

KIDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington, OX5 1AB

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Minutes of the Meeting of Kidlington Parish Council held at Exeter Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 27 January 2022

- Present:** Cllr David Betts, Cllr Alan Graham, Cllr Lucy Loveridge, Cllr Fiona Mawson, Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr Chris Pack, Cllr Neil Prestidge, Cllr David Robey (Chair), Cllr Alison Street, Cllr David Thurling, Cllr Doug Williamson
- In Attendance:** Oxfordshire County Councillor Nigel Simpson,
Clerk – Rachel Faulkner, RFO – Alyson Bateman
- Apologies:** Cllr Cheryl Foulsham resigned from the Council prior to the meeting due to work commitments. The vacancy will be advertised as required.
- Absent:** Cllr Katherine Tyson and Cllr Conrad Copeland
- 22/001** **Declaration of Interest** – Cllr Betts informed the Council that his residence is close to the area being considered for a Local Green Space.
- 22/002** **Co-option to replace Cllr Sampson**
The Council considered four applicants for the vacancy on the Parish Council, three of whom were interviewed and the fourth was unable to attend. It **RESOLVED** to co-opt Dorothy Walker, who joined the meeting. The Chairman thanked all applicants for their interest and hoped that they would consider standing again in the future. Cllr Dorothy Walker is also a Cherwell District Councillor.
- 22/003** The minutes of the Council meeting of 18 November 2021 were approved for accuracy and signed by the Chairman.
- 22/004** The Council received reports from Oxfordshire County Councillors Ian Middleton and Nigel Simpson. Members were advised that the roll-out of the 20mph limit across the county was underway. The LCWIP (Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plan) has been passed by cabinet. Members were informed that the joint working between OCC and CDC has ceased and OCC would be recruiting a new Chief Executive as that position is no longer shared with CDC.
- 22/005** The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 9 December 2021 and 13 January 2022 were moved by Cllr Graham.
- 22/006** The minutes of the Community Committee held on 13 January 2022 were moved by Cllr Street and all recommendations approved.
Work to begin for a new playground at Orchard Recreation Ground with a budget of £130k.
- 22/007** The minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee held on 16 December 2022 were moved by Cllr Betts and all recommendations were approved.
The Council approved the draft budget and **RESOLVED** to request a precept of £770,847 for 2022/23.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve a 1.75% increase to staff salaries in anticipation of the current national negotiations.

The Council **RESOLVED** to approve anticipated expenditure of £5,200 for the repair of Rosie the Elephant following the damage caused to her by an illegal driver.

The Council discussed the proposal for a ring of connected open spaces around the village linked by cycle and walkways. The Council had submitted plans for this 'Green Ring' to CDC as part of the consultation on the next Local Plan. Kidlington Development Watch have further developed the Green Ring plan with the proposal that two of the areas (north of The Moors and back of Webbs Way) in the plan should be designated as Local Green Spaces (LGS). It was **RESOLVED** that the Council would support this proposal, to be carried forward by KDW.

22/008 Clerk's Report. The Clerk reported that all staff are now working back in the office at Exeter Hall. Bookings at Exeter Hall have increased with Cherwell Larder and the Vaccination Clinic here regularly. Exeter Hall keep a close eye on government guidelines regarding Covid 19 and continue to risk-assess on a regular basis.

22/009 The Council considered future meetings and **RESOLVED** that full Council meetings would be held in the Main Hall and Standing Committee meetings will be held in the Small Hall, except that the Planning Committee would be allowed to meet on-line if it wished. To be reviewed at Annual Council meeting on 19 May.

22/010 The Council **RESOLVED** to approve S137 Grants to:
Kidlington Recreational Trust - £1800
Kidlington RAF Cadets - £1000

22/011 The Council considered the recently published development brief for site PR7a Land South East of Kidlington. They **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to a Working Group comprising Cllrs David Robey, David Betts, Alison Street, Alan Graham and Neil Prestidge to prepare a response. The consultation period closes on Tuesday 8 March.

22/012 The Council discussed the proposal by Oxford United to enter into a long-term lease with Oxfordshire County Council for the land at Stratfield Brake with the intention to build a football stadium and associated facilities. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve a statement:

Kidlington Parish Council is committed to preserving the Green Belt and the Green Ring around the Village as an essential part of its identity. We are nevertheless approaching negotiations on the OUFCA Stratfield Brake proposal with an open mind. While we fully appreciate its possible benefits for the Village, we have yet to be convinced (1) that it can be made compatible with our Green Belt and Green Ring commitment, (2) that adequate measures will be taken to mitigate the resultant burdens on residents, particularly match-day parking, traffic congestion and noise, (3) that firm and lasting assurances can be obtained as to the security and sustainability of any agreements we may reach, and of OUFCA's financial capacity to deliver and maintain them. We expect to be fully involved in negotiations between OCC and OUFCA on the proposal and will resist relinquishing our lease on the Stratfield Brake site until and unless we are satisfied on the points above.

The Council also approved a list of issues and questions for further discussion attached to the statement. Together with the statement, these would be shared with OCC, CDC, Oxford United and Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council. It was

agreed that at the initial stage discussions with Oxford United would be held separately from GWE, but that the aim should be to arrive at a common position between the two councils. There was a lengthy discussion about how best to consult with Kidlington residents. It was **RESOLVED** that more detail was needed on the proposal before meaningful consultation could take place.

It was agreed that initial discussions with OUFC and OCC would be carried forward by a group consisting of the Chair of Council and the Chairs of the three Standing Committees. All Council members will be involved as soon as appropriate, and before any significant decisions are made.

- 22/013** The Council **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to extend the meeting beyond two hours.
- 22/014** The Council discussed the proposal to close Sandy Lane level crossing. Cllr David Robey has represented KPC at local meetings with groups opposed to the closure. Many residents of Yarnton and Begbroke are lobbying for a vehicle bridge to be installed. It was confirmed that while KPC opposes closure of the level crossing, it should reserve its position on the alternative of a vehicle bridge, given the complexity of the issue for Kidlington residents.
- 22/015** The Council discussed the content of the newsletter and the Annual Parish Meeting due to be held on Thursday 26 May.

The meeting closed at: 9.50pm