

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 11 December 2019 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.45pm.

Present: Ms S Biggs (Chairman), Dr C D Aldridge (Vice-Chairman), Mrs S G Hall, A P Harland, Ms A S O'Reilly, I G C Pearson, T M Perchard, H Thresher.

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from A B Gitsham, J A Swift QC.

7.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2019 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

7.02 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, which was extended to 25 minutes with the consent of the Council,

- Mrs J Lynch of Wood Lane, Kidmore End, thanked the Chairman for her contribution to the community, in that office;
- Ms C Brook and Mr S O'Reilly of Coopers Pightle, Kidmore End, and Mr S Ashurst of Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End asked questions, and made statements, about the clearance of vegetation etc, earlier in the week of the meeting, of the land owned by Mr E Madejski off Coopers Pightle, Kidmore End, which activities some had reported to the District Council, as planning authority.

7.03 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- the present position about his Council's Local Plan;
- the provision of replacement offices for the Council;
- his Council's position on the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway.

7.04 ALLOTMENTS

(i) Gallowstree Common - water supply

(cf 6.05(i)/19) The Clerk reported that, following the last meeting, Castle Water Ltd had sent a disconnection notice in connection with an alleged debt of £2,449.34, advising that the account had been sent to Engage Field Services. Subsequently, the Company's Group Collections' Manager had acknowledged the Council's offer of "part payment" but had declined it. However, in recognition of the Council's continued unhappiness about the matter, he had escalated the complaint to the next stage under the Council's complaints' procedure.

(ii) Tenancies

(cf 6.05(ii)/19) The Clerk reported he not had yet heard from any of the 3 tenants of the allotments at Cane End and Gallowstree Common who had yet to pay the rent due at Michaelmas 2019.

(iii) Gallowstree Common - Building materials

In an e-mail, Mr & Mrs L Williams of Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common sought,

retrospectively, the consent of the Council to store builders' materials and equipment on the Gallowstree Common allotments in connection with work on their adjacent property. They undertook to use the allotments in this way for the shortest possible time. Mr & Mrs Williams apologised for parts of a wooden building being left on the allotments: they had removed it before the Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That consent be given for Mr & Mrs L Williams to store builders' materials and equipment on the allotments at Gallowstree Common, in connection with the works at their adjacent property, during the winter of 2019/20.

7.05 THE REFORMATION PUBLIC HOUSE, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 6.06/19) The Chairman reported that she had been advised that the District Council's decision on the Council's nomination of the Reformation public house, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common to be listed as an asset of community value would be announced by 6 January 2020.

7.06 TOKERS GREEN POND

(cf 6.07/19) As no further quotations for the work had been received, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of the removal of the sediment from Tokers Green pond be again deferred.

7.07 HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING

(cf 6.09/19) The Chairman advised that she had not submitted any comments on the District Council's draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025.

7.08 HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS

(cf 6.10/19) The Vice-Chairman reported that she had viewed the photographs of Kidmore End sent by Ms E Draper, and intended to offer some of them to Kidmore End School. Mention was made of the interest of the Victoria County Histories in photographs of the era.

7.09 DIAMOND JUBILEE PAVLION, GALLOWSTREE COMMON - WATER SUPPLY

(cf 6.17/19) On 22 November 2019 the General Counsel of Castle Water Ltd sent a letter of claim in respect of the water retail service provided at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground. Unless payment of the outstanding sum – stated to be £3,858.59 – was made, the Company would commence proceedings without further notice.

Allied International Credit (UK) Ltd, in a subsequent letter, stated the debt to be £4,207.19, while another account from Castle had shown the balance to be £4,127.19,

The Clerk responded to the letter from the Company's Counsel, acknowledging the debt, and forwarding the cheque drawn by the Chairman and the Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee (see Minute 7.11 (ii) below). A recovery adviser of the Company had acknowledged receipt of the payment on 2 December 2019.

The Clerk reported his correspondence with a claims' handler at Gallagher, on behalf of the Council's insurers, about claiming for the cost of lost water, once the leak on the supply had been repaired.

7.10 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council received the minutes of the meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee held on 28 November 2019.

RESOLVED: 1 That the precept for the financial year 2020/21 be set so that the element of the Council Tax, attributable to the Council, for a Band D property, be no more than 5% higher than the figure for the present year.

2 That the following grant be made in the financial year 2019/20:

Sue Ryder South Oxfordshire Palliative Care Hub - £300.

7.11 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £30,464.10.

(ii) Accounts paid

It was reported that, in accordance with the decision of the Council at its last meeting (see Minute 6.17) and notwithstanding Financial Regulation 5.2, the Chairman and the Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee had approved the following payment on 28 November 2019:

Castle Water Ltd – Water for the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion	£4,127.19
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RESOLVED: That the action of the Chairman and the Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee be approved and confirmed.

(iii) 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	£6,742.74†
Sue Ryder South Oxfordshire Palliative Care Hub – Grant	£300.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£142.10
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£94.73
R F Penfold – Printing agenda etc	£3.75

† *To be paid by direct debit*

7.12 ESTIMATES, 2020/21

The Council considered a report (19/20 - 3) of the Responsible Financial Officer, being draft estimates for the financial year 2020/21. The Responsible Financial Officer answered questions about the draft estimates.

RESOLVED: 1 That the base estimates for 2020/21 be adopted, as presented.

2 That budgetary provision be made for the following:

removal of sediment from Tokers Green pond	£3,500
Diamond Jubilee Pavilion sinking fund	£4,170

3 That a precept be issued for the sum of £40,000 in 2020/21.

4 That the base estimates and additional provision in resolution 2 above be confirmed as the Council's budget for 2020/21, for the purposes of Financial Regulation 3.2.

7.13 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

change of use from agriculture to recreational for safe and secure dog walking, or agriculture, on land to the east of Wyfold Road, Gallowstree Common;
2-storey side extension with enlarged rear dormer and side elevation finished in brick to match existing at Mayfield, Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common;
single and 2-storey side and rear extensions, new porch, changes to external materials and new detached double garage at Oakfield, Russell Road, Tokers Green;

had been permitted conditionally.

(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 side extension with enlarged rear dormer compared to approved application P19/S1934/HH and side elevation finished in brick to match existing, and not timber cladding, at Mayfield, Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common;
single storey rear extension at 38 Halls Cottages, Wood Lane, Gallowstree Common;
single and 2 storey side and rear extensions, new porch, changes to external materials, new detached double garage at Oakfield, Russell Road, Tokers Green (amended plan).

(Mr A P Harland disclosed a pecuniary interest in respect of the application for development at Oakfield, Russell Road, Tokers Green under the Code of Conduct, by virtue of his ownership of a nearby property.)

(iii) District Council's Planning Committee

(cf 6.12(iii)/19) In a letter, the Head of Planning of the District Council invited the Council to make oral representations at the meeting of the District Council's Planning Committee on 18 December 2019, about the application for conversion of the existing outbuilding at Anstey, Wood Lane, Gallowstree Common to form a 2 bed annex to the main dwelling: consideration of the application had been deferred at the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 27 November 2019.

At the suggestion of the Chairman, the Council reviewed its objections to the above application, as the District Council's officers were recommending approval. Recognising the likely decision of the District Council's Planning Committee, it was

RESOLVED: That the objections previously submitted to the planning application for conversion of the existing outbuilding at Anstey, Wood Lane, Gallowstree Common to form a 2 bed annex to the main dwelling be withdrawn forthwith.

(iv) Possible unauthorised development at Archmore, Mill Lane, Kidmore End

Members made reference to the erection of buildings at Archmore, Mill Lane, Kidmore End for which they had no recollection of planning applications.

RESOLVED: That the recently erected buildings at Archmore, Mill Lane, Kidmore End be drawn to the attention of the District Council.

7.14 WOODLAND TRUST

A resident had drawn the attention of the Chairman to free trees available from the Woodland Trust, and enquired whether the Council had any plots of land on which such trees could be planted. Members did not identify any suitable land in the Council's ownership.

RESOLVED: That publicity be given to the offer from the Woodland Trust on the Council's website.

7.15 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in November 2019, with particular reference to the paragraphs about Castle Water Ltd, councillor grants from the County and District Councils and the Environment Bill.

7.16 KIDMORE END PLAY AREA

Mr E Madejski asked, by e-mail, whether the Council would meet half of the cost of a replacement fence on the boundary between his property and the Kidmore End Play Area, if he arranged the work. While Members understood Mr Madejski's desire to secure the boundaries of his land, they recalled that there was no evidence to suggest that the Council had any responsibility for the boundary in question. In the circumstances, they believed that it would be inappropriate to contribute public funds to the cost.

RESOLVED: That no contribution be made to the replacement of the boundary fence between the Kidmore End Play Area and the land owned by Mr E Madejski.

7.17 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. The Chairman of the Centre also referred to its search for capital funding to enable it to buy new premises.

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

7.18 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

The Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils circulated, by e-mail, a note from the County Council about community resilience, and, in particular, making plans to ensure residents, particularly the vulnerable, were prepared for the rigours of winter.

RESLOVED: That details of the suggestions for personal resilience in the above note be published in the Parish Newsletter.

7.19 THIRD THAMES BRIDGE

The Clerk to Sonning Common Parish Council, by e-mail, invited the Council to appoint 2 representatives to attend a meeting of the Third Bridge Action Group in Sonning Common on 31 January 2020.

RESOLVED: That Ms M Biggs and Mr J A Swift or Mr I G C Pearson be appointed to attend the meeting of the Third Bridge Action Group on 31 January 2020.

7.20 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

The Chairman reported that the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group had not met since the last meeting of the Council.

In a letter, Mr S Roe of Kidmore End, written on behalf of 9 other residents of Kidmore End, restated the desire of those residents to attend the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group meeting when his letter, considered by the Council at its last meeting, was discussed. He also noted that the Council had yet to review or approve the content of emerging plan, and, therefore, challenged a statement on development in "AECOM's Facilitation Report of 19 December 2018".

The Council discussed the letter in the light of its decisions in setting the NDP process in motion.

RESOLVED: That Mr S Roe be advised that

- the NDP Steering Group was established independent of the Council;
- the Council retained 3 key decisions in the NDP process;
- the Council decided that the Steering Group should devise its own standing orders;
- it is axiomatic that production of an NDP assumes some development in the plan area.

7.21 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

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

7.22 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Vice-Chairman read a report by Ms C Brook, the local highways' "Superuser", on the potholes in public highways in the Parish, which she had marked for attention.

Mr T M Perchard reported on the recent Speedwatch activity in the Parish, which included a session in Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End.

7.23 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

The Chairman reported that she had met with the headteacher of Kidmore End School. The School had adopted an action to reduce its CO2 emissions. Pupils had placed an advent calendar in the former telephone kiosk at Kidmore End and were going to put some pictures in the kiosk at Chalkhouse Green. Members thanked the School for this action.