

**Kennington Parish Council**  
**Oxfordshire**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on**  
**13 December 2018 at 7:30pm in the Village Centre**

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**Present:**

Cllr. Baggott    Cllr. Bakewell    Cllr. Mrs Buckingham    Cllr.Charlett    Cllr. Cobb    Cllr. Feather    Cllr. Gelder  
Cllr. Ms. Jempson                      Cllr. Jennings                      Cllr. Johnston    Cllr. Patterson    Cllr. Robinson    Cllr. Smith

In Attendance: Rachel Brown (Clerk)

**307.18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – District Councillor Blagrove

**308.18 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC** – None

**309.18 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS** – None

**310.18 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting on 8 November 2018 as a true record.

**311.18 REPORT OF THE CLERK**

**New issues during the month**

A        Cllr. Ms Jempson queried why diversion notices had not been posted on the bus stops regarding the road closure on 25 November, and asked if the clerk could include information on Kennington Connected and in the Chronicle. Clerk advised that notices had been posted on the stops at the north end of the village, and the information had been posted on Kennington Connected. Unfortunately, the information is not received in enough time from the County Council for it to be included in the Kennington Chronicle.

B        Email from resident regarding Highways signs outside St Swithun’s Church:

*“For the last 18 months, I've been running past metal "stuff" left by some roadwork team. I've hauled red street cones next to it in the hope that it would be picked up at some point but someone merely removes the cones and leaves the offending metal.*

*There are 2 old metals (iron?)bars/poles about a metre high, plus an old metal (iron?) diversion-sign frame measuring about 1.5m high and 1m across. They are resting on the old stone wall at the edge of St. Swithun's church hall, where the wall meets Cow Lane. They are very close to the pedestrian pavement there.*

*Is there any chance the stuff can be removed?*

*Thank you for your attention. PS - I also pick up mountains of local rubbish during my runs!!!” (sic)*

Clerk reported on Fix My Street, and Oxfordshire County Council has advised that this has been passed to the relevant team.

C        Email from OPT advising that the cattle have been removed from the memorial field, and that they will return after Easter. Clerk posted information on Kennington Connected and thanked Rachel Sanderson for getting in touch.

D        The grass cutting volunteer spent five additional hours clearing the leaves at the war memorial at the beginning of December.

**312.18 It was agreed** that the grass cutting volunteer will be paid an additional £25 in recognition of the additional work undertaken. This was proposed by Cllr. Cobb, seconded by Cllr. Jennings and agreed unanimously.

**ACTION FOR CLERK** – Arrange additional payment to grass cutting volunteer

- E Letter received from resident regarding the state of the pavement between Cow Lane and The Avenue; the drainage problem at the bottom of the slip road and a request for a light on the footpath between Rowles Close and Kennington Road.
- F Request received from Scope for a textile bank to be located in Kennington. Clerk advised that a similar request had been received recently, and unfortunately there is no suitable location, and that there is already a clothing bank on Kennington Road.
- G Gas bill received from SSE Gas for Playfield Rd pavilion, of £165.22. Clerk took meter reading and a new bill has been issued.
- H Resident contacted Chairman regarding the increased traffic using Bagley Wood Rd as a cut through while one lane was closed on the Southern Bypass near Kennington. Clerk contacted Highways at OCC to ask if an Access Only sign could be placed at the Southern end of the road. No response was received from OCC, but the road works have now been completed.
- I Email from resident regarding increased dog fouling (sent to VOWH and KPC):  
*"Please can someone clean the path on Simpson's way - outside the electricity sub station (next to number 2) as a dog has fouled there and it is very disgusting. I am copying the parish council as there has been an increase in dog fouling in kennington recently, in particular along the avenue near the school and also on the playing fields at playfield road which I am sure you will agree is unacceptable. Can you put up any extra signs to warn of the penalties of dog fouling or can the parish council put something in the kennington chronicle? Unfortunately we don't know who the dog owner is but will report them if we see someone who does not clear up after their dog." (sic)*  
Clerk advised that she will include this in the Kennington Chronicle article and on Facebook.

**ACTION FOR CLERK – Ask Environmental Health to put up more signs around Kennington**

- J Freedom of Information request received regarding the repatriation of human remains. Clerk responded that the parish council does not deal with this.
- K Details of a rough sleeper camp in Kennington were sent VOWH by OPT, as there was a query whose land this was. It appears that this is a public right of way, so has been reported to Oxfordshire County Council's public rights of way team.
- L Freedom of Information request received regarding the public sector off-payroll reforms (IR35) and the council's internal guidance. Clerk responded that this is not applicable to the council, as all work is undertaken by employees of the council or a facilities management company.

### Continuing issues

- M Clerk submitted the required information to Barclays Bank, following a conversation with a member of their Business Services Team.
- N A replacement battery for the defibrillator outside the launderette has been ordered, as it expires in December and will be replaced when it arrives.
- O Clerk contacted the Winter Services team at Oxfordshire County Council, and the grit salt has now been delivered.
- P Carols around the Tree took place on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, and £145 was raised for Kennington Toddler Group. Thank you to everyone involved in organising and running this event. Clerk has included a note on Kennington Connected and in the Kennington Chronicle. Lots of beautiful thank you cards were received from the toddler group and shared with the council. Clerk was concerned about the proximity of residents to the hot mulled wine pans and heaters, as the church was very full.

**ACTION FOR CLERK – Arrange a meeting next year to discuss poor weather contingency for Carols around the Tree**

- Q Clerk has been in contact with Oxfordshire County Council regarding the unfinished resurfacing of Kennington Road. This has been scheduled to be completed on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December, and the road will be closed from 7am-7pm. The previous diversion route via Bagley Wood Rd will be reinstated, but access will be maintained as much as possible for residents with frontages in the closed area. The main works will be between the Upper Road and Edward Rd junctions.
- R Clerk, in conjunction with Cllrs. Feather and Charlett, has arranged for the bollards near the war memorial to be replaced. It has been confirmed that the Portland Stone bollards will be tapered, and the work will include removing the old bollards and cutting out the foundations of each one; making good and re-fixing the new bollards.
- N The defibrillator training was well attended, and several people have expressed an interest in a workshop in the new year. Clerk and Cllr. Buckingham have written an article for inclusion in the January Chronicle. One of the attendees mentioned that the defibrillator on Meadow View Rd did not feature on the Save A Life app, so Clerk has completed the form to register this defibrillator with the ambulance service.
- 313.18 It was resolved** that the parish council will purchase an infant manikin for Dick Tracy at a cost of £180 + VAT. This was proposed by Cllr. Jennings, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Buckingham and agreed unanimously.

**ACTION FOR CLERK** – Purchase infant manikin

- O Clerk has found details of three accountants who could act as an internal auditor for Kennington Parish Council. The clerk from Wantage Town Council has booked onto a training session on 10 January, with a view to finding an internal auditor.
- 314.18 A proposal was made** by Cllr. Patterson that the decision on who to use as the council's internal auditor should be delegated to the clerk, in conjunction with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr. Johnston and agreed unanimously.

**ACTION FOR CLERK** – Appoint an internal auditor in conjunction with Chairman and Vice-Chairman

- P A meeting has been arranged for 19<sup>th</sup> December to discuss changes to the website. This will need to look at the regulations, which states that all new content must be accessible. Cllr. Robinson advised that he may have colleagues who could help with testing.
- Q Clerk received details from Cllrs. Johnston and Baggott, and submitted the nominations for the High Sheriff's Awards. Clerk reminded councillors to keep these nominations confidential, as it may cause disappointment if people are nominated but not successful.
- R Clerk has submitted the request for the second half of the grant from VOWH in relation to the Playfield Rd rebuild feasibility study.

### **315.18 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUEST FOR GRANT AID**

#### **Request for grants**

- A Kennington Cricket Club** has requested a grant towards the cost of their annual hire charge for 2018/19.
- 316.18 It was agreed** that council would approve a grant to Kennington Cricket Club. This was proposed by Cllr. Feather, seconded by Cllr. Johnston and agreed unanimously.
- 317.18** The sum of £600.00 was proposed by Cllr. Patterson, seconded by Cllr. Cobb and agreed unanimously.

**ACTION FOR CLERK** – Inform Kennington Cricket Club of the council's decision

[Correspondence for discussion/action](#)

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- B** Email from student requesting information on people in the community who have significant knowledge of Sandford Hydro, for her dissertation. Clerk suggested that she includes an article in the Kennington Chronicle and on Kennington Connected. The councillors were unable to provide any names and advised that residents in Sandford could provide more information.

**ACTION FOR CLERK** – Inform student of the information from the council

- C** River Thames Society – subscription renewal due at a cost of £15 per annum  
**318.18 It was resolved** that council would renew its subscription to the River Thames Society. This was proposed by Cllr. Patterson seconded by Cllr. Jennings and agreed unanimously.

**ACTION FOR CLERK** – Renew subscription with River Thames Society

- D** Invitation to take part in the consultation of the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP), Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Statement of Community Involvement – forwarded to councillors.

**319.18 It was agreed** that this matter will be referred to the Planning Committee.

**ACTION FOR CLERK** – Add to the agenda for the next Planning Committee meeting.

### Correspondence for information

- E** Thames Guardian – River Thames Society newsletter  
**F** National Savings & Investments – faster cheque clearing times  
**G** Copy of a letter sent by a resident to Owen Jenkins, Director for Infrastructure Delivery at Oxfordshire County Council, regarding parking on Kennington Road.  
**H** Healthwatch Oxfordshire – regular briefings  
**I** Public Sector Executive Online – regular newsletter  
**J** Thames Tap – regular property newsletter  
**K** Public Sector Executive Online = regular newsletter  
**L** Rural Services Network = The Rural Bulletin – regular newsletter  
**M** Radley Parish Council – Parish Council update  
**N** Civic Voice – War Memorials News  
**O** Oxfordshire County Council – corrected dates for 2019 primary school entrance submissions  
**P** Clerks & Councils Direct – November 2018 issue  
**Q** Royal British Legion – Poppy Press November 2018  
**R** Countryside Voice – CPRE newsletter winter 2018  
**S** Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme - Newsletter December  
**T** Public Sector Mapping Agreement (PSMA) Town and Parish newsletter  
**U** Active Places Newsletter December 2018  
**V** OALC - November 2018 Update  
**W** Vale News – November 2018  
**X** Vulnerability Registration Service – New Vulnerability Alert and Suppression Service  
**Y** Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) – Neighbourhood Plan Reports  
**Z** Layla Moran MP – Letter of thanks for organising the Remembrance Day service  
**AA** Senior Transport Planner, Vale of White Horse – update on Lodge Hill slip roads – forwarded to councillors  
**AB** Oxfordshire Matters November 2018  
**AC** Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) – Winter Newsletter 2018  
**AD** NALC – Employment Briefing - New pay scales for 2019-20

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- AE** Parish Online News & Updates
- AF** Survey of 2653 .gov.uk websites showed that Kennington's website was one of "the select few which recorded 100% uptime over the course of the testing period."
- AG** Email thanking the parish council for the grant towards getting the youth club roof repaired, which was done when it was not raining!
- AH** Letter of thanks received from The Abingdon Bridge for their recent grant

### 320.18 FINANCIAL REPORT

#### Statement of Bank Accounts as at 30 November 2018

|                                     |                    |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Community Account                   | £500.00            |
| Business Premium Account            | £190,913.01        |
| National Savings Investment Account | £8,286.55          |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>£199,699.56</b> |

#### Income in December

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
|  |           |
| <b>HM Revenue &amp; Customs</b><br>VAT reclaim June – Sept 2018    | £1,734.56 |
| <b>Kennington Cricket Club</b><br>Annual hire charge – second half | £600.00   |

#### Direct Debits to be paid in December

| Reference No. |  |           | Power to Act  |
|---------------|--|-----------|---|
| DD            | <b>Public Works Loan Board</b><br>Village hall loan repayment Ref. 621 08448   | £2,118.53 | LGA 1972  |
| DD            | <b>Southern Electric</b><br>Playfield Rd pavilion electricity supply Q3 (£312.04)<br>War memorial electricity supply Q3 (£34.63) | £346.67   | LG (Misc Prov) Act<br>1976<br>War Memorials Act<br>1923 |
| DD            | <b>SSE Gas</b><br>Gas supply for Playfield Rd pavilion Q3  | £22.64    | LG (Misc Prov) Act<br>1976                              |
| DD            | <b>Southern Electric</b><br>Electricity for Forest Side pavilion Q3 (1 Sep – 30 Nov)   | £92.95    | LG (Misc Prov) Act<br>1976                              |
| DD            | <b>Castle Water</b><br>Water supply for Playfield Rd pavilion 2-30 November  | £15.85    | LG (Misc Prov) Act<br>1976                              |

#### Accounts to be paid in December

| Reference No. 2018/ |   |           | Power to Act               |
|---------------------|---|-----------|----------------------------|
| 143                 | <b>Mrs R L Brown</b><br>Salary for November less tax, NI & pension contribution                     | £1,056.11 | Section 112<br>LGA 1972    |
| 144                 | <b>HM Revenue and Customs</b><br>Tax and Employer NI  | £192.89   | Section 111<br>LGA 1972    |
| 145                 | <b>Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund</b><br>Clerk's and Employer's contributions for November | £335.98   | Section 111<br>LGA 1972    |
| 146                 | <b>Mr M Hutton - Play Warden</b><br>Wages for December less tax                                     | £105.75   | LG (Misc Prov) Act<br>1976 |

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|-----|---|-----------|---|
| 147 | <b>Toby Fleming – War Memorial</b><br>December's allowance  | £50.00    | War Memorials Act<br>1923                             |
| 148 | <b>Royal British Legion</b><br>Grant awarded at Nov meeting min nos 275.18 & 276.18                                     | £800.00   | Section 137<br>LGA 1972                               |
| 149 | <b>Kennington Whist Club</b><br>Grant awarded at Nov meeting min nos 273.18 & 274.18                                    | £120.00   | Section 137<br>LGA 1972                               |
| 150 | <b>Turtle Engineering Ltd</b><br>Replacement Li-ion battery for defibrillator   | £150.00   | Section 234 Public<br>Health Act<br>1936              |
| 151 | <b>Amazon Payments Europe S.C.A.</b><br>DL envelopes and First Aid kit  | £23.81    | Section 111<br>LGA 1972                               |
| 152 | <b>Amazon Payments Europe S.C.A.</b><br>Costume for Carols around the Tree  | £35.40    | Section 145<br>LGA 1972                               |
| 153 | <b>Prime Compliance Ltd</b><br>Legionella Awareness Training  | £198.00   | LG (Misc Prov) Act<br>1976                            |
| 154 | <b>Savills (St John's College, Oxford)</b><br>Forest Side rent 25 Dec 2018 – 24 March 2019                              | £462.50   | LG (Misc Prov) Act<br>1976                            |
| 155 | <b>S G Moncur</b><br>Re-fix 4 no. bollards around Grundy Crescent   | £170.00   | Section 111<br>LGA 1972                               |
| 156 | <b>Mrs R L Brown</b><br>Refreshments for Carols around the Tree   | £135.40   | Section 145<br>LGA 1972                               |
| 157 | <b>Sticks &amp; Stones</b><br>Trim and clear Playfield Rd hedge and plant 10 dog rose                                   | £210.00   | LG (Misc Prov) Act<br>1976                            |
| 158 | <b>Inerear (Oxford Sound Hire)</b><br>Sound equipment for Remembrance Day and Carols<br>Around the Tree                 | £350.00   | Sections 145 & 137<br>LGA 1972                        |
| 159 | <b>Kennington Village Hall</b><br>Room hire for December  | £68.00    | Section 134(4)<br>LGA 1972                            |
| 160 | <b>Calber Facilities Management Ltd</b><br>Village Litter collection for November<br>Weekly cleaning of Playfield Rd    | £542.52   | Section 111<br>LGA 1972<br>LG (Misc Prov) Act<br>1976 |
| 161 | <b>Dataprint</b><br>Printing 150 new song sheets for Carols around the Tree   | £30.00    | Section 145<br>LGA 1972                               |
| 162 | <b>GreenThumb</b><br>Autumn/ Winter treatment for war memorial grass  | £57.00    | War Memorials Act<br>1923                             |
| 163 | <b>Amazon Payments Europe S.C.A.</b><br>Polystyrene foam cups for Carols around the Tree                                | £22.40    | Section 145<br>LGA 1972                               |
| 164 | <b>Maylarch Recycling Ltd</b><br>Wheelie bins for playing fields in December  | £94.56    | LG (Misc Prov) Act<br>1976                            |
| 165 | <b>BGG Garden &amp; Tree Care Ltd</b><br>Removal of tree growing over garage at Cow Lane                                | £240.00   | Section 96(5)<br>Highways Act 1980                    |
| 166 | <b>GreenThumb Ltd</b><br>War memorial grass aeration and scarification  | £443.00   | War Memorials Act<br>1923                             |
| 167 | <b>Vale of White Horse District Council</b><br>Pre-planning application advice fee re. Playfield Rd<br>pavilion rebuild | £220.00   | LG (Misc Prov) Act<br>1976                            |
| 168 | <b>SWA Architects</b><br>Feasibility study for rebuild of Playfield Rd pavilion   | £5,700.00 | LG (Misc Prov) Act<br>1976                            |

**Total be transferred in December £11,813.32**

**321.18** Reconciliation reports together with the trial balance, cash book and summary income and expenditure (against budget) and copy of annual budget reports were circulated to all Councillors.

**322.18** The financial report was proposed by Cllr. Cobb seconded by Cllr. Patterson and voted unanimously.

**323.18 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Annual Finance meeting minutes held on 6 December 2018 were agreed and signed. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Baggott and agreed unanimously.

**324.18 BUDGET ESTIMATES AND PRECEPT FOR 2019-20**

Cllr. Cobb proposed, seconded by Cllr. Feather to accept the Budget estimates and precept for 2019-20, which was agreed unanimously.

**ACTION FOR CLERK** – Forward agreed precept of £94,689 to Vale of White Horse District Council.

**325.18 MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Planning Committee meeting minutes held on 13 November and 4 December 2018 were noted.

**326.18 MINUTES OF PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE**

The Playing Fields Committee meeting minutes held on 21 November 2018 were noted.

**327.18 PLAYFIELD ROAD PAVILION FEASIBILITY STUDY**

The clerk reported that the study is now completed and the pre-planning application form has been submitted to VOWH Planning Department. This requests a site visit and follow-up letter. The invoice has now been received from the architects and the final grant request form has been completed and submitted to VOWH. The Clerk is beginning to explore grant funding options, and the council will need to start thinking of fundraising ideas if the project is to move forward.

**ACTION FOR CLERK** – Request a quotation from three architects to take the project forward to the next stage

**328.18 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

**329.18 Cllr. Mrs. Buckingham – Patient Participation Group (PPG)**

There was an article in the November Chronicle, which followed a Q&A format, with questions submitted to the PPG and answers from the Practice Manager. The Practice Manager has written another article, but has only put this in the Sprout, not the Chronicle. The PPG Forum in November was a very good meeting and well attended. Lots of the talks were around the winter crisis at the JR, but hopefully there will not be the same problems as last year. The next PPG meeting will be on 29<sup>th</sup> January. On 6<sup>th</sup> February, there will be a talk by Dr McEwan on how to reduce the risk of cancer. This will be at 7.30pm at Kennington Village Centre. In January, the PPG chairs and Practice Managers are having away days.

**330.18 Cllr. Charlett – Community Action Group**

The last meeting of the Neighbourhood Action Group was not very well attended, with only representatives from Radley, South Hinksey and Kennington attending with PC Carl Bryant. The group will now be smaller, and has been renamed the Community Action Group. There has been an increase in burglaries, particularly in sheds of houses that back onto the railway line. Smart Water is very effective, and individuals can purchase kits which will mark 50-60 possessions. This can be used to mark any objects,

including jewellery (electronics are not targeted by burglars so much any more). Kits are available from the police, for a donation of £11. It was suggested that the parish council could purchase some kits.

**331.18 A proposal was made** by Cllr. Johnston that this is added as an agenda item for the next meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Buckingham and agreed unanimously.

**ACTION FOR CLERK** – Add Smart Water kits to the agenda for the January meeting.

**332.18 Cllr. Cobb – North Hinksey Parish Council meeting to discuss the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway**

All parish councils at the meeting are against the Expressway. A section of the A34 is part of the Oxford ring road, which may be part of the Expressway. It is estimated that an additional 100,000 homes (on top of those already allocated) will be built in the area. It was queried why there is a need for an expressway, when a railway is already being built.

**333.18 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS**

**334.18 Cllr. Ms. Jempson** – Sandford Lane hedges have been cut back but the branches overhanging the road have not. A reply from Owen Jenkins has not yet been received. The bus tracker, Oxon time, is not working, and there are also problems with the app. There was an issue with a cyclist riding down the wrong side of the road – this was when the road works were taking place on the ring road, and traffic coming through Kennington was gridlocked. The street lights are out near the railway bridge, so this will be reported on Fix My Street.

**335.18 Cllr. Johnston** – Kennington Walkers have asked if the parish council can write to Sustrans regarding the state of the path from the railway bridge at the Tandem towards Cowley, as it is very wet and some parts are virtually impassable on foot.

**ACTION FOR CLERK** – Write to Sustrans regarding this section of the cycle path.

**336.18 Cllr. Feather** – The development at 187 The Avenue is under consideration, and there have been reports of the developer contacting neighbouring property owners with a view to purchasing their properties.

**337.18 Cllr. Bakewell** – The footpath from Rowles Close to Kennington Road has a fence which is closing in due to a tree and the fence being broken.

**ACTION FOR CLERK** – Clerk to report to the Highways Team at Oxfordshire County Council.

**338.18 Cllr. Mrs. Buckingham** would like to include a regular submission to the Kennington Chronicle regarding the defibrillators, and there were no objections.

**339.18 Cllr. Robinson** – The street lighting on Bagley Wood Road is poor, and it was queried whether the county council could install any more lights. This is unlikely, particularly due to the rural nature of the road. There have been reports of cars going too fast on Bagley Wood Road, and Cllr. Robinson asked whether someone could put a sign up. The council felt that people who do this are unlikely to pay attention to a sign, and street furniture should be kept to a minimum. Cllr. Robinson asked whether the parish council could form a list of vulnerable people, e.g. to contact regarding the Smart Water. This could be discussed at the January meeting.

**340.18 REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**341.18 Cllr. Johnston**

- Following a special full council meeting, a letter was sent to the inspector regarding Abingdon airfield. There will be a specified site identified for houses, leaving the rest for a future plan.
- The New Homes Bonus has been frozen, so a number of capital projects will probably be casualties.
- The Council tax is likely to increase by 3%.

- The 5 Councils outsourcing is still causing problems, and will do for its existence.

**342.18 Cllr. Blagrove**

**CIL Spending Strategy** - An Individual cabinet member decision (ICMD) was made following a positive response from scrutiny to go ahead with preparing this for public consultation in the new year, so is still on track.

**JSSP** - The JSSP now has a catchier name 'Oxfordshire Plan 2050' and is open for review and comments to be submitted. Should Parish Councils or individuals, residents or business be interested, the link is here: <https://oxfordshireplan.inconsult.uk/consult.ti>

**Services over Christmas** - The Comms team have set up a useful page on the Vale Website should anyone have queries over services: <http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/about-us/contact-us/details-our-services-over-christmas>

For waste collections please head here:

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/your-waste-collections-christmas-and-new-year>

**Local Plan** - LPP2 proposes 1200 new homes at Dalton Barracks. To support this development the Vale has submitted a bid for Garden Communities Status. The details are available via a drop box link below. We should find out early in the new year if this bid has been successful.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/09I7gt30s3as3yo/Dalton%20Barracks%20-%20final%20submission.pdf?dl=0>

**Empty Homes Council Tax Premium** - At full council the cabinet recommendation to increase the council tax premium on empty homes in the Vale was ratified. Whilst this was discussed at Cabinet I urged the team to engage as closely as possible with Parish councils on empty property identification. They have since confirmed they will add an agenda item for this at a forthcoming Town & Parish Forum.

**Council Tax Base** - The council tax base for 2019/20 was agreed at Council and stands at 51,706 for the Vale. For the ward's parish's I have put a small table in here for you

| Parish     | 2018/19 Base | 2019/20 Base | Change (+/-) |
|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Kennington | 1688         | 1694         | +6           |
| Radley     | 880          | 880          | 0            |

**Budget Setting 2019/20** - Cabinet received an update on Budget setting and due to the delay in the announcement of government funding on New Homes Bonus we have no choice but to continue the prudent decision on Capital Spend projects. Therefore we resolved to instruct officers to revise the capital programme to include only essential schemes, with all other schemes forming a preparation pool of schemes to be considered once clarification on affordability is forthcoming. Please do note though that we have received confirmation that "Overall, the level of reserves is adequate in relation to the proposed revenue budget and capital programme and the budgets are sustainable".

On a personal note I find this delay incredibly frustration, especially as it is being hampered by all the shenanigans over Brexit at Central Government and I made this clear at Cabinet whilst thanking the officers for their continued financial diligence with your money!

**343.18 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Johnston**

- Cllr. Johnston went to an open meeting on the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, and received verbal confirmation that the routes south scored more favourably than the routes north. It was queried whether any of the proposed routes are through sites of specific interest. The road is now likely to be 3 lanes, not 2.  
- Council tax is likely to increase by 3%.

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- Lodge Hill slips – Oxfordshire County Council is waiting for Highways England to sign off the design. The council are doing more modelling. The finance is now in place, and is on course to be open by 2020. If parish councillors would like to meet with county officers, they are happy to do this.

**344.18 ANY MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

Purchasing Smart Water

**345.18 ANY CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

None

Meeting Closed at 9.07 pm

Signed ..... Date .....