

KIDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Kidlington Parish Council

held at Exeter Hall and on Zoom at 7.30pm on Thursday 26 January 2023

Present: Cllr David Betts, Cllr Lucy Loveridge, Cllr Lesley Mclean, Cllr Melanie Moorhouse, Cllr Neil Prestidge, Cllr David Robey (Chair), Cllr David Thurling, Cllr Alison Street, Cllr Linda Ward, Cllr Dorothy Walker, Cllr Doug Williamson.

In Attendance: Clerk – Rachel Faulkner and three members of the public

Apologies: Cllr Alan Graham, Cllr Fiona Mawson

On Line: Cllr Katherine Tyson, Cllr Ian Middleton, 2 members of the public

23/005 Declaration of interests – none received. Cllr Betts and Cllr Ward wanted it noted that they live on houses that back on to one of the areas that may be designated for development in the Cherwell 2040 Plan.

23/006 Public Participation – a member of the public thanked the council for its increasing use of the website to ensure supporting documents are available to the public ahead of meetings. He also requested that more financial information be available in the newsletter and on line. The Clerk confirmed that the Council's budget is available on the website.

23/007 The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 November 2022 and the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting on 19 January were a true and correct record.

23/008 The Council **RESOLVED** to appoint new members Cllr Melanie Moorhouse to the Community Committee and Cllr Linda Ward to the Policy and Finance Committee and Cherwell 2040 Plan Working Group.

23/009 The minutes of committees were moved by Chairs:

- a) **Planning Committee:** 8 December 22 and 12 January 23 – moved by Cllr Williamson in Cllr Graham's absence.
- b) **Community Committee:** 12 January 23 – moved by Cllr Street.
 - Cherwell Collective – the council agreed that they are keen to support the work of the collective and to better understand their structure and future aspirations and specifically their space requirements.
 - Fireworks – the council agreed with the Community Committee's recommendation to hold Reduced Noise Fireworks again in 2023. It was agreed that they would use the existing supplier although assurances would be sought to ensure that the problems have been rectified. The budget for the event has been increased.
 - Christmas Lights – staff were congratulated on the switch-on event which was very well organised and well attended.
 - Coronation – the council has set aside an earmarked reserve of £3000 towards commemorating the occasion. Community Committee to discuss ideas.

c) Policy and Finance Committee: 19 January 23 – moved by Cllr Betts

- The committee had agreed in principle to allow Kidlington Football Club to sublease their kitchen to a delivery service providing all the necessary permissions were sought and the trading hours were reduced to minimise disturbance for local residents.
- The chairman of the committee to draft a response to the proposals for Botley West Solar Farm.
- It was agreed that the Council's position on the Yarnton Road level crossing is that a vehicular connection be maintained, either by keeping the crossing open or by building a road bridge across the train line.
- It was confirmed that a meeting has been arranged for councillors to meet Carl Smith to view his concerns about the flood prevention measures in the village and to subsequently contact the relevant authorities.

23/010 The Council **RESOLVED** to agree and sign a new lease with the Kidlington Bowls Club relating to the premises in Exeter Close. The lease to run for 15 years terminating in 2038. The new lease requires the club to pay a discounted rent and contributions towards utility bills on a sliding scale over the course of the lease term.

23/011 The Council received the Clerk's Report in which she informed the Council that the two charities previously administered by the Council, Roger Almont Charity and Alderman Frank Wise Charity, had been wound up and were no longer registered with the Charity Commission. The Council confirmed that they would wish to continue to support the Alderman Wise Award which offers a grant to students at Gosford Hill School who have contributed by volunteering in the community. It was agreed that the Policy and Finance Committee would be asked at its first meeting each budget year to approve a \$137 grant to the School for the award.

23/012 The Chairman stated the Council's position on the revised proposals to build a new stadium for Oxford United Football Club in Kidlington. As the club are now looking at OCC-owned land, known as the Triangle, not in the ownership of the Parish Council, the Council is no longer required to consider whether it would relinquish its lease on the Stratfield Brake site. The Council discussed options for consulting with residents regarding their views on the proposals and agreed that it was important that residents were given an opportunity to voice their concerns as well as their aspirations for facilities in the village.

It was agreed that the Chairman would seek to facilitate a meeting with local sports clubs, OUFC and Cherwell recreation officers to better understand the needs of the clubs.

It was felt that KPC should play an active role in ensuring that, if the proposal to build a stadium on the Triangle goes ahead, the village benefits from enhanced community facilities and that the potential negatives of such a proposal are mitigated effectively by the club.

Since OCC is unlikely to take a firm decision on the Triangle proposal before the coming May elections, it will be for the new Council in place thereafter to review and consider the detailed plans that should then be available. While the present Council cannot commit its successor to a particular position in this regard, it was agreed that residents ought to be consulted on the detailed plans once available.

23/013 The Council agreed that Niall McWilliams from OUFC and Cllr Calum Miller be invited to take part in a question-and-answer session at the Annual Parish Meeting on 30 March. This would give residents a chance to air their views and concerns about the Triangle proposal as well as giving the Club a better picture of the facilities the village needs. Residents will be invited but not obliged to inform the Clerk of proposed questions before the start of the meeting.

- 23/014** The Council discussed content for the annual newsletter which is due to be distributed to residents during early March. The newsletter will be an opportunity to brief residents on the Triangle stadium proposal. It was suggested that the newsletter be publicised through social media channels and that information about the Annual Parish Meeting be made available through schools and as many other channels as possible.
- 23/015** The Council are awaiting the dates of the formal consultation on the Cherwell 2040 Plan. Comments have already been sent to the district council regarding further use of the Green Belt.
- 23/016** The Chairman informed the council that we are awaiting further information about options for the redevelopment of the Exeter Close 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.
- 23/017** Reports were received from Kidlington's County and District Councillors.
- 23/018** Cllr Thurling updated the Council on developments at Oxford Airport. He reported that there were 74,500 aircraft movements over the previous 12 months which was half than their allowed limit. Movements were expected to decrease now that the Pilot Training School has relocated to Spain. He reported that the airport would be objecting to the Solar Farm proposals because of safety concerns.

The meeting closed at: 9.10pm