

## KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held remotely on Wednesday 17 June 2020 at 8.00pm and concluded at 10.00pm.

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

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Ms A S O'Reilly.

### 2.01 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2020 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correction of the October and December 2020 dates in Minute 1.22.

### 2.02 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End & Whitchurch ward, spoke to his report, circulated in advance of the meeting, covering

- his Council's response to the coronavirus pandemic;
- the operation of his Council's Planning Committee, and the process for handling planning applications to which parish councils have objected;
- proposed modifications to his Council's emerging Local Plan;
- the effect on his Council's finances of the Covid-19 pandemic;
- adapting roads to accommodate safer cycling and walking;
- support for local businesses.

He also circulated a letter from his Council's Cabinet Member for Planning about the procedure for determining planning applications.

Mr Dragonetti answered questions from Members on the Local Plan, the process for handling planning application and safer walking and cycling.

### 2.03 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, which was extended to 15 minutes with the consent of the Council,

- Mr A McAslan of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End referred to his concerns about the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan and his critique of the process (see Minute 2.15);
- Ms S Wilkinson of Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End mentioned the Reading Transport Strategy, which included reference to a "northern orbital route", north of Caversham, and park and ride car park sites, in Oxfordshire;
- Dr K Hamer of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End spoke in support of his enquiry about claiming a public right of way (see Minute 2.13);
- Ms S Forde of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End enquired about enforcement of the 20mph speed limit in Kidmore End.

Mr T M Perchard explained, in connection with the fourth point above, how Speed Watch activities were undertaken in the Parish and the difficulties posed to those activities by the configuration of the roads in the village.

## 2.04 WATER SUPPLIES

### (i) Allotments, Gallowstree Common

(cf 1.06(i)/20) The Clerk commented that there had been no response yet from Consumer Council for Water (CCW) or Castle Water Ltd concerning the Council's further request to CCW about the Company's handling of the water account for the allotments at Gallowstree Common.

### (ii) Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, Gallowstree Common

(cf 10.05(ii)/20) The Clerk reported that Axa, the Council's insurers, had paid £19685.91 on 3 June 2020, representing accounts for water up to the date of the repair of the leak on water supply to the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, less £237.13 which Castle Water Ltd had imposed for recovery action. As a result, and as a matter of urgency, following informal discussion with Members, the Chairman had approved a payment of £15558.72 to Castle Water Ltd on 3 June.

Subsequently, the Playing Fields Committee had paid the outstanding balance, £3614.21, to Castle, via Kidmore End Cricket Club.

All outstanding amounts having been cleared, arrangements had been made for the water to be reconnected.

In a letter, a member of the Castle Water Litigation Department responded to the challenge made by the Council about the Company billing for water whilst the service had been disconnected. The Company argued that it was in order to charge for water which had passed through the meter, as the leak on the supply was the responsibility of the consumer. He also inferred that the water supply had been reconnected, but not by the Company.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Chairman be approved and confirmed.

## 2.05 VILLAGE SIGN

(cf 1.08/20) The Vice-Chairman advised that she had contacted the County Council about replacement of the "Gallowstree Common" village sign at the western end of that village in Horsepond Road and was awaiting a response.

## 2.06 PLAY AREAS

### (i) Equipment

(cf 1.14/20) The Chairman reported orally following examination of the reports by Playsafety Ltd, arising from its inspections of the play equipment at the Gallowstree Common and Kidmore End Play Areas. She advised that there were no "red" actions required at either site, but some minor works were required at both, and some ancillary items needed to be removed from the Gallowstree Common facility. The Chairman undertook to compile a schedule of these works, and seek quotations for their execution.

### (ii) Trees at Kidmore End

Mr P Ashurst of Butlers Orchard, Kidmore End requested, by e-mail, that the Council consider cutting back 2 trees in the Kidmore End Play Area which overhung his property, affecting the light to the front of his house and being the cause of leaf-fall on his driveway.

The Council considered a report (20/21 - 5) of the Chairman about the trees.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the request be deferred pending advice on the trees in

question from a tree surgeon.

## 2.07 HORSEPOND ROAD, GALLOWSTREE COMMON – SPEED LIMIT

(cf 1.15(i)/20) The Transport Committee reported, orally, on the possibility of reducing the speed limit in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common to 20mph. The Committee was of the view that, given its understanding of the criteria for imposing such a limit, the prospect was negligible, and not warranting the cost, estimated at £3,000 to £4,000, of the necessary assessment by the County Council.

RESOLVED: That no further action be taken on the suggested reduction of the speed limit in Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common at this time.

## 2.08 DIAMOND JUBILEE PAVILION

(cf 1.18/20) The Clerk advised that the Playing Fields Committee had received, on 21 May 2020, a grant of £10,000 from the District Council, in respect of the Diamond Jubilee Pavilion, as part of the Government's Covid-19 business support scheme

## 2.09 THE REFORMATION PUBLIC HOUSE, GALLOWSTREE COMMON

(cf 1.21/20) The Council noted, and endorsed, the application, compiled by the Vice-Chairman, for the Reformation public house, Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common to be listed as an asset of community value.

## 2.10 PUBLIC LITTER BINS

(cf 1.23/20) The Chairman reported that domestic waste had again been discovered in the litter bin at Kidmore End well. Having found an address in the waste, a person or persons unknown had returned the waste to an address in Gallowstree Common, from which it appeared to have come. Since that incident, there had been no further reports of domestic waste in the bin, or the similar facility adjacent to the former telephone kiosk in Chalkhouse Green. Although the Chairman had been minded to suggest removal of the bins, Members felt that the use of the bins should continue to be monitored.

## 2.11 FINANCE

### (i) Balances

The Clerk reported that balances at the bank totalled £34,890.61.

### (ii) Accounts paid

As reported in Minute 2.04(ii) above, and notwithstanding Financial Regulation 5.2, the Chairman had approved the payment of the following account on 3 June 2020:

Castle Water Ltd – Water for Diamond Jubilee Pavilion	£15558.72
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### (iii) Accounts for payment

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

Parish of Kidmore End & Sonning Common – Grant towards upkeep of churchyard at St John the Baptist	£1200.00
Ms L Stewart-Ashley – Land Registry entries (The Reformation)	£36.00
Ms A S O'Reilly – Hosting of kepc.info for 1 year	£128.88
R F Penfold – Salary net of Income Tax	£142.10

HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted

£94.73

## 2.12 CONSULTATION ON PLANNING MATTERS

### (i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

single storey side and rear extensions at Hanney, Rosebery Road, Tokers Green;  
conversion of loft space to form habitable room, incorporating rear dormer window and 3 roof lights to the front at 3 Horsepond Road, Gallowstree Common

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:

replace existing outbuildings with a 2-storey rear extension at Haystacks, The Hamlet, Gallowstree Common;  
variation of condition on permission P13/S0389/FUL in respect of design of garage/ancillary accommodation at 17 Kidmore Lane, Sonning Common [Parish of Sonning Common];  
variation of conditions of permission P18/S2631/FUL for erection of 25 dwellings on land to rear of 44 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common [Parish of Sonning Common] (amended plan);  
single storey rear extension at The Old Orchard, Wood Lane, Kidmore End;  
single storey side extension (amendment to permission P20/S0572/HH) at Combe Norton, Wood Lane, Kidmore End.

### (iii) Planning Appeal

In a letter, the Head of Planning of the District Council advised that an appeal had been lodged against the decision of his Council to refuse planning permission for a single storey extension to the existing garage/outbuilding at Oakridge Farm Wood Lane, Kidmore End. The appeal would be determined under the householder appeals' service, so there was no further opportunity to submit comments.

### (iv) South Oxfordshire Local Plan

(cf 10.15(v)/20) The Programme Officer for the Examination of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan advised, in a letter, that the examination, to be conducted virtually, would begin on 14 July 2020. As the Council had previously made representations about the Local Plan, which would be before the Inspector, it could make further representations in respect of the Inspector's "Matters and Questions", which needed to be submitted by 26 June 2020. The Council could also seek to participate in a particular hearing session.

Following informal discussions with Members, the Chairman had instructed the Clerk to advise the Programme Officer that the Council would submit further written representations on the "Matters and Questions".

The Vice-Chairman had circulated draft further representations (report 2020/21 - 6), which were considered by the Council.

RESOLVED: 1 That the action of the Chairman be approved and confirmed.

2 That the circulated draft representations on the South Oxfordshire Local Plan in response to the Inspector's "Matters and Questions" be adopted.

#### 2.13 POSSIBLE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY

In an e-mail, Dr K Hamer of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End commented that a footpath in the field to the west of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End towards Mill Lane and Highland Wood had been closed by the owner of the field having installed a gate. Dr Hamer believed that many people would aver that they had used the path over decades, and thus it would be possible to claim a public right of way across the field. He asked whether the Council would support such a claim being made.

Members noted that the Council held no evidence of there being a public right of way over the field.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the matter be deferred, pending sight of such witness statements as Dr Hamer can secure from people who have used the path across the field in question without hindrance for more than 20 years.

#### 2.14 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted an update for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in May 2020.

#### 2.15 NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP

(cf 1.17/20) Mr A McAslan of Tokers Green Lane, Kidmore End, attached to an e-mail a critique of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) process and the Plan itself, identifying issues which he would like the Council and the NDP Steering Group to address. The Chairman of the Steering Group thanked Mr McAslan for the critique.

The Vice-Chairman advised that the Steering Group continued to discuss the policies it had drafted with officers of the District Council.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the critique of the NDP be deferred to the next meeting.

#### 2.16 PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Playing Fields Committee reported that the Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council.

The Chairman of the Committee referred to an approach made to him by The Beacons to the Past Project to site an interpretation board at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground regarding the project to identify Iron Age hill forts in the Chilterns. There was such an "object" in Wyfold Wood, north of Kate's Cottage, in the Parish of Checkendon.

RESOLVED: That consent be given for the erection of an interpretation board by The Beacons of the Past Project at the Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, at no expense to the Council.

#### 2.17 TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

The Council considered a report (20/21 - 7) of the Transport Committee on whether, and if so how, to respond to the consultation on the Reading Transport Strategy 2036, the Local Transport Plan of Reading Borough Council.

RESOLVED: 1 That Binfield Heath, Eye and Dunsden, Highmoor, Mapledurham, Rotherfield Peppard and Sonning Common Parish Councils, possibly together with Goring Heath and Woodcote

Parish Councils, be invited to a meeting with the aim of writing a joint response to the draft Reading Borough Council Local Transport Plan (LTP), the response to be sent to Reading Borough Council, having been shared in draft with the County and District Councils.

2 That the report of the Committee be adopted for circulation to the invited parish councils, for their comments and support.

3 That, in view of the urgency of the matter, the Transport Committee be empowered to take further steps to implement this decision, with a requirement to report back at the meeting of the Council in July 2020.

4 That contact be established and maintained with the district councillor for the Kidmore End and Whitchurch Ward, the county councillor for the Goring Division and the Member of Parliament for the Henley Constituency, inviting their support for the Council's response to the draft LTP, and, if appropriate, the combined response of local parish councils.

## 2.18 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the public be excluded from the meeting, pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, during consideration of the following item on the grounds that exempt information, under paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Act shown below, would be discussed:

Item	Paragraph
Part 2 minutes of the last meeting	3
Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground	3

## 2.19 PART 2 MINUTES

The Part 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2020 were confirmed.

## 2.20 GALLOWSTREE COMMON RECREATION GROUND

The Council confirmed the decision to acquire land adjacent to Gallowstree Common Recreation Ground, and discussed the appointment of lawyers to act for it in that transaction.