

## MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Parish Hall, Trench Green on 9 May 2023, commencing at 8.05pm, and concluded at 9.30pm.

Present: Mrs J E Bowen, Dr D W H Miles, Dr J S Rogerson, Lord Thurlow, T M Whitaker,

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

The outgoing Chairman, Mrs J E Bowen, took the chair.

### 1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Mrs J E Bowen be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

(Mrs Bowen thereupon signed a declaration of acceptance of office.)

### 2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Mr T M Whitaker be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

### 3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 7 March 2023 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 4 REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER

The Council noted a notice of uncontested election on 4 May 2023, issued by the Returning Officer on 6 April. 5 candidates had been nominated, and had, therefore, been elected

Mrs J E Bowen	Dr J S Rogerson	Lord Thurlow	Mt T M Whitaker
Dr D W H Miles			

The Council noted that there was a vacancy to be filled, by co-option. In this connection, by e-mail, Mr R W Taylor of Caversham had expressed an interest in again serving as a parish councillor.

RESOLVED: That Mr R W Taylor be co-opted, in accordance with Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, to fill the vacancy for the office of parish councillor.

(Mr Taylor, being present, thereupon signed a declaration of acceptance of office, and joined the meeting.)

### 5 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, had submitted reports which covered

- cancellation of the home to school transport spare seats' scheme;
- receipt by his Council of ££6.4m from Government for energy efficiency improvements for householders;
- penalties totalling £700,000 issued to drivers under the Zero Emission Zone in Oxford;
- the programme for refreshing the household waste recycling centres, and the revised charges for disposing of DIY and other chargeable waste at the centres;
- the condition of roads in his division, and the lack of response from his Council's highways' services.

6 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

The Council congratulated Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End and Whitchurch ward, upon his re-election on 4 May 2023.

7 APOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, REPRESENTATIVES ETC

RESOLVED: That the following appointments be made for the period until the Annual Meeting in 2024:

- a Mrs J E Bowen as a member of the Rokeby Recreation Ground Committee;
- b Mrs J E Bowen, Dr J S Rogerson, Lord Thurlow and Mr T M Whitaker as members of the Countryside Committee;
- c Dr D W H Miles as a representative on the Parish Hall Committee;
- d Mr T M Whitaker as transport representative.
- e copies of the quarterly Newsletter required.

8 KIDMORE END PARISH NEWSLETTER

Members recalled the conversation during the open session at the last meeting of the Council (see Minute 414) when they agreed to the Kidmore End Parish Newsletter being delivered to homes in the Parish east of Reading Road, Chazey Heath, and to meet the cost of production of th Members were reminded that, in law, the meeting of the Council stood adjourned during the open session. Therefore, confirmation of the conclusion then reached was sought.

RESOLVED: That consent be given to the circulation of the Kidmore End Parish Newsletter to homes in Chazey Heath east of Reading Road, with the cost of the production of the copies of the Newsletter being borne by the Council

9 COMMEMORATIVE TREE

It was noted that a guard would imminently be placed around the oak tree, planted to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth 2. The wording for the plaque was being drafted.

10 HIGHWAY TREE PLANTING

The Council noted that the Scots pine tree had been planted, by the County Council, on the grass verge outside 2 Chazey Close, Chazey Heath.

11 BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

Members recalled that it had been reported at the last meeting that Barclays Bank plc had declined to honour one cheque, as it "had not been signed in accordance with the mandate" (see Minute 427).. The Clerk had challenged this decision, on the basis that that the Council had banked with Barclays, and their predecessors, since the 1890s and that he had no recollection of a cheque not being honoured for the stated reason.

In a letter, a Customer Service Assistant at Barclays had upheld the Council's complaint. She had reviewed the signing rights of the Council, but had been unable le to find any signatures on the bank's files. She asked that the Council update the signature card.

RESOLVED: That the following Members be authorised to sign cheques on the Council's account – the Chairman, Dr D W H Miles, Dr J S Rogerson, and Mr R W Taylor.

## 12 PLANNING MATTERS

### (i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

repairs to partially collapsed stable roof, together with works to convert the first floor to provide new office accommodation etc at Mapledurham Mill Tea Rooms, Mapledurham House, Mapledurham (P23/S0054/FUL, P23/S0055/LB); and proposed 3 bay garage at Cross Lanes Fruit Farm, Nuney Green (P23/S0576/HH)

had been permitted conditionally and that the application for repairs and alterations at Thatch Cott, Chazey Heath (P22/S2682/LB) had been withdrawn.

### (ii) Applications

It was reported that the following comments had been submitted in respect of the application for proposed 3 bay garage at Cross Lanes Fruit Farm, Nuney Green for Mr & Mrs D Cottam (P23/S0576/HH): "The Council has no objections to this application, but prefers the location of the garage approved in 2018".

### (iii) Possible unauthorised development

It was reported that the refrigerator trailers, reported to be kept at Thatch Cott, Chazey Heath at the last meeting, had been removed from the site. Members noted that Mr W Sleeman was looking into the use of seemingly non-degradable pellets at the paint-balling concession on the Estate. It was suggested that Mr Sleeman be asked also whether the clay pigeons used on the Estate were bio-degradable.

### (iv) West Berkshire Local Plan

In an e-mail, the Executive Director – Place of West Berkshire Council advised that her Council had submitted the West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2022-2039 to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

### (v) Reading Borough Local Plan

The Planning Policy Team of Reading Borough Council advised, by e-mail, that that Council was undertaking a partial update of the Reading Borough Local Plan, and, in that connection, was seeking nomination of sites for inclusion, for a development, change of use or for another designation. Nominations would close on 8 June 2023.

## 13 ROKEBY RECREATION GROUND

The Chairman reported that

- Fieldwork Rest and Play Ltd had undertaken all the identified works of repair to the play equipment at the Rokeby Recreation Ground, except the see-saw;
- the vegetation removed by the Sonning Common Green Gym at the Recreation Ground had been shredded by the Club at Mapledurham, and spread as mulch at the community orchard;
- the Green Gym would be returning in the Autumn of 2023 to undertake more hedging work;
- she had received an approach about a creating a path between the north and south elements of the Recreation Ground;
- the Coronation Big Lunch had been very successful: 80 people had attended.

The Clerk reported that Kidmore End Parish Council had made a contribution of £400 towards the costs of maintaining the Recreation Ground in the financial year 2022/23.

14 MAPLEDURHAM PLAYING FIELDS

The Chairman reported that the Mapledurham Playing Fields Management Committee had met in March 2023, and would henceforth meet 4 times a year. It had been reported that youths were using the Fields inappropriately. The performance of the CCTV cameras was under review and complaints had been received about the noise generated by hirers of the Pavilion.

15 PARISH HALL

Dr D W H Miles reported that he had nothing to add to the report he had made at the Annual Parish Meeting, earlier in the evening of the meeting.

16 COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE

The Council reviewed the minutes of the most recent meeting of the Countryside Committee and noted the outcome of the meeting with Mr W Sleeman of the Mapledurham Estate on 28 March 2023: the notes of the latter meeting had previously been circulated to Members.

Arising from those documents, reference was made to the need to formalise passing places on the road from to Nuney Green from the Trench Green to Goring Heath road, and to remove debris from the passing places above Step Cottage and at the bottom of Mapledurham Hill.

Members commented that the Spring Clean had been successful.

Reference was made to the previously submitted request for a salt bin at the junction of Mill Lane and Mapledurham Hill.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be requested to consider providing or formalising passing places on the road to Nuney Green from the Trench Green to Goring Hath road.

17 JUNCTION OF ROKEBY DRIVE AND READING ROAD (A4074 ROAD), CHAZEY HEATH

By e-mail, the county councillor for the Goring Division, Mr K Bulmer, reported back on his meeting with representatives of the Council, officers of his Council, and residents of Tokers Green at the junction of Rokeby Drive and Reading Road (A4074 road), Chazey Heath, arising from concerns for highway safety at that junction, should the planning application for the conversion of The Maples, Dysons Wood into an SEN days school be approved. Mr Bulmer indicated that the officers had suggested that a vehicle speed survey be undertaken at junction, with a view to possibly securing a reduction, from 50mph, of the speed limit on Reading Road. He had urged both the Council and Kidmore End Parish Council to press the County Council to undertake such a survey.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be requested to undertake a vehicle speed survey on Reading Road, Chazey Heath, near its junction with Rokeby Drive.

18 DONATIONS MADE BY FILMING COMPANIES

Members recalled that companies filming in the Parish (mostly near Mapledurham House or in the Country Park) had, over the past 2 years, made donations to the Council for the benefit of the wider community of the Parish. A total of £6,000 had accrued in this way, some of which had been spent on the defibrillator in Mapledurham village and the commemorative tree (see Minute 9 above), leaving a balance of £3,235.

The Chairman had circulated, in advance of the meeting, some suggestions for spending the balance of the monies, which were discussed by the Council.

Arising from the discussion, it was suggested quotations be sought for the removal of the bush in front of the north-bound bus shelter at Chazey Heath

RESOLVED: That the donations to date made by filming companies be spent as follows:

- £250 for hedging plants, to complete the hedge between the Rokeby Recreation Ground and the Club at Mapledurham golf course;
- £500 for a recycled plastic bench to be provided in the overflow carpark at the Parish Hall, Trench Green;
- providing a plaque for the tree commemorating the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth 2;
- providing baby changing facilities in the Parish Room, estimated to cost £300 to £350;
- providing a dog hygiene bin in Mapledurham village, in the vicinity of the defibrillator kiosk;
- meeting the cost of the tree guards installed at the community orchard, Chazey Heath.

## 19 DATES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED: 1 That meetings of the Council be held on the following Tuesdays at 8pm:

4 July 2023	7 November 2023	5 March 2024
5 September 2023	9 January 2024	

2 That the Annual Meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 7 May 2024 at 8pm.

## 20 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment

### *Parish Council*

Shield Maintenance Ltd – Servicing dog hygiene bin	£10.39) Already
Sonning Common Green Gym – Work at Rokeby Rec Ground	£30.00) paid
Fieldwork Rest & Play Ltd – Servicing play equipment	£456.00)
Community First Oxfordshire – Subscription	£55.00
Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Subscription	£156.00
Oxford Playing Fields Association – Subscription	£45.00
Shield Maintenance Ltd – Servicing dog hygiene bin	£10.39

### *Parish Hall Committee*

Community First Oxfordshire – Subscription	£50.00)
Airband Community Internet Ltd – Fibre Wifi	£20.00) Already
SSE – Electricity	£177.37) paid
Airband Community Internet Ltd – Fibre Wifi	£20.00

## 21 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

The Clerk advised that, although he had “balanced the books”, he had not yet been able to produce the receipts’ and payments” accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 or the draft Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the same period. He hoped to have them available before 30 June. In the meantime, the Clerk suggested that the Council submitted an exemption certificate, given that its transactions were below the threshold for submission of the AGAR.