



**Kennington Parish Council
Oxfordshire**

**Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held
on Wednesday 26 April 2023 at 7:30pm at Kennington Village Centre**

Cllr. Alan Cobb Vice- Chairman of the Parish Council, took the Chair.
He welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

In attendance: There were 23 residents, PCSO Maddison Highmoor; PCSO Ali Blood and Anne Feather (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr. Colin Charlett; Revd Rob Glenny; Katie Whelan; Steven Dawson; John Maine; Amena Sutton; Caroline Knighton; Dom Howson and Margaret Biggs

1. Minutes of last Annual Parish Meeting

The Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 27 April 2022 at 7.30pm had had been circulated in advance by the Clerk. The meeting approved the minutes, and they were signed by the Vice-Chairman as a true record.

2. Chairman's Report

ROADS – Almost a carbon copy of last year. Main cause of complaints and concern is parking, especially along by the Co-op stretch and also at the bottom of Edward Road. Although the perennial problem of parking at, in and out times at the school probably causes the most hold ups. With the increase in housing being built in the area, the problem will only get worse. The civil enforcement scheme is laughable and has made no difference whatsoever. The parish council has made its feelings known about the lack of action but it seems that there are so many regulations it is virtually unenforceable. With the work to construct the slip roads at Lodge Hill and the replacement of the bridge over the railway on the ring road due to start soon it seems as though we will be suffering with traffic problems for a long time yet.

PLANNING – Planning applications continue to come in. The old Westwood Hotel has been demolished and will be replaced with some expensive housing which will at least give Kennington some CIL income. The proposal for the conversion of a house in Colley Wood into eight bedroomed HMO was permitted by the Vale despite strong objections from the parish council and the residents of Colley Wood, a disgraceful decision which can only cause parking problems in the area. Semi-detached houses being turned into flats without adequate parking does not seem to bother the planning authority.

PLAYING FIELDS – The pavilion project is still a work in progress but it is now more likely to be a refurbishment and extension of the existing building rather than a complete new build. This is due to the cost implications which even for a refurb etc. are still considerable. Dog fouling is still a big problem at Forest Side and Playfield Road, there is no excuse for this as poo bags are provided at both sites and they can be placed in the litter bins. It is nice to see the cricket square back in regular use. It is now being used by Wolvercote Cricket Club who have put considerable efforts and finance into the field.

MISCELLANEOUS – Last year, our Clerk Rachel Brown moved on to a new job and we now have Anne Feather who was our Clerk before Rachel, back in post. Many thanks to Rachel for all the hard work she did. She is now one of our parish councillors. You may have noticed a new green shed behind the village hall. This is the replacement for the storage container the council had at Playfield Road, which had severely deteriorated. Some of the village notice boards had become past their best and have been replaced. Christmas saw Santa visit Kennington again in his sleigh, which was kindly provided by the Abingdon Lions, for which we thank them.

It is with sadness that I must report that Jim Parke who had been the village's Footpath Warden for some years passed away at Christmas. Our deepest sympathies go to his wife and family. The council will remember Jim as a gentleman, always willing to help and full of enthusiasm when carrying out his role.

3. Financial Statement for 2021-22

The Clerk presented the financial statement for 2022-23. She reported that

The total expenditure in 2022-23 was £86,502. This is a increase on the running costs of the previous year, which is largely due to increased maintenance and repair costs for the pavilion at Playfield Road, such as a new hot water tank for the showers and the graffiti on the Forest Side pavilion and the new green storage shed and the purchase of this storage shed, being a replacement for the old rotten container at Playfield Road pavilion.

Income was £110,873 of which £101,147 came from the precept. Other income included the County Council's grant for the highway verge cutting of £2,335 and £3,004 from hirers of the pavilions. The parish council also received £2,248 in CIL funds this year, so is now holding over £12,810. Several benches have been purchased recently, together with an additional 4 flower planters for the village, which will be coming out of these monies. In the last financial year, 31% of expenditure related to employee costs. 23% was spent on sport and leisure, which relates to the play areas, playing fields and pavilions; and 16% of expenditure was on village maintenance.

There is a chart on the display boards showing 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 were lower this year, due to Rachel Brown leaving the council in June and myself starting in August and the council had replacement screens installed on the bus shelter by Sandford Lane, which shows why the bus shelter percentage is greater.

The parish council's income has generally increased over the past ten years, this year, however it was less as the council received a less 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, 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 2023-24 was set at £101,147 (same as last year) which costs a Band 'D' property £58.62. This was an decrease of 39p on a Band D property.

4. Matters arising from the reports – None

5. Reports from the District Councillors – provided a written report as follows:

1. Kennington Traffic Calming update. Preliminary site meeting with OCC Project Manager Sharaz Arif was agreed for 9th May with participation of residents and stakeholders.
2. Sandford Lane. Vale Flood Risk Engineer visited and assessed Sandford Lane situation and reported the following: I will contact to Redrow to ensure that the flow control device has been installed as approved in their planning consents. At this stage though everything appears to be in order and I do not believe discharge from their site has caused the issue. Water levels in the watercourse along Sanford Lane appear to be high. My opinion is that this is attributed to a blocked trash screen downstream, which is holding flows back. I will contact the landowner and ask them to carry out maintenance on the trash screen and ditch to improve its flows and capacity.

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

1. Again a very busy year. Again much time has been taken up by Lodge Hill which has eased forward at near glacial speed. Progress has been made. The planning application has been submitted and is to go to the County's Planning and Regulation Committee in June. A recent e-mail informs me that the traffic calming for Kennington in Bagley Wood Road and St Swithun's Road are now finalised and will be implemented subject to a final site meeting in early May. The same is true for Sugworth Lane in nearby Radley. The A4183 is to have a new and lower speed limit as is Bagley Wood Road. Again much time has been spent on cycle tracks. The track through Redrow is complete and will be opened in stages as construction machinery currently working right next to it is removed as houses are completed.
2. A proposal for a new cycle track on the North side of Kennington Road, Radley is now out to consultation. Finance from section 106 for this have already been secured. When constructed this will link

with a track through the Pye development in Radley which in turn will link with cycle track number 8 in Radley and which finally links to the Abingdon system. We can now see our way to a secure, segregated system all the way from Folly Bridge to the centre of Abingdon.

3. It has been a brutal winter with record rain and much frost. Pothole blight is widespread. I shall be discussing the matter with the County Officers next Monday at the Abingdon Locality meeting. The same is true of the complex flooding problem in Sandford Lane. I may be able to give an oral update at the meeting. Cllr. Johnston was able to give an update on both of these issues at the meeting: OCC has taken responsibility for regularly cleaning the trash screen at Sandford Lane, OCC was unaware of this situation. Redrow's balancing pond needs corrective work carrying out as not working as it should be, recently causing the flooding in Sandford Lane. Similarly OCC was not aware how bad the state of The Avenue had become so much so that the short patch of some 50/60m is to be totally resurfaced instead of individually filling in the potholes – this is to be confirmed.

4. Finally I am enjoying being Chair of the Oxfordshire Pension Fund Committee which still has some £3.25 billion pounds invested on behalf of the 74,000 members. We continue to decarbonise the fund, the rate last years was around 17% against a target of 7.6%. In conjunction with Brunel who do the actual investing we are developing an engagement policy which should see our funds disinvesting from the more egregiously fossil fuel enterprises within the next two years. In respect of Pension Fund investment policy it is considered best practice for changes in policy to be implemented gradually to prevent financial shocks to the Fund.

7. Reports from Local Committees and Organisations

7.1 Kennington Village Hall Management Committee – Alan Cobb reported as follows:

2022 so an improvement in letting's and therefore income after the end of lockdowns and the easing of COVID worries. Fortunately the funding received from the District Council helped to see us through without too much of a drain on our reserves. Our secretary/manager moved on to full time employment, with her replacement Mrs Wilcox, staying for a short while.

Our new secretary/manager is Sandra Hogan who is still new in her role. Bookings have been very good throughout the year and are looking good for the future with quite a few new regular users. We are still hoping to install Wi-Fi in the hall although a response from the County Council is still not forthcoming however the parish council is hoping to assist with this project.

Our tenants in the old social club building have carried out some improvements and are no trouble at all, rents always paid on time, unlike the previous tenants.

At the risk of being over optimistic, things are looking good for 2023. Thanks are due to our caretakers and secretary and a special thank you to our treasurer who keeps our finances in good order, also to all the committee members for their efforts.

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

Trefoil Guild is open to all ladies over 18 years of age. To be a member you do not have to have been involved in Guiding in any way. In the past year, we have had some interesting meetings including: Various talks by some of our members– Smocking Dots to German Cloths “A romp through mid-20th Century embroidery”, Sailing fun and a Trip to Italy in 1960's on a Motorbike.

We have also had a talk by the Abingdon Street Pastors. We have enjoyed a B/B/Q and a Xmas meal both prepared by some of our members. 16th May 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Kennington Methodist Church Hall Our Open evening with a talk entitled “Royal Footman.”

Everyone is welcome. For more details, please see the Kennington Chronicle or contact Caroline Ashby on 01865 820936 or carolianeashby@gmail.com (Please note the spelling of the email address as it is NOT carolineashby@gmail.com)

7.3 1st Kennington Guides provided a written report as follows:

With the lifting of the remaining social distancing restrictions last year, the unit enjoyed the return to face-to-face meetings. We celebrated with our first night away since pre-Covid times – and spent a night sleeping under the stars at Beanwood, part of Wytham Woods, where the girls enjoyed a campfire and built shelters to sleep in.

We tackled the challenges of starting a new school year with some wellbeing activities. We held an open evening with activities that included fire lighting with s'mores and relaxing dot art; we also welcomed some visitors to teach us how to safely use a defibrillator.

We were proud of our Guides who attended the village Act of Remembrance.

In December, we attended the "Girlguiding only" screening of Roald Dahl's "Matilda the Musical" and we also held our annual Christmas sleepover at Jubilee House with Guides from Abingdon.

We celebrated Thinking Day by trying out some traditional Guiding activities and learnt about Guiding history, finding out about how Guides cooked for their communities during the Blitz. We looked at rationing, planned and carried out our own Blitz cookery recipes.

We also welcomed some members of Kennington Brownies for a fun session building our own crazy golf course from the contents of our recycling bins.

One of our leaders in training arranged a joint trip into Oxford with the Rainbows and Brownies. We had a guided tour of the Story Museum, finding out about traditional stories and more modern ones. We also visited Modern Art Oxford and saw the Appearance exhibition by Carey Young about female judges.

Other activities have included baking, food art, first aid, active games, a mocktail party, art activities, puppet making, a music evening, science-based activities and a glowstick bowling night.

We finished the term with some Madagascan-themed activities led by a Guide leader who will be visiting the country in the summer for a community service project. We were also delighted to present Guide Bronze Awards to two members, celebrating their achievements so far.

7.4 3rd Kennington Brownies provided a written report as follows:

We were thrilled to re-open Kennington Brownies in January 2023 with a new leadership team including two Duke of Edinburgh Award helpers. Over the last six months, our numbers have gradually increased, and we are now a thriving unit – but always have space for one more!

Our varied activities have included map reading, route planning, star gazing, and we even managed to spot the international space station. We also learnt about coding and how to control your brownie bot. We celebrated the end of our first half term with a glow in the dark evening.

The Brownies have gained their Network skills builder by completing a number of team building activities.

We celebrated World Thinking Day with the theme of "Our World, Our Peaceful Future". We explored what we can learn from nature and created our own food web. For Shrove Tuesday, we celebrated with a pancake race and by creating edible art.

We also completed the Grow Your Own interest badge: the sunflower and rudbeckia seedlings are doing well. We had an evening setting some Brownie world records, as well as exploring values and friendship.

We enjoyed a trip to the Story Museum with Kennington Rainbows and Guides. There we had a private tour of three galleries at the Story Museum, exploring the rooms and creating our own comic book stories: 'overcoming the evil politicians from Milton Keynes and celebrating with cake' won the vote for the best creation. We then went on to Modern Art Oxford to see the Appearance exhibition by Carey Young and get creative with the museum's activity packs. Before breaking up for the school holidays, we enjoyed some Easter themed Olympics and were very proud to present two Brownie Bronze Awards and one Silver Award.

We are looking forward to our joined sleepover with Rainbows Guides, and Rangers next term.

We are hoping to find another adult volunteer so that more girls can enjoy the opportunities Brownies give.

7.5 Kennington Thames Rainbows provided a written report as follows:

The Rainbows continue to meet each Monday in the Methodist Church Hall from 5.30 - 6.30pm. There are four adult leaders and this spring we have also welcomed two Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates for their Community Service. Rainbows can now join at four years old, though a little school experience is advisable. Taking four year olds has increased our numbers but there are also older girls who are only Rainbows for a term or two before moving on to Brownies.

Despite fluctuating numbers we have offered a varied programme in the meetings and through trips including a special Guiding cinema screening of 'Matilda - the musical'. Recently, together with the Brownies and Guides, the Rainbows visited the Story Museum and Museum of Modern Art. The Rainbows

took part in the Village Act of Remembrance in November and the recent Thames District Table Top Sale. They celebrated the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee and opted to meet on the day of her funeral when they made pearl necklaces to remember her by.

Two of our Rainbows have achieved their Gold Award, the highest for their age section. One of our leaders, Rhiannon, has been selected to take part in a Girlguiding GOLD expedition to Madagascar in the summer and Pauline has received her 20 year Long Service award, both demonstrating commitment locally and beyond.

7.6 40th Oxford Sea Scout Group provided a written report as follows:

Ten years as Chair, that's hard to believe! I have sometimes wondered if it's still the best role for me, or whether to return to leadership, particularly when sections were vulnerable due to a shortage of leaders. But we've had so many excellent new adults join us, volunteering their time to enhance the skills and opportunities for young people, that it seems I'm stuck with the boiler repairs and meetings.

There are many other unsung heroes in the "back office" of Scouting:

- Our Treasurer Sandra Ward for extending her day job into her so-called leisure by moving numbers around spreadsheets;
- Our Secretary Sam Smith for the using her day job organisation and admin skills for our benefit.

We have Steve Daniels to thank for ongoing maintenance tasks and organising repairs and wonderful redecoration; and Paul Hallam for support with health and safety, and publicity in the Chronicle.

Thanks too to Chris O'Hare continues to manage our HQ hires – it's good to see that other Groups from around the country are returning to camping, and we are a good base for river, woods and city activities. And to Wendy Lancaster who generously agreed to manage the waiting list.

We owe a lot to Claire Rylatt, who as well as her role in Endeavour Cubs has been facilitating Beavers and Scouts, keeping our OSM portal up to date with training and DBS checks etc., as well as building a new website for us. I'd also like to thank Maria Chaundy, a friend to the Group nearly all her life, for being the training advisor to most of our new leaders. Her love of Scouting has infected these new leaders and it is a joy to see them develop, and love Scouting like so many of us do.

Of course the biggest role is played by the leaders, assistant leaders and section assistants who plan, risk manage and deliver amazing and varied programmes that keep the kids learning, challenging themselves and maturing into responsible citizens. I really can't improve on what I wrote last year: we are really fortunate that there are enough of us so that there is always someone happy to do the bits of a role that you dislike – some of us are happy with public speaking, some have finance skills, or easily build rapports with nervous children. Some like to cook, or camp, or climb. Whatever your skill or interest, please think about sharing it with us. Please talk to any of us, or email kenningtonscouts@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved. You can do as little or as much as you want.

7.7 Kennington Horticultural Society – provided a written report as follows:

The Society has some 230 members each paying a £2 annual membership fee. During 2022 members enjoyed coach trip outings to the Malvern Spring Show, Primrose Cottage in Steeple Aston, and Westonbirt Arboretum. In August over 40 members attended a 4 night holiday in Southport, visiting RHS Bridgewater Gardens and the Southport Flower Show.

The primary event of 2022, the Annual Show, took place on 10th 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. The 2023 Annual Show, the 81st, takes place on Saturday 9th September in the Village Centre. Evening talks and presentations to Society members and guests take place 6 times a year in the Church Hall. This year we have planned outings to the Malvern Autumn Show in September, Leonardslee Gardens in May, and a 4 night holiday to Cornwall in July. We also hold a Plant Sale in May. Society news and events are regularly published in the Chronicle and on the Village noticeboards. We are a friendly bunch and invite new members to join at any time during the year.

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

This year saw our pantomime Aladdin play to a record number of people over the eight performances and it was directed by our new Director Tim Davies. From this show we obtained new members and unfortunately we were unable to put on a summer singing show as we could not get three consecutive

dates however my daughter Louise who was going to direct the show decided to work some workshops where she could teach various theatre skills. She has managed to make these workshops very interesting and with the various people that came along played some very enjoyable games whereby everyone felt no pressure and felt good to be in a safe and comfortable environment. Workshops are continuing until the end of June.

We then get ready for panto mode although it is already being planned at the moment. This year we have another new director Leigh-Anne and a new musical director Phil Coul. Hopefully we can do as well as last panto in terms of audiences.

One last thing KADS has been trying to get charity status and hopefully with the current communications with the Charity Commission we will have secured it. Fingers crossed.

7.9 Kennington History Society – Mike Simpson reported as follows:

The Kennington History Society continues to recover from the effects of the pandemic. We are delighted that attendance at our monthly meetings continues to rise, in fact at the recent March meeting we had 36 visitors, which is not only a record in post-pandemic attendance but means that we shall have to start putting out more chairs. We are all delighted at this turn of events, particularly as less than two years ago we faced the real prospect of having to close the society down permanently.

We would like to thank

the Parish Council for your support during this time in the form of a grant last year which has allowed us to continue operating, and the ongoing publicity you give us through our presence on the Parish Council website. Challenges still exist as our membership stands at 33 people, down from 59 prior to the pandemic, and we are taking steps to gently encourage regular visitors to become members of the society. Last year's talks covered a fascinating range of topics, including 'Nineteenth century women travellers & explorers', 'Oxford's 400-year-old Botanic Gardens' and 'Christmas music and song through the Ages'.

We have an equally exciting range of talks this year, with forthcoming examples including 'Romans of Oxfordshire', 'The story of fires and firefighting in the city of Oxford' and 'World War II rationing and cooking for victory: a fair share for all (with demonstrations and tasting samples)'. As well as our talks, we have plans for further ideas for projects to support our aims of fostering interest in History and Archaeology and encouraging the study of Kennington and its surrounding areas. We are therefore also looking at ways to increase our capacity by recruiting volunteers to help with specific tasks, including managing our archives of local history material and developing new educational material on local history. We are always delighted to welcome visitors from Kennington and beyond. Our meetings are held at 7.45 pm in the Methodist Church off Upper Road, with non-members charged at £2.50. We meet each month (except for our summer break in July and August), usually on the third Monday of the month. Our next talk, on the history of pleasure boating on the Thames (7.45pm on Monday the 15th of May), is very appropriate for an early summer evening in Kennington and we look forward to seeing you there.

7.10 Kennington Chronicle provided a written report as follows:

Thank you for this opportunity to share the work of the Kennington Chronicle with you.

Now in our 39th year of publication, the Chronicle continues to bring news and information from various organisations in and around Kennington that we feel are of relevance and interest to our villagers. In the past year, we have welcomed new contributors and added to our team of deliverers.

After more than twenty years of dedicated service as our advertising co-ordinator and treasurer, Mark Horseman retired from these roles at the end of last year. We are indebted to Mark for his enthusiasm, sound advice and his major effort to keep the Chronicle going for all those years. Mark continues to support the work of the Chronicle in another role.

We welcomed David North as our new treasurer and advertising co-ordinator and he has slotted into those roles easily and very quickly. The rest of the team is made up of Roger Dennett as Chair, Roger Winkworth as Producer, Ken Rae and Marilyn Farr as distributors and Paddy Landau as our technical support. We meet twice a year to review our principles and practice. 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.

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.

7.11 St Swithun's Primary School provided a written reported as follows:

I can hardly believe that it is coming up to two years since I started at St Swithun's but what a joy it has been to be the Head of our wonderful school.

Building on the work we did on our curriculum last year, we have been able to enhance what we teach with trips both into and out of school from Hampton Court and the Teddy Bear Hospital to Science Oxford and the Story Museum. The years 1s particularly enjoyed their very own Fire of London and the year 5s were excited to learn about space with actual rocks from the Moon!

The children in years 2, 4 and 6 have also enjoyed their residential trips to Hill End, Kilvrough and Woodlands. We finished last year with excellent year 6 SATs results – all above national averages and attainment of the high standard in reading, writing and mathematics 'significantly above national' and 'in the highest 20%' of all schools. Congratulations to all the children involved.

We were very pleased with the outcome of our recent Ofsted visit which gave us a 'good' rating and recognised our Early Years provision as 'outstanding.' The inspectors recognised that our 'pupils feel secure, included, happy and well cared for' and that 'positive relationships flourish.' They commented that 'leaders expect all pupils to achieve highly' and that 'staff are proud to work here.' The very positive report is a testament to all the hard work of everyone involved and I thank them for that.

As a Church of England School, we work closely with our local clergy and we are very grateful to them for delivering assemblies as well as supporting us with services both in school and in Church. We are also grateful to the Open the Book team who delight our children through acted out bible stories each month. Thank you all!

My thanks too to our parents who have joined us for assemblies to help us all find out more about Divali and Ramadan building on the learning which children have in their RE lessons. In October of last year, we welcomed BeSpace in to school which was an opportunity for children and staff to reflect or pray as they so wished. Quotes included: 'Please let our world be equal and be the same for everyone', 'I feel like all my worries have come out.'

Our thanks to BeSpace and Reverend Alison plus a wonderful team of volunteers for making this possible! We shall miss Reverend Alison hugely and thank her for all that she has done for the school over the years. One of our key strategic aims is to prioritise sustainability. Our year 5 children worked on a project with Oxford City Council sponsored by Pivot Power to raise the profile of renewable energy.

We were also delighted to receive an Eco Award last summer – congratulations to the School Council – and have been enjoying watching our new Eco Committee change the way we do things in school from not sending Christmas cards to litter picking as well as their weekly Eco Tip – see our website for more details! We have also worked in partnership with the church to establish and promote the hugely successful community larder.

As many of you will know, this venture diverts many tonnes of food from waste whilst providing a low cost source of food for many members of the community and also features a popular uniform swap. We have also been involved with specialist school, Endeavour Academy, on an art project entitled Feeling Safe with our Year 3 children. The final piece from the children at Endeavour, the 'Gift', can be seen hanging in our reception area.

We are delighted to be able to attend a number of sports competitions run for our local partnership including athletics and football and were pleased to achieve our Silver School Games Mark Award last year. Our Sports Leaders, elected each year, continue to do a great job of playing with the younger children at lunchtime and helping us to organise Sports Day. We continue to run a range of after school activities including gardening, tag rugby, football, gym, netball and singing. A highlight of the past two years has been taking over 50 children to Wembley Arena to take part in the Young Voices Concert – what an evening! Our thanks to Radley College for providing us with weekly volunteers who work with our children.

In addition, we have been most fortunate to attend a number of events at the College including: a folk workshop, the Hackney Colliery Band, an Orchestra Day and the Kabantu Concert. We must also thank Abingdon School for their continued support through their Science After School Club. As a school, we do recognise how fortunate we are and hold various events throughout the year including Harvest where we collect and donate goods to the Porch Centre in Oxford as well as raising money for various causes including those involved in the earthquake in Turkey and Syria and BBC Children in Need. My thanks to our wonderful team of parents who run FOSS (Friends of St Swithun's) and hold events throughout the year including the annual May Fair which raises significant funds for school and enables us to do things that we might not otherwise be able to do. This is an open event and we would be delighted to welcome any members of the Parish Council or beyond to join in the fun on May 20th between 12-3pm. Our after school provision continues to thrive with our Breakfast Club and After School Club expanding and our Holiday Club becoming very popular. None of the above is possible without the dedication and commitment of an extraordinary team of staff, Governors and volunteers all of whom go above and beyond for the benefit of the children at St Swithun's. My thanks to them for everything that they do. For more information, please do take a look at website <https://www.stswithunsprimary.org>.

7.12 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 removal of all remaining Covid-19 restrictions we have resumed all our normal activities. Our popular monthly Coffee Talks have continued throughout the period, these are now held in the Main Hall at the Village Centre to allow a larger audience. A new initiative, Warm Welcome Wednesdays, in conjunction with OCC, has seen Kennington Library opening as a 'warm space' for residents on Wednesday mornings, with the provision of hot drinks, etc. A full programme of children's events, such as Rhyme Time and Stories and Craft sessions have been held at the Library with the support of the Friends. Children were encouraged to participate in the 2022 Annual Summer Read Challenge, with awards being presented to participants at a party held at the Village Centre. Other events, such as the Board Games Club, for both adults and children have continued. A programme of class visits from St. Swithun's School to the Library, outside of normal library hours, has now been completed, all class groups have now visited the Library. 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 local residents will continue to make full use of this important local resource.

7.13 Kennington Baby and Toddler Groups provided a written report as follows:

Kennington baby and toddler group have had a positive year, we decided that with the increase of cost of living to reduce our weekly fee back down to £2.00 and also offer free sessions for those that need it. Every Tuesday is busy and we have a lovely group of parents, grandparents and childminders that regularly attend. We always have two activity tables that include a craft and an activity that helps build different skills like, colour matching, numbers, letters, threading and also sensory play which is often messy but great fun. We have had new equipment including a small climbing frame, foam building blocks and have renewed the baby area with a wide range of age-appropriate toys. The adults and children all enjoy attending, friendships have been made and all those that attend make it a happy and lovely group to run.

7.14 Kennington Youth Club – Jenny Forder reported as follows:

The Club has continued to run regularly during term time throughout the last year, sometimes using outdoor facilities adjacent to the Youth Club and at Forest Side as well as using the indoor facilities. With the reduction of COVID restrictions, this year we were able to continue to run a range of trips, for instance, to Laser Kombat with the younger children and to organise a sleepover in the Youth Club. This in addition to increasing the number of sessions from 2 to 3 every Wednesday evening each session lasting an

hour. The first session for the younger children starts at 5:45pm and further sessions for older children run from 7:00pm to 8:00pm and from 8:15pm to 9:15pm for the most senior group.

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.

We have recently appointed temporary additional Youth Worker who comes every other week to support our Senior Youth Worker. This relieves the pressure on volunteers and trustees who put in many hours supporting the work of the Youth Club. If funds allow we would hope to continue this into the next academic year.

The upkeep of the building continues to be a challenge with recent repairs being necessary to the roof as in wet weather water was running down the wall inside part of the building.

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. If you would like to join our team of volunteers or become a trustee please let us know.

7.15 Kennington Methodist Church a written report was received as follows:

Sunday services continue although there is a shortage of Ministers in the Circuit. The Superintendent of the Oxford Circuit (and our Minister), Peter Powers, will be leaving this summer. From September, there will only be three Ministers to manage the whole of the Oxford Circuit along with Lay Preachers. Andrew Dunsdon continues to take a "Together" service once a month which includes craft, discussions, tea, coffee and refreshments.

Attendance is between 8 and 15 each Sunday. Maintenance is always ongoing on the building and grounds. Tiles are often replaced as they are now deteriorating with age, gutters cleaned out of leaves and moss, a downpipe has been repaired and there has been a general trim of shrubs and hedges.

More work needs to be done, which has been requested by our Quinquennial Inspection. During the week many groups use our church including Memory Club, Rainbows, History Society, Trefoil Guild, Zumba, W.I., Scarlet Ribbons and United Choirs.

Our Coffee Mornings continue on 2nd Tuesday of the month and is enjoyed by those who attend. As well as tea, coffee and cakes, there are cards, books, second hand clothes, jewellery, bric a brac and a raffle

7.16 Kennington Strollers a written report was received as follows:

Kennington Strollers is in its tenth year of operating. We are a small bunch of volunteers, usually just four people, including one facilitator. We provide short walks at the Playing field in Playfield Road. Meeting on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm. Starting this year on 3rd May until 27th September.

We currently work under the guidance of the Active Communities team at the Vale of White Horse District Council, and this year we are called "Community Walks" previously we have been called Well-being walks or way back in 2003, Health Walks! We aim to keep people active by supporting and encouraging people to do laps around the Playing field which is a flat well-maintained field available for all the community to use for exercise. People turn up as they wish and walk together, alone or in pairs, just chatting and enjoying the exercise.

There is no pressure to walk briskly and in fact many of our walkers rely on mobility aids for support like a stick or a Stroller! You are welcome to come along whatever stage you are at. Often people might join us if they are recovering from a recent operation on hips, knees or backs. We are all responsible for our own safety, but the purpose of walking in a group is to provide support and social engagement.

After you have done as many or as few laps as you want to, we sit outside the Pavilion in the sunshine and have a cup of tea and a chat. There can be nothing simpler than a gentle walk around the Playing field and the social time afterwards makes it more enjoyable and helps to form the group by getting to know each other.

Please do come along, either as a walker or as a supporter willing to walk alongside others who might need a bit of help and support to enjoy a walk. All are welcome! For more information contact: Rosemary Aldgate Telephone 01865 735419 or text my mobile 07955897074 Email is gardneraldgate@outlook.com If you want to check us out with the Vale of White Horse first our contact is Ashley Chapman 07717714477 Active Communities team.

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

I continue my role as a PCSO in the Abingdon Neighbourhood Policing Team and have the responsibility for Kennington and Radley. Our team is currently made up of: one Police Sergeant, three Police Officers and eight PCSOs. We are split into two smaller teams, and as a team, we cover Abingdon, and the surrounding villages, as well as the 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. As a team, we have dealt with the tail end of the Coronavirus Pandemic, albeit whilst still be vigilant that the Coronavirus is still present in our community. The demand on Policing, including Neighbourhood Policing is continuing to increase. This has been particularly prevalent, due to the fact that a large number of our teams have been significantly below maximum resourcing levels. It remains hopeful that for the year ahead, resourcing levels will increase, which will in turn allow the overall efficiency of the force to improve.

Over the course of the last year, I have spent a large amount of my time patrolling and responding to incidents across Kennington and Radley. Work that I have been involved in over the last year has included: Dealing with anti-social behaviour, responding to incidents of concerns for individuals' welfare, conducting enquiries within the local community where Burglaries have occurred, conducting enquiries for missing people, and providing crime prevention advice to victims of crime, as well as completing safeguarding visits/calls with individuals, who have been a victim of Fraud.

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, while there has also been an increase in positive outcomes for Domestic Abuse investigations. Rural Crime is not significantly applicable in my role. There has been positive news for Kennington, as between 01/04/2022-31/03/2023, figures have shown that there has been a:

20% reduction in Arson.

42% reduction in Drug Offences.

50% reduction in Shoplifting.

66% reduction in Theft of Motor Vehicles.

72% reduction in Burglaries.

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 75 members, who include people with significant professional experience, not least in the NHS itself and in GP practice. We represent around 14000 patients of the Practice.

The two partner GP's recently handed their doctors contract back to the NHS.

The Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Berkshire Integrated Care Board (BOB:ICB), have commenced work to find new providers for Kennington and Botley surgeries who will provide full health care provision for the current patients. The current staff including clinicians will retain their jobs.

The PPG are fully involved in this process and we have attended a number of meetings with the ICB over the last month or so.

The ICB have asked for Expressions of Interest from potential providers of health care services from surrounding GP practices. The ICB have notified the PPG that a number of Expressions have been received which will ensure full health care services will be provided from the two surgeries and for the patients. After receiving the Expressions of Interest the ICB are now moving forward with their due diligence with all those who have expressed an interest.

It is the intention of the ICB to hold a Panel meeting on 22 May and I will be representing the PPG at that Panel meeting when decisions are likely to be taken upon which providers take over the provision of health care services at the two surgeries.

7.19 Kennington Windband provided a written report reported as follows:

Kennington Windband have had a successful year and despite some very disrupted playing before that have retained good numbers of players, approximately 65 players are on the list. We regularly see 8 players in our training band and 25 players in the main band at our monthly rehearsals in the village. We are mostly a youth band but welcome players of all ages and abilities, there are no auditions to join and always welcome enquiries from new members. They can contact using kenningtonwindband@gmail.com to get in touch.

We held a concert in December in the village centre and despite lower than pre-covid attendance we raised money for 2 charities as well as covering costs. We sent £140 to Headway and £140 to SeeSaw, local charities doing brilliant work.

We played at a care home in Abingdon at Christmas too and have been invited back this month for a spring programme. We are also playing at Coronation events in 2 local villages and will play at a summer school fayre in June.

We have taken on a treasurer to support the volunteer team and are in the process of opening a bank account to make managing our modest income easier.

7.20 Wild about Kennington WAK – Rowan Guthrie reported as follows:

During the year April 2022 to April 2023, Wild About Kennington (WaK) has continued to raise awareness of the need to protect and enhance our wildlife, through various projects. We are grateful to the Parish Council for their support in allowing a second year of our rewilding the verges project.

Members of the group carried out plug-planting in the verges again, did a survey of the plants found in the verges and monitored the mowing regime. In addition, a survey was conducted by the Parish Council to villagers to hear their views on the project and WaK responded to this by planting yellow rattle seeds to reduce the growth of tall grasses that were in the side road vision splays. Members of the committee attended a Parish Council meeting and were supported by several members of the public about the work done in the verges.

WaK members met with the Radley Environment group and attended BBOWT online meetings to share ideas about projects to enhance and support wildlife.

Wak held stalls and met with villagers to raise awareness and provide information about the verges and caring for hedgehogs at St Swithun's School fair and the Parish Council summer fair. Another such event was held with the support of the Apple Café.

Wak is also grateful to the Parish Council for its support in creating a wildlife friendly meadow area at Forest Side playing field. This project will begin in the Summer 2023 to prepare the area before re-seeding the meadow area.

Members of the Wild About Kennington Committee: Jilly Andrews, Paul Gamble, Rowan Guthrie, Rosey Hollinrake, Halcyon Leonard, Alison Muldal, Amena Sutton

7.21 Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT) written report sent in as follows:

Thank you for inviting us to present a report on of our activities over the past year. OPT has been kept busy with hosting Oxford Open Doors, planting trees for the Queens Green Canopy project and introducing extra Green Space Volunteering events across the year as well as acquiring a green space on Harcourt Hill and one in Headington.

OPT looks after 113 acres in Kennington (Kennington Memorial Field & Kennington Flood Meadows) keeping these fields green and free from development. OPT activity in the Kennington area over the past year has included:

- The flood meadows and memorial field were both grazed through the summer.
- Following on from our last visit in February, Kennington residents and Abingdon Green Gym carried out a work party in the Memorial Field in late October to cut back some of the scrub and brambles. This field is special to us because of its Local Wildlife Site status for its species-rich neutral grassland, as well as the impressive ant-hills. The Green Space Volunteers were focused on trying to reduce the amount of scrub ready for the cattle to come and nibble down the left-over stumps during the summer.

- We replaced some of the old fencing around the memorial field, to keep it stockproof and protect the banks of the stream from erosion whilst creating a purposeful inlay for the cattle to more comfortably reach and drink from the stream.
- Dan Tarzey, OPT area patron and local resident, lay a wreath on behalf of Oxford Preservation Trust at the Kennington Remembrance service in November. More recently and this year:
- In April, a film crew has been filming songbirds in frosty morning sunlight at the Memorial Field for a documentary exploring alternative states of consciousness for National Geographic / Disney+.
- The cows return to the memorial field and flood meadows.
- Due to the number of incidents of cattle escaping in 2022, we are replacing and repairing fencing around the Kennington flood meadows near to Sandford Lane (as well as installing a new gate and kissing gate) and a section further north near to the cycle path.
- In the Autumn, we plan to carry out a volunteer work party in the memorial field to keep on top of the scrub and brambles. We will report on these activities and advertise the work party in the Kennington Chronicle.

All are welcome to enjoy these green spaces on foot at any time as there is permissive access. We welcome Kennington residents to get in contact with us if they spot anything of concern in our green spaces and also to share any photos or drawings of our land via our social media (@OxfordPresTrust).

We really enjoy seeing accounts of wildlife you have spotted, as well as the enjoyment of walking or cycling in the countryside. If you want to get more involved with our volunteers or OPT events please email info@oxfordpreservation.org.uk to be added to our volunteers email list and get regular updates on what's coming up. As a charity all our crucial work, including the maintenance of our green spaces within Kennington, would not be possible without our members, donors and volunteers. Becoming a member is easy – you can do so online www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/join or by telephoning the office on 01865 242918.

7.22 Kennington Athletic Football Club written report sent in as follows:

It has been another successful season for Kennington Athletic and we are continuing to grow. We have 2 men's teams and both the Firsts, and the Reserves have performed well with a few matches left of the regular season, there will not be a repeat of last year's County Cup success as our participation in that competition was curtailed in a dramatic few games with last year's finalists SB Phoenix. A very big thank you to Rob Cattell for representing the Mens on the Committee and doing a great job of overseeing both Mens Teams. We go again next season with both teams.

On the Youth side we now have 13 Youth Teams and growing to 14 next season. Our Girls Management team have done a tremendous job in growing our Girls Teams within the Club we now have an U8s and an U10s team and we have over 20 girls train and signed on with us.

In terms of performance, we have had a great season, our new Under 7s have started their football journey and are settled in the OYFL B League, our U8s Boys go from strength to strength and won the Gold Supplementary Trophy event in March on Penalties. Our U8 Girls teams alongside our U10s Girls teams are on course to go to the Cup Finals weekend which caps off a tremendous season for both teams. Our U9s Yellows are flying high in the OYFL A League and have won both trophy events this year with our U9s Greens also winning their Spring Trophy. Our U10s had another good season, growing their squad and getting ready for 9 aside and our U11s continue to thrive in the top end of the Oxford Youth League. In U12s, our Yellows battled well throughout the season and recovered from relegation from the Autumn A league to finish in the top third of the B League for the Winter. Our U12 Greens, however, are on course to be promoted to the A League and be crowned U12 Winter/Spring B League Champions. Our U13s had a great season finishing runners up in the Autumn League and being promoted and held their own in the new Division, they had a big moment in the sun to, when they won a national twitter poll (with a lot of support from the club and its supporters) to be the header photo on the official England Football Twitter page for the month of January. Our U14s look on course for the A League title and have a cup final to look forward to, while our U15s are our true phoenix from the flames, thanks to some great coaching and a committed group of lads they are winning games and showing some true grit.

Add to this we have a thriving Academy under our Kennington stalwart Jim Kent with over 20 kids training every Saturday morning and providing the next generation of Kennington Teams. We have continued to invest with the help of the football foundation in the pitches at both sites but with a growing club any additional support would be greatly received.

On a sad note, we lost two gentlemen this season that meant a lot to our football club, at the beginning of the season in late July we lost Andy Pitter who was a former player/manager/secretary and sponsor as well as one of our biggest supporters and in January we lost Kenny Lewis who was a very vocal supporter and former player and manager. We miss them both and may they rest in peace.

In summary another great season is drawing to an end. We have our AGM on the 12th of June where we will elect our committee. A big word of thanks to every member of our committee and our team managers who give up all their free time to provide football for all the children in the surrounding area, we continue to grow our club and we have parents coming to us based on our growing reputation, which we are very proud of. We are also pleased to be involved with the Abingdon Football Disability Project which starts with a Taster event this coming Sunday (30th) at Abingdon United, which will see us affiliated Disability teams with Kennington Athletic in the coming season of

8. Presentation to Wild About Kennington

Vice Chairman of Kennington Parish Council handed over a commendation Letter Award to Rowan Guthrie, on behalf of Wild About Kennington. The group were awarded this by Oxford Preservation Trust for the successful project of last year regarding wilding some of the verges within the village.

9. Roger Dennett – Ladderthon

On 26 August 2023 Roger Dennett is planning a charity event whereby he and a willing team to help him, will be walking from Headington to St Swithun's Church in Kennington with a large ladder in an attempt to raise £9,000 for the three charities within the village, namely The Memory Club, McIntyes and Headway, all giving a great deal of care in the community. Not only does Roger want to raise as much money as possible for these local organisations but in doing so hopes to raise their profile and awareness of the good work they all do and even encourage people to commence a career in one of these fields.

The history behind this event was when Mr and Mrs Dennett were downsizing and their son, who lives in Headington requested the large ladder that lived at the family home where Mr and Mrs Dennett were moving out of. There didn't seem any way to transport this ladder other than walking it the 7 miles from one side of Oxford to the other. This is how both the name and event was born.

10. Events Committee – Cllr. Rachel Brown

Explained a little about the following events that are being planned throughout the coming year:

- Coronation event on 6 May – the council has teamed up with Apple Cafe
- June litter pick
- Summer Fun Day during August Bank Holiday weekend
- Remembrance Day Parade
- Carols around the tree with hopefully a lantern parade
- Santa should hopefully be visiting the village again this year

11. Suggestions/Comments from Parishioners

One comment found on table after meeting asking does the council have a position on light pollution from street lights?

The meeting closed at 8:24pm

Signed **Date**