

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Church Room, Kidmore End on Wednesday 19 February 2020 at 8.00pm and concluded at 9.25pm.

Present: Dr C D Aldridge (Chairman), Ms S M Biggs (Vice-Chairman), A B Gitsham, A P Harland, I G C Pearson.

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

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

9.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2020 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correction of the spelling of the word "Chairman" in Minute 8.22.

9.02 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, summarised his previously circulated report, covering, inter alia:

- the current position regarding the South Oxfordshire Local Plan;
- the setting of his Council's budget for 2020/21;
- a public exhibition regarding his Council's proposed new headquarters' offices;
- action by his Council in pursuit of fly-tippers;
- changes to how his Council would support the preparation of neighbourhood development plans.

9.03 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Mrs M Baylis, Mrs T Beddis and Ms J Creewel, all of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common, drew attention to the concerns of residents of Gallowstree Common about the "Around the Boundary" music event held at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground in May 2018 and 2019. They mentioned the lack of information about the charities benefiting from the event, noise levels, the duration of the event, the lack of directions for traffic to the car park and overnight camping in the field adjacent to the Recreation Ground.

9.04 "AROUND THE BOUNDARY" EVENT

(cf 8.05/20) In response to statements made and questions asked by residents at the last meeting of the Council, the Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee advised that the Committee had held a special meeting on 30 January 2020, specifically to address issues relating to the "Around the Boundary" event, proposed to be held at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground in May 2020. The Chairman of the Committee reported that the Committee had decided to permit the event to go ahead, but that the organisers had been asked to ensure that:

- noise levels were monitored;
- residents of The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common were notified of the event in advance;
- the names of the charities to benefit from the event were clearly stated in advance;
- a formal request was made to the Playing Fields Committee to hold the event and for future events.

9.05 WATER SUPPLIES

(i) Allotments, Gallowstree Common

(cf 8.07(i)/20) The Clerk advised that the Consumer Council for Water had acknowledged the Council's complaint about the handling, by Castle Water Ltd, of the water account for the allotments at Gallowstree Common. The Consumer Council was responsible for the third stage of Castle's complaints' procedure.

(ii) Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common

(cf 8.09/20) The Clerk reported further developments regarding the accounts for water supplied to the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, following the repair of the leak. Addleshaw Goddard LLP, solicitors from Leeds, acting for Castle Water Ltd, had sent a letter before claim on 4 February 2020, formally demanding the Council pay £15,558.72 by 4pm on 18 February. The Clerk had acknowledged receipt of the letter and passed a copy to the insurers.

Gallagher, the Council's insurance brokers, had been in contact with the insurers, AXA. Gallagher had indicated that the Council's insurance cover was for £25,000 for loss of water at the Pavilion. AXA had acknowledged the claim, and had asked the Council to submit a leak allowance claim to Castle Water Ltd.

RESOLVED: That the leak allowance claim be made to Castle Water Ltd in respect of the loss of water on the supply pipe to the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground.

9.06 THIRD THAMES BRIDGE

(cf 8.11/20) The Council received the report, produced by the Clerk of Sonning Common Parish Council, of the Third Reading Bridge Parish Action meeting held on 31 January 2020, attended by representatives of 10 parish councils in southern South Oxfordshire. The following resolution was passed at the meeting:

"a) In the context of the Climate Emergency a car-based solution to a car-based problem that would pour thousands of cars and HGVs into Oxfordshire is totally inappropriate and should a new bridge be built it should be restricted to public transport, cyclists and pedestrians;

"b) Notwithstanding the above, if a car-based solution is pursued, the proposed bridge and necessary mitigation measures (i.e. improvements to the Oxfordshire road network) are not considered as two separate projects, but as one single project in order that the benefits, disadvantages and costs of the complete scheme can be holistically assessed".

RESOLVED: That consideration of support for the above motion be deferred to the next meeting.

9.07 OXFORDSHIRE RURAL SERVICES SURVEY

(cf 8.20/20) The Clerk reported that he had the completion of the Oxfordshire Rural Services Survey in hand.

9.08 E-MAIL IN-BOXES

(cf 8.26/20) In the light of the action taken by the Clerk, to clear his in-box, since the last meeting, it was

RESOLVED: That no further action be taken on this matter for the time being.

9.09 MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL

The Clerk reported that Mr H Thresher had resigned as a member of the Council, by e-mail, on 23 January 2020.

The Clerk advised that he had given notice of the vacancy for the office of parish councillor caused by the resignation of Mr Thresher. No election had been called to fill the vacancy. The Council could, therefore, co-opt a qualified person at the March meeting.

RESOLVED: That Mr Thresher be thanked for his service to the community as a Member of the Council since November 2012.

9.10 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS, SUB-COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

In light of the resignation of Mr H Thresher from the Council, it was

RESOLVED: That Mr A P Harland be appointed a representative on the Playing Fields Committee for the period until the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2020.

9.11 FINANCE

(i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £21,878.01.

(ii) Accounts for payment

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

DASA Ltd – Insurance policy excess (water leak)	£250.00
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£27.62
Ms A S O'Reilly – Reimbursement for website design service	£95.00
The Henley College – Printing Parish Newsletter	£45.00
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£142.10
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£94.73
R F Penfold – Printing agenda etc	£4.45

9.12 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

rebuild of utility room, extending this to the side of the property by 1.2m, with the addition of an upper floor to utility room and also part of the dining room at Bellcote, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green;

single storey rear and side extension, alterations to some windows and general improvements at Gable Cottage, Chalkhouse Green Road, Kidmore End;

construction of new vehicular access to serve Oldfield House only, with existing access retained only to serve new house, at Oldfield House, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common;

single-storey outhouse at The Coach House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End

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:

single storey outhouse at The Coach House, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End;
residential conversion and extension to barn to form single dwelling at The Old Barn, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End;
side and rear extension at Ferndale, Chalkhouse Green;
single storey extension to existing garage/outbuilding at Oakridge Farm, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;
demolition of single storey attached garage, replacement garage with first floor over, single storey rear extension and bike and bin store to side of garage at The Old Crown, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common;
erection of a 2 storey side extension at Oldfield House, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common (amended plan).

(iii) Applications

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

RESOLVED: 1 That the following comments be made 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 (amended plan): "Having seen relevant entries at the Land Registry, the Council questions whether the applicant can provide the access arrangements shown on the drawings".

2 That no objections be submitted on the application for demolition of detached garage, rear single storey extension and front porch and erection of double storey side extension, rear single storey extension and new front porch at Duffield, Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End for Mr & Mrs Peto.

(iv) Development at Campestri, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green

The Council noted copies of e-mails sent to the planning authority, by Ms P Conway of Gaskells End, Tokers Green, drawing attention to the apparent use of unauthorised access from Gaskells End to the site of Campestri, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green, in connection with development of that site, and the unexpected almost total demolition of the old property.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be requested to investigate the above concerns about the development at Campestri, Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green.

(v) Reading Golf Club

(cf 3.10(v)/19) The Vice-Chairman reported that she had attended the public engagement event arranged by Reading Golf Club and its development partners, at the Club, on 11 February 2020, concerning its plans for the development of the Club's land. The plans appeared to be for 750 units of housing on all of the Club's land in the Borough of Reading. The Vice-Chairman observed that few of the comments posted by attendees supported the proposals.

(vi) South Oxfordshire Local Plan

(cf 8.14(iv)/20) The Council considered a report (19/20 – 4) of the Chairman arising from her attendance at the meeting entitled "South Oxfordshire in the Dark" held in Wheatley on 22 January 2020, about the South Oxfordshire Local Plan.

RESOLVED: That representations be made to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government urging him to restore responsibility for the preparation of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan to the District Council.

(vii) Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Plan

(cf 4.14(viii)/19) The County Council's Minerals and Waste Policy Team gave notice, by e-mail, that its Council was consulting on the Minerals and Waste draft sites' plan from 22 January to 4 March 2020.

(viii) Central and Eastern Berkshire Minerals and Waste Plan

By letter, Hampshire Services gave notice, on behalf of the Council of the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and Bracknell Forest, Reading and Wokingham Borough Councils, of the consultation on sand and gravel provision and operator performance, in connection with the Central and Eastern Berkshire Authorities Joint Minerals and Waste Plan. The consultation would run from 10 February to 20 March 2020.

9.13 CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Council noted a series of e-mails from the District Council about its actions in response to the climate emergency and recommendations from its Climate Emergency Advisory Committee.

9.14 STREET NAMING

The GIS Team Leader & Street Naming and Numbering Officer of the District Council indicated, in an e-mail, that the developers of the housing on the site of the one-time Fox public house at Cane End had proposed that the access road to the development be named Fox Heath Gardens. Members noted that the proposed name recognised the history of the site.

RESOLVED: That no objection be raised against the name Fox Heath Gardens for the access road to the housing development off Reading Road, Cane End.

9.15 HOUSE NAMING

In e-mails, the District Council's GIS Team Leader & Street Naming and Numbering Officer advised that the existing annex to Old Farm House, Cane End had been named The Stables, and that the property known as Jalna, Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green had been renamed Meadow View.

9.16 KIDMORE END SCHOOL – DEFIBRILLATOR

In an e-mail, Mrs T Heffer of the Kidmore End Primary School Office enquired whether the Council would feel able to make a contribution towards the cost of a replacement battery and pads for the defibrillator mounted on the outside wall of the School. The total cost was quoted as £189 + VAT.

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

9.17 GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

A Waste & Recycling Officer of the District Council drew attention, by e-mail, to the Great British Spring Clean, to be held in the period 20 March to 13 April 2020. The customary equipment and materials were available from her Council.

It was reported that arrangements had already been made by residents of Tokers Green to collect roadside litter in that village. The Vice-Chairman undertook to approach Mr G Hayne again to co-ordinate the exercise in Kidmore End.

RESOLVED: That volunteers be sought, via the website, to co-ordinate clean-up exercises in Cane End and Gallowstree Common.

9.18 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in January 2020, with particular reference to the paragraphs about the possible changing of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty into a national park, consultation on trespass/unauthorised caravan sites, training opportunities for Members and the NALC Spring Conference.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the possible creation of a national park on the boundaries of the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty be deferred to a future meeting.

9.19 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND

Mr & Mrs A K Martin of Wyfold Road, Gallowstree Common, in a letter supported by photographs, raised concerns, or made statements about, the following matters in respect of the Recreation Ground at Gallowstree Common:

- whether the cricket nets in the north west corner of the Ground had the benefit of planning permission;
- the flagpole on the shared boundary fence;
- their intention to deny access to their property through the gate on the shared boundary fence;
- the trimming, without permission, of the hedge planted on their side of the shared boundary;
- whether the extension of the cricket score hut had the benefit of planning permission;
- requesting the removal of the redundant items from behind the score hut;
- their withdrawal of consent to use, as an adjunct to the Ground, their land between New Copse and the Recreation Ground unless a formal lease was arranged;
- the purpose of a large metal structure on the eastern margin of the Ground.

Members noted a letter signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee, setting out the response of that Committee to the points made by Mr & Mrs Martin.

The Chairman reported that she had met Mr Martin on 13 January 2020, when they had discussed the matters in the letter.

RESOLVED:1 That the Playing Fields Committee be requested to consider further the third, fourth and seventh numbered items in the letter from Mr & Mrs Martin, and report back thereon to the next meeting.

2 That the responses, set out in the Appendix hereto, on the other points in their letter be sent to Mr & Mrs Martin.

9.20 WILD OXFORDSHIRE

The Council noted an invitation to attend a conference of local environment groups on protecting biodiversity and green spaces through neighbourhood plans in Benson on 28 March 2020.

9.21 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

(cf 8.22/20) The Council considered reports (19/20 – 5 and 6) from the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Steering Group, as follows

- a report on the meeting of Steering Group held on 19 January 2020; and
- a report, as requested by the Council at its last meeting, on the circumstances leading to the Group's decision to identify a specific site for development.

Members commented very favourably on the Group's report on the second point, which they found detailed and full.

RESOLVED: That a copy of the report by the Neighbourhood Development Plan Steering Group on the circumstances leading to the Group's decision to identify a specific site for development be sent to Mr S Roe.

9.22 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had met on 30 January 2020, to discuss the proposed "Around the Boundary" event (see Minute 9.04 above).

9.23 TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chairman read a report by Ms C Brook, the local highways' "Superuser", about marking road defects, and the action taken by the County Council to repair them, or arrange for their future repair, with particular reference to Mill Lane, Kidmore End, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green and Wood Lane, Kidmore End.

Members commended County Council officers for their prompt action in respect of the recent highway flooding in the vicinity of Kidmore End pond.

The Vice-Chairman referred to a Community Transport Newsletter circulated by the County Council.

9.24 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 22 April 2020 at 7.30pm.

RESPONSES TO SOME POINTS IN THE LETTER FROM MR & MRS A K MARTIN, CONCERNING THE GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND

- 1 The cricket nets at the north-west corner of the Recreation Ground were in situ before 1973. There is no evidence that planning permission was sought for them. That said, aside from having been in place for over 46 years, they almost certainly fall within the permitted development rights enjoyed by the Council, as a local authority.
- 2 The Council understands that the flagpole was erected by or on behalf of the Cricket Club. There is no evidence that planning permission was sought for the flagpole.
- 5 The Council is not aware of planning permission being sought or granted for the extension of the score hut, assuming that such permission is required. However, the Council notes from the South Oxfordshire District Council's website that that Council's Enforcement Team looked into the matter in 2018 and decided that it was not expedient to take action (see case SE18/372).
- 6 Most of the materials and items stored behind the score hut belong to the Council. The Council has asked the Playing Fields Committee, the charity which manages the Recreation Ground on the Council's behalf, to arrange for the removal of the surplus items.
- 8 The structure mentioned is a mobile cricket net frame, owned by the Cricket Club.