £220.00
SAS Landscaping Ltd - £182.86 + VAT.

In accordance with Financial Regulations, the contract for the works had been let to SAS Landscaping Ltd.

(ii) Byway 26 (Chalkhouse Green Lane)

Mrs S Hall referred to vehicles being parked in Chalkhouse Green Lane, Chalkhouse Green, south of Chalkhouse Green Farm, in November 2018, by persons wishing to attend the fireworks' display

at the Abbey Rugby Football Club ground without paying an entrance fee. Members noted that it was illegal to drive vehicles on the lane – byway 26 – south of Chalkhouse Green Farm.

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

8.19 DEFIBRILLATORS

The Chairman reported that the Finance Sub-Committee had discussed, when making recommendations to the Council on the budget for 2019/20, the possibility of installing defibrillators for public access at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion in the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground and in the former telephone kiosk at Cane End. She advised that there were grants for the provision of the equipment, and that, if installed outdoors, there needed to be an electricity supply, so that the batteries in the equipment could be kept at an appropriate temperature.

RESOLVED: That further consideration be given to the provision of publicly-accessible defibrillators in Gallowstree Common and Cane End.

8.20 QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

In answer to a question, the Chairman reported that she had spoken with Ms J Maynard of Gallowstree Common, who might be interested in serving as a parish councillor.