

KIDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington, OX5 1AB

01865 372143

Email: clerk@kidlington-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Kidlington Parish Council held at Exeter Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 30 June 2022

Present: Cllr David Betts, Cllr Alan Graham, Cllr Lesley Mclean, Cllr Neil Prestidge, Cllr David Robey (Chair), Cllr David Thurling, Cllr Alison Street, Cllr Dorothy Walker, Cllr Doug Williamson.

In Attendance: Clerk – Rachel Faulkner, RFO – Aly Bateman

Apologies: Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr Fiona Mawson, Cllr Lucy Loveridge

Absent: Cllr Conrad Copeland, Cllr Katharine Tyson

22/045 Declaration of interests – none received.

22/046 Public Participation – none

22/047 The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 May 2022 were a true and correct record.

22/048 The Council considered two candidates for co-option to the Council. Councillors **RESOLVED** to co-opt Victoria Campbell who accepted the position. Cllr Campbell was invited to join the Community Committee.

22/047 The Council reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return which was signed by the Chairman, Clerk and RFO at the meeting. The Chairman thanked the RFO for her work and congratulated the team on closing the year with a £34k surplus despite the challenges presented.

22/048 The minutes of committees were moved by Chairs:

- a) **Planning Committee:** 9 June – moved by Cllr Graham
- b) **Community Committee:** 9 June – moved by Cllr Street
 - It was **AGREED** that renovation of the Park Hill recreation ground should be identified as a potential capital project.
- c) **Policy and Finance Committee:** 16 June – moved by Cllr Betts
 - The P&F committee reviewed the Financial Regulations and the Council **RESOLVED** to adopt them unchanged.
 - The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the decision to increase member's allowance by 1.75% in line with CDC's recommendation.
 - Council was reassured that funds have been reserved for the VAT deficit if required.

22/049 The Council received the Clerk's report

- It was reported that all Jubilee events organised by Cherwell Collective/WISH and hosted by KPC were well attended and appreciated by residents.
- Problems with distribution of the newsletter are being investigated.
- An analysis of Exeter Hall use, income and expenditure is being undertaken as things return to normal.

- The Chair commented on the Annual Parish Meeting noting that it had run smoothly and residents had been very fair in their questions and comments.
- OCC consultation regarding the A44 and Kidlington (Rosie's) Roundabout – it was agreed to set up a working group comprising Alan Graham, David Betts, Neil Prestidge, David Robey and Lesley McLean.

22/050 The Council discussed the options for consultation regarding OUFC's proposals for Stratfield Brake. A number of possibilities were discussed and all members agreed it was important that residents felt their views had been heard.

Cllr Robey reported on the inaugural meeting of the SB Working Group which was led by OUFC via their Public Relations company. Members discussed the leaflet that OUFC have now distributed to residents. It remains clear that there is no commitment on the part of any of the existing leaseholders and that it is up to the club to come up with a set of proposals that are sufficiently clear and detailed to enable residents to take a view and leaseholders to decide whether to relinquish the lease on the site.

It was suggested that the club has not yet provided clear answers to the question why they cannot remain in their current location. It was also asked why Oxford City Council have not considered compulsory purchase. The Chairman agreed to bring these points up at the next SB/OUFC meeting. Members also queried whether OCC should be looking for best consideration and considering other tenders for the use of the land. The Chairman stated that KPC's position is that we would want the site to continue to be used for sport and recreation and that we are currently working on plans with CDC to decrease the running costs and increase community use.

It was agreed that a small group would meet with ORS, the council's preferred option for professional consultation, and provide a proposal for P&F committee to consider at its August meeting.

Given the likely costs of employing consultants for the residents' consultation, it was AGREED to set up an earmarked reserve of £40k for this purpose

22/051 The Council received reports from members representing KPC on outside bodies.

- Airport Consultative Committee – David Thurling reported that flight numbers should reduce as the training school is seeking to move some of its operations to warmer climes. He felt reassured that the airport management are aware of resident's complaints and are seeking to mitigate them.
- Four Parishes Liaison Group – David Robey reported that this group continues to meet but has been frustrated by a lack of input from OCC. It was hoped that the working group looking at the A44 and Kidlington Roundabout might be able to obtain more information about the impact of the new developments on the highways.

22/052 The Council received reports from County and District Councillors.

- Cllr Nigel Simpson reported that he had put forward a motion to the County Council to keep Sandy Lane level crossing open.
- Cllr Dorothy Walker reported that the Home Office had issued a notice about their plans to reopen Campsfield House in approximately one year.

22/053 The Council **RESOLVED** to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting in respect of confidential information which is prejudicial to the public interest.

22/054 The Chairman brought members up to date with the Options Appraisal for the redevelopment of Exeter Close. The Working Group had met with Willmott Dixon and OCC to discuss the options and agreed that Option 3 to include the Doctors' Surgery, Library and Cherwell Collective was the preferred option. This was AGREED, with a variant of Option 2 to include the Cherwell Collective and the Surgery but not the library as a fall-back alternative should the funding of the library component not be feasible.

Some Work Group members proposed to consider the option of small retailers rather than one supermarket. Following discussion and on the advice of the consultants, members AGREED that this would put Exeter Close in competition with the High Street which is already struggling, and that a medium-sized supermarket would be the preferred option.

It was noted that a proposal to fund a more detailed feasibility study on the basis of the above options would be put to the next meeting of Council. The decision on the choice of development partner would be taken after the elections in May 2023.

22/054 The next meeting of the Full Council to be held on 15 September 2022

The meeting closed at: 9.45 pm