



**Kennington Parish Council
Oxfordshire**

**Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held
on Wednesday 27 April 2022 at 8.00pm at Kennington Village Centre**

Cllr. Colin Charlett, Chairman of the Parish Council, took the Chair.

He welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

In attendance: There were 19 residents, PCSO Maddison Highmoor, PCSO Ali Blood and Rachel Brown (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: Brian Peedell, Margaret Biggs, Amena Sutton, Rev Alison Mathew, Caroline Knighton, Doreen Biggadike, Rosemary Aldgate, Liz Gaskell, Jim Parke, Fiona Joines and Pat Aitken

1. Minutes of last Annual Parish Meeting

The Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held online on Wednesday 21 April 2021 at 7.30pm had been posted on the website by the Clerk. The meeting approved the minutes, and they were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

2. Chairman's Report

ROADS - Parking and speeding are as ever two main areas of concern. The long promised civil parking enforcement scheme seems to have made no difference whatsoever to the situation around the Coop, the main area for complaints, although parking is getting worse all around the village. More houses more cars. The parking around the school is getting worse and there seems to be no sign of a solution. Following the recent survey re. a twenty mile an hour limit through the village it was felt that the main road should remain at thirty, but the area around the school should be twenty at drop off and pick up times accompanied by a flashing sign as at many other schools. All other roads in the village to be twenty at all times. We are still waiting to hear the final arrangements for the measures that will accompany the new Lodge Hill slip roads, which will undoubtedly affect traffic using Bagley Wood Road. As you have probably noticed some of the roadside verges are now not being cut. This is to promote areas for bees and other insects to forage. It has certainly caused a lot of comment.

PLANNING - As usual we get a steady trickle of planning application so comment on. Some are quite controversial and although we submit our comments it sometimes seems that the planning authority at the District Council take no notice. We do our best.

PLAYING FIELDS - Our planning application to replace the pavilion at Playfield Road has been passed. Finance is now the next big concern. The field is well used, as is Forest Side. Both are used extensively for football and also cricket at Playfield Road which is also used in school holidays by a football academy. This helps to bring in some funds to help offset the running costs which are considerable. The fields are also used by dog walkers most of whom clean up after their dogs. Unfortunately there are also a large number who do not. Dog poo bags are available at both fields and other areas round the village so there is no excuse to leave the waste laying on the field. The bags can be placed in any litter bin not thrown in the nearest hedge. There is now a table tennis table at Forest Side, available for use at no charge. The line of trees at the top of Forest Side provides a nice screen for drinking parties and also lately for camp fires. Those responsible are now taking a saw to the trees to get more fuel. The police are aware but cannot be there all the time. CCTV has been considered but is considered too costly. We also get fly tipping at Forest Side as well as Cow Lane and Playfield Road occasionally.

MISCELLANEOUS - Vandalism is still a problem. Defacing bus shelters at the South end of the village seems to be a favourite. Also around the back of the village hall where a wall was destroyed and when rebuilt was knocked down again the same evening. The fence around the Forest Side play area was partly dismantled, luckily the boards were not destroyed. Many years ago the Parish Council offered a reward of £500 for any information leading to a successful prosecution for damage being done around the village. This still applies. The fun day organised by Rachel, our clerk, on August Bank Holiday was a great success and well attended. Many thanks to her for all her hard work. Santa went around the village again thanks to Abingdon Lions

allowing us to use their sleigh. Money collected went to McIntyre, the charity that are located in the old social club building. Thanks to the football club we now have another defibrillator which is on the outside of Playfield Road pavilion. We are hoping to run some more training sessions. Please come along to one as one day you may be able to save a life, perhaps someone who has attended may save yours. All the training will cost you nothing but a bit of time. I would like to finish by thanking Rachel, our clerk, for all her hard work, I am sure she does many more hours than we pay her for.

3. Financial Statement for 2021-22

The Clerk presented the financial statement for 2021-22. She reported that

The total expenditure in 2021-22 was £80,171. This is a small increase on the running costs of the previous year, which is largely due to increased village maintenance costs, such as the purchase of three new noticeboards, which have now been installed at Forest Side, Manor Grove and Kenville Road.

Income was £113,622 of which £97,070 came from the precept. Other income included the County Council's grant for the highway verge cutting of £2335 and £1,719 from hirers of the pavilions. The parish council also received £9,144 in CIL funds this year, so is now holding over £11,000 which is to be spent on addressing the demands that development places on the village.

In the last financial year, 37% of expenditure related to employee costs, which includes our new Village Warden who started last summer. 20% was spent on sport and leisure, which relates to the play areas, playing fields and pavilions; and 20% of expenditure was on village maintenance.

Chart no. 3 on the handout shows how the council's expenditure has changed over the past 10 years – although the total expenditure is generally increasing, the proportions of expenditure are relatively similar. Employee costs have risen this year, due to the litter picking and pavilion cleaning being undertaken in-house, rather than being contracted out to an external company.

The parish council's income has generally increased over the past ten years, and this year, the council received a significant sum of CIL money. The majority of the council's funds comes from the precept, which has slightly increased this year. Money is being saved towards the Playfield Road pavilion project, which received planning permission last year, but will take some significant funding before it can be taken forward. The council is also saving money towards replacing the play equipment at Forest Side, which will need to take place in the next few years.

The Parish Precept for 2022-23 was set at £101,147 which costs a Band 'D' property £59.01. This was an increase of £1.78 for a Band D property.

4. Matters arising from the reports

None

5. Reports from the District Councillors – Cllrs. Diana Lugova and Bob Johnston reported as follows:

1. Authority Monitoring Report for the Vale of White Horse was published here Authority Monitoring Report and Housing Supply Statement - Vale of White Horse District Council (whitehorsedc.gov.uk)
2. 29 Colley Wood. Am still waiting for the investigation report from Madeleine Duddy. However, she said that her planning enforcement investigation is limited to addressing some deviations from approved drawings (assuming the owners limit the use to a lawful 6-person HMO). She's made one visit to the site to view it from public realm, but intends to make a further visit to view it from neighbours' properties in the next week or two.
3. Vale steps up to support Ukrainian refugees. Vale of White Horse is redeploying staff from across the councils to ensure Ukrainian refugees moving to the districts get the support and help they need.
4. Vale to let wildflowers bloom during No Mow May. Vale of White Horse District Councils pledged their support for No Mow May in order to support biodiversity.

6. Report of County Councillor – Cllr. Bob Johnston reported as follows:

Since being re-elected to the County in May 2021 I have had a busy year. Much of my time has been taken up by the Lodge Hill project to add two south facing slip roads to this junction. The immediate obvious concern was that this could lead to rat running. I have been present at numerous meetings on measures to mitigate the same, some with the Parish, others without. While I am still awaiting final confirmation it is my hope that the outcome of these discussions will be traffic calming in Sugworth Land and Bagley Wood Road plus amended (and lower) speed limits in Bagley Wood Road and on the A4183 (the old A34) and a

pedestrian crossing at the end of St Swithun's Road. Currently the plan is to go for planning permission this summer with a start to construction in the Autumn. This should take about a year. If this is achieved this will unlock housing in North Abingdon and enable the Vale to reach its housing completion targets without penalty.

I have also spent a lot of time on cycle tracks locally. I hope within the next two years (as finance has already been identified from planning agreements) to see a segregated and safe cycle track off the SUSTRANS around the Redrow development, then down Kennington Road Radley and into Church Road and across the Pye development to link up with the cycle track on Radley shared footpath number 8, which will link with the growing Abingdon network. It should then be possible to cycle safely from the middle of Abingdon through Radley and Kennington to Folly Bridge in Oxford.

Another issue which I hope now to have put to bed are the double yellow lines at the top of Poplar Grove. The Southern most set are now to be removed. The ones on the other side of the road are to be kept (those outside Beaumont Court) at the request of the bus companies in respect of keeping the road clear for the school buses.

Away from the Parish following a change of control at the County I have been elected Chair of the Pension Fund Committee. This has £3.4 billion invested on behalf of the 74,000 members of the fund who do, or who will depend on it for their occupational pensions. It is quite the most responsible thing I have ever done in my 40 years in local politics. Our current strategy is to green the fund while ensuring that we have the funds to meet our obligations. To that end we recently transferred £525 million pounds into a new local carbon passive tracker fund which is giving a good return. We are currently decarbonising the fund at a rate in excess of 7.6% per year.

7. Reports from Local Committees and Organisations

7.1 Kennington Village Hall Management Committee – Colin Charlett reported as follows:

2021 has again seen our finances and lettings affected by Covid restrictions although towards the year end there are signs of an improvement with some regular users starting back and some new bookings coming in. We have been able to obtain some grant funding from the district council to help cover loss of income due to covid and our Treasurer deserves a vote of thanks for keeping us aware of the grants available.

During the year our Secretary/ Manager attended a course on safeguarding so we are up to date with current requirements. The Parish Council installed two large screen televisions for use at their meetings, these will also be available for hirers if required by them. We are hoping to have broadband throughout the building in the near future which again will hopefully help to attract new users. We have had considerable problems with vandalism at the rear of the hall and are upgrading and expanding our CCTV coverage of the area. Our thanks to everyone who has helped to see us through the current year and hopefully the next year will see us being able to hold our normal monthly meetings in person.

7.2 Thames (Kennington) Trefoil Guild provided a written report as follows:

Our Guild meets once a month on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the Methodist Church, Kennington, except in August when we have no meeting. We have a membership of 19 ladies coming from Kennington, Cumnor, Oxford, Sunningwell and Southmoor. Our monthly meetings are varied with outside speakers and also in house evenings as the latter helps to keep down our overheads. During the long lasting Covid restrictions our secretary kept in touch with members with a monthly email, or by post, and the officers challenged members with quizzes. We met in August (for the first time) when we had a cream tea and our retiring County Chairman came as she was endeavouring to visit each Guild in the county that month. In September we had a BBQ to which our new County Chairman came so she was able to meet us all. In October and November we had two in house meetings but had to cancel the Christmas supper and our January AGM was held on Zoom due to the Omicron variant of Covid. Monthly meetings resumed properly in February, and we plan to hold an open meeting in May when we hope to encourage some more members to join us.

7.3 1st Kennington Guides – Rhiannon Smith reported as follows:

1st Kennington Guides met over zoom during the pandemic and started meeting in person last summer. The girls have been working on various different badges whilst working towards their theme awards, most recently completing a dragons den style presentation and created their own popcorn flavours. As we move

into the summer term, we'll be doing more outdoor activities and encouraging the girls to attend events at local and county levels.

7.4 Kennington Thames Rainbows – Pauline Robinson reported as follows:

Kennington Thames Rainbows suffered under lockdown as one by one the girls reached seven and it was impossible to recruit new members. In September 2021 the unit started up again, meeting weekly in the Methodist Church Hall. We welcomed a former Rainbow, Rhiannon Smith, back as a leader and tried activities from the new programme which resulted in Rainbows gaining the new Bronze awards at the end of the year and the first Silver award just before Easter. Our current members are from beyond Kennington but we hope to recruit girls locally, especially as the start age is reducing to four years old.

7.5 Kennington Horticultural Society – Rachel Brown (on behalf of Brian Peedell) reported as follows:

The Society has some 240 members each paying a £2 annual membership fee. During 2021 members enjoyed coach trip outings to Exbury Gardens, the Hyde Hall Flower Show, and the National Arboretum. Unfortunately the planned holiday to Yorkshire was cancelled due to Covid restrictions. The primary event of 2021, the Annual Show, took place on 4th September in the Village Centre. We enjoyed a wide variety of high-quality exhibits and produce, and it was well supported by all ages of villagers. Evening talks and presentations to Society members and guests restarted in March 2022. This year we have planned outings to the Malvern Spring Show, the Westonbirt Arboretum, and a five day holiday to the Southport Flower Show in August. Society news and events are regularly published in the Chronicle and on the Village noticeboards.

7.6 Kennington Amateur Dramatic Society – Alan Cobb reported as follows:

Obviously Covid played an important part in the Society suspending activities for nearly two years. Our last Panto was Cinderella in 2020. This was produced and directed by Ian Biggs and David Buckmaster who when the pandemic hit decided to retire although David returned to performing and Ian still gave input for the back stage crew. KADS is a member of the ODN Oxfordshire Drama Network which encompasses all Drama groups from Banbury to Henley and each year they have a panto competition. This year 2020 the judging was changed and the same judges went round to all shows making the marking a little fairer. When I attended the ODN AGM on behalf of KADS I was so surprised when it was revealed that KADS had won the category for best production and I have bought the cup along tonight to show you. We planned to do a Panto in 2021 but had to cancel due to the pandemic. During this year our membership was kept alive by zoom whereby we all took part in singing lines from certain songs and which was skilfully mixed together by Tim Davies our membership secretary. Obviously the social side was what everyone missed so it was so good to hear restrictions got lifted and we were able to get back to what we enjoyed, socialising and rehearsing.

Hannah Gordon and Dan Peel stepped forward to direct our Panto for 2022 Rapunzel along with Dave Peel as producer. It was their first time of direction and producing having always appeared as characters on stage and Dave being the drummer in the band. It was also the first time for Rachael Peel as choreographer. Cast and crew and all our volunteers came together to produce what was a wonderful show which included some new members as well as some ex-members returning. Our performances always raise money for charity and this year the charity we supported was very close to home and which we raised the grand sum of 3K. It was Papworth Hospital charity, close to home as Dan Peel four years ago had a double lung transfer which has given him new life. He has since got married and He and his wife have just had a baby boy called Zack which we wish them all the best for the future. Two years ago our culmination of fund raising raised enough 5K for KADS to have a room named after the society in Ronald McDonald House Oxford This was in memory of another member Luke Biggs who was taken from us at the tender age of 18. When producing our shows we are indebted to the Village Hall Management committee for their support and tolerance and for the other organisations such as Badminton and Ballet that give up their time so we can have the time for our shows it is greatly appreciated. We are also indebted to the youth club which provides the space for changing rooms. because of child protection , areas have to be segregated between child and adult thankfully our stage crew do this for us.

This year will see another show for the Summer which will be a singing show of songs from past shows and some new ones. It is called Thank you For the Music which is being Directed by myself, Produced by Dave Peel and goes out on the 24th 25th and 26th of June 22. We then go into Panto mode for a forthcoming Panto for 2023 which will be directed by Tim Davis. This is Tim's first time for directing so we wish him well. We also hope our membership continues to grow and the community keep coming to see our efforts.

7.7 Kennington Festival Group – Alan Cobb (on behalf of Margaret Biggs) reported as follows:

Festival Group's first meeting after COVID was on the 13th September 2021. It was good to be back and our members only 23 now were pleased to be back. It was sad for us that 5 of the previous members are now in Care Homes but good for them and they all seem to be happy. January 10th bought new beginnings and we now have 32 members who enjoy meeting each other socially and we continue with the same activities as before. The Committee were re-elected on March 7th and are planning future events. The group will be meeting every fortnight during the year including Bank Holidays. 23 members enjoyed Easter tea on Easter Monday thanks to Rachel Brown for opening the Hall at such short notice because I had forgotten to tell her we were meeting. New members would be very welcome. Our thanks to our volunteer drivers and Tea ladies and the parish council for their support overview the years.

7.8 Kennington History Society – Bob Johnston reported as follows:

Like many local societies the Kennington History Society had a hard time during the pandemic as it was quite unable to meet. The Committee met on Zoom from time to time to plan how to re-open the Society when circumstances allowed. At the same time the Society was aware that a number of stalwarts had given notice that they wished to stand down. This could have left the Society without anyone to organise speaker meetings, something central to the Societies existence. A meeting was called last October in the Church Hall together with an appeal to the village for people to come forward, otherwise the Society might fold. Happily four people came forward at that meeting. As a result a full speakers programme was drawn up for 2022 and this is now being progressed. By the time this report is read we will have had four meetings which have been quite well attended. At the May meeting we are looking forward to a talk by Martin Buckland on "Canal restoration: benefits to wildlife and environment". All talks start at 19.45 pm in the Methodist Church off Upper Road, usually on the third Monday of the month. All are welcome, non members are charged £2.50 each. As we could not meet during the pandemic, we could not collect any subscriptions which are our financial life blood. Accordingly we shall in all probability be applying for a small grant from the Parish Council to tide us over until we can build up our membership and subscription income once more.

7.9 Kennington Chronicle – Colin Charlett (on behalf of Amena Sutton) reported as follows:

Thank you for this opportunity to share the work of the Kennington Chronicle with you. The Kennington Chronicle Committee meets twice a year and at our last meeting we all agreed that the Chronicle has continued to serve the residents of Kennington as a valued method of communication in the village. Although we had to stop our door-to-door delivery for a few months during lockdown, we continued to publish the Chronicle online only and received many favourable comments from residents, thanking us for keeping it going! We have welcomed several new and now regular subscribers over the past year. We have introduced new features and we continue to have a focus on the environment in our village. We are grateful to all those volunteers who subscribe, deliver and help with the production each month. Without our advertisers we could not exist, so we are indebted to them as well.

Now in our 38th year, we are always willing to hear from residents about how we could improve the Chronicle and bring information and news that they would like to have. Please do get in touch with us. All details are on the back of the Chronicle.

7.10 St Swithun's Primary School – Rachel Brown (on behalf of Caroline Knighton) reported as follows:

As you may know, I was appointed as the new Head of St Swithuns for September 2021 and have much enjoyed my time so far! The academic year started with us 'putting the school back together' after COVID bubbles although we soon found ourselves back into, albeit smaller, bubbles as COVID cases rose in school. Children were no longer sent home if a child in their class had COVID but we worked hard to ensure that we did not spread any infection around the school. Needless to say, everyone has been amazing at dealing with further disruption and I am hopeful that the summer term will feel more normal!

We have spent much of this year working on our curriculum and ensuring that our children are giving opportunities across the curriculum to grow and flourish. It has been wonderful to be able to open up school so that children can engage in their learning through trips and visitors as well as in the classroom – something which has not been possible for the past two years. Our year 6s enjoyed a week in Woodlands in Wales in October and our year 4s are about to visit Kilvrough, again in Wales, in early May. All year groups have either had a visit out or someone in ranging from a Viking Experience in year 5 to a trip to the Story Museum for our Reception children and anything in between – including the local library. Children have also been able to compete against other schools in a few PE tournaments which has been an added bonus. A highlight of our visitors must be a visit from Korky Paul, of Winnie the Witch fame, and my thanks to him and the Nasio Trust for making this possible. We were, of course, delighted to raise considerable funds for the Trust as part of his visit.

We are particularly grateful this year for a new partnership which we have formed with Abingdon College giving our children the chance to develop their scientific skills in a real laboratory. Our thanks too to Radley College for not only supporting us with volunteers but also giving us opportunities to attend some wonderful musical events including a fabulous concert by Braimah Kanneh-Mason.

As part of our music provision, BBC Oxford recorded us singing carols back in December and, as I write, we are due to travel to Wembley Arena next week to take part in the largest Children's Choir in the UK, Young Voices.

As with other visitors, it has been great to have our clergy back in school delivering worship for our children as well as the Open the Book team who engage the children in bible stories once a month. My thanks to them for all their hard work.

We continue to look outwards and support a number of charities including BBC Children in Need and Red Nose Day. Our School Council have been particularly busy as they are hoping to achieve an Eco-Schools Award this year having been inspired by a whole school project at the beginning of the year on COP26. Having trialled a holiday camp in February half term, we are delighted to once again open our doors over Easter for between 20/25 children each day as part of our Extended Schools project. Run by Oxford Active, we now have a thriving breakfast club, after school club and regular holiday clubs throughout the year. My thanks to all the staff, Governors, parents and children for enabling our school to grow and flourish. If you would ever like a visit, please do not hesitate to contact us – we are always looking for volunteers to come and read with our children. Or please do just look at our website to see what we've been up to!

<https://www.stswithunprimary.org>

7.11 Friends of Kennington Library (FOKL) – John Argyle reported as follows:

FOKL has continued to be active in its support of the OCC run library. With the easing of Covid-19 restrictions we have been able to resume many of our normal activities. Our popular monthly author talks, which moved online during the period of lockdown have now reverted to face-to-face events, these have been moved to the Main Hall at the Village Centre to facilitate social distancing. We have been able to resume fund-raising events with a talk by Ray and Caroline Foulk and an extended author talk featuring Richard O. Smith and our Honorary Life President, Korky Paul. Children's events at the library have resumed and a successful programme of class visits from St. Swithun's School is currently in progress.

During the period the library was able to move from restricted opening with limited hours to normal service. The Friends were successful in their request to Oxfordshire Libraries for a minor change to library opening hours, the total number of opening hours remains unchanged, but we now have more convenient opening times. We are grateful to the volunteers who give up their time to help with the running of the library, new volunteers are always welcome. We hope that with the full re-opening of the library and resumption of Friends events local residents will continue to make full use of this important local resource.

7.12 Kennington Youth Club – Jenny Forder reported as follows:

This April we celebrate 50 years since the building of the club's main hall named The Jordan Hall in memory of local leader Cyril Jordan. We would like to take the opportunity, on this anniversary, to thank the Parish Council for their generous support of the Youth Club over many years. The most recent grant of £500 in December 2021 was much appreciated.

The Club has continued to run throughout the COVID pandemic sometimes online and sometimes outdoors as well as using the indoor facilities when permitted. With the reduction in COVID restrictions, last term we were able to run a range of trips to Laser Kombat with the younger children and to Milton Keynes with the older group. This in addition to running two sessions every Wednesday evening 6.15 – 7.15 for school years 5-7 and 7.45 to 8.45 for older members. This Year we have also welcomed some young people helping in Club as Youth Leaders often as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Club continues to improve facilities for its members and has been pleased to replace the very old computers with laptops for use on club nights. The upkeep of the building continues to be a challenge with unexpected damage by a vehicle to the wall abutting the car park and by trespassers on the roof. We are grateful to our team of regular volunteers, trustees, committee members, lively young people and especially our Youth Worker Roy Peach for all their enthusiasm and hard work. We look forward to the next 50 years. If you want more information, please see the middle page spread in May's Chronicle.

7.13 Kennington Methodist Church – Alan Cobb (on behalf of Doreen Biggadike) reported as follows:

Worship has continued after COVID restrictions were lifted but we have maintained the Social Distancing and wearing masks. This is because most of the congregation are in the vulnerable age-group and have preferred to stay with the regulations. There are now fewer preachers in the Methodist Circuit due to retirement and the delay in Training due to COVID. This means that at times we rely on Members to take a short service, if possible.

Maintenance has continued on the church property-moss removed from the guttering and damaged slates replaced. The Wooden Cross on the roof was rotten and it was agreed that it should be dismantled but not replaced at the moment, while there are other works needing to be done. The garden is in need of a clearance.

Users of the church have slowly returned as each group has worked around COVID regulations. The Hiring price of the premises has remained the same as each group have needed to manage their finances again. This amount will be reviewed in September as the increase in energy prices will affect things.

During the last year we have lost a few members of our congregation-Nan Kirkland, Trevor Cowlett and Ruth Hooper. Trevor and Ruth were founder members of the church and were the ones to guide us in decision making and in our faith. As we are an ageing congregation we hope that we will be able to cope with maintaining the life of Kennington Methodist Church.

7.14 Parish Footpath Warden – Colin Charlett (on behalf of Jim Parke) reported as follows:

The Public Rights of Way in the Parish of Kennington were checked during this year and found to be generally in good shape. The improvement made to the surface of the Thames National Trail between the Southern Bypass and the Kennington railway bridge over the river some years ago is still evident. However one problem on the Trail is very noticeable and that is the amount of litter that is left on the path. I carry out a litter patrol once every month. The Thames National Trail is reputed to have the highest foot-fall of all the country's National Trails. Each time I walk from the Southern Bypass bridge to Sandford Lock I usually collect two large sackfuls of litter; beer and soft drink cans, plastic bottles of all sizes, crisp packets, plastic bags, beer bottles, fast food containers and miscellaneous paper. Occasionally one finds a small bag containing dog mess which the owner has thoughtfully tied up and hung, like a Christmas tree decoration, on a nearby bush.

The other footpaths in the village are generally in good repair, although the surface of FP 6, (from The Avenue to Poplar Grove) is beginning to crack up and will need repair or resurfacing. It is also necessary for the householders who have hedges along that path to trim back the vegetation from time to time as it encroaches on the footpath.

7.15 3rd Kennington Brownies – Rachel Brown (on behalf of Linda Andrews) reported as follows:

2021 proved a challenging year not only for the Brownies but for all Associations in the village. However, undaunted, the Brownies participated in zoom meetings from January until June. Our zoom meetings attracted 6 Brownies, 2 enrolments and by the time of the next enrolment in November, we had 12 Brownies compared with 15 girls in 2020.

Zoom meetings were very successful in that we still managed to earn badges, to craft and there was always a quiz plus games. For their Gardener's badge, the girls drew and coloured their dream garden. Earth &

seeds that had been delivered to their houses by one of the Leaders were planted in a container of their choice. It was amazing to check in each meeting to see how the seeds had grown!

By June, we were able to have a meeting on the grassed area outside the Church Hall. To celebrate World Egg Throwing Championships, we had a relay race with hard boiled eggs being pushed along the ground with various kitchen utensils. Squeals of laughter rang out and a few eggs were smashed in the race. Then the girls had to make an 'egg catcher' out of recycled materials. The aim was to drop a fresh egg! into the catcher without it breaking. You can guess what happened! It certainly brings the girls together as a team and amazing what weird and wonderful egg catchers they made.

We celebrated Alice in Wonderland Day with a Cheshire cat game – he was so mischievous! Then the girls went into 2 teams and produced a mini play with an excerpt from Alice in Wonderland. We have great actresses in our group!

In September, we were able to hold our meetings inside with strict covid regulations, masks and lots of hand washing. The girls started working on their 'Have Adventures/Explorers' badge by using compasses and maps, how to stay safe on a walk and what clothes to wear to stay warm.

Before the end of term, we celebrated our own Olympics with obstacle courses and general madly leaping around. The ultimate was the Teddy Bear's picnic. The girls brought their favourite teddy or stuffed toy and we all munched our way through our picnics plus managed to squeeze in a few games.

We had a joint Christmas party with the Peachcroft Brownies. They made festive crafts to take home. It was a tribute to the Brownies that they all got on very well and shared the fun of all the games played. I think the snowball fight was one of the most popular ones – with fake snowballs, of course!

7.16 Kennington Strollers – a written report was received as follows:

Kennington Strollers provide short gentle walks in the community of Kennington in the District of the Vale of White Horse. Between 5th May and the 27th October 2021, 326 people attended the short gentle walks. 26 weekly walks were run which gives an average of 12.54 people at each walk. The best attended walk was in week 9 on 30th June, with a total of 17 attendees, including three volunteers. The fewest people attending was at a walk on 27th October with 2 walkers and 1 volunteer.

We were mostly lucky with the weather, which was often sunny and mild even until late October, which enabled the walkers to do laps of a flat Playing field and then rest and socialise. Walks happened on Wednesday's between 2pm and 3.30pm at the Playing field, Playfield Road, Kennington, OX1 5RS.

Only one walk had to be cancelled on 21st July on the advice of the VOWH overseeing officer when there was an extremely hot day and a weather warning was issued. A core group of people attended several times so it was soon clear that those who enjoyed the walks would keep coming back to get the benefits of both the exercise and the time to socialise after and during their walks. The walkers: most people attending were in their 70's and 80's, a few in their 60's and two in their 30's and 40's. On 29th September people were asked their ages, three people were 73, two were 74 and 5 people were over 80. The eldest on that day was 88. Of the two younger people attending, one was known to have chronic physical health conditions and the other a mental health condition. The majority of walkers were women, but there were also 4 regular male attenders. Most people lived very local to the Playing field in the surrounding streets, within 1 mile of OX1 5RS. Many came by walking from home adding in extra exercise. A few who lived slightly further away came by car and then walked. Two people regularly attended on their mobility scooters, and would get off their scooter and have a walk. Many walkers used sticks to support themselves as they walked. One walker came from Bayworth, a village three miles from Kennington. Most people only did one or two laps each week, but a minority of walkers could achieve several laps of the Playing field.

People would sit and rest in between laps. The time to socialise at the end of the walk (approximately 30 - 40 minutes), was much appreciated as many were living alone and some had felt isolated during the pandemic. The support people received during a walk was the option to walk with a volunteer who would walk alongside them to chat and provide encouragement to keep going. Alternatively they would walk with other walkers. Volunteers: Initially three local women volunteered, One was willing to train as a walk leader (Under the Ramblers, Walks for Wellbeing scheme) which happened on-line through the Vale of White Horse (VOWH) District Council. Another volunteer had intended to train but that training session had to be cancelled by the trainer. The VOWH Active Communities team member was Ashley Chapman who

also provided support to the Facilitator. First Aid training was provided through the VOWH to four of the volunteers during September. An additional volunteer was recruited during July as the facilitator thought it advisable to have extra support in case of any accidents or falls. It was fortunate that he was already First Aid Trained. The short gentle walks are very low risk, held at a flat Playing field. It is possible to see all walkers as they walk laps around the field, mostly at a gentle pace. A few walkers were capable of brisker walking and did several laps. The walks were friendly and non-competitive though a few people were heard to ask each other how many laps they had done that day so got a sense of achievement and progress through improving their lap scores each week.

2. Project Summary and Impact: Context of Covid - Fairly quickly a friendly group was established, new friendships were forged and people who already knew of each other in different contexts re-kindled their old friendships. Many village groups had ceased to operate since March 2020 such as the Women's Institute, Horticultural and History Societies and the Apple Café so many of their usual opportunities to socialise had been lost. There were many conversations about the impact of the Covid Pandemic and it enabled people to share their personal experiences, both positive and negative. There was a general sense of being freer to get out more in May 2021, after many months of lockdowns and confinement indoors. A walker's feedback survey was undertaken between 28th July and 11th August to assess how the walks were progressing. A separate report is included in Appendix 1. The questions asked (Appendix 2) were approved by Community First Oxfordshire. People said that they had benefitted from the commitment to attend a regular weekly walk at the same place and time, because it encouraged them to go outdoors for exercise. Most also expressed the benefits of the social time together. This was achieved by the simplest method of putting some chairs outside the Pavilion in the sunshine which enabled people to sit down and chat at the start and end of their walk. Refreshments were provided by the facilitator, mostly fruit (strawberries and grapes) and bottled water in the summer months, in the autumn months of September/October tea, coffee and biscuits were provided. There were no charges made for the walks as a grant enabled refreshments to be provided free. The refreshments had the effect of elongating the social time together.

3 Learning outcomes – Covid safety - Because the walks were outdoors, only minor adjustments were needed to make them Covid safe. The Parish Council (who owns the Pavilion on the Playing field) allowed us to use their chairs by bringing them outdoors, so long as they were cleaned before and after they had been used. Refreshments were brought to the walks having been prepared at home (fruit washing) and water was provided served in reusable plastic cups. (To avoid over use of plastic bottles and plastic litter) Later in the year, when tea/coffee could be made in the pavilion kitchen, two volunteers prepared hot drinks and brought them outside to the walkers. Hand sanitiser was offered to the walkers as they sat down in their chairs. Chairs were often spaced at a "social distance" but were invariably moved closer together as people could not always hear each other! All of the walkers had received their two vaccinations in a timely manner so all felt safe outdoors to participate. One younger volunteer had to withdraw for a couple of weeks in July as there were outbreaks of Covid at the local school which affected children, she was always very careful to test herself with lateral flow tests to ensure she had not caught the virus. Covid created only minor adjustments to how the walks would have operated normally, the most significant being beneficial, we sat outside in the fresh air rather than used the Pavilion building itself. This saved on the costs of hiring the Pavilion building until September/October when the weather got colder, but even then people preferred to sit outside.

3. Partnership working - The main partnership was with the Active Communities Officer at the Vale of White Horse district council, Ashley Chapman, who was always available for advice and support by email or phone calls. At the start of the walks, the Facilitator did a risk assessment for Ashley's approval and ensured that enough volunteers were available to support walkers.

The Playing field is well maintained by the Parish Council, so there are few risks except dogs off leads running around, and some tree maintenance work that was happening on one occasion, which was noisy, but was well protected from the walkers.

Other Learning outcomes - One volunteer attended Walk Leader training, four attended first aid training including CPR in the context of Covid, and learnt use of a defibrillator. This was a reassuring skill given the

age profile of the group in their 70's and 80's many of whom had some pre-existing health issues with hearts, diabetes, high blood pressure, arthritis and other MSK problems, hips, knees and spines.

Recruiting Volunteers: Four volunteers were found locally in Kennington. During July, the facilitator used the Oxon (OCVA) volunteer's website to recruit other volunteers to provide extra cover when regular people were away. This was a learning experience. The first person who came forward was eminently suitable for the role, a woman who lived in Oxford, and at first was very enthusiastic to join us as a helper. She attended one walk and found it brought back difficult memories of walking with her recently deceased father so she decided not to continue. A second volunteer got in touch and attended for a few weeks but unfortunately his journey was quite a long one from a village north of Oxford. He brought his wife along who was also very suited to the work as she was already volunteering. They continued to join us for a few more weeks in July and August, fitting in well with the walkers, then had a holiday, they returned once each independently, then stopped. (They had other work and volunteering commitments closer to home.)

Conclusion: using the Oxon volunteering website to recruit other volunteers, was a useful extra resource, but given that people responding lived further away from Kennington it was easier to use local people in the village who were familiar with the local environment.

4. Achievements and outcomes - The main achievement was we successfully delivered a useful weekly supported walk providing gentle exercise and social contact for the benefit of older residents in Kennington, and people with health conditions. The project was delivered at very low cost with the dedicated support and organisation of the volunteer Facilitator who attended all the walks except one, for the full 26 weeks. The other volunteers were also key to the success of the project because of their loyalty and dedication in turning up every week. Plus their individual sensitivity to the walkers in providing just the right level of support, which seemed to be completely intuitive and required no additional training. The project also provided a social opportunity in early May 2021 when few other village organisations were then actively operating. The village Apple Café got going later in the year, and gradually other activities started to resume, but only very cautiously after restrictions were eased.

5. Sustainability - Kennington Strollers was originally delivered in Kennington between the years 2013 – 2018. We took a break in 2019 as the number of walkers went into decline during 2018, there were at one stage more volunteer helpers turning up to walk than walkers! After the Pandemic restrictions eased in May 2021, and when society was beginning to open up again after the various lockdowns and social isolation, it seemed an opportune moment to re-launch the walking group. We have always aimed to capture the older generations of walkers in their 70's and 80's. Many have led very active younger lives and still like to get outdoors to exercise. The Strollers was a follow on group from the original Kennington Health walks set up in 2003 and existed until 2013, under the national Walking for Health scheme, and organised by the same facilitator, Rosemary Aldgate. The original Health Walks continue in Kennington to this day, but are organised as an informal group of friends walking on Mondays and Thursday mornings. There is a rich "heritage" of "Walking for Health", and now "Wellbeing Walks" in Kennington. As is always the case with any voluntary group in any community, "sustainability" depends on the availability of willing volunteers who care about their community and want to provide opportunities for exercise and social contact. Kennington has always been a "rich" place to volunteer with many opportunities of various kinds, serving both the local community and the wider world beyond. For a small village of just over 4,000 people (2011 Census) it is a remarkably resourceful place, with a lot of social capital. However, the Covid pandemic interrupted the usual "flow" of volunteering and made some people afraid to go out of their homes for many months. Though perhaps walking and jogging were the exceptions, as it was clear by the increased numbers of people using the diverse open spaces that are available to us; the River Thames path, the Sustrans cycle track, the two open spaces Playing field and Forest side, the Memorial field, and both Radley Big Wood and Bagley Wood, that people still got out to enjoy their one hour of exercise during the lockdowns.

Conclusion: Kennington Strollers has been a great success this year (2021) as it has met a particular need for some older residents to regain their confidence in enjoying the outdoors in their own way. Some people had become fearful to go out and it has taken time to regain that confidence and break out of the sense of social isolation that was imposed upon us. It is likely that volunteering in Kennington will bounce back,

many people have already started to deliver much valued community led services again such as Apple Café, the Festival group for older residents, and other groups for young people like the Youth club, Guides and Scouts. The pandemic introduced some new younger people in the village to helping in their communities with shopping, delivering prescriptions and other vital needs like taking people to health appointments. In the past volunteering has often fallen on the older generations in many villages, let's hope that the lessons of the Pandemic have taught many more people the value of volunteering and how it enables everyone to feel both connected and valued in the places where they live. I hope our contribution to Kennington will have been enabling gentle walking in a friendly group, where everyone looks out for each other, enabling our older residents to be as active as possible for as long as possible. None of us ever want to become a "burden" in our older age. And none of us know what's round the corner when it comes to maintaining good health. This has been especially relevant in the context of a global pandemic when the usual health services we have relied upon are suddenly much too busy to be available to us, day to day. The fear of catching Covid has been very real for older people and also those with chronic health issues to manage.

7.17 Thames Valley Police – PCSO Maddie Highmoor reported as follows:

I continue my role as a PCSO in Abingdon Neighbourhood Team and have the responsibility for Kennington and Radley. Our team is made up of: one Police Sergeant, two Police Officers and just seven PCSOs. We are split into three smaller teams, and as a team we cover Abingdon, as well as the surrounding villages, and Botley/Cumnor/North Hinksey/South Hinksey/Kennington areas of Oxford. My team and I work a four week shift pattern, which consists of early and late shifts.

The last year in Frontline Policing has continued to present unprecedented challenges. The Coronavirus Pandemic has unfortunately not gone away, and up until the last couple of months, there were still Coronavirus restrictions in place, as defined in the Coronavirus Act 2020. As the national restrictions were eased, and England returned to a form of 'new normality,' the demand on Policing began to rise back to pre-Covid levels, including the demand on Neighbourhood Policing. Over the course of the last year, I spent a large amount of my time patrolling and responding to incidents across Kennington and Radley.

The local priorities in South & Vale are: Violence Against Women & Girls, County Drugs Line & Exploitation, Domestic Abuse, and Rural Crime.

The first two are certainly relevant to my work in Kennington, and there has been an increase in positive outcomes for Domestic Abuse investigations. Rural Crime is not significantly applicable in my role.

Other work that I have been involved in over the last year has included:

Conducting House-to-house enquiries and CCTV enquiries for thefts and burglaries in the area, dealt with anti-social behaviour, responded to incidents of concerns for individuals' welfare. Furthermore, I have completed safeguarding visits/calls with individuals, who have been a victim of fraud, providing crime prevention advice to victims of crime, as well as to individuals, who have been identified as vulnerable.

There has been positive news for Kennington as between 01/04/2021-31/03/2022, figures have shown that there has been a: 26% reduction in Burglaries, 33% reduction in Criminal Damage, 25% reduction in Theft of Motor Vehicles, 33% reduction in Shoplifting, 25% reduction in Drink/Drug Driving Offences, 12.5% reduction in Drug Offences, 23% reduction in Theft.

7.18 Botley Medical Centre and Kennington Health Centre Patient Participation Group (PPH) – John Ashton reported as follows:

I am John Ashton I am the Chair of The Patient Participation Group for Botley Medical Centre and Kennington Surgery (PPG). We have over 40 members, who include people with significant professional experience, not least in the NHS itself and in GP practice. We represent 16,500 patients of the Practice.

The Practice was recently reviewed by the Care Quality Commission the report can be viewed on the Botley Medical Centre website. On March 4, members of the PPG met with the doctors and staff of the Practice and the Director of the Oxford Clinical Commissioning Group at the Kennington Health Centre to discuss the questions the PPG submitted. The PPG identified items to do with Appointments and Blood Test Results and are making suggestions to discuss with the practice about how these can be improved. At our meeting we learnt that a replacement Practice Manager has been appointed and he will start in May 2022. A pharmacy clerk has been appointed. She is now in contact with local pharmacies to smooth processes and times for prescriptions. A fulltime Lead Nurse has been appointed to take on the leadership of the

nursing team, who will still include the current lead nurse, and will start in April 2022. The practice wants to recruit 3 more GPs. There is however a national shortage of GP's and none have applied so far.

At our meeting in early April we discussed with the Practice's Social Prescriber how the PPG can provide improved support to the practice and patients. The PPG would like to set up links with community groups who provide the support that is being requested. We hope the Parish Council would be able to help identify people involved with such groups so we can signpost patients to those groups as needed. Our Vice Chair Jean Mulligan is in the audience and Sylvia who is a Parish Councillor is also a PPG member and former Chair. We are all available at the end to answer questions people may have. Our next PPG meeting is Tuesday 17th May at 7.30 p.m. (virtual) and anyone is welcome.

7.19 Kennington Windband – Colin Charlett (on behalf of Pat Aitken and Fiona Joines) reported as follows:

Kennington Windband have been so pleased to make use of the large space of the Village centre for our rehearsals, thanks to Rachel for her efficiency and support in getting us booked in. The windband were unable to meet during most of the past 2 years but did some activities online such as a music quiz, master classes with our inhouse arranger and we did attempt a rehearsal...just once!

Despite this, we have welcomed several new members and any player wishing to join us can email us to request be added to our mailing list kenningtonwindband@gmail.com

December 2021 allowed us to gather and play a few festive tunes which was joyful, and we now plan to return to monthly rehearsals going forward.

7.20 Wild about Kennington – Rowan Guthrie reported as follows:

During the spring and summer of 2021 we have seen a diverse range of wild flowers and grasses in the pilot 'rewilded' road verges along The Avenue. Wild about Kennington ran a stall at the Community Summer Fun Day and at St Swithun's School Fair. In April 2021 60 pupils from St Swithun's year 6 joined us to see Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue kindly install four swift boxes and a swift call sound system high on the north wall of St Swithun's Church in Kennington, while committee member Alison enthused the children with information about swifts. Wild about Kennington acknowledges the following key concerns raised by the community about the verges pilot this year:

1. Concerns about tall grass reducing visibility for traffic, and potential safety risk for vehicle drivers and other road users. Wild about Kennington will be working with the parish council to ensure that the grass is cut at three week intervals, to maintain the vision splays at road junctions.
2. Concerns about the untidy appearance of long grass, and not enough flowers. Yellow rattle has been planted, which is an attractive annual wild flower that parasitises grasses and therefore reduces their vigour. Managing the verges in this way will reduce the height and dominance of the grasses, thereby enabling more wildflowers to grow.

8. Suggestions/Comments from Parishioners

None

The meeting closed at 8:56pm.

Signed **Date**