KIDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Kidlington Parish Council

held at Exeter Hall and on Zoom at 7.30pm on Thursday 9 November 2023

Present: Cllr William Easdown Babb, Cllr Alan Graham, Cllr Lesley Mclean, Cllr Fiona Mawson, Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr Melanie Moorhouse, Cllr David Robey (Chair), Cllr David Thurling, Cllr Alison Street, Cllr Doug Williamson, Cllr Danny Wright, Cllr Phil Wyse.

In Attendance: Clerk – Rachel Faulkner, CDC Cllr Dorothy Walker and 1 member of the public
Apologies: Cllr David Betts, Cllr Linda Ward
On Line: 1 member of the public

23/075 Declaration of interests – none received.

23/076 The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council Meeting on 7 September (with one correction) and the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 2 November 2023 were a true and correct record and they were signed by the Chair.

23/077 **Public Participation**
The Chair discussed the problems that occurred at the ECM the previous week. The sound problems would be looked into so that on-line participants can hear all speakers. The problem of inappropriate behaviour to be resolved by turning off the screen and/or audio and video except on the limited occasions when they would be needed.
The Council discussed how best to ensure that residents are given priority to speak at meetings over non-residents. The Council agreed that it should be clearly stated that the Annual Parish Meeting is for residents of Kidlington Parish. Residents would be encouraged to send questions to the Clerk in advance and these would be given priority. At the meeting attendees would be asked to state that they are residents of Kidlington Parish and, if not, only allowed to speak at the discretion of the Chair of the Meeting. Council and Standing Committee meetings would remain open to all members of the public, but non-residents of Kidlington would only be allowed to speak by invitation of the Chair.

A resident spoke to the Council about the need for a youth club and offered his services to set one up. The Council expressed their interest in the project and invited the resident to contact the Council with further thoughts.

23/078 The minutes of committees were moved by Chairs:

a) **Planning Committee**: 14 September and 12 October 2023 – moved by Cllr Graham.

b) **Community Committee**: 19 October 2023 – moved by Cllr Street
The council **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of the Community Committee to increase the budget for Christmas Lights to £30k for 2024.
The council noted all other recommendations and actions of the committee.

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The Council wished to record its thanks to Cllr Street and all those involved in the installation of the Coronation Garden. It also congratulated Council staff on an excellent fireworks event.

c) **Policy and Finance Committee**: 3 August 2023 – moved by Cllr McLean.
The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of the committee to use general reserves for the additional costs involved in installation of the Coronation Garden.
The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the following recommendations of the Council:
To approve S137 grant for Kidlington Recreational Trust.
To use the Events EMR for Remembrance Sunday events.
To increase the Member's Allowance in line with CDC recommendation.
To use the Chair's Allowance for a staff Christmas Lunch.
It was agreed that the Kidlington Environment Policy would be brought back to Policy & Finance and Community as appropriate, when new information and/or proposals for action can be put forward.

23/079 **Internal Audit** – the Council noted the External Auditors report which was clear with no qualifications. The auditor had asked that all items regarding the audit be separate items in the Council's minutes.

23/080 The Council **RESOLVED** to add Cllr Phil Wyse to the Communications Working Group.

23/081 The Council reviewed the draft budget options prepared by the Responsible Finance Officer and **RESOLVED** to accept the option of a 6.8% increase in the budget from £797,597 to £854,049. The impact on individual households could not be given accurately until the tax base figures are received from Cherwell District Council.

23/082 The Council **RESOLVED** to add Cllrs Moorhouse and Wright to the bank mandate and removed Cllrs Prestidge and Williamson.

23/083 The Council discussed the draft framework for future major projects and agreed to refer it back to Community for further review whilst using it for the Skatepark project.

23/084 The Council discussed the proposal for a Skatepark which is in very early stages of development. It would be assessed through the major projects framework and developed by the Working Group in order to present it to the Community Committee in January 24.

23/085 The Council discussed the Cherwell S106 priorities for the Four Parishes and noted its contents.

23/086 The Council discussed its response to Cherwell's Draft Local Plan. The Chair informed the Council that a meeting of the Local Plan Working Group has been arranged with the applicants for the Land North of the Moors in order to better understand their proposals. Other councillors would be welcome to join the meeting if they wish. The Council **RESOLVED** to invite Cllr Wyse to join the Local Plan Working Group.

23/087 The Council discussed OUFC's proposals for a stadium in the village. They repeated their serious concerns about the proposal to close Oxford Road before and after matches to allow fans to cross to the Oxford Parkway. They also stressed the importance of clarifying the community benefits to Kidlington should the application be successful. It was noted that a series of further meetings would be held with the club on these and other elements of the stadium plans.

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23/088 The Council received a report from Cllr Thurling who represents the Council on the Oxford Airport Consultative Committee. He reported that aircraft traffic has decreased in recent months.

23/089 The Council received reports from Cherwell District Councillors and Oxfordshire County Councillors.

23/090 The Chair informed the Council that Cllr Neil Prestidge has resigned following his move out of the area. He wished to record his thanks to Cllr Prestidge and said that he has been an excellent Councillor for the village.

23/091 The Council discussed the process for filling the vacancy and agreed, if an election is not called, to use the existing procedure whereby candidates are required to apply in writing to the Clerk. Candidates would then be invited to attend a Council meeting where they would be asked questions then asked to withdraw whilst the Council take a vote.

The meeting closed at: 9.25pm

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