

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 29 June 2023

Present: Cllr William Easdown Babb, Cllr Alan Graham, Cllr Fiona Mawson, Cllr Lesley Mclean, Cllr Ian Middleton, Cllr Melanie Moorhouse, Cllr Neil Prestidge, Cllr David Robey (Chair), Cllr Linda Ward, Cllr Doug Williamson, Cllr Danny Wright.

In Attendance: Clerk – Rachel Faulkner, OCC Cllr Nigel Simpson and two members of the public

Apologies: Cllr David Betts, Cllr David Thurling, Cllr Alison Street, Cllr Phil Wyse

On Line: 4 members of the public

23/051 Declaration of interests – none received.

23/052 The Council **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 18 May 2022 were a true and correct record and they were signed by the Chairman. A member asked about the procedure for submitting items for future agendas. It was confirmed that, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders items could be submitted to the Clerk by individual councillors and would be accepted unless there is a reasonable reason not to, which would be explained in writing.

23/053 **Public Participation** - none

23/054 The minutes of committees were moved by Chairs:

a) **Planning Committee:** 25 May and 8 June 2023 – moved by Cllr Graham.

b) **Policy and Finance Committee:** 15 June 23 – moved by Cllr McLean.

The committee to review S137 Grant Policy at next meeting.

c) **Community Committee: 22 June 23** – moved by Cllr Moorhouse.

- The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the expenditure for the repair of decking areas at Exeter Close.
- The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the expenditure for the grounds work in the Coronation Garden.
- The Council **RESOLVED** to create a Natural Environment Working Group to replace previous Environment Group.
- The Council discussed the process over the removal of a damaged tree on Edinburgh Drive. It was agreed that members should be notified about trees that are due to be removed or have been removed for safety reasons but that this should not hold up the process if urgent decisions need to be made by qualified officers. KPC has requested that OCC inform the Clerk and a designated member, Cllr Williamson, at the earliest opportunity.
- The Council discussed the issues around the planting of Osier Willows in an allotment and it was agreed that permission should be sought before planting trees on KPC land.

23/055 The Council received the Clerk's report.

23/056 The Council reviewed and **RESOLVED** to approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return which was signed by the Chairman, Clerk and RFO at the meeting.

23/057 The Council reviewed Capital Reserves and Expenditure. It was noted that there are large potential capital reserves for redevelopment of Park Hill play area and extension of Bicester Road Cemetery. Additional reserves may be needed for the redevelopment of Exeter Close.

23/058 The Council discussed Working Groups.
It was RESOLVED that Cllr Lesley McLean would chair the Exeter Close Redevelopment Working Group.
It was RESOLVED to form a Communications Working Group comprising Cllrs Lesley McLean, Melanie Moorhouse and William Easdown Babb. Terms of reference will be to review and make recommendations on the Council's policy on communication with residents and others.
It was RECOMMENDED that a new Recreational Facilities Working Group be formed – to be discussed at the next meeting of Policy and Finance Committee.
It was RESOLVED that Cllrs Danny Wright and Lesley McLean join the Stratfield Brake Liaison Group.
It was resolved that Cllr Danny Wright would be a full representative of the Council on the Kidlington Recreational Trust alongside Cllr Prestige.
It was RESOLVED that the Flood Prevention Group continues to meet twice year. The group comprises Cllrs Betts, Middleton, Prestidge, Mawson and Ward with input from resident Carl Smith.
The Chair also reported on office discussions on Exeter Close Redevelopment. A second potential adviser was proposing an alternative approach to that put forward in the Options Appraisal. This would be presented to a meeting of the Redevelopment Group when ready, and considered against the Options Appraisal recommendations.

23/059 Cllr Graham submitted a motion on OUFC's stadium proposal, seconded by Cllr Williamson that the Parish Council submit their previously submitted concerns to Oxfordshire County Council as below.

The Parish Council will object to the stadium proposal unless its four primary concerns are satisfied with further details, and we call upon the County Council not to proceed until they are.

1. Parking: Specifically, what measures will be implemented to prevent match-day crowds from parking in Kidlington? What modelling has been done to demonstrate capacity at the park-and-rides? In the long term the Club may meet its aim of 90% attendance by public transport, but that is unlikely to happen immediately. We need to know what additional measures will be implemented in the short to medium term. Commuter and other parking is already a problem in the village.
2. Congestion: Already a major problem in the village, and set to become more so with 4,400 new houses locally. Specifically, what plans have been made for the provision of public transport to matches? Who will provide it? Where will passengers be dropped off? How much will this add, together with additional car traffic, to congestion in the area. Detailed modelling is needed here as well. More specifically:
 - a. The footbridge across the Oxford Road is described as "potential". In our view it is indispensable, in order to avoid unmanageable congestion on the foot/cycle path.
 - b. The Stand United document (but not the Overview and Summary) refers to the need to close the Oxford Road for part of match days. This is a totally unacceptable solution as far as Kidlington is concerned. Getting into Oxford on Saturdays is difficult enough already.

More information is also needed from the County as to the impact of the development on its future Transport Strategy.

3. Frequency of matches and any other major events. We need precise numbers of these.

4. Guarantees of OUFC commitments as regards both benefits to residents and negative impacts of the development. We understand that these will be written into the lease, but need to know exactly in what form. We recognize that meeting these concerns will require commitments by the County Council as well as by the Club. But our residents are entitled to expect both parties to firm up these commitments in advance of the decision to proceed.

There was a named vote on the motion

In favour of the motion were Cllrs Easdown Babb, Graham, Mawson, McLean, Middleton, Moorhouse, Ward, Williamson.

Against the motion were Cllrs Prestidge and Wright.

The motion was carried.

The Council confirmed the view of the Policy and Finance Committee that it should not hold a further survey or poll on the stadium development, because of the risk of consultation fatigue.

23/060 The next meeting of the full Council is Thursday 7 September. The Council should have sight of the results of the OCC stadium consultation at this time. It was agreed that the Community Meeting due to be held on 17 August will only be held if there is urgent business that requires a decision by members.

23/061 The Council **RESOLVED** to allow the opponents of the Botley West Solar Farm the use of Exeter Hall for a meeting free of charge as a S137 Grant.

23/062 The Council received written reports from County and District Councillors (available on KPC website with meeting papers).

The meeting closed at: 9.25pm