

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 17 November 2022

Present: Cllr David Betts, Cllr Alan Graham, Cllr Lucy Loveridge, Cllr Lesley Mclean, Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr Fiona Mawson, Cllr Neil Prestidge, Cllr David Robey (Chair), Cllr David Thurling, Cllr Alison Street, Cllr Dorothy Walker.

In Attendance: Clerk – Rachel Faulkner and one member of the public

Apologies: Cllr Doug Williamson

Not in attendance: Cllr Katherine Tyson

22/070 Declaration of interests – none received.

22/071 Public Participation – a member of the public asked that supporting papers for Council meetings be made available to the public. The Chairman agreed to consider the best method for doing so in consultation with the Clerk. The member of the public also said that he had made attempts to book Stratfield Brake and found the booking system very difficult and that there were few opportunities to book space. The Chairman agreed that this would be discussed with Cherwell DC who are managing the site on the Parish Council's behalf.

22/072 The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 September 2022 were a true and correct record.

22/073 The minutes of committees were moved by Chairs:

- a) **Planning Committee:** 13 October and 10 November – moved by Cllr Graham
- b) **Community Committee:** 27 October – moved by Cllr Street
 - The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the recommended increase to the burial and allotment charges.
 - The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the creation of an earmarked reserve of £3000 from general reserves to be used to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III.
 - The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the replacement of the oak gate at St Mary's Churchyard at a cost of £3,500
- c) **Policy and Finance Committee:** 3 November – moved by Cllr Betts
 - The Council **RESOLVED** to use some of the dividend income from the CCLA Property Fund in order to support the revenue budget and keep the precept increase as low as possible.
 - The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation to increase the Environmental earmarked reserve to £40,000 from General Reserves. This may be used to fund the purchase or lease of an electric vehicle or van.
 - The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation to increase the Election earmarked reserve to £15,000 (an increase of £7,000) to cover the costs of the December by-election.
 - The Council noted the S137 grants to Aspire and Kidlington Recreational Trust.
 - The Council noted that Terms of Reference and Schemes of Delegation would be reviewed by P&F committee.

- The Council noted that the Chairman had responded to the Oxford City Council 2040 Plan consultation and objected to their proposals for a further review of the Green Belt.

22/074 The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the draft budget and to request the sum of £797,597 from CDC (The Billing Authority) for the purposes of meeting the expenses of Kidlington Parish Council for the year 2023-24.

On present calculations this represents an increase of 3.5% on the previous year which is considerably below the rate of inflation. The Council intends to use £11,868 from the dividend income to keep the precept low in consideration of the considerable hardship many residents will be experiencing due to the cost of living crisis.

Councillor Middleton asked if the Council should be considering moving their investment from the CCLA Property Fund: to be discussed at the Policy and Finance meeting in January.

Having agreed the budget, it was agreed to cancel the planned Policy and Finance meeting in December and to hold the reserve meeting in January.

22/075 **Virtual/On Line Meetings**

The Council agreed that all future full Council meetings will be live-streamed, giving members of the public an opportunity to attend virtually.

It was agreed that if Councillors attend virtual meetings it does not count as attendance in terms of the 6-month rule and they should not be able to participate online without prior approval from the Chairman in consultation with the Clerk, with a right of appeal to the full Council. This would only be granted in exceptional or medical circumstances.

22/076 The Council received the Clerk's report

- The Council received a report on the recent Firework Event at Stratfield Brake. There had been some technical difficulties and the contractor had offered the Council a discount on the quote. The Community Committee to consider whether to hold the event in 2023 and how to ensure the same problems do not occur. The Council decided to grant refunds to those who certified in writing that they had to leave before the fireworks commenced.
- The Council discussed the replacement of the damaged bus shelter on Evans Lane which had been hit by two cars on two separate occasions. The Council considered installing a shelter with a green roof and a vote took place. It was **RESOLVED** to replace with a 3 bay shelter without a green roof at a cost of £5,723.70. The lead time is currently 14 weeks and is not expected to be replaced until late February.
- Cllr Street to work with the Key Medical Practice on a location for a cycle rack near the surgery.
- The Council was informed that the Home Office would be holding an engagement event at Yarnton Road Football Club on 24 November on the plans for Campsfield House. It was agreed to delegate to Councillors Betts and Walker consideration of a reply to the Home Office response to the Council's letter.
- The Council supported the clerk's response to the District Council that the development of canalside amenities at Yarnton Road should be put forward in response to the call for bids from the Rural England Prosperity Fund.

22/077 The Council considered quotes for the repair of the wooden bridge at Stratfield Brake and, based on the Facilities Manager's recommendation, **RESOLVED** to accept the quote of £6,543.51 from Haynes & Sons.

22/078 The Council reviewed the Standing Orders and **RESOLVED** to approve minor changes to bring them into line with NALC's model Standing Orders. It was agreed that additional pronouns should be added to read he/she/they etc.

22/079 Stratfield Brake

The Council discussed how best to communicate with residents about the proposals for Stratfield Brake. Firm proposals including the answers to the specific questions asked by the Council had not yet been received by the Parish Council. Members agreed that they would like to keep residents informed of the Council's present position by means of a leaflet distribution. Members expressed concerns that there was a lot of false information circulating in the village and it was important to keep people informed that no decisions have yet been made.

22/080 Exeter Close

The Chairman gave an update on the options for redevelopment of the Exeter Close site. He and the Clerk had met with a developer to discuss further options following the decision by the County Council to reconsider the relocation of the library onto the site. Their findings will be presented to the Exeter Close Working Party which now consists of Cllrs David Robey, David Betts, Alan Graham, Alison Street, Lesley McLean, Doug Williamson, Dorothy Walker and Ian Middleton.

22/081 Cherwell 2040 Plan and proposed revisions to Kidlington Masterplan

The Council agreed to form a working party to consider responses consisting of David Robey, David Betts, Alison Street, Alan Graham, Lesley McLean and Neil Prestidge.

The Council **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to extend the meeting time beyond 9.30pm.

22/082 Reports were received from Kidlington's County and District Councillors.

22/083 Reports were received from councillors representing KPC on outside bodies:
Kidlington Voice – Lesley McLean
East West Rail – Alan Graham
Begbroke development – Alan Graham

The next meeting of the Full Council to be held on 26 January 2023

The meeting closed at: 9.55pm