

# KIDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Kidlington Parish Council held at Exeter Hall and on Zoom at 6.30pm on Thursday 19 January 2023

**Present:** Cllr David Betts, Cllr Alan Graham, , Cllr Lesley Mclean, Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr Fiona Mawson, Cllr Melanie Moorhouse, Cllr Neil Prestidge, Cllr David Robey (Chair), Cllr David Thurling, Cllr Alison Street, Cllr Linda Ward, Cllr Doug Williamson, Cllr Dorothy Walker.

**In Attendance:** Clerk, RFO. 28 members of the public in person and 54 on line.

**Apologies:** Cllr Lucy Loveridge

**Not in attendance:** Cllr Katherine Tyson

**23/001** Declaration of interests – none received.

**23/002** It was agreed that the minutes of the Council's November meeting would be reviewed at the next meeting of the Council.

**23/003 Public Participation**

Members of the public spoke for and against the Triangle stadium proposal

**23/004** Committee members discussed the main points of concern and agreed the following:

1. KPC's position in the matter of the Triangle proposal is very different from its position in the matter of Stratfield Brake. Whereas KPC are leaseholders of Stratfield Brake, and the stadium proposal could not have gone forward there without its agreeing to relinquish the lease, in the case of the Triangle KPC are only consultees, although the land is within Kidlington Parish.
2. KPC should leave its position on Stratfield Brake as it stands. The Council does not yet have answers to all of its questions and do not have the information it agreed it needs to make a decision. Even though OCC are currently taking SB off the table, it could come back, and KPC would then have to reconsider any decision that we might take now.  
Cllr Prestidge stated that he felt the option to develop Stratfield Brake was a better option as there would be more benefits to the existing sports clubs.
3. A number of the Parish Council's questions relating to the Stratfield Brake proposal have not yet been fully answered: transport, traffic congestion and parking, the number and frequency of major events, benefits to the local community (sporting and otherwise), the long-term dependability of commitments entered into by the club. These will need to be fully answered in relation to the Triangle site.
4. There is the added major issue in the case of the Triangle proposal of the effective removal of the Green Belt gap between Kidlington and Oxford that would result, after the planned housing developments immediately South of the A34. It is hard to see how the proposal fits with OCC's stated requirement of maintaining the "green barrier" between Oxford and Kidlington.
5. The Parish Council should take the same open-minded approach to the Triangle proposal as it did in the case of Stratfield Brake. Much more information is needed about the plans for the new site, as well as answers to the questions above, before the Council can make up its mind.

6. No advantage would be gained by making a firm decision now for or against. The Council needs to time it further down the line, so as to fit in most effectively with OCC's decision-making process. A decision that is as fully informed as it can be is likely to have more impact than a decision at this stage, given all the unknowns.
7. For the same reason there is no point in the Parish Council consulting residents until it is more fully informed. The outcome is unlikely to influence OCC one way or another at this stage, assuming that they agree to go ahead with negotiations, or discussions, on 24 January.
8. The online survey conducted by OCC in the early part of next year cannot be considered a sound consultation. The Parish Council will consider in due course whether and how to consult more soundly and systematically, perhaps through a Parish Poll. Informal consultations should take place in the more immediate future to find out about residents' concerns and aspirations. Formal consultation would be needed when full details of the club's plans are available and shortly before the Council decides its final position.

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

**The meeting closed at: 7.30pm**

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