

# KIDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Kidlington Parish Council Held on-line at 7.30pm on Thursday 24 September 2020

**Present:** Cllr David Robey (Chair) Cllr David Betts, Cllr Conrad Copeland, Cllr Alan Graham, Cllr Fiona Mawson, Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr Chris Pack, Cllr Alison Street, Cllr David Thurling, Cllr Katherine Tyson, Cllr Doug Williamson

**Apologies:** Cllr Carole Pack, Cllr Neil Prestidge  
Cllr Dan Clacher resigned from the Council earlier in the week. CDC advised and the vacancy will be advertised as usual.

**In attendance:** Clerk to the Council – Rachel Faulkner  
One member of the public, 4 representatives from Network Rail

20/060 No declarations of personal or prejudicial interests were received.

20/061 The Chairman explained that due to the recent resignation of Cllr Clacher, he proposed deferring filling the two vacancies on the council until the next full Council meeting on 3 December – members supported this proposal.

20/062 Representatives of Network Rail attended the meeting to explain their proposals for the closure of the level crossings at Yarnton Road and Sandy Lane with, respectively, a pedestrian bridge and a pedestrian, cycle and wheelchair bridge. (Presentation available to view on the KPC website.) Network Rail are keen to engage with the local community before submitting their planning applications to CDC.

Major issues raised by councillors included: the inconvenience to Kidlington residents and the likely negative impact on High Street traders; the possibility of a road bridge to replace the Sandy Lane crossing, reportedly proposed by Network Rail to Cherwell but rejected on the grounds that it would not be in keeping with the planned character of the new housing development; the risk that without closure or significant upgrading Sandy Lane and Yarnton Road would become an unsustainable rat-run once the new housing has been built. It was noted that the closure of Sandy Lane to motor traffic was envisaged in the Cherwell Local Plan, but that the Council would be considering its position when the matter comes up as a planning application.

20/063 The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 June 2020 were approved. To be signed as a correct record at the next physical meeting of the Council.

20/064 The minutes of Planning Committees held on 9 July, 13 August and 10 September were moved by Cllr Graham – no comments.

20/065 The minutes of Community Committee held on 3 September were moved by Cllr Street.

The Council RESOLVED to accept the recommendation to accept the quote from Ritetech for the installation of solar lights at Orchard Recreation Ground at a cost of £7,377 from capital reserves. The Chairman noted that this would in the normal course of things have gone back to Community and to P&F, but that it was desirable to install the lights before the winter. He also proposed that capital spending for the following year should be reviewed at the same time as the budget is planned, so as to avoid unplanned capital expenditure wherever it is reasonable to do so.

The Council discussed the Environment Working Group and the Climate Change Group. It was agreed that some clarity was needed regarding the two groups and how they might work together to support the Council's aspirations. In principal it was felt that a group was needed to look at the big picture in terms of actions that the Council could take; this group could involve members of the public as well as councillors and officers. Ideas and projects could then be fed into the Community Committee and Policy and Finance committee. The Chairman to put together a proposal to clarify the situation before the next full Council meeting.

20/066 The minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee on 10 September were moved by Cllr Copeland and the recommendations adopted. It was agreed that surplus from the Climate Emergency budget line should be placed in a Climate Emergency reserve at the end of the year. Since part of the point of the reserve would be to provide for possible major items of future expenditure, permission to spend from the reserve would need to be sought from the Committee.

20/067 The minutes of the meeting of the Exeter Close Sub Committee were moved by Cllr Betts. It was agreed that a further meeting was required to clarify the Council's position with regards to the options. The Clerk confirmed that Carter Jonas had advised that no residential accommodation could be built at the front of the site because of the restrictive covenants. The Council confirmed that a further option to redevelop the site but leave the Medical Centre as it is should be considered.

20/068 The Council approved a S137 grant request from Cherwell Development Watch Alliance for £2000. The Chairman thanked them for the work they had already undertaken. The grant was towards the cost of an application for Judicial Review of the Cherwell Local Plan, on the grounds that the case for Oxford's housing need had not been adequately made, and that adequate plans had not been made for the removal of the North Oxford Golf Course to an alternative site. The Council agreed to reserve its position with regard to future financial support for an appeal if and when one is allowed to proceed.

20/069 The Council discussed the Clerk's report. She explained how the new Covid guidelines were being interpreted with regard to bookings. As Exeter Hall is a Covid Secure building, and the Council has been able to accept some bookings where social distancing can be maintained.

Lyne Road Green – the Clerk to speak to a landscape designer or local garden centre regarding plans for this area before consulting with the local residents.

20/070 The Council received the External Auditors report – no action required. The Council asked to pass on their thanks to the Finance Manager.

20/071 The Council considered the response to the Cherwell Local Plan consultation prepared by Cllr Graham and RESOLVED to approve it for submission. This included Cllr Betts proposal for a Linear or Circular Park around Kidlington linking green spaces.

20/072 The Council considered the response to the Government's White Paper for Planning prepared by Cllr Graham and RESOLVED to approve it for submission. Councillor Graham was thanked for the hard work he had put into preparing this and the preceding responses.

The Council RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue beyond 9.30pm

20/073 The Council discussed the situation at Stratfield Brake and agreed to leave the Clerk to liaise with officers at CDC regarding its future.

20/074 The Council received reports from District Councillors Copeland, Tyson and Middleton. They informed the Council that CDC is experiencing significant financial difficulties, and that previous proposals to create an Oxfordshire Unitary Authority are gathering momentum. The

meeting agreed that it would welcome more frequent attendance by County Councillors, and the Clerk was asked to write to them to this effect.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

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