

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 20 November 2019 at 8.00pm and concluded at 8.55pm.

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

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from A B Gitsham, A P Harland, Ms A S O'Reilly.

6.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2019 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

6.02 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- his Council's support for the integration of the health and social care systems;
- his Council's support for the regional transport and connectivity plan;
- a bid for funding for youth services;
- the approval of minerals and waste sites for consultation;
- collaborative working by health and care providers throughout the winter season;
- the preparation of services for the potential impact of Brexit.

6.03 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 decision regarding a third vehicular bridge across the River Thames in the vicinity of Reading;
- civil parking enforcement.

Mr Dragonetti advised that there was still no further news regarding the Local Plan: further information might become available later in December 2019. Members sought clarification on the District Council's decision regarding a third Thames bridge.

6.04 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Mr & Mrs A McAslan of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End (and others) asked questions about the preparation of the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan and the operation of the NDP Steering Group (see also Minute 6.16).

6.05 ALLOTMENTS

(i) Gallowstree Common - water supply

(cf 5.06/19) The Collections' Manager of Castle Water Ltd, by email, stated that the letter from the Company's Head of Customer Services, considered at the last meeting, had been self explanatory.

He confirmed that the Company had lifted the hold on recovery of the account, and requested payment of the sum of £2,302.64.

Members expressed their dissatisfaction with the reply, complaining that the Company appeared, despite the statement in the letter from the Head of Customer Services that the amount the Company could recover, under the Code of Practice, was £579.49. Instead, the Company was seeking to add that sum to an already inflated, and costed by the Council, estimate of consumption. Members discussed a draft letter to the Company contesting the sum owed, and were unanimous in their support for it.

Members also noted a letter from Allied International Credit (UK) Ltd demanding payment, on behalf of Castle Water Ltd, of the sum of £2,302.64.

RESOLVED: That an offer of £579.49 be made to Castle Water Ltd, in full and final settlement of charges for water at the Gallowstree Common allotments for the period from May 2017 to 12 December 2018.

(ii) Tenancies

The Clerk reported that 3 tenants of the allotments at Cane End and Gallowstree Common had yet to pay the rent due at Michaelmas 2019.

RESOLVED: That tenants who have failed to pay their rents by Christmas Day 2019 be deemed to have surrendered their allotment, and that the plots be then relet.

6.06 THE REFORMATION PUBLIC HOUSE, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 5.08/19) The Chairman reported that she had submitted the Council's third nomination, for the Reformation public house, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common to be listed as an asset of community value, on 11 November 2019.

6.07 TOKERS GREEN POND

(cf 5.09/19) The Chairman advised that County Council officers had suggested further possible contractors for the removal of the sediment in Tokers Green pond. However, 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.

6.08 HORSEPOND ROAD, GALLOWSTREE COMMON – HIGHWAY FLOODING

(cf 5.17/19) Mr R Crane of Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common, in an e-mail, advised that an officer of the County Council had inspected the highway drains in Horsepond Road in the week before the meeting, and since then the 3 drains and gullies had been cleared. Although not yet tested in a downpour, the drains seemed to be operating effectively.

6.09 HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING

(cf 5.18/19) The Housing Needs' Manager of the District Council drew attention, in an e-mail, to the consultation by his Council on its draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025. Comments on the draft strategy were invited by 25 November 2019.

RESOLVED: That the District Council's draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2020-2025 be referred to the Chairman for consideration and report.

6.10 HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS

(cf 5.21/19) The Vice-Chairman reported that she had received a parcel of photographs from Ms E Draper, but had yet to view them.

6.11 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £37,615.38.

(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 – Printing Parish Newsletter	£45.00
Ian Kendrick Ltd – Mowing and highway verges	£2754.00
Castle Water Ltd – Water for Gallowstree Common allotments	£2.70
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£142.10
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£94.73
R F Penfold – Printing agenda etc	£3.95

6.12 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

insertion of a fully opening first floor window, with restrictors in original side wall at Merville, Hazelmoor Lane, Gallowstree Common;
2 storey rear extension, roof conversion raising the ridge height, single and 2 storey side extensions, door and window alterations to side elevation at Campestri House, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green;
retrospective demolition of existing building and erection of replacement outbuilding at Oakridge Farm, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;

had been permitted conditionally, and that the application for formation of new field entrance at The Coach House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End had been withdrawn.

In the case of the development at Campestri House, the Council noted that the application had been approved under officers' delegated powers, despite the Council's objection, because it has a householder application.

(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, previously approved under applications P19/S0920/HH and P18/S0331/HH, at Oakridge Farm, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
removal of existing outbuilding and replacement garden store at Collegewood Farmhouse, Cane End.

(iii) District Council's Planning Committee

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 27 November 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. No Member was available to attend the meeting.

Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End and Whitchurch Ward, noting that the application was the final item of the agenda for the meeting of the Planning Committee, suggested that consideration of the application might be deferred to a future meeting.

(iv) Reading Borough Local Plan

(cf 11.10(v)/18) By e-mail, the Planning Policy Team Leader of Reading Borough Council advised that his Council had adopted the Reading Borough Local Plan, which set out the planning policies to manager development in the Borough until 2036, on 4 November 2019.

6.13 AFFORDABLE AND SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

The Council noted a press notice from the District Council advising that its Cabinet had adopted proposals which could pave the way for that Council to deliver more high-quality, environmentally sustainable and genuinely affordable housing across the whole of southern Oxfordshire.

6.14 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in October 2019, with particular reference to the paragraphs about the Oxfordshire Growth Board, the Oxfordshire Wellbeing Network, research into neighbourhood planning and the accessible website regulations.

6.15 PRIMARY OR INFANT SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

The County Council's Director of Children's Services enclosed, with a letter, a poster about the entry process to infant or primary school for children born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016.

6.16 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

The Chairman reported that the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group continued to work through the feedback from the public events regarding the emerging NDP and were drafting some "frequently asked questions" responses.

In a letter, Mr S Roe of Kidmore End, written on behalf of 15 other residents of Kidmore End, questioned the conclusions in the "Housing Requirement and Allocation Paper" associated with the draft emerging NDP. This identified a site – "CFS8" – as a possible site for development in Kidmore End.

With the consent of the Council, the meeting was suspended for 5 minutes, to enable persons who were party to the letter to make statements and ask questions about the NDP exercise.

Recognising that the NDP was being developed independently of the Council, it was

RESOLVED: That the letter be referred to Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group.

6.17 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had met on 13 November 2019, when the principal issue had been the leak on the water supply to the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion.

The Council considered a report (19/20 - 2) of the Clerk advising it of the current situation regarding the water supply to the Pavilion, and the accounts for the water used, and passing on a request from the Playing Fields Committee for financial support in the matter. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council, in support of the Playing Fields Committee, meet the current outstanding debt in respect of water consumption at the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion

6.18 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chairman reported on a meeting with the highways' drainage officer of the County Council, when he had indicated that

- his Council might raise the height of the carriageway at the junction of Chalkhouse Green Lane and Chalkhouse Green Road, Chalkhouse Green, to attempt to ameliorate the flooding that occurred there;
- mud on roads was cleared by contractors, Biffa, who should be contacted direct;
- the gullies leading into Kidmore End pond would be cleared and the possibility of larger capacity culverts being used there would be explored.

6.19 MEETINGS, CONFERENCES ETC

The Chairman reported that she had, with the Clerk, attended a meeting about the councillors' code of conduct at the District Council's offices and had attended a meeting of the Chilterns Conservation Board.