

**Kennington Parish Council
Oxfordshire
Minutes of the meeting held on
14 March 2024 at 7:30pm in the Village Centre**

Present: Cllr. Andrews Cllr. Bakewell Cllr. Brown Cllr. Buckingham Cllr. Cobb
Cllr. Cuddy Cllr. Gamble Cllr. Jempson Cllr. Johnston Cllr. Locklin
Cllr. Powles

In Attendance: District Councillor Diana Lugova and Anne Feather (Clerk)

477.23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr. Feather and Cllr Smith with Cllr. Powles arriving late (8:10pm)

478.23 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – None

479.23 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS – Cllr. Brown declared her interest in the Financial Report as payment is being made to her personally for purchase of goods relating to the Lantern Parade in December. She is also an employee of OALC and declared her interest in item 6A and payment to OALC within the Financial Report. Cllr. Brown also declared her interest in item 11, as she is a member of the Oxfordshire Pension Fund. Cllrs. Andrews and Gamble declared their interest in item 15, as they are both members of Wild About Kennington.

480.23 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting on 8 February 2024.

481.23 REPORT OF THE CLERK - New issues

A Received the following email from a member of The Manor Patient Participation Group (PPG) and resident of Kennington:

'When the Manor took over the Kennington Health Centre last autumn they redecorated and placed new paintings on the walls so that it would match somewhat the overall look of the surgery in Headington. There are a number of paintings that were on the Kennington Centre walls for many years and I believe some were donated by the doctors in the old days. I have established that the doctors do not want any of them back. Can you think of how they might be used or distributed. I don't know how many there are overall but could find that out. Many thanks for any suggestions you might have'. Clerk suggested she collect the painting so they were not thrown away in the meantime.

482.23 It was agreed that these paintings be displayed at the Annual Village Meeting so residents can collect their paintings. This is to be advertised in the Chronicle and on Facebook. Also the Clerk could inform Robin Mason (local art teacher) about the paintings in a hope he may know who some of them were painted by. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Bakewell and agreed

ACTION FOR CLERK – Take to the Annual Village Meeting in April. Include details in the Kennington Chronicle and on Facebook. Also let Robn Mason know of the paintings.
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B Local resident concerned about the neglect, dilapidation and disrepair of 161 Bagley Close, they asked if the council could do anything – Suggested contacting Environmental Health, giving them telephone number.

C Received the following email from resident: ***'I am writing in despair of the total disregard and respect the drivers of Kennington have for the grass verges in the village! The area between Simpsons Way and St Swithun's is particularly bad as is the service road between St Swithun's and the school - I know this weather does not help but it is just thoughtless!'***

D Elderly resident reported she was involved in a near miss outside the Co-op early afternoon on Monday 26 February. Clerk recommended she report this incident to TVP. Clerk has informed PCSO Maddie Highmoor of the situation. Resident requested cameras outside the Co-op and chemist as well as signs as a deterrent for parking in this area.

- E Resident asking if the council could try and get the street light (No.7) in the alleyway between Poplar Grove and Meadow View working. They have reported this three times via FixMyStreet and was told them on 19 February that it has been passed on to SSE. This street light has not been working for over a month.

483.23 It was agreed that Cllr. Cuddy would report, being a Superuser of FixMyStreet. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Andrews and agreed

ACTION FOR CLLR. CUDDY – Report the issue with the street light in the alleyway between Poplar Grove and Meadow View Road using FixMyStreet

- F Resident asked who cuts the verge going down to Old Nursey View, Clerk confirmed it was the parish council's contractors. Resident has asked if they could put up a sign saying 'Please do not park on grass'. They put such a sign on their verge opposite and it seemed to work.

484.23 It was agreed that the Clerk to respond to resident explaining that as the verge is in the ownership of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) it is not in the remit of the parish council to give agreement. Suggested resident contact OCC.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Respond to resident explaining that the parish council could not give permission as the ownership of the land is OCC and it would be OCC that they would have to request permission.

- G Clerk reported white van parked outside chip shop to PCSO Maddie Highmoor (copying in District Councillors Diana Lugova) as resident had to walk sideways to pass the van. Response from Maddie was: ***'A large number of on-street parking offences have been decriminalised, therefore Police are unable to enforce them. The County Council are responsible for this enforcement. From reviewing the images, I can see that the vehicle is parked on double yellow lines, therefore this would be for the County Council to enforce. A report can be made, via the County Council's website, to report the parking offences'.***

485.23 It was agreed that the Clerk check that this is correct, as it was felt that a vehicle totally blocking the path for pedestrians was an offence.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Check that vehicles obstructing the footpath is no longer a criminal offence.

Continuing issues

- H Contacted John Backley (Technical Services Manager, Development and Corporate Landlord for South and Vale District Councils), copying in many officers including Planning officer and both District and County Councillors and Cllr Jempson with regard to the flooding of Sandford Lane. Email was sent from both Kennington and Radley Parish Councils reporting that residents should not be enduring these ongoing issues as they are having to at present and, like Cllr Johnston have requested a fresh meeting to include all concerned to investigate, plan and implement improvements. Cllr. Jempson keeping Cllr. Johnston and Clerk informed as to when it floods. Received the following reply from John Backley: ***'Apologies for a delayed response. Thank you for your emails and making me aware of the continued impact on those residents in Sandford Lane during the current very wet conditions when there is flash flooding. Our land drainage engineers at the Vale and officers from OCC are currently heavily involved in investigating flooding where properties have been flooded internally which is not the case in Kennington. I'm afraid this investigation of internal house flooding work will take priority for Vale officers probably over at least the next six months or so as formal reports are required to be published and recommendations implemented. So, I'm sorry but we are not yet in a position to meet and discuss ideas to reduce flood risk in Kennington, but I hope later in the year our engineers will be able to come up with some possible solutions and then meet to discuss'.*** Clerk responded explaining that both parish councils totally understood and would contact him again in August. In the meantime Clerk requested someone to take responsibility for regularly clearing the trash screen at Sandford Lane. (Copying in Layla Moran MP and Cllr. Jempson to disseminate to local residents).

- I Events; Planning; Playing Fields and Personnel Committees' Terms of References amended, uploaded onto the Website, with the Review Schedule amended.

- J Responded to work experience request, offering the suggestions discussed at last month's meeting and giving them details of OALC for Cllr. Brown to assist them also.

- K** Included information about Fix My Street in March's edition of The Chronicle and also posted on the website and Facebook.
- L** Accepted the Flagpole service quote from the Flagpole Company, Informed unsuccessful firms – inspections arranged for 20 March 2024
- M** Responded to Kennington Athletic Football Club (KAFC) via Mark Baker, explaining that the council has agreed to request its original 15.8% increase for 2024/25 annual fees, but that if this places KAFC in financial difficulties, the council commend they apply for a council community grant. Awaiting response.
- N** Litter pick planned for Saturday 16 March has been postponed.

486.23 It was agreed that the Clerk arrange a litter pick later during the spring in the better weather.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Arrange a Litter Pick later during the spring..

- O** Contacted Cllr. Gant of OCC, to make him aware of the issue of parking along Upper Road, received reply following day. Cllr. Gant reported that: *'All new schemes are monitored especially in their early period of operation, so this is very useful feedback. I will ask officers to investigate and take your comments fully into account to see if any further action is appropriate'*. Kept resident informed and recommended they too get in touch with Cllr. Gant, which they did and received response explaining that It is extremely helpful to hear detailed insights on local issues from people on the ground. He said that they keep issues of parking constantly under review in response to changing conditions, and this will be discussed with their officers whether they need to look at the current system in Upper Rd. He recognised there was an issue.
- P** Contacted the Street Lighting Team regarding the broken street lights at Meadow View Road, who had contacted Scottish and Southern Electricity Network (SSEN). SSEN had reported that lights were now working – member of Street Lighting Team checked, only to report that lights had not been fixed. Clerk contacted SSEN in an attempt to move things along – SSEN explained that Clerk would have to speak with OCC – made contact with Cllr. Gant (copying in Layla Moran MP). Response from Cllr. Gant explaining that he would try and help resolve this issue and for Clerk to get back in touch if the council hasn't heard anything within a reasonable time. Kept resident informed.
- Q** Received Thames Valley Community Funding for CCTV at both pavilions – Cllr. Cobb and Clerk attended the Award Ceremony on 11 March 2024.
- R** Rosey Hollinrake requested the bushes at the War Memorial be trimmed again this year. Cllr. Andrews offered to assist Rosey in the pruning, but too much work to carry out on her own. Rosey also passed on her thanks to the councillors, for bearing with her with her planting of perennials.

487.23 It was agreed that Cllr. Andrews suggest to Rosey Hollinrake that the sacred bamboo plants be replanted somewhere other than the War Memorial, as the height of the plant will interfere with the flags on Remembrance Day.

ACTION FOR CLLR. ANDREWS – Ask Rosey if she could replant the sacred bamboo plants away from the War Memorial.

- S** Playfield Road pavilion was without electricity on Saturday 24 February, which resulted in front garden of residence in Playfield Road being dug up to repair supply cable. All working again Sunday afternoon. Council to receive £180 compensation.
- T** Clerk copied in on email regarding request to Sharaz Arif (OCC Project Manager) from the St Swithun's School Group for update on progress with Lodge Hill mitigations for Kennington. St Swithun's School Group confirming measuring and surveying having recently been taking place.
- U** Community Emergency Plan has been reviewed in terms of checking details of volunteers and forwarded to those contacts on the distribution list. Clerk contacted OCC's Emergency Planning Team to ask for assistance with flooding procedures with a response received listing various avenues.
- V** Reminded Mark Francis of OCC of adding the location of St Swithun's Church sign along The Avenue onto 2024/25's budget allocation. Confirmed, this is in 2024-25's programme for installation.
- W** Rachel Locklin attending OALC's Play Area and Equipment training day at Benson
- X** Contacted the Tree Officer to ascertain when the trees/shrubs along the Avenue, between Simpsons Way and Playfield Road are to be cut back. Also requested all branches sprouting out from the trunks of trees

mainly near Grandy Crescent. Both requests are being made to increase the sight lines when coming out onto The Avenue.

488.23 It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Tree Officer again to report the 1st shrub/tree which looks quite dead along The Avenue, on the right at the end of Simpsons Way. This is in the line of sight, especially in the dark. It was stressed again by councillors that all the trees/shrubs need to be cut right back to give a better sight line when coming out of both Simpsons Way and Playfield Road.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact the Tree Officer reporting the dead tree along The Avenue to the right of Simpsons Way and request that all the trees/shrubs are cut back to improve the sight line.

Y Contacted Daniel Depp, senior officer within the Area Maintenance & Operations team reminding him of the blocked gully on the slip road off the by-pass onto the north of Kennington. Work was planned to take place on 8 March – Clerk also requested confirmation that the gullies at and near to The War Memorial are on the six monthly maintenance programme. Response received resources have been reallocated so nothing will be done, hopefully after start of April more progress will be made – currently there is a huge backlog. Clerk will contact Dan again during April.

Z Contacted William Piotrowski, senior Flood Risk Engineer of South and Vale requesting a meeting to discuss future maintenance and prevention plans, together with procedures in times of heavy rain, high river levels and flooding, going forward for the north end of Kennington. Suggested meeting in July due to existing work level for South and Vale officers due to flooding properties as a result of the recent bad weather. Awaiting response.

AA Contacted Andy from OX365 asking if the council's website will be compliant with the following guidelines: ***'As part of efforts to enhance online accessibility, compliance and security, parish and town councils must prepare to upgrade their websites in order to align with the upcoming change in compliance standards and promote inclusivity. From October 2024, online content published by councils will be required to meet WCAG2.2AA to ensure that it remains accessible to a wide audience.'*** Response received that the website is about 90% compliant with the guidelines, some very minor things are not, but the guidelines serve to ensure users can navigate the website without a mouse and with certain disabilities – this can be done. There are also no videos the council is responsible for transcoding. Andy contacted clerk explaining that he was separating from OX365, but will still be providing the website support. New company: Adventis Digital Limited – payment details will follow for future months.

489.23 It was agreed this contract roll forward until payment details are known, Clerk report to council if any increase in the monthly rate. This was proposed by Cllr. Jempson seconded by Cllr. Johnston and agreed

ACTION FOR CLERK – Report to council with any increase in monthly rates for the Website support

AB Invited The Manor Surgery to the Annual Parish meeting on 24 April 2024. Awaiting response.

AC Received notification from OCC that they are planning to plant replacement trees within the village. Seven trees along the beginning of Upper Road, to the north end; two between the Grundy Crescent entrances on the grass area and one on the grassed corner of Playfield Road/The Avenue (south side). Copy of communication and link forwarded to all councillors.

490.23 It was agreed that the Clerk contact OCC reporting council's concern over the planting of a tree on the corner of Playfield Road and The Avenue - there is a possibility that a tree planted too close to the road in this vicinity would lead to future obstruction of sight line when turning out of Playfield Road onto The Avenue.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Report the councillors concerns to OCC

AD Checked defibrillator at Forest Side - it is very damp inside the cabinet and making the unit wet too. Contacted Turtle Engineering who explained as the cabinet is old it is no longer covered by any warranty. They will charge £100 (+ VAT) to come out on site to fix it. New cabinets are between £450-£525.

491.23 It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange for the company to come out and see if they can fix the cabinet before looking into purchasing a replacement cabinet. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed

ACTION FOR CLERK – Arrange for the company to come out and fix the cabinet

AE Residents, back in November had concerns over the speed of vehicles travelling through the village. The council responded to their concerns the following month – received the following email: ***‘Thank you for getting back to us regarding the questions raised with the parish council in December. However, we thought the need to reply as we don’t think the parish council appreciate the strong feelings we have on this matter.’***

492.23 It was agreed that the Clerk respond to the residents inviting them to a future council meeting, or to suggest they meet with a councillor to discuss their concerns. Also for the Clerk to invite them to the Annual Village Meeting in April where they can voice their views at the meeting.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Respond to the residents inviting them to future council meetings, to the Annual Village Meeting or to arrange to meet with a councillor to discuss their concerns.

AF The climbing wall equipment at Forest Side play area has been repaired and renewed.

ACTION FOR CLERK – to include this in the Kennington Chronicle article and on Facebook as well as preparing a laminated notice for displaying at the play area.

Mick Herring will be commencing the quarterly inspections in April. Mr Herring is going to carry out the village hall play area inspection too. Is the council going to split £145/3 invoicing the Village Hall Management Committee £48.33 per quarter and £28.33 for each of the two months in between for the monthly visual inspections made on the play areas?

493.23 It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the secretary of the Village Hall Management Committee so that this can be taken to their next committee meeting.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write to the secretary of the Village Hall Management Committee explaining the issue

Mick Herring is recommending that two of the wooden posts on the slide/climber unit need replacing as well as two posts on the square climber and one of the posts for the swings.

AG Equality & Diversity Policy amended and on Website

AH Calber has been emptying the three litter bins around the village hall since Colin Charlett stopped emptying them earlier during last year. When Colin started emptying the bins the council stopped charging the Village Hall and it hasn’t charged the Village Hall Management Committee since. (£19.36 per week) Received email from the Village Hall secretary requesting if the company that tidies around the village for the council (BGG) could also tidy around the hall if the village hall pays the additional cost? The weeds get quite bad at times and there is occasionally quite a lot of litter coming up the sides of the hall.

494.23 It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the secretary of the Village Hall Management Committee explaining the cost in emptying the litter bins at the Village Hall, in time for its next committee meeting. Clerk also to contact BGG to ask if they could include clearing the weeds in the Village Hall Play Area as part of the maintenance contract and what would be the additional price.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write to the secretary of the Village Hall Management Committee explaining the issue

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact BGG to ask the additional cost in clearing the weeds from the play area and sweeping the leaves from the side of the hall as part of the maintenance contract.

AI The council has received the data from the Speed/Volume survey carried out at the end of Bagley Wood Road (same location as the previous survey) at the end of January beginning of February 2024.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Send data to Cllr. Andrews to see if she could prepare some graphs for the Annual Village Meeting.

AI Cllr. Jempson reported to County Councillor Johnston and the Clerk that there was flash flooding again at Sandford Lane (12.03.24) with the following posted on Facebook: ***‘Sandford Lane flooded again, cars okay not sure about walking.’***

AJ Received email from Oxford Preservation Trust regarding the Memorial field plaques and the towpath downstream of Rose Island: ***‘I have chased the restorer again. I had let her know in advance about your***

meeting, but unfortunately have not received her quote in time for your meeting. We have now visited and looked at the part of the tow path opposite Rose Island and will be discussing possible options with our land agent and contractor.'

495.23 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUEST FOR GRANT AID

Requests for grant – None

Cllr. Brown left the meeting room

Correspondence for discussion/action

A Oxfordshire Association of Local Council (OALC) – invitation to renew membership at a cost of £882.34

496.23 It was resolved that Kennington Parish Council will renew its membership of OALC.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Renew OALC membership

Cllr. Brown returned to the meeting room

B Within this month's OALC Newsletter there was an article regarding D Day Flag of Peace. OALC has received a communication from Bruno Peake, Pageant Master in relation to the opportunities for parish councils to take part in the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landing on 6 June this year. A souvenir D-Day Flag of Peace is being produced for the occasion, providing a simple, meaningful and cost-effective way to take part, for councils to consider purchasing and flying from 9am on 6 June, leaving it up for one week should they wish. The flags come in various sizes with the largest being 5' x 3' at a cost of £28.80.

497.22 It was resolved that the council would purchase two 5' x 3' flags at a cost of £28.80 each. This was proposed by Cllr. Buckingham seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Purchase 2 flags measuring 5' x 2'

C Request to help CPRE Oxfordshire recruit volunteers

ACTION FOR CLERK – Circulate on the village noticeboards, on Facebook and on the website

Correspondence forwarded to Councillors for information

D South and Vale - Councils have a joint plan for action on air quality

E Flooding financial support for residents and businesses – VoWHDC

F Securing a sustainable future for The Beacon Arts Centre and Community Centre – VoWHDC – posted on the website and Facebook

G Have your say on the Joint Local Plan under consultation - CPRE

H Public services remain secure in draft Vale 2024-25 budget – VoWHDC – posted on the website and Facebook

I New planning rules mean good news for nature recovery – VoWHDC – posted on the website and Facebook

J £760K boost for good causes in the Vale - VoWHDC – posted on the website and Facebook

K Exciting vacancy for a brave horse in our Mounted Section (TVP) – posted on the website

L joint statement: Marking two years since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, councils reaffirm support for Ukrainian households – South and Vale District Councils – posted on the website and Facebook

M Councillors' visit and demonstration of flooding protection measures – South and Vale District Councils

N Changes coming next year to garden waste service in South and Vale – posted on the website and Facebook

O Changing Places Toilet for all opened in Wantage – South and Vale – posted on the website and Facebook

P Compost Giveaway - 16 March 2024 – Vale – posted on the website and Facebook

Q Council approves budget and states its opposition to Thames Water price hikes at a weighty February meeting – Vale – posted on the website and Facebook

R Enjoy fun for all the family this Easter – Vale – posted on the website and Facebook

S Customer Experience Strategy Engagement - Oxfordshire County Council – forwarded to all councillors to complete survey and/or add their views

- T** Go compost crazy for Food Waste Action Week – free compost and a ‘hot’ composter up for grabs – posted on the website and Facebook
- U** Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme update
- V** London Oxford Airport Airspace change proposal

Newsletters

- W** CPRE Newsletters **X** The February edition of Vale News for 2024
- Y** Community First Oxfordshire Newsletter **Z** RSN Rural Funding Digest
- AA** The latest news for your communities – Oxfordshire County Council
- AB** latest news from Healthwatch **AC** The Rural Bulletin

498.23 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 29 February 2024

Community Account	£500.00
Business Premium Account	155,355.79
National Savings & Investment Account	£85,681.57
Cambridge & Counties 3 Year Fixed Rate Bond	£88,001.03
Total	£329,538.39

Income received in February	£
HMRC - VAT refund October – December 2023	2,378.88

Reference	Direct Debits	£	Power to Act
DD	Southern Electric (paid in February) 30.11.23 to 31.12.2023 (invoice IV00299882) Electricity supply for Playfield Rd pavilion (73.30) Forest Side pavilion (26.66) +VAT	99.96	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
DD	Castle Water (paid in February) Water for Playfield Rd pavilion (January)	35.45	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
DD	Southern Electric (to be paid in February) 15.07.2023 to 30.11.2023 (invoice IV00180877) Electricity supply for Playfield Rd pavilion (61.88) Forest Side pavilion (28.77) War Memorial (76.08) +VAT	175.06	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 War Memorial Act 1923
DD	Southern Electric (to be paid in March) 1.1.2024 to 31.1.2024 (invoice IV00389807) Electricity supply for Playfield Rd pavilion (74.26) Forest Side pavilion (26.72) +VAT	106.03	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
DD	Virtual Landline (to be paid in March) March's subscription for virtual landline	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972

Reference No. 2023/	Accounts to be paid in April	£	Power to Act
207	Oxford Tree Surgeons Ltd* Tree works at The Paddocks	1,980.00	LG (Misc. Prov) Act 1976
208	Mrs A E Feather Salary for February plus 73.08 hours less tax, NI & pension contribution	1,937.90	Section 112 LGA 1972

209	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for February	754.94	Section 111 LGA 1972
210	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI	922.36	Section 111 LGA 1972
211	Calber Facilities Management Ltd Covering Village Warden's 4 weekly cleaning of Playfield Rd pavilion in January 147.72 - Emptying bins at both playing fields 346.56 Emptying bins at village Hall 77.44	686.06	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
212	OX365 Web hosting & website managing @ £31.50 per mth for Dec, Nov & Jan 113.40 Domain & IT issues with council pc 117.00 Installed security package & sorted old packages 53.56	283.96	Section 111 LGA 1972
213	Oxfordshire County Council Traffic survey on Bagley Wood Road – February 2024	228.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
214	Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) Training events for Cllr. Andrews; Chair and Clerk	228.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
215	Anne Feather Fast host extra mailbox space for February	2.40	Section 111 LGA 1972
216	Kennington Village Hall Room hire for February	35.00	Section 134(4) LGA 1972
217	Savills (on behalf of St John's College) Hire of Forest Side playing field 25.03.2024 to 23.6.2024	505.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
218	Grundon Waste Management Ltd Wheelie bins in February - Forest Side 49.47 and Playfield Rd 57.30 +VAT	128.12	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
219	Mrs Rachel Brown Payments made for the Lantern Parade in December Refreshments for Remembrance Day	172.42	Section 137 LGA 1972
220	M R H Services Repair and replacement work on the Climber/slide at Forest Side play area	1,198.68	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
221	Stanhope Wilkinson Associates 2 nd Stage – professional fees in connection with the Playfield Road pavilion Project	3,600.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Total to be transferred in March: £13,126.32

*Omitted to pay this invoice last month online

499.23 Reconciliation reports together with the trial balance, cash books and summary income and expenditure (against budget) and copy of annual budget reports were circulated to all Councillors for February.

500.23 The financial report was proposed by Cllr. Buckingham seconded by Cllr. Johnston and agreed by all bar one being Cllr. Brown who abstained due to having declared an interest.

501.23 MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13 February 2024 and draft minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2024 were noted.

502.23 MINUTES OF EVENTS COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 24 January 2024 were noted.

503.23 MINUTES OF PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 7 March 2024 were noted.

504.23 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS) DISCRETIONARY POLICIES

505.23 It was resolved that the LGPS Discretionary Policies, drafted by the Personnel Committee, be adopted.

This was proposed by Cllr. Buckingham seconded by Cllr. Gamble and agreed by all bar one being Cllr.

Brown who abstained due to having declared an interest.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Forward agreed document to Oxfordshire Pensions and upload document to the website

506.23 USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

507.23 It was agreed that the Use of Social Media Policy be adopted. This was proposed by Cllr. Locklin seconded by Cllr. Powles and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Upload the Use of Social Media Policy to the website.

508.23 PROTOCOL FOR WHAT'S ON THE WEBSITE

509.23 It was resolved that the amended Protocol for what's on the Website be adopted. This was proposed by Cllr. Cuddy seconded by Cllr. Powles and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Upload the Protocol for What's on the Website to the website.

510.23 FIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR BOTH PAVILIONS

511.23 It was agreed that the council would accept Red Box's quote to carry out Fire Risk Assessments for both Playfield Road and Forest Side pavilions. This was proposed by Cllr. Buckingham seconded by Cllr. Cobb and agreed .

ACTION FOR CLERK – Send Purchase Order to Red Box and arrange date for assessments to be carried out

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform unsuccessful company

512.23 ADDITIONAL SALT BIN

513.23 It was agreed that the council would purchase an additional salt bin which has been installed outside Kennington Cemetery in Sandford Lane. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Jempson and agreed by all

514.23 It was resolved that the council would authorise this payment so that it could be paid in this month's payment run. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Jempson and agreed by all

ACTION FOR CLERK – Add to list of payments to be paid this month

Cllrs. Andrews and Gamble left the meeting room

515.23 WILD ABOUT KENNINGTON'S PROPOSAL

516.23 After discussion **It was agreed that** Kennington Wilding Group's proposal be approved for 1 year, before being given approval for an additional two years next year. Also the area of Wilding would no longer include the area of grass between the entrances to Grundy Crescent. This would revert to regular mowing. All other areas would not be changed. This was proposed by Cllr. Buckingham seconded by Cllr. Powles and agreed by the majority with one voting against and two members abstaining.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Notify the Kennington Wilding Group of the Council's decision.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact BGG to ascertain if there would be any additional charge for a cut and collect being carried out during August of the wilding areas, with regular cuts after that date until the end of the season.

Cllr. Andrews and Gamble returned to the meeting room

517.23 VILLAGE FLOWERS

518.23 It was agreed that the council accept £1,333.33 for this summer's flowers for the village. This was proposed by Cllr. Buckingham seconded by Cllr. Cobb and agreed by all. There was a request for more brightly colours plants this year.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Send Purchase Order to Purely Plants to order flowers for this summer and request more brightly coloured plants this year.

519.23 CHAIR'S ALLOWANCE

Moved to confidential matters

520.23 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

521.23 Cllr. Brown – Village Hall Management Committee

Secretary is asking for confirmation letters as to who are current representatives on the Management Committee.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Send letter to secretary of the Village Hall Management Committee confirming Cllr. Smith is the parish council's representative on the Management Committee.

522.23 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr. Locklin – Received details about the Local Nature Recovery Strategy workshops

ACTION FOR CLERK – To forward a copy of this email to all councillors.

Cllr. Andrews – After recently attending an OALC event entitled *Addressing the Biodiversity Crisis* Cllr. Andrews volunteered to draft Biodiversity and Sustainability policies for the council.

ACTION FOR CLLR. ANDREWS – Draft policies for Biodiversity and Sustainability, bringing to a future meeting of the council for approval.

Cllr. Powles – Reminded councillors of the Annual Village Meeting on 24 April, and urged all councillors to attend. Made a suggestion of having monthly councillor surgeries on a Saturday morning at Apple Café – it was suggested that this be discussed at a future meeting.

Cllr. Jempson – Forwarded comments regarding single decker bus as reported at last month's meeting to Cllr. Cuddy.

ACTION FOR CLLR. CUDDY – To publish Parish Transport meeting dates and details in the Chronicle in the future.

Cllr. Johnston was asked if anything had been done about the balancing pond next to Sandford Lane – not as yet, but Cllr. Johnston feels the pond has been built to the correct specifications and is blocked further down the drain beyond the railway bridge. But at present there are no resources so no investigations can be carried out. Cllr. Johnston requested details to be forwarded to him of the suggestion that several years ago surplus concrete had been poured down a manhole along Sandford Lane near the Industrial Estate.

ACTION FOR CLLR. JEMPSON – To forward any details she has to Cllr. Johnston

Cllr. Johnston confirmed that OCC has taken responsibility for the trash screen clearing, which it will undertake on a regular basis.

Cllr. Brown – Reminded councillors of the OCC Day which is on 20 March at County Hall. Cllr. Brown attended a Flooding Event at Wallingford, where various flooding apparatus was on display and explained for the use by home owners who need to prepare for future flooding. If enough interest is shown a future similar event can be arranged.

523.23 REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS – Diana Lugova and James Cox

1. Flooding Financial support. Vale is working to get funding to distribute financial support for residents and businesses affected by the recent flooding, caused by Storm Henk in January 2024. As soon as Vale commences payments, update will be provided to all affected: Vale team will contact anyone **who** has already reported flooding to Vale or Oxfordshire County Council (through the flood toolkit) to let them know how to access available funds. People impacted by Storm Henk are encouraged to report property/business flooding if they haven't already done so. The link is here www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com/emergency/report-flood

2. **Flood Action.** Regarding preparation for next floodings. It's OCC who is dealing with flooding and I was advised that they now use new kind of bags – not sandbags – but bags filled with gel – called Aqua-sac. It's flat when it's dry which makes such bags storage very convenient. While we don't know who is OCC supplier, this company seems the manufacturer AET Flood Defence – AQUA-SAC®. If Kennington PC wants to create Flood Action Group for flood response coordination, then parish can apply for Climate Action Fund and use the fund to purchase such bags directly or via OCC.
3. **Vale Budget/Council Tax.** Vale Council voted for the Budget and Council Tax for 2024/2025 during the Vale Council meeting on 21st February 2024. Vale Council Tax will be increased by 3.30% - for example band D council tax for 2024/25 will be £156.69, which is an increase of £5 from £151.69 in 2023/24.
4. **Household Support Fund voucher scheme.** There are now less than four weeks left for local people who are struggling with cost-of-living pressures and the rising cost of food and energy bills to receive vouchers through the current Household Support Fund. Please help to spread the word in your ward to encourage more organisations to urgently come forward to act as referral agents to help us get to those who need it most. For more information contact our Community Hub team by calling 01235 422600 or email communityconnectors@southandvale.gov.uk
5. **New bin collections calendar.** The new calendar for 2024/2025 is here [Waste calendar 2024/2025 draft - Vale primary \(whitehorsedc.gov.uk\)](#) and Information leaflet is here [Waste leaflet 2024-25 all in one v1 \(whitehorsedc.gov.uk\)](#)
6. **Changes in Garden Waste collection scheme** will be introduced from April 2025 Garden waste scheme changes - Vale of White Horse District Council (whitehorsedc.gov.uk). From 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, we will have transition arrangements in place which mean that when we take your direct debit payment, we will only take payment for the period between your current renewal date and 31 March 2025 when the new permit scheme starts.

524.23 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Johnston

OCC Budget. This report concerns the annual budget for Oxfordshire County Council passed on the 20th of February 2024. Currently the County is run by a minority Liberal Democrat/Green Group of 23 members. Therefore we always knew that to get our budget through, that either the Conservative/Alliance or the Labour and Co-operative Group would either have to abstain or vote with us. When the day started it looked as though we might do a deal with the Conservatives as it appeared that all they wanted was some extra money for potholes and they would abstain. However as the day progressed their demands escalated until by early evening it was clear a deal simply was not on. So we went back to the Labour Group (for about the third or fourth time). We had been a little nervous of their amendments as they included some £25 million of extra borrowing which at a time of high interest rates we were not keen on. However the responsible Officer (the section 151 Officer) had signed that off as being legal, so that was what we went with. The Labour Group then voted with us on our budget with their amendments, the Conservatives to our surprise abstained. That was a great relief because in theory if we did not pass a legal budget then we could all have been disqualified from office and surcharged, not an attractive proposition. The main features of the agreed budget are:- an increase of 4.99% in the Council Tax which roughly equates to £60 a year for a band D property, an increase in real terms of 10% plus for Children's Social Services where the demands for extra safeguarding and out of County placements have hugely increased and where a single out of County placement can cost £250,000 a year. The budget for Adult Social Services has been increased by 8.6% in real terms to cope with an ageing population. Finally there is an extra £6 million for potholes.

525.23 MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Commence monthly councillor surgeries on Saturday mornings at Apple Café
Working Party for the War Memorial
Defibrillator cabinet

526.23 Cllr. Cobb moved that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting to prevent the disclosure to them of sensitive information in relation to members of staff.

527.23 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – Staffing issues were discussed

Meeting closed at 9:37pm

Signed Date