

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

Present:	Cllr. Andrews	Cllr. Brown	Cllr. Buckingham	Cllr. Cobb
	Cllr. Cuddy	Cllr. Feather	Cllr. Johnston	Cllr. Locklin
	Cllr. Powles	Cllr. Russell	Cllr. Smith	

In Attendance: One member of the public; District Councillor Diana Lugova and Anne Feather (Clerk)

64.24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr. Gamble and Cllr. Jempson

65.24 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – None

66.24 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS - None

67.24 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting on 9 May 2024 as a true record.

68.24 REPORT OF THE CLERK

New issues during the month

- A** Received email from resident: ***‘At the PC open meeting the other week I expressed a desire to put forward a proposal for a pétanque piste to be made in the village, for general recreational use. Please can you advise me on the next steps I need to take to try & pursue this further’.*** Clerk invited resident to a future meeting or to produce a paper for the councillors to consider. Resident would like to present proposal at a future meeting, Clerk recommended coming along to July’s parish council meeting.
- B** Resident reported the beech hedge on the left going into Forest Side car park is very overgrown, making it difficult to use litter bin situated along that edge. Car parking space is narrowing due to overgrowth.
- 69.24 It was agreed that** quotes are produced to cut back this hedge and also the longer hedge on the other side of the car park at the rear of Forest Side.

This was proposed by Cllr. Feather seconded by Cllr. Buckingham and agreed

ACTION FOR CLERK – Get quotes to cut back hedge from Forest Side car park, all the way along to the mini meadow on the other side of the playing field.
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- C** More leylandii tree branches broken/snapped at Forest Side playing field – Cllr. Feather has cut back. Resident reported this on Facebook, further resident emailed in this hazard, with Clerk explaining that it is being dealt with.
- D** Oxford Preservation Trust emailed council: ***‘I wanted to make you aware that over the next two months St Hildas college will be doing a study of Radley Large Wood using a drone to find out about how much carbon is being captured and stored. The drone will be launched from Kennington Memorial Field. As it’s dependent on weather conditions they’re not able to plan for a certain time and day which is why they’ve asked for permission for a 2-month window. Please can you bear this in mind if you hear reports of a drone and make interested parties aware?’*** Clerk informed councillors, posted on the Website and Facebook. Copied to Radley Parish Clerk for information too.
- E** Resident requested a bench to be installed on Forest Side playing field, near the car park, by the beech hedge.

- 70.24** It was agreed that Clerk would get quote for a bench with arms, also to ask if council would get discount if more than one bench was purchased. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr Feather and agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – To get quote for single bench with arms and also cost of more than one bench

- F** Received email from resident: *'I note with interest and delight the interest shown by the PC about the problems of irresponsible car parking. I am not surprised by the number of complaints the PC must be receiving. However, I do disagree with the advice proffered by the Council! They state that illegally parked vehicles can be reported - which is quite clearly a nonsense for two reasons. First, the council are asking Tax payers to do their job for them - quite unacceptable. Second, if a well meaning citizen undertook to do the reporting, it would be a full time job! The solution, surely, is for the Council to take action, impose penalties and in time inconsiderate parking would largely disappear. The Council has to be pro-active in this matter or we wait for the day when a serious accident occurs and then it will be too late. It is surely within the remit of the PC to embarrass the Council to the point of action, which I would encourage'*. Acknowledged email

- 71.24** It was agreed that council write to resident explaining that it does not have powers

ACTION FOR CLERK – Respond to resident explaining that

- G** Kennington Youth Club Trustee reported to Kennington Village Hall Management Committee and the Clerk that one of their young people came off their bike in the Village Hall car park on 23 May coming into the car park. Trustee has been invited to the next Village Hall Management Committee meeting to discuss. Trustee did not attend meeting and it was felt that this area lies within the highway and as such is the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council.
- H** Received email from resident: *'when driving down St. Swithun's Rd to the roundabout on the main road, it is quite difficult to see the cars coming up from the Radley direction. Worse, those cars can't see into St. Swithun's Road. Both myself and a colleague of mine have had a couple of close calls. The bushes I'm referring to are opposite 93/ 95 The Avenue. If you could check them out?* Further resident reported same issue. Clerk has reported to Oxfordshire County Council's Tree Service.
- I** Received a telephone call from local resident explaining that her child fell hurting herself on Sunday 2 June, as a result of the broken chicken wire on the path within The Links play area. Received an email from another resident reporting that her son fell on the same tripping hazard. Cllr. Feather repaired the path the following day.
- J** Resident emailed: *'I and several others, regularly use the public footpath between the bungalows alongside No.185 The Avenue, going into Poplar Grove. The far end in Poplar Grove is clear as there are two solid concrete block walls either side, but half way down the path where the walls finish, this section is now getting very overgrown, especially alongside No.185 and is in quick need of being cut-back.'* BGG carried out its maintenance along this alley within a few days.
- K** Received email from Wild about Kennington: *'At our committee meeting tonight, we agreed to hold two Community Bulb Planting days on Sunday 13th October and Saturday 19th October from 1 to 4 p.m. on each day. The idea would be to invite the Kennington public to help us plant 1000 native daffodil bulbs and 1000 native crocus bulbs in the verges. We look forward to the support of the Parish Council for this project. More details will be shared nearer the time but it will certainly bring a great deal of colour to the verges and by using native bulbs, at the same time, we would help to increase the biodiversity in the verges. Please could you let me know who in the Rotary Club I could contact to let them know about this. Our plan will be to plant the crocuses and daffodils but not interfere with the ones that they*

planted some years ago by keeping away from those. Out of courtesy, we thought we should let them know'. Acknowledged email

- 72.24** It was agreed that council would write to Wild about Kennington explaining that it is not sure who planted the crocuses and daffodils. Would require a risk assessment be carried out for this activity, with the council being able to provide Hi-viz vests.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Respond to Wild about Kennington explaining that council is not certain who planted bulbs and request risk assessment.

- L** Received message from resident: *'Could I ask please who is responsible for keeping the alleyway clear that runs from The Avenue to Poplar Grove towards Sandford Lane where the 4 new houses have been built is so overgrown that it is difficult to walk down.'* Contacted BGG and requested alleyway is cleared as soon as can be arranged.
- M** SSE contractors contacted Clerk to request permission to cut back several trees in the Playfield Road playing field, that are near high voltage cable lines in the Memorial Field. All trees need to be 5m away from the cables, with surveys being carried out every three years. Clerk checked with Chair of Playing Field Committee who agreed to SSE cutting back these trees.
- N** Oxford Preservation Trust informed council that cattle have taken up residence in Memorial Field for summer.
- O** District Councillor Lugova emailed: *'I requested additional info about retrofit grant and received the following response: HUG2 is a fully-funded scheme, there's no cost to the resident. Of the current government funded retrofit schemes (ECO4, GBIS etc) it is the most generous with up to £38K per property available, although the eligibility criteria is admittedly fairly tight. The measures available cover most types of insulation (cavity wall, loft, internal and external wall) low carbon heating options (air source heat pumps, or storage heaters where more appropriate) and solar panels. If surveys are carried out and it transpires that the project is not technically feasible or the resident changes their mind, the costs are still covered by the scheme'.*

ACTION FOR CLERK – Include this information in July's edition of the Chronicle, also post on the Website and Facebook.

- P** Clerk having issues with internet, affecting work quite considerably recently – BT is aware, with engineer booked to resolve issue on 14 June 2024

Continuing issues

- Q** Meadow View Road resident reported that the two street lights have been fixed and they now have light. Received an explanatory email from Cllr Gant apologising for the length of time it was taking to fix the issue. Gave copy of email to resident for his information. Informed and thanked Cllr Gant copying in Layla Moran.
- R** Notification from Play Safety that the RoSPA play area inspections will be taking place during July. Each annual inspection will cost £78 with both play areas and the BMX track being inspected, totalling £234.00.
- S** Wrote to Mr Bob Bakewell accepting his resignation from the council and thanking him for all his support throughout the years he has been on the council.
- T** Informed the Elections Team of Vale of White Horse District Council (VWHDC) of the casual vacancy, posting Notices throughout the village, on the website and Facebook.
- U** Resident reported the concrete cover to communications pit that has already been reported as broken/caved in, has got worse, her concerns were that someone could fall over it or through it. Clerk updated the report on FixMyStreet. Cllr. Cuddy reported issue and arranged a 2hr defect report it be

raised to make it safe, OCC also reported that they would contact BT to replace the cover. Temporary cover now in place.

- V** Forwarded purchase order to accept Oxford Garden Gang's quote for watering the summer plants throughout the season. They will liaise through Cllr. Feather.
- W** Graffiti on the walls along the alleyway between The Avenue and Poplar Grove have been cleaned. Thanked firm who carried out the task as they did an excellent job.
- X** Responded to resident regarding the parking of vehicles at the beginning of Bagley Wood Road, explaining that although the council sympathises with this issue, there is nothing that the council can do, as the vehicles are not in breach of any parking violations.
- Y** As part of the Chronicle's article, informed residents that minutes of all council meetings can be found on the village website. Also included details of how to report illegally parked vehicles within the village. It was noted that a PCSO was on patrol outside the Co-Op, which is appreciated by the council.
- Z** Responded to resident reporting that minutes could not be found on the website. Clerk suggested looking at website with resident in an attempt to uncover something that may be amiss with regard to the website.
- AA** Posted the vacancy for a Village Warden in the Chronicle, noticeboards, website, Facebook, St Swithun's School Newsletter together with South Hinksey and Sandford parish websites.
- AB** Confirmed with Savills that council accepts St Johns College's offer of extending Forest Side lease for an additional 10 years and also accepts to pay both legal and agent's fees (in the region of £2,000 including VAT) to cover the college's costs in producing lease. Informed Savills that at present council would not be employing a solicitor. Received email from Savills: ***'On reviewing the details, it has been noted the inflationary rent review wef March 2023 hasn't been implemented. I have just run the figures and this is showing a revised rental of £2,647.61pa. Please can you confirm agreement so the details can be incorporated within the lease extension and adjusted accordingly? (See item No 9)*** Received draft copy of lease for council to approve then Knights (St John's solicitors) will prepare lease for signature. (Copy of draft lease forwarded to councillors). **(See item No 10)**
- AC** Informed both ENRYCH Oxfordshire of council's decision to give them a £100 grant and Kennington Strollers of the £231 grant awarded to them to cover the cost of the hire of Playfield Road Pavilion on Wednesday afternoons throughout the summer. This was also reported as part of the article for the next edition of the Chronicle
- AD** Confirmed that Cllr Gamble would be attending the Annual General Meeting of The Abingdon Bridge on 6 June
- AE** Posted the current Review Schedule of Council Documents, the reviewed Standing Orders and Financial Regulations on the website. Amended Terms and Conditions for the Events and Personnel Committees to reflect the additional councillors joining the committees.
- AF** Forwarded Purchase Order to Purely Plants for the War Memorial plants requested by Rosey Hollinrake. Thanked Rosey for her commitment to the War Memorial and that the council very much appreciated it. Met with Rosey before planned grass treatment at The War Memorial, to go through the risks associated including the safety data information. Parish safety fencing and poles being used to cordon off the areas of grass under treatment.
- AG** Informed resident that their comments regarding the weeds along verges and that treatment to eradicate weeds along the edges of the roads will be discussed at a future meeting.
- AH** Cllr. Cuddy has resurrected SID and hopes to get it back up and running in the near future. A second battery would be very beneficial for the future, resulting in SID being continually in use. **(See Item No 18)**

AI Received email from resident: *'Scott Powles's suggestion of councillor surgeries monthly at Apple Cafe is a brilliant idea. It would be so much easier for parishioners to have easy 2-way discussions / sharing of ideas in such a setting. The current system of having to bring a proposal or issue to the formal parish council meeting can be pretty intimidating. It's great that the parish council are looking at better ways to listen to residents' concerns and ideas. Thanks'*

73.24 It was agreed that council would be happy to resurrect these surgeries on a trial basis, as it would increase council's engagement with residents. The council will need to check if this would be OK with the Apple Café and if the Café is in agreement, a rota would need to be drawn up with two councillors present.

ACTION FOR CLLR. POWLES – Contact Carole Newbigging to check if OK with Apple Cafe

AJ Mr Mastroddi met with the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Highways Operation Manager during the month and reported issue on slip road in the north of the village. He received a response, which clerk was copied into: *'Further to our meeting, I just wanted to let you know that we had a crew on the slip road today clearing the gullies and catch pits, they did also find an additional catch pit which they also cleared. I have not been on site to see if it has made a difference to the flow of the water, but hopefully it has, I would be grateful if you could confirm either way'*. Clerk responded reporting that it would seem to be a little better and also requested that this clearing work be added onto a maintenance programme. Asked for a meeting together with VWHDC to discuss procedure in times of flooding and road closure – to enable this to be added into the Village's Emergency Plan. OCC Highways Operation Manager is pleased there has been some improvement with regard to gullies on slip road, but is not sure whether they have completely resolved the problem so there will be more follow up work to be carried out.

AK OX365 resolved Cllr. Bob Johnston's computer issues. His parish council email address can now be used without any problems.

AL Emailed Sustrans requesting an explanation of the extent and timing of the cutting back of brambles etc along the cycle route between the Tandem and Sandford Lane. The complaints are that cut backs to brambles etc have been extensive and were made after the start of the bird breeding season in March.

AM Contacted Waste Department at South and Vale District Councils to consider installing a litter bin on the other side of Sandford Road, from where the existing poo bin is situated. A request has been made to relocate the dog bin on Sandford Lane to the other side of the road at the end of the footpath from The Lawns.

AO Church Wardens responded to Clerk's request as to where grass cuttings should be put after each cemetery visit by BGG. It was explained that in previous years, all grass cuttings have been taken away, as per contract. Forwarded copy of contract to BGG who have apologised and will ensure all future grass cuttings are removed from site.

AP Received quote for two options for the restoration of the three war memorial plaques in Kennington Memorial Field from Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT), that the council requested after OPT asked if the council would be prepared to contribute to the plaques' restoration. (Quote document forwarded to councillors)

74.24 It was agreed that council would suggest option one and review in 12 months. The council is happy in principle to contribute, recommending OPT request a Community Grant in the usual way. Question to be asked of OPT as to who would be responsible for the maintenance of the plaques i.e. re-waxing. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles, seconded by Cllr. Johnston and agreed by all

ACTION FOR CLERK – Respond to OPT reporting that council would be happy in principle to contribute, forwarding council's community grant application form. To ask question regarding future maintenance too.

- AQ** Requested OCC make the existing sign for the mini roundabout at Upper Road more visible as well as requesting additional signage for vehicles approaching this roundabout from both ways. Received response: ***'I have issued a defect for the vegetation obscuring the sign to be removed, I have also looked at the existing signage and can confirm that there are advance warning signs for the mini roundabout from both approaches on the Kennington Road'.***
- AR** Filled all poo dog bag dispensers and checked all defibrillators within the village.
- AS** BGG cleared the alleyway from Rowles Close to Kennington Road of weeds and small trees. Two further residents reported the falling fence along this alleyway. Reported to FixMyStreet (No. 6088551) explaining of the danger of collapse of the wooden fencing.
- AT** More lidless bins found abandoned after the latest bin collection – Clerk reported to Biffa again. Received further email from irate resident. Clerk contacted Biffa again, reiterating the council's request to confirm that this way of working has been dealt with i.e. the practice of leaving lidless bins at various locations within the village will cease. Forwarded 5 photographs of different locations where these bins have been abandoned. Copied in the Waste team of South and Vale District Councils. Bins have since been rounded up and collected. Reassurance from the Waste Team has been given that this practice has stopped.
- AU** Received email from Amena Sutton: ***'Wild About Kennington have taken it upon themselves to regularly check the safety of the verges. I have attached a rota so you can see when this is being done and what the follow up will be. Sue Milne will get in touch with you if there is anything that needs to be done following an inspection. I hope this is satisfactory to the Council'.***
- AV** The overgrown shrubs/trees along The Avenue have been cut back. Cllrs. Andrews and Buckingham still concerned that there is still not a good enough sight line when turning right out of Simpson's Way onto The Avenue.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Report issue to OCC's Tree Service.

- AW** Parish assets (annual) and tree inspections (6 month) need to be carried out. Cllrs. Andrews and Buckingham volunteering to carry out the asset inspection.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Arrange paperwork for councillors to carry out the Annual Inspection of council assets

- AX** Cllr. Feather has removed the graffiti from the flower trough at the bottom of the slip road in the north of the village and also from the bus shelter opposite Egrove Park.
- AY** Requested more detailed information from the Festival Group who have asked for some health and safety advice. On 17 June the Festival Group have a meeting so will get back with more details after this date.
- AZ** Received notification from OCC's Lead Local Flooding Authority Funding for 2024/25, that the parish council's Expression of Interest for funding was unsuccessful. (Email forwarded to councillors for their interest)
- BA** Received documents from VWHDC for signature regarding the transfer of the land at the War Memorial. Clerk has forwarded to Julia Kent to review before signing.
- 75.24** **It was agreed that** council would not ask OCC to advise how much of the verge and footpaths adjoining the War Memorial it considers to be within the maintainable public highway.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform Julia Kent that no search was necessary

- BB** Rosey Hollinrake and partner carried out treatment on the grass at The War Memorial, fencing off the various areas until the treatment was dry. Risk Assessment was prepared by Rosey and the Clerk. Clerk received following email from Rosey asking if someone with a hedge trimmer could keep the cotoneaster

bushes in a more symmetrical balanced ball shape. Also, requested tree work to be carried out on the two trees either side of the War Memorial to reduce the dominance of the tree on the left.

- 76.24** It was agreed that quotes are obtained to cut back the trees to make them more symmetrical, later during the year. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Buckingham and agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Obtain quotes for cutting back both trees

- BC** Annual PAT testing carried out together with the annual check of the emergency lighting in both pavilions.
- BD** Between 3 and 10 June Cllrs. Brown and Powles erected the Unknown soldier silhouettes and raised the 80th D Day Flag at the War Memorial and raised further 80th D Day flag at the Village Centre.
- BE** Received notification from Zurich Insurance Company (council's insurers) that the recover of the council's excess has been abandoned in relation to the damage to the bus shelter at Kenville Road in April 2022. This is due to the fact that they were unable to trace the third-party driver.
- BF** Received email from resident: *'At the Sandford Lane end of this footpath there had been untreated water oozing under the fence from property owned by Thames Water treatment plant. This situation is steadily deteriorating, and the water is forming a large puddle by the industrial centre. The public use this path a lot and are having to wade through this. I contacted Thames Water by email last week and they haven't even had the courtesy to reply. This is a health hazard affecting all who use the path and I would be grateful if the parish council would contact Thames Water accordingly'*.
- BG** Clerk meeting Chris Lewis Fire & Security for a handover meeting for CCTV installations on 21 June 2024

77.23 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUEST FOR GRANT AID

Requests for grants

- A** Kennington OAP's Whist Drive request a grant to cover the 2024 hire fees of the room in Kennington Village Hall where the group meet every first Thursday of the month. Total cost for the room would be £144
- 78.24** It was agreed that the council would give Kennington OAP's Whist Drive a grant to cover the 2024 room hire fees of the Village Hall. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston, seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed unanimously.
- 79.24** A proposal was made by Cllr. Andrews to grant the sum of £144, which was seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform both Kennington OAP's Whist Drive and the Manager of the Village Hall of council's decision. Prepare for payment for next month's meeting

- B** Marie Curie is appealing for support – *'As part of the fundraising team dedicated to serving Oxfordshire, we are always looking to gain support in the local area where our nurses cover, which is why we are reaching out to you. We know that many are affected by loved ones that are suffering with a terminal illness, and we need to make sure we can be there for everyone who needs us. That's why we're reaching out to you, and all our wonderful supporters, to ask for your help. Could you please share our appeal for support with your fellow councillors and if there is anything, as a Parish Council that you can do to support our worthy charity'*
- 80.24** It was agreed that the council would give Marie Curie a grant. This was proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Johnston and agreed unanimously.
- 81.24** A proposal was made by Cllr. Johnston to grant the sum of £25 which was seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform Marie Curie of council's decision. Prepare for payment for next month's meeting

Correspondence for discussion/action

C SLCC - Youth Engagement Summit on 18 July 2024

Correspondence for information

- D** WhatsApp group chats are targeted by fraudsters sent by TVP – posted on the website
- E** A423 Kennington improvements programme – site investigation work and footway, cycleway, and traffic diversions – posted on the website and Facebook
- F** Oxfordshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy – forwarded to Wild about Kennington
- G** Introducing the Oxfordshire Councils Charter
- H** Revised - Temporary Road Closure - Oxford, Old Abingdon Road – posted on the website and Facebook
- I** OCC - CONSULTATION – Kennington & Radley proposed Highway Improvement Measures – posted on the website and Facebook. Clerk together with several members of the council received email from Sharaz Arif writing to the St Swithun's School traffic calming group giving an update on progress of the A34 Lodge Hill Scheme. With Balfour Beatty now on board, detailed design is underway and anticipated to be complete by October 2024. The local traffic calming works will be the first part of the project that takes place. Following consultation with parish councils and local stakeholder's during 2022/23, numerous existing issues within the surrounding parishes of the scheme were identified. We undertook feasibility studies on measures to address these issues and these were concluded in 2023 (detailed design is currently ongoing). The next stage of the programme consists of advertising and formally consulting on the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) relating to changes to the highway. Posted on the website and Facebook
- J** Oxfordshire County Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Consultation – forwarded additional email reporting that OCC is now looking to go to consultation at the end of June/ beginning July. An email will be sent once the consultation has gone live.
- K** OCC - The latest news for your communities
- L** TTRO (T13934) Temporary Road Closure - Abingdon, A4183, Oxford Road – posted on the website and Facebook
- M** OCC - Smoke Free Community Fund
- N** Invite from CPRE Garden Open Day at College House, 2-7pm 5th June 2024
- O** Vale makes great headway in achieving net zero – posted on the website and Facebook
- P** Revised 2 TTRO (T13591) Temporary Road Closure - Abingdon, Stert Street & Bridge Street – posted on the website and Facebook
- Q** Volunteers are inspirational, we want to say a big “thank you” – Vale of White Horse District Council. Posted on the Website and Facebook
- R** South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse - Rural England Prosperity Fund
- S** TTRO (T14090) Temporary Road Closure and No Waiting - Kennington, Bagley Wood Road – posted on the website and will post a little nearer the date on Facebook
- T** London Oxford Airport Airspace change proposal - ACP-2023-033 - CAP 1616 design principles – Stakeholder engagement – Review of changes to proposed draft design principles
- U** New partnership to tackle crime in rural areas - Oxfordshire
- V** General Election 2024 – important information for residents – posted on the Website and Facebook
- W** Apply now to work at the General Election on Thursday 4 July – posted on the Website and Facebook
- X** Revised 3 TTRO (T13591) Temporary Road Closure - Abingdon, Stert Street & Bridge Street – Posted on the website and Facebook
- Y** South Oxfordshire & Vale of White Horse Green Infrastructure and Open Space surveys – Posted on website and Facebook

Kennington Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13 June 2024

- Z** Your Invite: Oxfordshire Climate Adaptation Route Map - Training Session on 13 June. Would any councillor like to attend online training session?
- AA** Thames Water reservoir consultation – Posted on the website and on Facebook
- AB** Council grant funding - Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) - open for applications – posted on the website and Facebook

Newsletters

- AC** latest news from Healthwatch Oxfordshire **AD** The Rural Bulletins
- AE** Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust – Nature Notes
- AF** CPRE Campaign Updates **AG** The May edition of Vale News for 2024
- AH** OSAV Quarterly Newsletter – Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South & Vale
- AI** Latest news from Healthwatch Oxfordshire
- AJ** Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) June 2024 News

82.24 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 31 May 2024

Community Account	500.00
Business Premium Account	209,927.46
National Savings & Investment Account	85,681.57
Cambridge & Counties 3 Year Fixed Rate Bond	89,577.85
Total	385,686.88

Income received in May	£
Oxfordshire County Council 2024 Grass cutting grant	2,334.96
Kennington Athletic Football Club 2024 Junior Presentation Day on 15 June 2024 at Forest Side pavilions and field	70.00

Reference	Direct Debits paid in May	£	Power to Act
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

Reference	Direct debits to be paid in June	£	Power to Act
DD	SSE Electricity supply for Playfield Rd pavilion (99.05), Forest Side pavilion (28.38) + VAT	133.80	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
DD	Virtual Landline June's subscription for virtual landline	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
DD	PWLB Village hall loan repayment ref. PW463811	2,118.53	Local Government Act 1972
DD	EDF Gas supply for Playfield Rd pavilion Between 14 Sept 2023 – 24 May 2024	96.48	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Kennington Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13 June 2024

Reference No. 2024/	Additional account paid in May 2024		Power to Act
0027A	Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association Annual subscription 2024-25	82.00	Section 137 LGA 1972

Reference No. 2024/	Accounts to be paid in June	£	Power to Act
040	Mrs A E Feather Salary for May less tax, NI & pension contribution	1,482.14	Section 112 LGA 1972
041	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for May	561.84	Section 111 LGA 1972
042	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI	619.73	Section 111 LGA 1972
043	Mr T Fleming War memorial grass cutting for May	41.91	War Memorials Act 1923
044	Mr A Cobb Chair's monthly allowance for May	73.69	Section 111 LGA 1972
045	BGG Garden & Tree Care Ltd Verge Cutting on 6 & 26 April 800.00 Cemetery cut on 6 & 26 April 240.00 Forest Side playing field on 11 & 26 April 160.00 Playfield Rd playing field on 11 & 26 April 200.00 Links play area on 11 April 30.00 Village maintenance on 26 April 600.00 Plus VAT	2,436.00	Highways Act 1980; LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976; Section 214 (6) LGA 1972
046	Savills (on behalf of St John's College) Hire of Forest Side playing field 24.06.24 – 28.09.24	505.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
047	Enrych Oxfordshire Grant awarded at the council meeting on 9 May 2024 (Minute Nos 20.24 & 21.24)	100.00	Section 137 LGA 1972
048	Cancelled		
049	Dr R A Hollinrake Feed and Weed for treating the grass at The War Memorial	44.24	War Memorials Act 1923
050	Alfresco Exterior Cleaning Graffiti removal from concrete panels in alleyway from The Avenue to Poplar Grove.	540.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
051	Kennington Village Hall Room hire for May	65.00	Section 134(4) LGA 1972
052	Calber Facilities Management Ltd Covering Village Warden's weekly cleaning of Playfield Rd pavilion and emptying litter bins at both playing fields - May	857.58	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
053	Adventis Digital Limited Web hosting & website managing for May	31.50	Section 111 LGA 1972
054	D E Electrical PAT testing for Playfield Road pavilion and full 3 hour Emergency lighting Test	134.40	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Kennington Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 13 June 2024

055	Mr Martin Feather Safety fencing 35.99 + clear safety specs £3.99	39.98	War Memorials Act 1923
056	Mrs A E Feather Fasthosts Annual Email package for 2024-25 101.64	101.64	Section 111 LGA 1972
057	BGG Garden & Tree Care Ltd. Verge Cutting on 15 May 400.00 Cemetery cut on 15 & 31 May 240.00 Forest Side playing field on 10 & 24 May 160.00 Playfield Rd playing field on 10 & 24 May 200.00 Links play area on 10 May 30.00 Plus VAT	1,236.00	Highways Act 1980; LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976; Section 214 (6) LGA 1972
058	Grundon Waste Management Ltd Wheelie bins in May - Forest Side 60.01 and Playfield Rd 78.30 +VAT	165.97	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
059	MC Accountancy Ltd 2023-24 Internal Auditor's fee	384.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
060	D E Electrical PAT testing for Forest Side pavilion	72.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
061	Savills (UK) Limited (on behalf of Knights Solicitors) Legal fees for production of Forest Side lease	1,800.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
062	Savills (UK) Limited Professional fees for production of Forest Side lease	600.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
063	Chris Lewis Fire & Security – Final payment CCTV installation at Forest Side and Playfield Road pavilions	2,674.81	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Total to be transferred in June: £ 14,572.23

- 83.24** Kennington Strollers Grant of £231, to cover the hire of Playfield Rd pavilion awarded at the council meeting on 9 May 2024 (Minute Nos 22.24 & 23.24) has been transferred directly from Community Grants into income for the pavilions.
- 84.24** 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 May.
- 85.24** The financial report was proposed by Cllr. Johnston, seconded by Cllr. Russell and voted unanimously.
- 86.24** The annual governance statements for 2023-24 (Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return AGAR) were agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles, seconded by Cllr. Cobb and agreed unanimously.
- 87.24** The accounting statements for 2023-24 (Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return AGAR) were agreed. The Internal Auditor raised a couple of points before he completed his audit. He questioned the interest earned and balances regarding Cambridge and Counties Bank – Clerk corrected errors. 2 Grundon invoices were not authorised/signed off – will rectify at June's meeting. This was proposed by Cllr. Feather, seconded by Cllr. Locklin and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Post the Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance & Accountability Return on Website and Post the Notice of Public Rights on the Noticeboard at the Village Centre

ACTION FOR CLERK – Send off the completed and signed AGAR form together with associated documents to External Auditors - Moore

88.24 FUTURE INVESTMENT OF MONIES

The Clerk investigated The Clerk contacted CCLA and the big five building societies with only one building society having a savings account that was not for individual named account holders – it had an account for

Charities and Clubs, but the parish council would not be eligible for this account either. That said none of the building societies give a high a yield as CCLA which is currently 5.1938%,

- 89.24 It was resolved** that the Council would open an account with CCLA and move £110,000 into it, leaving £85,355 in the Business Premium Account. This was proposed by Cllr. Brown, seconded by Cllr. Powles and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Open a Public Sector Deposit Fund account

90.24 FOREST SIDE RENT REVIEW

- 91.24 It was agreed** that the Council would accept the rent increase for Forest Side playing field to £2,647.61. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles, seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed unanimously

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform Savills of the Council's acceptance of this rate rise.

92.24 FOREST SIDE LEASE

- 93.24 It was agreed** that the Council would accept the lease for an additional 10 years for Forest Side playing field. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles, seconded by Cllr. Johnston and agreed unanimously

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform Knights solicitors of the council's acceptance of this additional lease

94.24 MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The draft minutes from the Planning Committee meeting held on 28 May 2024 were noted.

95.24 FIRE SAFETY POLICY

- 96.24 It was resolved that** the Fire Safety Policy be adopted, once amendment made to describe more clearly which buildings the policy covers. This was proposed by Cllr. Cuddy seconded by Cllr. Buckingham and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Upload the Fire Policy on the Website and update the Document Schedule.

97.24 FOREST SIDE PLAY AREA

Play Area Working Group presented the proposed layout for Forest Side play area. Initially requested play With a budget of £40,000, this increased to £98,000 by the time the 3D layout was sent to the group. Each element is priced individually, enabling amendments to be carried out quickly. Group has taken out the 'loud speaker' unit and added a baby swing. Awaiting amended quote. As contract is over £60,000 this needs to be registered on the Government's Contracts Finder, once specification has been finalised. It was suggested to contact Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association if any advice is required.

98.24 DRAFT LETTER TO OCC REGARDING THE BUS GATES

- 99.24 After discussion It was resolved that** the council would not write a letter to OCC. This was proposed by Cllr. Smith, seconded by Cllr. Johnston and agreed.

100.24 BLEED CONTROL KITS

Cllr. Russell reported to the council that these kits could be installed next to the defibrillator cabinets, outside both sports pavilions and the Village Centre. They were originally produced with knife crime in mind, but can save lives resulting from e.g road accidents, erupted varicose veins.

ACTION FOR CLLR. RUSSELL – To investigate prices for the next meeting

101.24 PLAY AREA MAINTENANCE

Cllr. Feather had reviewed the quarterly reports from M H Herring, with the Clerk having received estimates to carry out works at both play areas, that was felt needed attention currently. Clerk met with

Mr Herring, where estimates were handed over. Clerk produced report as to what Mr Herring stressed to be in need of replacing.

- 102.24 It was resolved that** all itemised tasks listed by Cllr. Feather would be carried out, minus the shackles for the flat swings in Forest Side Play Area. It was agreed that these swings would be taken down until the rotting wooden post be replaced. This was proposed by Cllr. Brown, seconded by Cllr. Andrews and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Accept Mr Herrings estimate to carry out the necessary maintenance work and also request he takes down the flat swings in Forest Side Play Area.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Request Mr Herring give council an estimate for replacing the one post of the flat swing unit in Forest Side

ACTION FOR CLERK – Include details of this safety action in the July's edition of the Chronicle and post on the website and Facebook

103.24 PURCHASE OF MICROPHONES FOR SOUND SYSTEM

This will be discussed at a future meeting.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Add to next months agenda

104.24 PURCHASE OF SECOND BATTERY FOR SID

- 105.24 It was resolved that** a like for like battery be purchased at a cost of £190. Having two batteries would result in SID being in continuous use. This was proposed by Cllr. Feather, seconded by Cllr. Powles and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Purchase second battery with details from Cllr Cuddy

New brackets need to be sourced as the new street light poles are thinner than the original poles. Cllr. Cuddy will investigate and come back to council at a future meeting.

106.24 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

107.24 Cllr. Feather – Playing fields Committee

Cllr Feather presented plans for the proposed sports pavilion at Playfield Road, with the Football Club being happy with what is being proposed. Sport England are also happy with the plans. Cllr. Feather is keen and eager to submit proposals for planning. It is highly recommended that the scheme go out for public consultation before submitting to Vale of White Horse planning.

ACTION FOR CLLR. FEATHER & CLERK – Prepare and carry out a public consultation both online and by displaying copies of the plans in the Village Centre, for comments

108.24 Cllr. Brown – Oxfordshire Association for Local Councils (OALC)

Cllr. Brown reported that the OALC's Annual General Meeting has been postponed due to the forthcoming general elections.

109.24 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- 110.24 Cllr. Jempson** (via the Clerk) : I do have one query to raise it is regards to Sandford Copse.... Does the council know is a regular tree assessment carried out on the Copse? As there are a number of trees which run alongside the lane that appear to be in need of cutting?

ACTION FOR CLERK – To contact Mr Dockar Drysdale as this parcel of land is privately owned by him

111.24 Cllr. Buckingham

Cllr. Buckingham would like it minuted and acknowledged the amount of work Cllr. Feather and the Clerk do for the council.

Would like to know if anything has happened about the Peace Mile

ACTION FOR CLERK – Put on agenda for a future meeting

The prescriber at Blackbird Leys explained to St Swithun's Larder group that swimming costumes are needed for ladies that have none and cannot enjoy a swim and the sociability that goes along with swims at the local pool. Members of St Swithun's Church Larder have handed some costumes over and have received many thanks and appreciation as it has changed quite a few ladies' lives. If anyone could spare a swimsuit please let the Larder group know.

Hospital drivers are needed, please let Cllr. Buckingham know if you can help out.

112.24 Cllr. Feather

Cllr. Feather reported that the northern flower trough at the bottom of the slip road has been shifted to under the trees, it needs sliding back to its original position, otherwise the flowers will not be able to be seen. Cllr. Smith volunteered to go and see if it can be easily moved.

Also the willow trees that over hand Vale of White Horse District Council's (VWHDC) land abutting where the flower trough is sited needs cutting back, as these branches are also impeding the village sign and the flower trough.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact VWHDC and request these trees be cut back away from the village sign and flower trough

113.24 Cllr. Brown

Cllr. Brown brought up this year's Summer Funday on 31 August and that it needed to be organised. Last year, St John's Ambulance cancelled at the last minute, putting the event in jeopardy. 1st Aid courses were going to be organised for those councillors wishing to attend.

114.24 It was resolved that there would be no summer event this year, as it was felt not enough time to do the event justice.

ACTION FOR EVENTS COMMITTEE – Organise a meeting to discuss events for 2025

ACTION FOR CLERK – Investigate 1st Aid courses and defibrillator training

115.24 Cllr. Powles

Cllr. Powles reported the long grass at the top of the slip road, as very dangerous when entering the ring road, due to the lack of sight lines.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Report hazard to OCC and request it cuts this area twice a year, not the once as is new policy

116.24 Cllr. Russell

Cllr. Russell congratulated the council for celebrating the 80th D Day with flags and the Unknown Soldier silhouettes. It has been very well received.

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

1. **Thames Water reservoir consultation.** Thames Water has launched a 12-week consultation on the proposed South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO). The consultation is available here: <https://thames-wrmp.co.uk/sesro> and runs until 28 August 2024.
2. **Climate Action Fund reminder.** Please spread information about available grants to local groups with climate-related projects that could be both mitigation and adaptation projects. The fund closes before the end of the month so, not much time left. The details on how to apply are

here: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/community-support/grants/climate-action-fund/>

3. **Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2) funding.** OCC offered to add more households to their retrofit funding scheme Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2). OCC was awarded in 2023 to retrofit the homes of low income residents living in energy inefficient homes (up to £38,000 per property). If you could locate Kennington residents who could benefit from the funding, please direct them to register their interest with our delivery partners: [Register your interest](#) | [Welcome the Warmth](#).

118.24 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Johnston

I have little to report this month as the County has put all briefings on hold until after the General Election. I would however remind all that the traffic orders (TTROs) for the traffic calming in respect of mitigating the effects of the Lodge Hill slips have been published and I believe that you should all have received the details of the same via attachments to an e-mail from the Clerk. From memory the consultation on these has now expired and the proposals are now final.

119.24 MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Purchase of 2 x microphones
Peace Mile

Meeting closed at 9:51pm

Signed Date