

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 23 January 2019 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.30pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge (Vice-Chairman, in the Chair), A B Gitsham, I G C Pearson, T M Perchard, H Thresher.

Apologies for absence were received from Ms S M Biggs, J A Swift QC.

9.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2018 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correction of the venue of the meeting to the Church Room, Kidmore End.

9.02 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

It was reported that Mr R Simister had resigned as the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward on 8 January 2019.

9.03 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session,

- Mr W Mahoney, Ms S Matthews and Mrs Pearson, all of Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End, spoke in support of the application for retrospective planning permission for change of use of Kerak, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End, to include use for commercial child care;
- Ms J Maynard of Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common advised that she was observing, with a view to possible membership of the Council;
- Ms Matthews referred to her exchanges with Mr E Madejski on the gate in her property fence, opening on to Mr Madejski's land.

9.04 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND

(i) Grant application

(cf 8.02(i)/18) Mr I G C Pearson reported that, following the resignation of Mr R Simister (see Minute 9.02 above), he had contacted the Leader of the District Council about the application for a grant from the district councillor's fund.

(ii) Boundary fence

(cf 8.02(ii)/18) It was reported that the Playing Fields Committee had considered the matter of the south western boundary fence of the Recreation Ground, and the approach from Mr G Kew, at its meeting on 9 January 2019. The Committee had stood by its action, taken in the Autumn of 2018, to repair the fence.

In a letter dated 7 January 2019, Mr Kew, of Wood Lane, Gallowstree Common, asked "Am I to assume KEPC will not be removing the fence?". Members agreed, unanimously, that the answer to the question was "Yes".

RESOLVED: That the fence on the south western boundary of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground remain intact.

9.05 CHILTERNES AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

(cf 8.05/18) Mr I G C Pearson reported that he had reviewed the draft Management Plan for the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and had agreed, with the Chairman of the Council, a response, which he had sent, on behalf of the Council, to the Chilterns Conservation Board.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Chairman of the Council and Mr I G C Pearson be approved and confirmed.

9.06 HIGHWAYS

(i) Pot hole reporting

(cf 8.07/18) The Chairman advised that Ms C Brook of Coopers Pightle, Kidmore End was prepared to be trained to act as the “Superuser” for highway pothole reporting to the County Council.

RESOLVED: That the application of Ms C Brook, to be a highways’ pothole superuser, be endorsed.

(ii) Tokers, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green – Tree trunks

Reference was made to the placing of tree trunks, with some reflective tape markings, on the forecourt of the house named Tokers, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green. Members felt that these could be hazardous to road users, and, indeed, might obstruct the highway.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be requested to investigate the above potential obstruction to the highway.

9.07 BROADBAND

(cf 8.08/18) By e-mail, the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire Team advised that the fibre optic connection to Kidmore End cabinet 14 was operational, providing faster Broadband to the northern part of Tokers Green.

9.08 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

(cf 8.11/18) The Clerk reported messages of thanks for grants from the Chilterns Conservation Board and Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens’ Advice. The Council also noted details of recent income and expenditure, in respect of Club SC, from Sonning Common Parish Council.

RESOLVED: That the grant to Club SC be released.

9.09 ESTIMATES, 2019/20

(cf 8.13/18) The Clerk reported that the Local Government Finance Settlement had been announced on 13 December 2018. In the settlement, the Secretary of State had stated that he intended to fix the trigger point for referenda on Council Tax increases at 3% for principal councils, plus an additional 3% for those authorities with adult social care responsibilities. The Clerk noted that a further 1% increase in the Council Tax attributable to the Council would raise £375 per annum.

9.10 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES

(i) Vehicle speed reduction measures

The Council considered a report (18/19 – 7) by the Chairman of the Council concerning the possible acquisition of vehicle speed indicator devices for deployment in the Parish. Members, noting

that the equipment held by the Police would be available for use locally in March 2019, felt that it would be premature to commit to purchase devices. Members observed, however, that, should devices be purchased, they should be the property of the Council, rather than a consortium of councils.

RESOLVED: 1 That consideration of the report be deferred.

2 That the Council act alone if portable vehicle speed indicator devices are to be purchased.

(ii) Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green – Use by heavy goods vehicles

Mr & Mrs M Cooper of Tokers Green requested the Council, by e-mail, to consider the erection of a width/height restriction sign at the south end of Tokers Green Lane, in order to discourage large vehicles using the road.

RESOLVED: That the above request be referred to the County Council.

9.11 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £25,498.50.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

The Henley College – Replacement cheque	£45.00
SAS Landscaping Ltd – Barrier on footpath 8	£219.43
The Royal British Legion – Contribution towards cost of wreath	£40.00
The Chiltern Society – Subscription	£30.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£379.29
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£252.86
R F Penfold – Printing agenda etc	£3.10

(iii) Budget monitoring

The Council noted a report of the Clerk showing expenditure, up to 31 December 2018, against the approved budget for 2018/19. The report showed a predicted overspend at year end of £1,337, excluding capital payments and if the Council otherwise spent in accordance with the budget.

9.12 GALLOWSTREE COMMON ALLOTMENTS – WATER SUPPLY

(cf 10.04/18)The Clerk advised that it appeared that a new meter had been installed on the water supply pipe at the Gallowstree Common allotments. Castle Water Ltd now claimed that the Council owed £1,942 for water used at the allotments. However, the Council's complaint to the Company remained unresolved.

9.13 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

proposed ménage at May Lodge, Park Lane, Cane End;
single storey rear extension at Kewstoke, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;

new detached garage at Collegewood Farmhouse, Cane End;
erection of 25 dwellings etc on land to the rear of 44 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common [Parish of Sonning Common];
demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2 2-storey 5-bedroom dwellings with detached double garages and formation of new access with entrance gates at Beechwood, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
single-storey side extension, roof extension to provide roofspace accommodation, single storey front extension and detached garage at Twin Oaks, Kidmore End Road, Chalkhouse Green;
detached storage building at Little Orchard, Park Lane, Cane End

had been permitted conditionally and that the outline application for the erection of 2 new dwellings on land at Kempwood, Reading Road, Cane End had been refused.

By letter, the District Council's Head of Planning had invited the Council to make representations, orally, at the meeting of the District Council's Planning Committee to be held on 16 January 2019, about the above application relating to Beechwood, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green. The opportunity had arisen because the Council had recommended refusal of the application while the District Council's officers had recommended approval. Mr T M Perchard, the "local" member of the Plans Sub-Committee, had accepted the invitation and spoke at the meeting in opposition to the application, in accordance with previous decisions.

(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, roof extension to provide roofspace accommodation, single storey front extension at detached garage at Twin Oaks, Kidmore End Road, Chalkhouse Green;
detached storage building at Little Orchard, Park Lane, Cane End;
enlarge 2 dormers on side elevation to provide headroom in existing bedrooms at Hazeldene, Beech Road, Tokers Green;
proposed single storey extension including conversion of ground floor into habitable accommodation at The Old Farmhouse Flat, Cane End.

(iii) Applications

The Council considered an application referred to it since the last meeting.

With the consent of the Council, the Chairman adjourned the meeting for 5 minutes to allow the applicant to answer questions from Members.

RESOLVED: That no objections be submitted on the application for retrospective change of use of land and buildings from C3 (dwellinghouse) to sui generis (mix of residential and childcare) at Kerak, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End for Mr W Mahoney.

(iv) Planning appeals

(cf 7.17(iv)/18) 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 appeals against the refusal of the District Council to grant planning permission for the proposed erection of 10 or 14 houses on land (known as The Elms) on the west side of Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green.

The District Council's Head of Planning advised, in a letter, that the appeal against the refusal of planning permission for 30 dwellings on land at 44 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common [Parish of Sonning Common] had been withdrawn.

(v) Tree preservation order

(cf 3.08(v)/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 18S10, covering mixed broadleaf and conifer tree species on an area of land south and west of Coopers Pightle, Kidmore End, extending southwards to the rear of Kees, Chalkhouse Green Road.

(vi) South Oxfordshire Local Plan

(cf 8.14(iv)/18) It was reported that the Chairman of the Council and Mr I G C Pearson had attended various meetings since the last meeting of the Council, in respect of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan – the Chairman, the District Council's Scrutiny Committee and full Council, and Mr Pearson, the Cabinet meeting.

The District Council had adopted the draft plan by a large majority. The Chairman of the Council had reported that a lot of individuals and groups had spoken against the draft plan in the public session and a number of councillors during the debate. The main reasons for this opposition had been concerns that:

- number of houses to be built was too high;
- strategic development sites were mainly in the Oxford Green Belt;
- densities of housing were too high;
- the plan would not be approved by the inspector.

Mr Pearson reported orally on the briefing on the Local Plan for parish councils and neighbourhood development plan groups, held on 3 January 2019. None of strategic development sites in the Plan fell within the Parish, there were no development targets per se for smaller villages, but the Plan included an expectation of 1,300 "windfall" units across the District, during the currency of the Plan.

Subsequently, the District Council had announced the consultation on the draft Plan, which commenced on 4 January and would run until 7 February 2019. A series of drop-in sessions had been arranged about the plan, the nearest being in Henley on 19 January and in Wallingford on 2 February 2019.

The Council considered a draft response (report 18/19 - 8) to the Local Plan, compiled by the Plans Sub-Committee at a meeting on 16 January 2019. The Council also considered some suggested amendments, by Dr B Kirkham, a member of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group.

Ms L Ashley-Stewart, a member of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group, had been nominated to speak at the public inquiry into the Local Plan, yet to be arranged.

RESOLVED: That the circulated response, amended in line with the comments of Dr B Kirkham, be adopted for submission to the District Council in respect of the draft South Oxfordshire Local Plan.

9.14 FISH VOLUNTEER CENTRE

By e-mail, 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, primarily to help fund training on safeguarding for home visitors.

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

9.15 SALARY OF CLERK

The Clerk drew attention the new pay scales agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services, to be implemented on 1 April 2019.

The Clerk reminded the Council that it had established his salary scale as spinal column points 23 to 25, with effect from 1 April 2006. In accordance with the new scales, the Clerk's revised scale should be new points 13 to 17, assimilated at point 16. This would result in an annual salary of £2,842 for 2019/20.

RESOLVED: That, with effect from 1 April 2019, the Clerk be paid in accordance with the salary scale of spinal column points 13 to 17, starting at point 16.

9.16 SONNING COMMON HEALTH CENTRE

The Senior GP Partner at the Sonning Common Health Centre requested, in a letter, the Council to consider making a grant towards the cost of internal alterations to Centre, to create 3 more clinical rooms, a new treatment room and the relocation of the dispensary. He advised that the Centre had 400 registered patients who lived in the Parish. He also advised that the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group had made a grant of 66% of the cost, estimated in excess of £200,000.

The Clerk advised that there was no statutory power permitting the generality of parish and town councils to spend funds on health facilities, and, therefore, if a grant was to be made, it would be under the power set out in Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Members recognised that support for the Health Centre would be to the benefit of those residents of the Parish who were patients at the Centre, but also observed that many more residents were patients elsewhere. They noted that

- the Council had yet to receive any Community Infrastructure Levy payments resulting from development in the Parish, and
- there was no specific provision in the Council's budget for 2018/19 for a grant to the Centre.

RESOLVED: That no grant be made towards the cost of works at the Sonning Common Health Centre in the financial year 2018/19.

9.17 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in December 2018, with particular reference to the paragraphs on the role of parish councils.

9.18 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 £2 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 £813m in police funding across England and Wales.

Apparently, 8,031 people had responded to the survey, of whom nearly 70% had supported the increase.

9.19 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

Mr I G C Pearson reported orally that the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group had met on 22 January 2019, when the main focus had been on the impact of the draft South Oxfordshire Local Plan (see Minute 9.13(vi) above).

Although there was now no target for development in Kidmore End, District Council officers had indicated that the NDP would need to include potential development sites in Kidmore End village. The Steering Group was revising draft policies for the Plan, to reflect the draft Local Plan.

Mr Pearson also reported that Gladman had applied to the High Court for leave to challenge the inspector's decision on the appeal relating to development around Bryant's Farm, Emmer Green.

9.20 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had met on 9 January 2019. Aside from considering the issue about the south western boundary fence of the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground (see Minute 9.04(ii) above), the Committee had

- adopted new arrangements for the security of keys to the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion;
- reviewed the list of maintenance items identified during the condition survey of the Pavilion;
- instituted some early remedial works in the Pavilion;
- arranged for an inspection of the football pitch at the Recreation Ground by the Oxfordshire Football Association Ltd;
- noted evidence that the Recreation Ground was continuing to be used for illegal activities such as smoking of controlled drugs;
- arranged for the gate on the driveway in the Recreation Ground to be closed overnight.

The Council considered a spreadsheet (report 18/19 – 9) produced by the Chairman of the Committee identifying, from the condition survey of the Pavilion, works which would be the responsibility of the Council, in accordance with the decision in Minute 6.16 of October 2018.

RESOLVED: That the works listed in the column headed "structural" in the spreadsheet compiled by the Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee be acknowledged as the responsibility of the Council.

9.21 THE REFORMATION PUBLIC HOUSE, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

The Council considered a report (18/19 – 10) of the Clerk, to enable it to consider whether the Reformation public house, Gallowstree Common, should be listed as an asset of community value.

RESOLVED: That the Reformation public house, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common be nominated, in accordance with Sections 87 to 92 of the Localism Act 2011, to be listed as an asset of community value.

9.22 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

In presenting her apologies for absence, the Chairman of the Council had circulated the presentations from a meeting she had attended on 17 January 2019 about the County Council's new approach to working.