

MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Parish Hall, Trench Green on 14 September 2021, commencing at 8.00pm, and concluded at 9.35pm.

Present: Mrs J E Bowen (Chairman), T M Whitaker (Vice-Chairman), Dr J S Rogerson, Lord Thurlow.

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Dr D W H Miles, R W Taylor, K Bulmer (county councillor).

245 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 6 July 2021 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

246 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

In sending his apologies for absence, Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, had submitted a report, covering, inter alia:

- the priorities for his Council's new administration;
- the housing of some refugees from Afghanistan in the County;
- his Council's councillor priority fund, which was open to new applications;
- the adoption by his Council of a policy on 20mph speed limit zones;
- his favoured methods of communication with parish councils.

247 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End and Whitchurch ward, spoke to his previously circulated report, covering

- his Council's operations, with specific reference to household refuse and waste collections: he regretted that the garden waste collection service remained suspended;
- the change to his Council's procedures for reference of planning applications to the Planning Committee;
- his Council's decision to prepare a Local Plan jointly with the Vale of White Horse District Council;
- the introduction of civil parking enforcement in the District on 1 November 2021.

248 FORMER TELEPHONE KIOSK

It was reported that Mr R Beacroft had offered to paint the former telephone kiosk in Mapledurham village in the sum of £400, and the Chairman had accepted that offer, as a matter of urgency. Lord Thurlow commented that, once the kiosk was restored, one of the film companies working in the Parish might be able to install the already acquired defibrillator.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Chairman be approved and confirmed.

249 COMMUNITY ORCHARD, CHAZEY HEATH

Subsequent to the last meeting, the Chairman had circulated the draft prospectus, developed by residents of Tokers Green, for a community orchard on the southerly field at the Rokeby Recreation Ground. It was intended to plant between 10 and 40 apple, cherry, pear, plum and quince trees, paid for and planted by residents of Chazey Heath and Tokers Green. The prospectus indicated the exact location of the proposed orchard, which would measure, at most, 30m x 18m. While the trees would be bought and planted by individuals, and maintained by community effort, the land would remain the property of the Council.

Members had not submitted any objections to the Chairman.

The Chairman mentioned that she was meeting the mowing contractor, Ian Kendrick Ltd, and Mr I Beale of Tokers Green to discuss the ongoing maintenance of the proposed orchard.

RESOLVED: That the details of proposed community orchard, as laid out in the draft prospectus, be approved.

250 ROKEBY DRIVE, CHAZEY HEATH – SPEED LIMIT

With an e-mail, a Technical Officer –Traffic and Road Safety of the County Council, responding to the request of Kidmore End Parish Council in May 2021, enclosed a map setting out the extent of the proposed 20mph speed limit on roads in Tokers Green and asked for the Council's support for the scheme. He explained how the "terminal points" had been identified, in line with the current national guidance, and following consultation with his Traffic colleagues and the Thames Valley Police. Notwithstanding that no request had been made on behalf of the Council, the proposals were for a speed limit of 20mph to apply to the following roads in the Parish:

- Rokeby Drive from its junction with the A4074 road in Chazey Heath to its junction with Tokers Green Lane, Tokers Green;
- Bardolphs Close;
- Chazey Close.

Members recalled their previous comments on a proposal to include the whole length of Rokeby Drive within the 20mph limit, but recognised the rationale for the County Council's proposals.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be advised that the proposed 20mph limit on roads in Chazey Heath is supported in all particulars, provided that no cost of implementation falls to be met by the Council.

251 FILMING IN THE PARISH

There was further lengthy discussion about securing community benefit, in terms of money, when premises in the Parish were used for filming, beyond, for instance, the sums paid by the company in question to the owners or occupiers of the premises concerned. The discussions included reference to the law relating to local government finance and charities.

252 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the applications for

renewal of temporary mobile home consent for 2 years, or until completion of the listed building works on the site, whichever is the sooner, at Thatch Cottage, Chazey Heath for the Mapledurham Estate (P21/S2348/FUL);
new front porch, replacement of garage/store with new, new linked side extension at 24 Bardolphs Close, Chazey Heath for Mr & Mrs Schmidt (P21/S2747/HH);
proposed removal of 1.7m close boarded timber fence and replace with 1.7m high brick wall to front of property at 1 Chazey Heath, Chazey Heath for Dr K Henry (P21/S2805/HH)

had been permitted conditionally.

(ii) Applications

It was reported that no objections had been expressed on the applications for

new front porch, replacement of garage/store with new, new linked side extension at 24 Bardolphs Close, Chazey Heath (P21/S2747/HH) for Mr & Mrs Schmidt;
proposed removal of 1.7m fence and replacement with 1.7m brick wall at 1 Chazey Heath, Chazey Heath (P21/S2805/HH) for Dr K Henry.

(iii) The Old Laundry, Mapledurham – Unauthorised works

It was noted that the restoration of the opening in the wall at the Old Laundry, Mapledurham had been completed, although Members expressed dissatisfaction with the standard of the work.

Members understood that the property had been sold.

(iv) Housing land supply

The Council noted an update from the District Council confirming the District Council's stated position that its current land supply was 5.33 years for the period 2021 to 2026, notwithstanding the decision by an inspector in a recent planning appeal to accept the lower figure put forward by appellants.

(v) Joint South Oxfordshire/Vale of White Horse Local Plan

The District Council's Head of Planning, in an e-mail, drew attention to the joint Local Plan being developed by his Council and the Vale of the White Horse District Council, and, in particular, the call for land and buildings available for change – an invitation to landowners, agents, developers, community groups and others to submit potential development sites. This included sites for community and environmental uses. Submissions could be made until 30 September 2021.

(vi) Oxfordshire Plan 2050

By e-mail, the Chairman of CPRE Oxfordshire drew attention to an event, organised by the CPRE and the Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance, about the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, to be held, virtually, on 19 August 2021.

In another e-mail, the Oxfordshire Plan Team advised that the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy had opened for consultation on 16 July 2021. The strategy was intended to provide a framework for the principal authorities in the County to establish strategic infrastructure investment priorities.

Finally, Members were reminded about the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, a strategic planning framework upon which the principal authorities in the County were working. The Plan was designed to enable the authorities to realise their vision that in 2050 the people of Oxfordshire were living in sustainable communities with a high quality of life and strong sense of community. Consultation had opened on the 5 key themes in the Plan, and would run to 8 October 2021.

(vii) Oxford-Cambridge Arc

A letter, drawing attention to the consultation by HM Government to inform its approach to the future of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, which had been identified by the Government as a key economic priority, had been forwarded with an e-mail from the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils. The consultation would close on 12 October 2021.

253 ROKEBY RECREATION GROUND

The Chairman reported that the Sonning Common Green Gym had undertaken further works to the vegetation at the Rokeby Recreation Ground on 11 September 2021. Mr N Ronaldson of Tokers Green had removed the resultant debris. The Green Gym had been booked to return on 23 October 2021.

Working parties had been cutting the willow and the goal posts were to be repainted.

The Chairman pointed out that the bark would need to be replaced in the equipment pits in 2022, and new pit edging boards installed.

The view was expressed that Kidmore End Parish Council should make a greater contribution towards the costs of the Recreation Ground, given that the Ground “served” many more residents of that Parish than lived in Chazey Heath: the Ground was unlikely to be used by residents from the wider Parish, eg in Mapledurham village or Nuney Green. Members expressed sympathy with that view, although acknowledging that the costs of facilities usually rested where they fell.

It was reported that the Chairman had agreed, as a matter of urgency, to the organisers of the Chilterns Wonderland 50 mile race using the Recreation Ground as a water station on 18 September 2021.

RESOLVED: 1 That informal approaches be made to Kidmore End Parish Council about financial support for the operating costs of the Rokeby Recreation Ground.

2 That the action of the Chairman concerning the Chilterns Wonderland 50 mile race be approved and confirmed.

254 MAPLEDURHAM PLAYING FIELDS

The Chairman reported that the next meeting of the Mapledurham Playing Fields Management Committee would be held in October 2021. There had been traffic chaos in Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham when the new road markings, in connection with the School, were being laid.

255 PARISH HALL

The Chairman read a report on the Parish Hall, prepared by Dr D W H Miles, covering

- progress with the project to improve the toilets at the Hall, including initial problems securing Building Regulations’ approval;
- the return of many regular hirers, since the lifting of the restrictions in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, although some had not returned, as the Mapledurham Pavilion had reopened;
- the search for a contractor to cut the hedges at the Hall.

256 COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE

It was noted that the Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council.

257 TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

With an e-mail, an officer of the County Council had given notice of an order, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, making Mill Lane, between Lilley Farm and Cross Lanes, one way, from 25 to 30 August 2021, in connection with the Reading Festival.

Members commented that the road to Mapledurham village had been closed, by bollards, at Trench Green on 30 August 2021.

RESOLVED: That the above unauthorised road closure be notified to the County Council.

258 PROJECT GIGABIT

In e-mails, the County Council’s Digital Infrastructure Team advised that

- the County had been included in the next phase of the Government’s Project Gigabit rollout, designed to effect delivery of gigabit capable broadband infrastructure to approximately 68,00 hard-to-reach premises in the County and West Berkshire;
- Building Digital (UK) was seeking information about premises which might be suitable for future public funding for gigabit-capable broadband.

It was reported that representatives of Airband, partners with the County Council on the digital infrastructure programme, had intended to attend the meeting, to give a presentation on the

Businesses in Rural Oxfordshire project, which was designed to provide bespoke full-fibre solutions for business premises in the Parish.

259 BUS SERVICES

The Vice-Chairman reported that he had, at the request of the Chairman, responded to the County Council's survey about how the County's bus services might be improved.

260 FINANCE

(i) Accounts for payment

The following accounts were passed for payment

Parish Council

South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£107.64) Already
Moore – Audit reminder fee	£48.00) paid
R F Penfold – Clerk's salary net of PAYE	£179.57
HM Revenue & Customs – Income Tax deducted	£119.90

Parish Hall Committee

E Scott – Mowing	£150.00)
Mrs J E Bowen – Building control fees	£529.20) Already
Red Box Fire Control – Servicing extinguishers	£57.58) paid
SSE - Electricity	£149.86)
Thames Building Solutions – First stage payment	£6000.00)
E Scott - Mowing	£150.00

(ii) Income

The Responsible Financial Officer reported the receipt of £3,000, from “GBP Account”, direct to the Council's bank account on 23 July 2021. He was exploring the provenance of this with the Council's bankers, although he believed that it was probably a payment by a film company.