

KIDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington, OX5 1AB

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Minutes of the Meeting of Kidlington Parish Council held via Zoom at 7.30pm on Thursday 18 March 2021

Present: Cllr David Robey, Cllr David Betts, Cllr Alison Street, Cllr Alan Graham, Cllr Conrad Copeland, Cllr Chris Pack, Cllr Katherine Tyson, Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr Fiona Mawson, Cllr Neil Prestidge, Cllr Doug Williamson, Cllr David Thurling, Cllr Cheryl Foulsham, Cllr Carolyn Sampson, Cllr Lucy Loveridge.

In Attendance: County Councillors Maurice Billington and Carmen Griffiths,
OCC: Stephen Chandler and Karen Fuller
Two representatives of the Order of St John.
Clerk – Rachel Faulkner

Apologies: No apologies.

21/012 Declaration of Interest: None disclosed.

21/013 Closure of Glebe House – representatives from Oxfordshire County Council and the Order of St John attended the meeting to answer members' questions about the sudden and unexpected closure of Glebe House. Council was told that the home was not considered sustainable and that due to the over provision of residential care in the county the closure was considered acceptable by the County Council.
The Parish Council expressed serious concerns about the decision and asked for clarification about the figures. The Parish Council also stated that the lack of communication about the closure, with even the County Councillors not being informed, was unacceptable. The Council asked what the County intended to do with the building and requested that they would like to see the site used for the benefit of the community. The Clerk was asked to write to OCC requesting the statistical calculations on which the decision was made, and to emphasize that if the closure is final, the premises should be available for community use.

21/014 The minutes of the meeting of 21 January 2021 were agreed, to be signed at the next physical meeting of the Council.

21/015 The Council received reports from County and District Councillors.
Cllr Griffiths reported that the County Council had completed works on the gullies at Rosie's Roundabout – she asked that Parish Councillors report any issues with drains or gullies directly to her and she would expedite action.

Cllr Griffiths reported that the County was committed to being carbon net zero by 2030. A trial of E-scooters was underway in the city and would be rolled out to Kidlington in the future.
The County Council is also supporting the introduction of 20mph limits across many locations outside of the city. Oxfordshire County Council had come top of the national recycling table for the 7th year consecutively. She confirmed that plans for the Oxford to Cambridge expressway had been shelved.

21/016 The minutes of committees were moved by Chairs:
Planning Committee: 11 February and 11 March 2021 – moved by Cllr Graham
Community Committee: 25 February 2021 – moved by Cllr Street

Recommendations approved:

21/PF130: The Council approved the amended Risk Assessment Register

21/PF134: Bicester Road Cemetery: the Council approved expenditure to continue with the preparation work to expand the existing burial ground.

21/017 The Council approved the insurance policy as recommended by Ross Gower brokers at a cost of £15,050.

21/018 The Council received the Clerk's Report.

Gala Day planned to be held on Saturday 24 July if guideline allow.

Two members of staff were currently furloughed under the government scheme.

Stratfield Brake – current management arrangement due to be terminated by 1 June 2021 – facility will be managed by CDC with a funding agreement in place with KPC and G&WE PCs. The Council is expecting a saving of around £20k from the budgeted figure due to this change. Dementia Friendly Training – further training offered to officers and members.

Tree Felling on Yarnton Road – Cllrs Middleton and Williamson joined the Clerk for a site visit with the CDC Tree Officers to confirm the necessity of felling the trees suffering with Ash Die Back. The Council is committed to planting two new trees for every tree felled in the village.

The clerk updated members on the activities of the Cherwell Larder who continue to use Exeter Hall for their market place and other activities.

21/019 The Council discussed the proposed redevelopment of Exeter Close. A consultant has been appointed to carry out an Options Appraisal – the costs being met by the One Public Estate funds held by the County Council. Options should be available for consideration in 3 months' time.

21/020 The Council approved the calendar of meetings for 2021/22. Noting that the current legislation allowing virtual meetings is due to lapse from 7 May next, the Council nonetheless agreed that its strong preference was to hold on-line the statutory annual May meeting on May 13. However, it was recognized that the decision might have to be reviewed in the light of legal developments.

21/021 The Council were updated on Cherwell Development Watch Alliance's application for a judicial review of CDC's Partial Review. No further contribution had been requested towards the costs, but a further request might be made depending on developments.

21/022 The Council received reports from Cherwell District Councillors.

21/023 The Council received reports from Parish Councillors representing KPC on outside bodies or meetings. Cllr Robey informed members that CDC are planning to build a Kidlington Team and employ a designated officer to work closely with both councils and in the community.

21/024 The Council confirmed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Thursday 29 April on zoom. Speakers to be Layla Moran MP, Thames Valley Police, Cherwell Collective and KPC Chairs.

The meeting closed at: 9.30pm