

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 19 June 2019 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.20pm.

Present: Ms S Biggs (Chairman), Dr C D Aldridge (Vice-Chairman), A B Gitsham, Ms A S O'Reilly, T M Perchard, H Thresher.

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S G Hall, I G C Pearson, J A Swift QC.

2.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2019 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correct spelling of the word "asset" in the fifth line of Minute 1.11.

2.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The Council noted a written report by Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, covering, inter alia:

- 2-day closures of each of the 6 recycling centres, to allow for planned maintenance;
- the offer of places in primary schools for September 2019 – over 93% of the pupils achieved places at their first choices;
- the stage of the women's international cycling race which had started in Henley-on-Thames on 12 June 2019.

2.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, reported that

- his Council's website was being overhauled;
- his Council was taking up the issue of poor air quality, particularly the effect of idling vehicles;
- his Council was reviewing a number of options, prepared by officers, for progressing the draft South Oxfordshire Local Plan, presently with an inspector for examination: the Council would reach a conclusion on the options at a meeting arranged for 18 July 2019.

2.04 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session,

- Mr & Mrs R Burrough of Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End, spoke in support of their planning application relating to land to the east of Wyfold Road, Gallowstree Common, and answered questions from members about the application;
- Mr R Freeman of Rotherfield Peppard referred to his complaint about the condition of footpath 8 (see Minute 2.20) and referred to the lack of observance of the 20mph speed limit in Kidmore End.

2.05 REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER

(cf 1.04/19) Members noted that no expressions of interest in filling the vacancy for the office of councillor, following the election held on 2 May 2019, had been received.

In view of her absence, it was

RESOLVED: That, pursuant to Section 83(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, Mrs S G Hall be permitted to make her declaration of acceptance of office at or before the next meeting.

2.06 DISTRICT COUNCIL – GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

(cf 1.05/19) The Council noted that the District Council had elected Cllr S Cooper as its Leader, at its Annual Meeting on 16 May 2019. The cabinet style of governance had been retained. Cllr L Rawlins, who represented the Sonning Common ward, had been appointed as Lead Councillor for Planning. Cllr P Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End and Whitchurch ward, had been appointed Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee.

2.07 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS, SUB-COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

(cf 1.06/19) It was reported that Mr A B Gitsham had consented to appointment as a member of the Plans Sub-Committee.

2.08 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MATTERS

(i) Vehicle speed reduction measures

(cf 1.07/19) The Council further considered the report by the Chairman concerning the possible acquisition of vehicle speed indicator devices for deployment in the Parish, a matter deferred at the last meeting. The Chairman reported that she had still not heard further from County Council officers.

Mr T M Perchard reported on a recent monitoring session using the Police speed indicator device between 0800 and 0900hrs on a weekday morning, in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common. Plenty of vehicles had been noted travelling in excess of the speed limit. A further session was planned for September 2019.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report of the Chairman be again deferred.

(ii) Temporary road closures

With e-mails, officers of the County Council gave notice of temporary closures, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as follows:

- Mill Lane, Kidmore End, outside Greenwood, from 20 August 2019 for 5 days, to facilitate a water mains' connection;
- Hookend Lane and Deers Lane, Checkendon, from 3 June 2019 for 5 days, to facilitate telecommunications' cabling works

(iii) Traffic sensitive streets' consultation

By e-mail, the County Council's Assistant Director for Community Operations invited participation in the consultation by his Council on its review of traffic sensitive streets, ie those roads where his Council could better regulate the flow of traffic by managing when works were undertaken on those roads, including works by utility companies. The Transport Sub-Committee had considered the invitation and had responded to the County Council, requesting the inclusion of Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common and Reading Road, Cane End in the list.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Transport Sub-Committee be approved and confirmed.

2.09 ACCOUNTS, 2018/19

(cf 1.09/19) On closer examination of invoices, mostly relating to the Neighbourhood Development Plan, the Responsible Financial Officer had reported that it was necessary to adjust the expenditure figures for the Plan, for general administration and for VAT paid, as set out in the receipts' and payments' accounts adopted at the last meeting. He had, accordingly, circulated an amended set of receipts' and payments' accounts for the financial year 2018/19.

RESOLVED: That the amended receipts' and payments' accounts for the financial year 2018/19, as circulated on 7 June 2019, be adopted.

2.10 THE REFORMATION PUBLIC HOUSE, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 1.11/19) Mr D Cooper, the Chairman of the local branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) reported, in an e-mail, his meeting with the relevant officer of the District Council about, inter alia, the possible listing of the Reformation public house, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common as an asset of community value under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011. It seemed that the District Council had declined to list the premises because no evidence had been submitted by the Council to substantiate the list of activities on which the application was based.

Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End and Whitchurch ward, reported on his understanding of his Council's position regarding assets of community value.

Members recognised the necessity to compile a good body of evidence to support an application.

2.11 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) Junction of Chalkhouse Green Road and Chalkhouse Green Lane, Chalkhouse Green

(cf 1.15/19) In presenting his apologies for absence, Mr J A Swift had reported that he had submitted a report on the defective highway drainage at the junction of Chalkhouse Green Road and Chalkhouse Green Lane, Chalkhouse Green, resulting in a large puddle in the highway, to the County Council, via "FixMyStreet". The County Council had acknowledged the report but indicated that no action would result.

Mr Swift had proposed that the Council arrange for the grass verge at the location, which accommodated the former telephone kiosk and a postbox, should be raised and strengthened, perhaps by kerbing re-inforcement, with new drainage grips through the verge. It was noted that the Council would need to use its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to undertake such works, with the consent of the County Council. In the circumstances, the Chairman agreed to raise the matter informally with County Council officers in the first instance.

(ii) Highway verge cutting

Mr & Mrs A Ford of Wyfold Road, Gallowstree Common expressed concern, by e-mail, about "the aggressive and unnecessary verge cutting" which had occurred on 10 June 2019. Mr & Mrs Ford advised that the County Council had agreed in 2017 not to cut further than 50 metres along Wyfold Road from its junction with Horsepond Road. However, they understood that the responsibility for verge cutting had recently been transferred to the Parish Council. They commented that the verges had been cut at least 4 times in 2018 and 3 times already in 2019. Mr & Mrs Ford considered this inappropriate in a designated "Quiet Lane", such as Wyfold Road.

Members were sorry to hear of Mr & Mrs Ford's dissatisfaction with the timing and standard of the first cut of the verges for the financial year 2019/20 in Wyfold Road. They recalled that the agency agreement required the Council to arrange the mowing of the verges throughout the Parish, except on the A4074 road through Cane End, twice each financial year. Members were mystified by Mr & Mrs Ford's assertion

that there had been multiple cuts of verges in Wyfold Road already in 2019: the cut in June was the first in 2019/20 and there was likely to be just one other, in the Autumn.

Members were not aware of any areas of verge which were to be the subject to a “light touch” approach. Certainly, there had been no mention of this when the Chairman and the Clerk had met the County Council’s relevant officer in 2016 to discuss the possible agency arrangement, nor in the agreement the Council signed in 2017.

RESOLVED: That the above observations be forwarded to Mr & Mrs A Ford.

2.12 CANE END ALLOTMENTS – WATER SUPPLY

(cf 1.15/19) The Clerk reported that Thames Water had delayed the connection of the water supply to the Cane End allotments to 26 to 28 June 2019.

2.13 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £31,339.57.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

UK Debt Management Office – Loan repayment	£6,809.99†
Came & Company – Insurance premium	£2,394.02
Ian Kendrick Ltd – Mowing of football pitch at Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground	£120.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£380.84
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£253.89
R F Penfold – Printing agenda etc	£4.10

† *To be paid by direct debit*

2.14 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

replacement of annex windows at the Coach House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End;
variation of conditions on application P17/S1126/HH at Tree Tops, Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common;
retrospective demolition of existing building and erection of replacement outbuilding at Oakridge Farm, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
single storey timber orangery to rear of Little House, Russell Road, Tokers Green

had been permitted conditionally, that the application for partial replan of development – minor redesign and additional 3 dwellings – on land at Bishopswood Middle Farm and Memorial Hall, Reades Lane, Sonning Common [Parish of Sonning Common] had been withdrawn and that a certificate of lawful use or development had been issued in respect of the proposed mobile home for residential use at 31 Highdown Avenue, Emmer Green.

(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:

retrospective demolition of existing building and erection of replacement outbuilding at Oakridge Farm, Wood Lane, Kidmore End (amended plan);
single storey extension and alterations at Alazan Oak, Cane End (and amended plan);
proposed rear extension, garage conversion and alterations at Aquarius, Russell Road, Tokers Green.

(iii) Applications

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

An e-mail from the Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee, about the planning application relating to land to the east of Wyfold Road, Gallowstree Common, had been circulated to all Members .

RESOLVED: 1 That no objections be submitted on the application for change of use from agricultural to use for a safe and secure recreational area for dog walking or agriculture on land to the east of Wyfold Road, Gallowstree Common for Mr & Mrs R Burrough.

2 That the following comments be made on the application for first floor side and single storey rear extensions, with external finishes changed to render and composite cladding and installation of juliet balcony on second floor at Southlands, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End for Ms K Bell "Objection – first floor windows in extension will overlook windows in the neighbouring property, Little Hillam".

(iv) Reading Golf Club

(cf 1.10(iv)/19) The Council noted an extract from the draft response by Reading Borough Council to the inspector's comments on the draft Reading Local Plan in respect of Reading Golf Club.

The Council also noted a statement issued by the Chairman of the Club on 12 June 2019, which included confirmation that the Club would move to the Caversham Heath course, Mapledurham, by no later than 31 March 2021. There was an expectation by the Club that part of the existing course at least would be developed for housing.

(v) Neighbourhood plans

In a letter, John Howell MP sought to reassure parish and town councils that the status of existing neighbourhood development plans would be retained, should the District Council decided to withdraw its current draft Local Plan, and that neighbourhood plan preparation need not be affected by such a withdrawal.

2.15 COUNTY COUNCIL TOWN AND PARISH COUNCIL SURVEY

(cf 10.06(ii)/19) The County Council's Assistant Director of Community Operations reported, by e-mail, the outcome to date of the survey undertaken by his Council under the Oxfordshire Together initiative. The responding communities were most interesting in undertaking vegetation clearing, sign cleaning and maintenance of public rights of way. 50% of respondent councils were interested in having a highways' "super user". 25% of respondent councils were interested in commissioning small highway improvement works direct from the County Council's contractors. The biggest concern was lack of funding for highways' works.

2.16 SUE RYDER SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE PALLIATIVE CARE HUB

In a letter, a Hospice at Home Nurse of the Sue Ryder South Oxfordshire Palliative Care Hub requested the Council to consider making a financial contribution towards the cost of the work of the organisation.

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

2.17 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in May 2019, with particular reference to the paragraphs about Climate Emergency and the increased permitted development rights.

2.18 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

The Chairman reported that the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group had met on 11 June 2019, and that the minutes of that meeting would shortly be published on the website. The project was moving forward slowly. A public engagement session was being planned for September 2019.

2.19 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

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

In presenting his apologies for absence, Mr I G C Pearson, the Chairman of the Committee, reported on recent incidents of anti-social behaviour at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion and the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, viz

- chairs and straw bales on the roof of the Pavilion;
- theft of a beer and soft drinks' delivery from the bin store at the Pavilion;
- fireworks being set off in the car park;
- late night visitors leaving early morning.

All the incidents had been reported to the Police, who had recommended the installation of CCTV cameras. Mr Pearson proposed the installation of 2 or 3 infra-red cameras. They would be battery operated and could be self-installed, costing £180 – £200 each.

Mr Pearson had also invited SAS Landscaping and Ian Kendrick Ltd to quote for fixing the gate on the vehicular access to the Recreation Ground, as a matter of urgency.

The Clerk advised the Council of the law relating to the use of CCTV cameras on non-domestic premises.

Members commented that adjusting the gate, so that it could be closed, should be the priority consideration to reduce misuse of the premises.

2.20 FOOTPATH 8

In an e-mail, Mr R Freeman, a member of Rotherfield Peppard Parish Council, drew attention to the growth of vegetation on footpath 8, between the woods and the junction with Wood Lane, Kidmore End, which growth was beginning to impede use of the path.

RESOLVED: That the vegetation growth on footpath 8 be drawn to the attention of the County Council.

2.21 PLAY AREAS

The Council considered a report (19/20 - 1) of the Clerk, advising it of the outcome of the recent inspection of the play areas at Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End, and putting forward suggestions by the Chairman for remedial, and additional, works at the sites.

RESOLVED:1 That the outcome of the inspections of the play areas by PlaySafety Ltd, and the Company's recommendations about risks at the sites, be noted.

2 That the response to the recommendations proposed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, as set out in the report, be endorsed.

3 That the additional works at the play areas, in respect of trees at both sites and a fence at the Kidmore End site, as proposed by the Chairman, be approved and that the contract for the work be let to Ian Kendrick Ltd in the sum of £1,760 +VAT

4 That the authorised works be funded, above the specific budgetary provision for the sites, from the provision in the budget for 2019/20 for "unspecified projects".