

# 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 13 April 2023

**Present:** Cllr David Betts, Cllr Alan Graham, Cllr Fiona Mawson, Cllr Lesley Mclean, Cllr Ian Middleton, 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 two members of the public

**Apologies:** Cllr Lucy Loveridge

**On Line:** Cllr Melanie Moorhouse

**23/029a** Declaration of interests – none received.

**23/029b** Public Participation - none

**23/029c** The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 March 2023 would be reviewed at the next full meeting of the Council in May.

**23/029d** The Chairman's draft of the proposed Parish Council communication to residents with regard to the recently called Parish Poll was discussed. The substance was agreed with a number of modifications of detail, as incorporated in the version subsequently circulated to councillors and then distributed as a leaflet to residents (appended below). It was decided not to issue a press release on the matter.

**The meeting closed at: 8.45pm**

## Appendix

### **Should Kidlington Parish Council support the building of a stadium for Oxford United Football Club in Kidlington?**

Views in the village on this subject are deeply divided. The Parish Council strongly encourages residents to vote in the Poll so as to reflect, as accurately as possible, the current state of opinion.

#### **What is the poll about?**

You will probably have heard about Oxford United's aspirations to build their new stadium in Kidlington, between Stratfield Brake Sports Ground and Oxford Parkway station. Discussions between Oxford United and Oxfordshire County Council have been taking place for over a year. Initially the proposal was to build a stadium on Stratfield Brake, but in recent months the focus has moved to an area known as the 'Triangle', an area of land between Frieze Way and Oxford Road: see the map. The land is not currently publicly accessible and is leased by Oxfordshire County Council to a company that grows willow for commercial purposes.

Detailed plans have not yet been produced by Oxford United to explain exactly what they propose, what benefits there might be for Kidlington residents, and how they will mitigate the inevitable impact of this venture. Kidlington Parish Council has remained neutral on the proposal throughout the discussions, and will do so until the detailed plans are received.

#### **Why is the Poll taking place?**

We held a Parish Meeting on 30 March at which representatives from the County Council and Oxford United answered questions from residents about the proposal. At the meeting a group of residents called for a Parish Poll in order to better gauge the views of the community. The law requires the Poll to be held now, although it has not been called by the Parish Council. For more information about the stadium proposal, the Parish Poll and the Parish Council's position, visit the Parish Council's website. The Poll will provide a useful indication of the current state of opinion in the Village. The outcome will not be binding on the Parish Council, and it will be open to the Council to hold further consultation with residents on the proposal once the detailed plans have been received. Neither the results of the Poll nor the views of the Parish Council will be binding on the decision the County Council makes regarding the lease of this land. The final proposal would also need to be approved by Cherwell District Council as the Planning Authority.

#### **Voting**

The poll is for **Kidlington Parish registered voters only**.

The Parish Poll will be run by Cherwell District Council and has to take place after the local elections. It will be held at the usual voting stations in the village from 4 to 9 pm on Wednesday 10 May.

Poll cards will not be issued; postal votes and proxy voting are not allowed for Parish Polls. Voter ID will not be required, but voters will have to identify themselves by their address on the electoral roll. The polling stations will be the same as for the local elections on 4 May (Kidlington Baptist Church, Exeter Hall, Kidlington Youth Football Club, Kidlington Methodist Church Hall and the Church of St John the Baptist). You must use your allocated polling station as shown on the polling card you received for the local elections on 4 May. If in doubt you can find out your polling station at the following site:

<https://cherwell.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/lookup/index.html?appid=2df78162acdc4b9786a32c085190a730&locale=en-GB>