

# KIDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Policy and Finance Committee held at Exeter Hall on Thursday 9 March at 6.30pm

**Present:** Cllr David Betts (Chairman), Cllr Neil Prestidge, Cllr David Robey, Cllr David Thurling, Cllr Alison Street, Cllr Alan Graham.

**In attendance:** Rachel Faulkner – Clerk, Alyson Bateman – Responsible Finance Officer

**Present:** 1 member of the public

**Apologies:** Cllr Linda Ward, Cllr Ian Middleton

**Did not attend:** Cllr Katharine Tyson

**23/PF011** The minutes of the meeting of 19 January 2023 were approved as a correct record by the committee and signed by Cllr Betts. Cllr Robey clarified that, although it remained an aspiration of the Council, the installation of a junction to allow vehicles to cross Frieze Way to access Stratfield Brake was not currently part of the funded plans for improvements to the roundabout. Cllr Robey noted that the Local Plan Working Group had not yet been able to meet as the District Council have not yet revised the draft plan and have not given a date for releasing it for consultation.

**23/PF012** The committee reviewed the Capital and Reserves report. The RFO informed the committee that revenue was in line with budget and the council should expect a small underspend. It was **agreed** to rename the EMR Consultancy - S/Brake Consultancy – Football Stadium, in case it is needed in relation to the Triangle stadium proposal.

**23/PF013** The committee agreed to accept the provisional calendar for 2023/24 meetings although it would not be formally adopted by the council until the first meeting of the new council in May and therefore may be subject to change.

**23/PF014** Members agreed to reclassify the Alderman Wise award and grant the sum of £500 to the school as a S137 Grant to the winners of the award recognising students for their participation in community life. It was **agreed** that this would be dealt with under S137 grants in the future, at the beginning of each financial year.

**23/PF014** Members agreed to extend the lease with OCC for the Nursery building in Exeter Close. Cllr Robey and Betts to sign the lease document.

**23/PF015** The minutes of the Traffic Advisory Committee were discussed.

**23/PF016** Members considered the letter of objection to the Botley West Solar Farm, collated from a number of sources by Cllr Betts, and agreed that it represented the views of the committee. It was suggested that a point be added that there was no evidence

that there would be any direct benefit to local residents in terms of energy provision. Final response to be referred to full Council for approval. Following approval, the response should be sent to the developers of the Solar Farm. A proposal of this kind would bypass the normal planning system and be considered by central government as a national infrastructure project, therefore the council's response should be sent to the Secretary of State as well as Cherwell District Council. The council's objection would also be posted on the website. It was agreed that a common position should be developed between all the affected parish councils.

**23/PF017** Members reviewed the notes of the meeting regarding the village's flood defences attended by councillors following concerns raised by local resident Carl Smith. It was agreed that Cllr Betts would work with the Clerk to make enquiries to the Environment Agency. It was agreed that a small group should meet to pursue the option of a flood defence group. Cllr Mawson and Ward to be approached in conjunction with Cllr Betts and Carl Smith.

Cllr Betts left the meeting and Cllr Thurling took the chair

**23/PF018** Cllr Robey reported that meetings with Oxford University Development (OUD) suggested that they remain keen to include the provision of a road bridge on Sandy Lane across the railway track, although it was not confirmed whether this would be for public use or restricted to a community bus as well as bicycles. The Council's position remained to maintain vehicular access across the track but limit it to light-weight traffic.

**23/PF019** The committee discussed the meeting held with Layla Moran MP regarding the reopening of Campsfield House. It was agreed that the Council should focus its concerns on matters that affect Kidlington residents such as the conditions within the facility and any impact it may have on local services.

**23/PF020** Cllr Robey gave a report on the meeting with CDC Cllr Phil Chapman and officers Liam Didcock and Tom Darlington regarding CDC's Playing Pitch Strategy. The strategy was last published in 2018 and the requirements for Kidlington remained very similar. The report states that there is a need for two new all-weather football pitches and up to 7 new grass pitches, all for football A meeting is planned with local sports clubs and CDC officers to present the strategy and discuss ways to achieve it. The report would also be shared with the Four Parishes Group representing GWE, Begbroke and Yarnton councils. It was **agreed** that discussions with OUFC about their possible contribution to local sports facilities, if their stadium proposal goes ahead, should be framed in the context of the Cherwell strategy, and in addition should consider possible contributions to the renovation of the Stratfield Brake pavilion. It was noted that possible contributions by national sports bodies to the implementation of the CDC strategy would be explored. It was also noted that the Stratfield Brake management arrangement with CDC would be extended for the immediate future.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.