

Kennington Parish Council
Oxfordshire
Minutes of the meeting held on
9 May 2024 at 7:40pm in the Village Centre

Present:

Cllr. Andrews	Cllr. Buckingham	Cllr. Brown	Cllr. Cobb	Cllr. Cuddy	Cllr. Feather
Cllr. Gamble	Cllr. Jempson	Cllr. Johnston	Cllr. Locklin	Cllr. Powles	Cllr. Russell

In Attendance: Anne Feather (Clerk)

Members of the public: None

1.24 ELECT CHAIR and sign the declaration of acceptance of office

Cllr. Cobb was nominated by Cllr. Feather, seconded by Cllr. Johnston and elected unopposed, with one abstention. He thanked the members of the Parish Council and signed the declaration of office.

2.24 ELECT VICE-CHAIR

Cllr. Powles was nominated by Cllr. Cobb, seconded by Cllr. Feather and elected unopposed.

3.24 RESIGNATION OF CLLR. BAKEWELL

4.24 It was agreed that the council would write to Mr. Bakewell thanking him for all the years he has been on the council and for all the help and support he has given the council throughout those years. The councillors also want to thank Mrs. Bakewell for all her support, with both helping at the Christmas events and the garden competitions.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write to Mr Bakewell
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ACTION FOR CLERK – Advertise Notice of Casual Vacancy and informing the Elections Team at Vale of White Horse District Council

5.24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr. Smith and District Councillor Diana Lugova

6.24 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – None

7.24 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS - Cllr. Brown is an employee of Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) and declared her interest in payment to OALC within the Financial Report.

8.24 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting on 11 April 2024 as a true record

9.24 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE BODIES AND SIGNATORIES FOR CHEQUES

It was agreed that the following would be appointed to the committees and outside bodies.

10.24 COMMITTEES

- 11.24**
1. Finance Committee - *The whole council*
 2. Planning Committee – *Cllrs. Andrews, Brown, Feather, Jempson, Johnston, Powles and Smith*
 3. Playing Fields Committee - *Cllrs. Brown, Buckingham, Feather, Gamble and Smith plus representatives from Football Club (2), Cricket Club (3) and member of the public (1)*
 4. Personnel Committee – *Cllrs. Brown, Buckingham, Jempson, Johnston and Powles*
 5. Events Committee – *Cllrs. Brown, Cuddy, Locklin, Powles and Smith*

The Chair is an ex-officio member of all committees and advisory working groups. The Chair shall have the right to speak at meetings but does not have voting rights, as per the General Terms of Reference of Council's Committees and Working Groups

12.24 OUTSIDE BODIES

1. Village Hall Management Committee - *Cllr. Smith and Cllr. Brown*
2. Youth Club – *Cllr. Feather*

3. Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) – Cllr. Brown and Cllr. Andrews
4. Friends of Kennington Library – Cllr. Andrews
5. Scouts and Cubs – Cllr. Cobb
6. St Swithun's Church – Cllr. Buckingham
7. Wild about Kennington – Cllr. Andrews

13.24 CHEQUE SIGNATORIES

Four signatories for the bank accounts - Cllrs. Brown, Cobb, Powles and Smith were approved.

- 14.24 All the above committee members were proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Feather and all elected unopposed.

15.24 REPORT OF THE CLERK

- A Received following email from resident: ***'Is it possible to reposition the dog poo bin on Sandford Lane? It currently is situated at the bottom of the footpath that leads up to the cemetery. There is a natural spring on this footpath and water almost continuously flows leaving a large and sometimes muddy puddle right around access to the bin. Perhaps the bin could be positioned on the other side of the road.'***
- 16.24 It was agreed that the council would request a litter bin on the other side of the road, with the dog poo bin being removed after any new litter bin is installed.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC) and request a litter bin to be installed on the other side of the road, away from the mud. If agreed request the dog poo bin is removed but only when the litter bin is in situ.

- B Resident contacted clerk with concerns around children walking to school and asked if any consideration had been given to a zebra crossing on St Swithun's Road. Clerk responded explaining zebra crossing is planned as part of the mitigation works included for the Lodge Hill A34 project, but that if she required any further detail to contact County Councillor Bob Johnston.
- C Resident is concerned about ***'the footpath edges within the village – some of the paths are so narrow because of grass encroaching. Also parking on footpaths and damaging verges, this one is not so easy but if the verges looked tidy and footpath revealed then might make people think more. Thanks to the parish council for all they do'***.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Add to next months agenda

- D Resident reported to Clerk that they have contacted the leader of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) regarding the issues on the slip road in the north of the village. Also reported the potholes along The Avenue. Since received Notice from OCC that resurfacing will take place in July from end of Bagley Wood Rd (opposite St Swithun's Church until end of St Swithun's Road.
- E Resident reported: ***'there is sexually offensive graffiti painted onto the alleyway between The Avenue & Poplar Grove - the path that starts at the bottom of the dip, opposite Simpsons Way. I have no idea how long it has been there or who that wall belongs to'***. After speaking with Chair it was agreed that this graffiti should be dealt with as soon as possible. Arranged for Monday 13 May.
- F Cllr. Cobb reported graffiti on the first bus shelter of Kennington, opposite Egrove Park – this is not offensive. Cllr. Feather volunteered to attempt to get this graffiti off.
- G Resident contacted Clerk regarding neighbour's rabbits running free around the close where they live. They are eating flowers and shrubs in the front gardens and also gets into their rear garden eating flowers and new grass. Clerk recommended contacting Environmental Protection at VWHDC and gave telephone number.
- H Resident emailed: ***'Please can you help by the roundabout it is becoming dangerous the give way sign is covered by trees and also can we have a crossing to cross the road as the road is very busy now there are so many houses towards Radley using the village to come through. I have waited a long time to cross the road with my dog as you have cars coming down the slope from the by pass, Upper Road, and Kennington Road'***

17.24 It was agreed that the council would request extra signage at this roundabout.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write to OCC requesting extra signage for this roundabout and also report the existing signage cannot be seen.

I Resident contacted Clerk: *'We spoke this morning about two large vehicles taking up residence at the bottom end of Bagley Wood Road. It is not clear whether they belong to No. 3 or No. 1. They take up a lot of the narrow road particularly with access to the Headway site. It would be far better for them to be parked off-road'.*

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact resident explaining that the vehicles are not in breach of any parking violation.

J Resident emailed: *'Having just walked down the footpath between Rowles Close and Kennington Rd I noticed (among the weeds) about 6 saplings which, if not killed off, will rapidly grow. into substantial trees. I can't remember whether this is the Parish Council's responsibility or the County Council's. I suspect it is the latter. If it is, could the Council make representations to have them (and the weeds) removed. If the Parish Council is responsible then, similarly, could we have them treated'.* Contacted BBG who will arrange to carry out this maintenance as soon as can be arranged. The issue of the fences along this alleyway was raised, as they are in a bad state of repair.

ACTION FOR CLERK – To write to the residents whose fences are falling in onto the alleyway

K Resident emailed: *'I am just writing to ask why the Clerk's Report or the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings etc. do not appear on the village web site now. I have been reading the Clerk's report and correspondence quite regularly until the last couple of months when I am unable to see them. The Minutes are rarely seen. (I also nearly missed the Agenda for this Thursday as the download message was way down the agenda page)'* Cllr. Cuddy to meet with the Clerk and try to ascertain what the issue is.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform the resident that this is being investigated

ACTION FOR CLERK – Include in all future Chronicle articles that minutes of all council meetings can be found on the village website.

L Received email from the Festival Group: *'We had a Festival Group Committee meeting today and the topic of Risk Assessments came up. We do have one in place, however having more people with varying mobility difficulties it really needs adapting. Via the Parish Council do you know anyone who couldTalk to the members about Health and Safety.....Offer advice about the Risk Assessment to the Committee... Provide training in CPR....'* Clerk can arrange a CPR training session, as this would increase the number of residents interested in attending. The council would like to have more detailed information as to the type of support the Festival Group was looking for.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact the Festival Group asking for more information as to what support they need

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact the Central Ambulance to arrange a CPR and defibrillator training session

Continuing issues

M Cllrs. Buckingham and Cobb together with the Clerk attended an HR legal update on 18 April 2024 and are attending a training course on Essentials of Employing People on 13 May 2024.

N Replacement Union Flag purchased

O Updated the Health and Safety and Internal Control Policies on the website, together with the Risk Assessment Statement. Amended the schedule to reflect these reviews.

P Included advice about lidless and homeless green/grey/brown bins in May's Chronicle article. Reported again to Biffa. More lidless green bins have been found – this time turning up at Forest Side car park (photograph to put on the presentation) Sent email to Biffa requesting once again for them to be taken away from the village. Biffa has raised a job for the bins to be collected. The estimated date of removal is

15/05/2024, this may be done before this date though. (Ref No: WS: 575405) Reported two more lidless bins left in the village. Biffa is investigating this.

- Q** Asked editor of the Chronicle if the waste in collection schedule could be included in the Chronicle, she will try but not promising due to space.
- R** New pads for the defibrillator at Playfield Road purchased, as they are nearing their end date.
- S** Kennington Village Hall Management Committee (KVHMC) thanked Clerk for arranging BGG include weeding the Play area outside the village hall as part of the maintenance contract. It also agreed that it would paid its share of the monthly invoice from Calber for emptying the bins at the village hall until the employment of a new Grounds person is settled. Finally the KVHMC agreed to paying for the 1/4ly play area safety inspection that the council has arranged for all three play areas in the village. The Clerk will invoice KVHMC accordingly, attaching a copy of the full invoice for its records.
- T** Received M R H Services ¼ly inspection reports for the three play areas in the village. The Village Hall Play Area report had been forwarded to the Village Hall Secretary. An invoice has also been forwarded to the Secretary in payment of this inspection. (Copy of original M R H Services invoice attached). Copies of the Inspection reports for Forest Side and The Links have been forwarded to the councillors (**See Item No 23**)
- U** Meadow View resident contacted Clerk again reporting that lights 1A and 1B have still not been repaired. SSE have been replacing the fuses in both lights, being under the impression that they are then working, when being reported that the lights are not working SSE seems to think that the fuses have blown, on the last occasion the SSE officers explained to the resident that they were installing heavier fuses. The lights have not been in use since September 2023. Clerk has contacted Cllr Gant of OCC , copying in Layla Moran MP. Wrote separately to Layla Moran MP to ask if there was any help she could give in getting these lights working again before the start of this autumn. Received holding email from Cllr. Gant's office, with Layla Moran writing to the Clerk and Cllr. Gant requesting some more investigation.
- V** Arranged a meeting for the residents who have been concerned about the 20mph speed limit to meet with Cllrs. Cuddy and Powles for 9 May 2024
- W** Contacted Julia Kent, solicitor who is working on the transfer of The War Memorial land from Vale of White Horse District Council's (VoWHDC) ownership to the parish council's. She had contacted VoWHDC but had no response. Clerk contacted VoWHDC to request a response. Julia has recommended that ***'the council might instruct Dawn Ealey [Julia's secretary] to ask Oxfordshire County Council to advise how much of the verge and footpaths adjoining the War Memorial it considers to be within the maintainable public highway'***

ACTION FOR CLLR. BROWN – to integrate the Oxfordshire County Council's website to find where all the maps are showing the maintainable public highway around The War Memorial

ACTION FOR CLERK – Add to next months agenda

- X** Contacted the Principal Bursar of St John's College asking if the college could extend the council's Forest Side lease to enable funding to be found for the proposed new play area. The Bursar has agreed to extend the lease. Savills, the land agents have contacted the Clerk: ***'The College would be happy to enable this to happen and would be agreeable to a 10 year extension, subject to the College's professional fees in relation to documenting this, to be met by the Parish Council. Savills fee would be £500+vat (normally £800) and Knights (College solicitors) are £1500+vat. Please could you let me know if you are in agreement and let me know if you will have solicitors acting on your behalf?'***

18.24 It was agreed that the council would accept the 10 years extension on the Forest Side Lease and their costs. This was proposed by Cllr. Feather, seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Respond to Savills reporting that the council is in agreement with both the extension and meeting the associated fees.

- Y** Contacted Emma Liptrot, Deputy Civil Enforcement Manager at OCC to request data for the past 6 months and to ask what time the officers are patrolling outside the co-op. Asked if officers could be visible during rush hour, so making drivers of vehicles think before they park on the double yellow lines. Received data between 1 October and end of April : **113 visits have been made resulting in 16 vehicles logged and 4**

Penalty Charge Notices being issued. 2 issued for vehicles in Edward Road; 1 on Kennington Road and 1 in Poplar Grove. The senior officer for On Street Enforcement has requested their parking contractors, Conduent, to deploy a CEO to the area more frequently, especially around the Co-Op to ascertain the parking situation. If the council continues having problems with vehicles contravening parking restrictions and a officer is not seen visiting the area the council may report any illegally parked vehicles using the online web form, which is monitored daily by their parking contractors.

<https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/reportparkedvehicle>

Copied response to Cllr. Cuddy for his information in his role as Village Transport Representative.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Include parking issues in this month's Chronicle

ACTION FOR CLLR.BROWN – Prepare a sign that businesses can display

- Z** Requested invoice from Zurich so as to pay the annual insurance quote agreed at last month's meeting. Clerk having issues with renewing, as Zurich has amended the cost. Clerk contacted Zurich asking why they could not honour their original quote. Zurich response: *'For you due to length of time and frustration caused I will remove these fees but add that at next years renewal the premium will reflect the increase in the cover unless you decide to change the type of cover you require. Thank you for your patience and I hope that you are able to move forward with your policy with us under the same terms as last year for £1,224.89'*.
- AA** Rosemary Aldgate thanked the council for the flowers she received. *'It has been my privilege to contribute a bit of time on Wednesday afternoons and care for older residents'*.
- AB** Completed Expression of Interest (Eol) form regarding flooding at Sandford Lane in relation to the flood risk management funding opportunity from OCC. Returning completed form to Lewis Purbrick, Flood Mitigation Officer at OCC. Mr Purbrick has confirmed that the council's Eol will be reviewed alongside all the other Eols received and they will identify which ones OCC is best able to support. OCC will get back to council before the end of May.
- AC** At the Annual Village Meeting, a resident commented that when the grass is cut at the cemetery, it is dumped on old graves. Contacted BGG to ask if they could dump the grass cuttings away from the old graves. Also contacted the Church Wardens to ask where they would like the grass to go - awaiting response
- AD** Clerk can confirm that a large number of on-street parking offences have been decriminalised, therefore Police are unable to enforce them. OCC is responsible for this enforcement. Parking on double yellow lines would be for OCC to enforce. The police become involved if the vehicle is causing obstruction to traffic and other road users – not, it would seem, to pedestrians.
- AE** Cllr. Johnston is still experiencing issues with his parish council email account. Clerk has contacted OX365 to request they try and make contact with Cllr. Johnston again.
- AF** 2023-24 files handed to the internal auditor to enable him to carry out this year's annual audit.
- AG** Arranged the summer plants and took over all the baskets to Purely Plants for planting. Contacted Oxford Garden Gang for confirmation that they can water at same price as last year. **(See item No. 22)**
- AH** Cllr. Cuddy is liaising with the Electrical Officer of OCC to facilitate various street lighting columns council could use the Speed Indicator Device (SID) within the village.
- AI** Contacted BGG to explain that they have not cut the complete area between the entrances to Grundy Crescent. This was cut the following day. Thanked BGG for the grand job they have done in cutting the mini meadow at Forest Side playing field.
- AJ** Contacted Mark Francis of OCC to request confirmation that signage will be installed indicating the entrance to St Swithun's Church.
- AK** Chris Lewis will have installed CCTV systems at both playing fields by the end of 7 May 2024.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Prepare a CCTV Policy

19.24 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUEST FOR GRANT AID

- A** Enrych has requested a donation to support adults with a physical disability. Last grant was in given in June 2021 for £100

20.24 It was agreed that the council would give Enrych Oxfordshire a grant to support adults with a physical disability. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Buckingham and agreed unanimously.

21.24 A proposal was made by Cllr. Johnston to grant the sum of £100, which was seconded by Cllr. Feather and agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform Enrych Oxfordshire of the council’s decision and arrange payment.

B Kennington Strollers is requesting a grant to enable them to use the pavilion at Playfield Road for every Wednesday from beginning of May through to end of September from 2pm until 3:30pm. The cost of the hire of the pavilion totals £231.

22.24 It was agreed that the council would give Kennington Strollers a grant. This was proposed by Cllr. Buckingham seconded by Cllr. Johnston and agreed unanimously.

23.24 A proposal was made by Cllr. Powles to grant the sum of £231, which was seconded by Cllr. Feather and agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform Kennington Strollers of the council’s decision and arrange payment.

Correspondence for discussion

C OCC community transport grants 2024-25: applications invited. Cllr. Cuddy will investigate a grant application regarding the purchase of more SIDs.

D The Abingdon Bridge - Annual General Meeting - 6th June 2024. Cllr. Gamble volunteered to attend.

ACTION FOR CLERK – RSVP to the Annual General Meeting

Correspondence for information

E Temporary Road Closure and No Right Turn Restriction at Abingdon, Stert Street & Bridge Street – posted on the website and Facebook

F Invitation to the CPRE Vale of White Horse District AGM

G London Oxford Airport airspace change proposal - ACP-2023-033 - CAP 1616 design principles – stakeholder engagement.

H Leaflet regarding accessing GPs out of hours service - Sent on behalf of the Minor Injury Units and GP Out of Hours Departments at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust. Posted on website and Facebook with hard copies taken to the Annual Village Meeting and posted on the Village Hall noticeboard.

I Temporary Road Closure and No Waiting - Cutteslowe, A40 Northern Bypass (Eastbound) – will post on the website and Facebook nearer date of closure (12-13 July 2024)

J Get ready to vote in the Police and Crime Commissioner Election – posted on website and Facebook

K Cash boost for improvements across Didcot Garden Town – posted on website and Facebook

L Temporary Road Closure / No Waiting / Speed Limit Reduction - Littlemore / Rose Hill, A4142 Eastern Bypass – will post on the website and Facebook nearer date of closure (2 – 5 August 2024)

M Thames Valley Police statistics released – Posted on the website

N OALC April update for member councils

O Temporary Road Closure and No Waiting - Kennington, The Avenue (26 July – 2 August 2024) – Posted on the website and Facebook.

P Council grants double for climate projects – Posted on the website and Facebook

Q Step into the future of healthcare at our Open Day event – 30 May 2024 Posted on website and Facebook.

R BOB ICB stakeholder newsletter - May 2024

S Here comes a fun-packed summer in the Vale – Posted on the website and Facebook.

T May half-term activities and shows for young children – Posted on the website and Facebook

Newsletters

U Police & Crime Bulletin Apr '24

W Latest news from Healthwatch Oxfordshire

Y Thames Valley Police Alerts

AA CPRE April Newsletter

V The Rural Bulletins

X Community First Newsletter

Z Radley Parish News - May 2024

AB BBOWT Nature Notes, May 2024

24.24 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 30 April 2024

Community Account	£500.00
Business Premium Account	214,379.25
National Savings & Investment Account	85,681.57
Cambridge & Counties 3 Year Fixed Rate Bond	89,577.85
Total	390,138.67

Income received in April	£
Vale of White Horse District Council 1 st 6 month 2024-25 precept	58,555.00
HM Revenue and Customs Quarter 4 VAT refund (January – March)	2,334.89
Oxfordshire County Council March's Pension contributions – payment to incorrect OCC account by error	485.63
Vale of White Horse District Council CIL money from development at 113 Bagley Wood Road P22/V2668/FUL Instalments 1 & 2	13,210.01
Kennington Athletic Football Club 2024 Hire fees for playing fields and pavilions	2408.00
Kennington Athletic Football Club 2024 Summer Tournament over two weekends 6 & 7 and 13 & 14 July	280.00

	Direct debits to be paid in May		Power to Act
DD	Southern Electric (INV00785933) Electricity supply for Playfield Rd pavilion (3.21) Forest Side pavilion (29.60) + VAT	32.81	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
DD	Southern Electric (IV00792047) Electricity supply for Playfield Rd pavilion	111.75	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
DD	Virtual Landline May's subscription for virtual landline	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
DD	Castle Water Water for the War Memorial	6.30	War Memorials Act 1923
DD	Castle Water Water for Playfield Road pavilion	19.75	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
DD	EDF Energy Gas supply to Playfield Road pavilion	14.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Reference No. 2024/	Additional account paid in April 2024		Power to Act
002A	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for March	485.63	Section 112 LGA 1972

	Accounts to be paid in May 2024		Power to Act
021	Mrs A E Feather Salary for April less tax, NI & pension contribution	1482.14	Section 112 LGA 1972

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022	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for April	561.84	Section 111 LGA 1972
023	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI	619.73	Section 111 LGA 1972
024	Mr T Fleming War memorial grass cutting for April	£41.91	War Memorials Act 1923
025	Mr A Cobb Chairman's monthly allowance for April	73.69	Section 111 LGA 1972
026	Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils -OALC Cllrs. Buckingham and Cobb and Clerk attended HR Legal Update on 18 April @ £10 per person £30 Cllrs. Buckingham and Cobb and Clerk attending training session 'Essentials of Employing People' on 13 May @ £30 per person £90 +VAT	132.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
027	Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association Annual subscription 2024-25	82.00	Section 137 LGA 1972
028	WEL Medical Limited Replacement Ipad SP1/SP2 Electrode pads for Playfield Road pavilion defibrillator (nearing end date)	79.08	Section 234 Public Health Act 1936
029	Holywell Press 4 x plan prints of proposed Pavilion at Playfield Road	48.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
030	Eurooffice Ltd Ink cartridges, paper + items for Annual Village meeting	247.41	Section 111 LGA 1972
031	M R H Services 1/4ly inspections of 3 x play areas	145.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
032	Zurich Municipal Insurance Parish council insurance 2024-25	£1,224.89	Section 111 LGA 1972
033	Newton Newton Flags & Banner Makers Ltd 1 x Union Jack	£179.40	
034	Calber Facilities Management Ltd Weekly cleaning of Playfield Rd pavilion + emptying litter bins at both playing fields & Village Hall bins - April	686.06	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
035	Fleetline Markers Ltd Pitchmarker 10ltr x 16	661.82	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
036	Kennington Village Hall Room hire for April	98.00	Section 134(4) LGA 1972
037	Adventis Digital Limited Web hosting & website managing for April	31.50	Section 111 LGA 1972
038	D.E. Electrical To install 2 No twin sockets at the pavilions for the CCTV	129.90	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
039	Grundon Waste Management Ltd Wheelie bins in April - Forest Side 87.67 and Playfield Rd 66.12 +VAT	184.54	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Total to be transferred in May: £6,808.91

25.24 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 April.

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

27.24 **It was agreed** that the council would investigate another account to transfer some funds into as amount at Barclays at present is over the insured amount.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Investigate further accounts and report at next month's meeting

28.24 MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee meeting minutes held on 16 April 2024 and the draft Planning Committee meeting minutes held on 7 May 2024 were noted.

29.24 MINUTES OF PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee draft meeting minutes held on 2 May 2024 and the draft Planning Committee meeting held on 7 May 2024 were noted.

30.24 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Following issues were raised:

1. Doreen Biggadike thanked the Parish Council for all the work they do for the village. ***I do know what they do from reading the Parish Council Minutes and do appreciate their care for the village.***
 2. Kennington & District United Church Choirs is now called Kennington Chorale. It has entered its next 50 years since being founded in 1973 and it is time to look forward. It has a new Conductor, Claire Sutton Williams.
 3. WI Informed meeting that there is a WI weather vain on the top of the Village Centre
 4. Sewage is coming out of the Thames Water pumping station in Sandford Lane and has been doing for years. When it rains this goes into the flood water.
 5. More communication of parish council 5 year plan
 6. Please support our library
 7. Cemetery grass cuts - grass cuttings are being dumped over old graves
 8. Sylvia Vetta: Suggestion that Kennington be twinned with Musanda - West Kenya. Work with children of the village
 9. School Streets initiative – to discourage parking outside school – walk & cycle instead
 10. There are many, many volunteers in Kennington – maybe the parish council could hold a tea to recognise them.
 11. Help repair Youth Club roof
 12. Community Engagement – organisation of volunteer meetings
 13. Alan Marsh: Strong local interest expressed in creating a village Boules pitch for community use. Preferred site in Playfield Road Play area/adult gym.
 14. More benches please at the War Memorial – Between the trees either side (1 each side ?) will entice people to stop and chat to one another, building community.
 15. Turn all the bus shelters around so that we wont get wet from the road, in bad weather
 16. Improve the sound system for the village hall, having a roving mic
- Cllr. Powles thanked everyone who was there and felt that it was an enjoyable and productive evening.

31.24 ANNUAL REVIEW SCHEDULE

32.24 It was resolved that the council's Annual Review Schedule of it's documents had been reviewed and agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Buckingham and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Add review schedule onto website

33.24 STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

34.24 It was resolved that the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for Kennington Parish Council had been reviewed and agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed unanimously. Cllr. Brown reported to the council that a new Financial Regulations is now available. The Clerk will bring this to a future council meeting for adoption.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Update these documents on the Website

35.24 S137 EXPENDITURE

36.24 It was resolved that the expenditure incurred under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 by Kennington Parish Council has been reviewed and agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Buckingham seconded by Cllr. Gamble and agreed unanimously.

37.24 PARISH COUNCIL INSURANCE

It was agreed at April's meeting (minute No 547.23) that the 2024-25 Zurich Insurance policy should be renewed at a cost of £1224.89 (2023-24's premium was £1003.81).

38.24 MEETING DATES FOR 2024-25

The meeting dates up to and including the next annual meeting of the council were agreed.

39.24 VILLAGE LENGTHS PERSON/MAINTENANCE

40.24 All documentation for the post of Village Lengths Person / Maintenance Person is now prepared and will be based on a two-year fixed contract.

41.24 It was agreed that the council would approve this recommendation from the Personnel Committee and that arrangements should be made to fill the post of Village lengths Person as soon as can be arranged, by the Personnel Committee. This was proposed by Cllr. Buckingham seconded by Cllr. Powles and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Commence arrangements to fill the post of Village Lengths Person. The post will be advertised on the Website; Facebook; on the noticeboards within the village and request inclusion in the weekly St Swithun's School newsletter. Will also ask South Hinksey and Sandford if it could be advertised there.

42.24 THE WAR MEMORIAL – SUMMER PLANTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR MAINTENANCE

43.24 It was agreed that summer plants totalling £125 requested by Rosey Hollinrake be purchased. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Feather and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Send purchase order to Purely Plants for the summer flowers

ACTION FOR CLERK – Let Rosey know of Council's decision

44.24 It was agreed that the lawn feed and weed together with path treatment, totalling £60 requested by Rosey Hollinrake be purchased. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Johnston and agreed unanimously. Rosey plans to tape off the area, to prevent children and pets, and ensure the product is watered in, remaining on site until the product has dried, as per product instructions. She has the Pesticide license certificate and training for doing this sort of work. The path treatment is safe for children and pets.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Let Rosey know of Council's decision and arrange purchasing of the items.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Liaise with Toby and Rosey so grass does not get cut before product recommendation.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Offer safety tape and poles if necessary

ACTION FOR CLERK – Pass on the councillors appreciation and thanks for all the time and effort she puts in at The War Memorial

45.24 WATERING OF SUMMER PLANTERS AND TROUGHS

46.24 It was agreed that the council would accept the quote from the Oxford Garden Gang to water the plants this summer season. This was proposed by Cllr. Brown seconded Cllr. Buckingham and agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Respond and accept the Oxford Garden Gangs quote, sending a purchase order for £960

47.24 It was agreed that the flower trough beyond the bridge, along Kennington Road in the very north of the village be made redundant, as it was along way from the start of the village and last year the plants did not flourish. This was proposed by Cllr. Feather, seconded by Cllr. Powles and agreed.

48.24 QUARTERLY PLAY AREA REPORTS

49.24 Both reports were gone through, with councillors struggling with the priority or urgency of what was being recommended. It was suggested to ask that if anything was found to be urgently needing attention that the word '*immediately*' be stated. Cllr. Feather volunteered to interpret the reports going forward to help with the priority issues. The plan of renewing Forest Side play area in the near future must not be forgotten when carrying out any maintenance works.

50.24 **It was agreed that** the council request a quote for the next meeting of the more maintenance issues, eg shackle pins for the swings and any other high priority issues, such as the tripping hazard at The Links. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles, seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Compile list and request quote for necessary work to be carried out

51.24 PURCHASE OF SOUND EQUIPMENT FOR COUNCIL EVENTS

52.24 **It was agreed that** the council would purchase the necessary sound equipment from Gear4music, being the cheaper of the quotes. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston, seconded by Cllr. Powles and agreed by the majority agreeing – two abstained.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Purchase the listed equipment from Gear4music at a cost of £1,721.98 (including VAT)

53.24 **It was agreed that** Cllr. Cobb would source quotes for 2 x microphones, with the appreciation that prices for this kit fluctuate daily. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston, seconded by Cllr. Powles and agreed.

ACTION FOR CLLR. COBB– To source prices for 2 good quality microphones and bring to next months meeting

ACTION FOR CLERK – Add on to next months agenda

54.24 **It was agreed that** this money be taken out of the council CIL money. This was proposed by Cllr. Cobb seconded by Cllr. Mrs Powles and agreed by all.

55.24 Cllr. Cobb also reported that waterproof covers would be required, with the best and most cost effective being made to measure covers. The issue of storing this equipment was brought up with the resolution being that a secure space in Forest Side pavilion would be preferable than the green storage shed behind the Village Hall.

56.24 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

57.24 Cllr. Andrews – Friends of Kennington Library

Kennington Library is on a membership drive – membership is dwindling, which is not good for the library's future. Cllr. Andrews would encourage all to join the library, at a cost of £4 per year and to encourage more residents to join. 40% of staff costs are covered by these memberships.

58.24 Cllr. Buckingham – Health Watch

Currently there is a study being carried out requesting anyone who has recently been discharged from hospital to contact Health Watch as it is very interested in patients views and experiences. Healthwatch Oxfordshire Phone: 01865 520520 Email: hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk

Cllr. Buckingham also encourage all councillors to sign up to the BOB ICB stakeholder newsletter.

This has information regarding developments in Oxfordshire, much of which is regarding health and social care but also research projects and education information. You can get information about signing up to get the newsletter at Bob ICB.media-team@nhs.net

Cllr. Brown – OALC

The OALC AGM is on 1 July at the County Hall, all are welcome. This year the president is stepping down.

Cllr. Feather – Kennington Youth Club

Youth leader has left, which is a great shame and the most important issue at present for the youth club is that they need a new roof.

Cllr. Cobb – Scouts

The scouts are still in discussion with the insurance company with regard to the subsidence of the scout hut. The scouts plan to put on fireworks this year and would be grateful for any timber from the fence at Forest Side to help with preparing for the bonfire.

59.24 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr. Powles – He and Cllr. Cuddy had met with concerned residents just before the council meeting. The residents were concerned about the speed of the traffic travelling through the village. There seems no deterrent. Cllr. Powles explained that there is a limit to what the parish council can do, but may be as part of the Speed Awareness Group activities, a speed camera could be used regularly outside the shops within the village, this may serve as a deterrent. The parish council is here to represent the residents of the village and felt that information on big issues should be made available to its residents.

Cllr. Jempson – The single decker buses, at rush hours are overcrowded. Cllr Cuddy noted comments.

Cllr. Andrews – She is attending a dinner at Sylvia Veta's in June to raise the profile of the Twinning prospect with Musanda in West Kenya. If any councillors would like to join her please let her know and invitations can be arranged.

Cllr. Brown – Presented a draft plan from Playdale for the proposed play area at Forest Side. She is awaiting the 3D presentation which should be coming soon. The total cost is £96,000 plus an additional £21,000 for a zip wire outside of the area, which remains the same size due to the use of the field by the village Football Club. The working group need to get two more quotes, but it is a good start. Cllr. Brown asked County Councillor Johnston if the Parish Council could be granted some of his Community Priority Fund for the new play area. Cllr. Johnston said he would be happy to contribute and hold back some money for when it is necessary.

Cllr. Brown requested confirmation as to when the 80th D Day flags of Peace should be flown. It was agreed that the Unknown Soldiers, with the flags flying for one week, from Sunday 2 June to the following Sunday, being 9 June. D Day is on Thursday 6 June 2024.

Cllr. Brown suggested a date be arranged for the councillors dinner at the Brewery Tap in Abingdon. Thursday 27 June was the date decided starting 7:00/7:30pm.

ACTION FOR CLERK – To organise the dinner at the Brewery Tap at Abingdon

60.24 REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS – Cllrs. Diana Lugova and James Cox

1. Police and Crime Commissioner Election. Matthew Barber has been elected as Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley. The turnout for Vale of White Horse was 21.94%. You can see the full breakdown of the Thames Valley and our local area results here https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/05/TV6-Declaration-of-Votes-Vale-of-White-Horse_Final.pdf
2. Kids activities. From 28 to 31 May, children can take part in the Xplorer navigation challenge in Benson and Abingdon. At Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot there's the chance to make your own robot sidekick from recycled material or join Mr Bubbles for The Bubble Show, a unique blend of magic, storytelling and science; while at The Beacon in Wantage, the much-loved tale 'The Little Red Hen' will thrill youngsters with brilliant puppetry, live music and unforgettable comedy. Even more fun activities planned for summer. Find out more and book the space here May half-term activities and shows for young children - Vale of White Horse District Council (whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and here South and Vale Holiday Activities - South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council
3. We talked about Climate Action Fund opening before but would like to remind it's open for applications now to help finance climate-related projects in the district. The total funding available will be £100,000. The size of individual grants that can be applied for has doubled to a new maximum of £10,000 (minimum is £250). More information and how to apply guidance is here Climate Action Fund 2024/2025 - now open - Vale of White Horse District Council (whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

61.24 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Johnston (as reported at the Annual Parish Meeting

- **Traffic Filters.** This is the new big item on the County Council's forward programme. The current plan is to install six traffic filters in November in Oxford City, four in inner city Oxford and two further out in Hollow Way and Ferry Hinksey Road, the latter will only operate Monday to Saturday, the others seven days a week. The filters will only be installed when Network Rail has finished its work on the Botley Road,

currently scheduled for the end of October. The aim is to reduce traffic in Oxford sufficient to vastly reduce congestion. At the moment this is most intense at peak times, outside of the peaks, from personal experience, traffic believe it or not moves fairly freely. Experience from elsewhere such as Walthamstow shows that they do work and once installed and bedded down, residents would not wish to go back to the previous free for all. I have family in Walthamstow and I can state that the environment is hugely improved. This to the extent that my granddaughters can now play safely in the side streets. Contrary to expectation footfall at local shops has increased and 15% of the former traffic has simply disappeared. Cycling and walking has hugely increased with nearly all school children either walking or cycling to school as do my granddaughters as it is now safe to do so. Already in Oxford walking and cycling to school has hugely increased and is expected to increase further.

- **How will it work?** There is a huge amount of disinformation about traffic filters circulating, especially on social media. Here are some facts about the project. The filters will operate from 07.00 am to 07.00 pm and will be policed by number plate recognition cameras. However there is a significant range of exemptions. The following is not an exhaustive list. Firstly all public transport including taxis will be exempt, this should speed up bus times considerably. Secondly all vans and lorries will be exempt, so tradespeople need not worry, tradespeople who use cars can claim exemption on the production of evidence eg driving instructors. Blue badge holders will be able to nominate up to two cars for journeys within the city. The cars can be changed if necessary. This exemption is only valid when the person holding the blue badge is being carried. Frequent attenders at hospitals can claim exemption, again on the production of evidence such as hospital appointment letters. Again on the production of evidence volunteer drivers taking patients to hospital appointments can also claim exemption. The whole project has been most carefully thought through and is based on evidence from elsewhere. It seeks to address congestion brought about through hugely increased private car use in a city with a mediaeval centre surrounded by large areas of housing built before the second world war when car use was a fraction of what it is today.

Cllr. Powles brought up the proposed traffic gates for Oxford being disappointed that residents of Kennington were not to be treated any differently despite their proximity to Oxford.

62.24 ANY MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

- a. Weeds at the side of the road
- b. Bleed kits for both pavilions
- c. Oxfordshire County Council search at the War Memorial
- d. Quotes for maintenance issues at the Play Areas
- e. Quotes to purchase 2 x microphones
- f. Storage of sound equipment
- g. Additional account for some of general reserves

63.24 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS - None

Meeting closed at 9:47pm

Signed Date