

# Kidlington Parish Council

Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington OX5 1AB

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Annual Meeting of the Parish

held at Exeter Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 30 March 2023

**Present:** Kidlington Parish Councillors  
Cllr Callum Miller, Oxfordshire County Council  
Niall McWilliams, Oxford United Football Club  
Approximately 300 members of the public

### **APM/23/01 Introduction by the Chair – Cllr David Robey**

Cllr Robey informed residents about the ideas for the redevelopment of Exeter Close, the introduction of new 20mph speed limits, new civil enforcement powers to enforce illegal parking in the village. He informed residents of the Council's opposition to the closure of Sandy Lane level crossing and the plans for the Botley West Solar Farm.

The Chair announced that the precept for Kidlington residents for the services provided by the Parish Council had only been increased by 1.5% due to efficiency savings despite the rate of inflation.

### **APM/23/02 Finance Report – Cllr David Thurling**

Cllr Thurling gave a report on the Council's finances for the year 2022/23. Kidlington is a large parish which employs 14 staff. The Council puts on a number of popular events throughout the year. The Council gives grants to local charities and voluntary groups including Citizen's Advice, Cherwell Collective, Aspire, Kidlington Air Cadets and Kidlington Recreational Trust.

The Council's finances are used to maintain Exeter Hall and the Pavilion, parks and open spaces. The play area at Orchard Recreation Ground has been refurbished and a new outdoor gym installed at Ron Groves Park using capital funds from the sale of the Station Field Allotments.

The two cemeteries and 4 allotment sites are maintained.

Stratfield Brake continues to be a major expenditure for the Council – the main users of the site are Gosford All Blacks, Kidlington Cricket Club, Kidlington Running Club and Kidlington Youth Football Club.

### **APM/23/03 Community Report – Cllr Neil Prestidge**

Cllr Prestidge gave a presentation on the work of the Community Committee. The committee is responsible for the day to day running of the Council's facilities and open spaces. He reiterated some of the projects raised by Cllr Thurling. In addition, the Council continues to maintain the old cemetery at St Mary's and St Mary's Fields. New solar lights have been installed at Ron Groves park. The Council supports the work of Cherwell Collective with a substantial discount on the use of its facilities. The Council is committed to a programme of tree planting and increasing biodiversity across the village's green spaces. He congratulated the team and thanked residents for their attendance at the Council's programme of events.

Issues that concern residents continue to include dog fouling, parking on grass verges and dangerous pavements.

**APM/23/04 Stratfield Brake/OUFC**

There were 80 questions in advance of the meeting regarding the proposal to build a football stadium in Kidlington.

**Cllr Callum Miller, Finance and Property Member for Oxfordshire County Council** explained the role of OCC in the process and emphasised that no decision had been made although the County was keen to assist the club in finding a new ground before their current lease runs out in 2026. He stressed that there would be opportunities for the community to be consulted and that no detailed plans had yet been received by the club. Cllr Miller explained that it was vital the financial interests of Oxfordshire tax payers were protected and that all legal matters fully explored.

Niall McWilliams, Oxford United Football Club explained that the club had no choice but to find a new location as there was no opportunity for renewal at the current site. He stressed that if new location could not be found the future of the club would be in doubt.

**APM/24/05 Request for Parish Poll**

Cllr Robey and Mr McWilliams answered questions from the public regarding the proposals – some of whom were for the proposal and some against.

A member of the public asked the Parish Council to hold a Parish Poll to ask ‘Should KPC oppose the building of a stadium for OUFC in Kidlington’

It was proposed that this be amended to ‘Should KPC support the building of a stadium for OUFC in Kidlington?’

Cllr Robey explained the legislation with regards to holding Parish Polls and it was confirmed that there was sufficient support (10 registered electors of the Parish) to hold the Poll although it was stressed that the results would be purely advisory as the Parish Council is not the ultimate decision maker in this matter.

It was subsequently agreed that a Parish Poll would be held on 10 May 2023 with the question:

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