

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

Present:	Cllr. Andrews	Cllr. Brown	Cllr. Cobb	Cllr. Cuddy
	Cllr. Douglas	Cllr. Feather	Cllr. Jempson	Cllr. Johnston
	Cllr. Locklin	Cllr. Powles	Cllr. Russell	

In Attendance: Anne Feather (Clerk)

311.24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr. Buckingham; Cllr. Gamble; Cllr. Smith and District Councillor Diana Lugova – Cllr. Powles apologised as he would be arriving late.

312.24 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – None

313.24 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS – Cllr. Cuddy declared his interest in the Financial Report as payment is being made to him personally for purchase of an additional battery for SID. Cllr. Brown also declared her interest in the Financial Report as she is an employee of Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) and there is a payment to OALC for councillor training.

314.24 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting on 10 October 2024 as a true record.

315.24 REPORT OF THE CLERK

New issues

A Received a threatening email explaining that they had control of the emails and laptop. Contacted OX365 who checked all settings and found that within Fasthosts the password had been changed 10 days ago. New passwords for Gmail and Fasthosts together with second verification set up. Recommendation of OX365 is for all councillors to use a password manager on their pcs.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Set up new Fasthost passwords for all councillors and investigate second verification

B Received by resident: *'Today I noticed a man taking a chainsaw to the small tree next to the Rub a Dub Launderette in Playfield Road. I asked why he was cutting it down? He said they were going to attach parcel boxes to the end wall of the launderette onto Cranbrook Drive? I asked if he was going to take all the tree down, he said no, but he was cutting off the branches closest to the wall. The tree has a big bunch of Mistletoe growing in it which I always notice when the leaves fall. I think it's a Rowan tree. I am not sure if parcel boxes need Planning permission and if so shouldn't we residents have been consulted about this proposed development? The parking in the road has become a problem of late as many more people seem to be using the Launderette, we have noticed several large Camper vans parking especially at weekends. There was one today which was parked for some time. I suspect people now live in Camper vans and have to find somewhere to do their washing. If parcel boxes are to be installed on the end wall of the Launderette, then traffic for collections and deliveries will get worse. We already experience excessive traffic in the evenings with the takeaway and restaurant, but parcel deliveries and collections will just add to the problem at any time of the day. Does the Parish Council know anything about this idea? Is Planning permission required and I am wondering if the owner/freeholder of the premises even know that this is happening?'* Acknowledged email – Cllr Feather finding information from Vale of White Horse District Council. District Councillor Diana Lugova also investigating. Received response from Vale of White Horse District Council's Planning Department. *'Overall, based on the limited information I have I consider it likely that planning permission is required for the parcel box. However, this is my informal opinion which is not binding on the council. If you are concerned that development has taken place without the requisite permission I would recommend contacting the council's enforcement team.'*

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact Vale of White Horse District Council’s (VoWHDC) Enforcement Team

C Received following email: *‘Dear Wild Kennington, I wanted to introduce myself as the Senior Biodiversity Officer at Oxfordshire County Council. I am getting in touch regarding your recent grant received from TOE to ecologically enhance verges in Kennington which is great news to hear about. As Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for the highways in the county, and therefore the management of verges, it is important that this initiative is coordinated with us so that inappropriate management is not undertaken at the sites subject to grant funding by unaware contractors. Please could you submit details of this initiative to this link Road verge management - Oxfordshire County Council. The information you submit will then get sent to myself to approve from an ecological perspective and to our highways team to approve considering aspects such as safety and to determine if the verges are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council. Once the initiative has been approved we will help to deploy signage that will distinguish the area from regular maintenance undertaken by contractors and help to raise awareness of the initiative.’*

316.24 It was agreed that the council would reply to the Oxfordshire County Council’s (OCC) Senior Biodiversity explaining that Wild About Kennington is a group within the village and not part of the council.

317.24 It was agreed that the council would forward a copy of the Senior Biodiversity Officer’s letter to Wild About Kennington to explain its plans.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Forward email to Wild About Kennington.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Reply to the OCC Senior Biodiversity Officer

D Justin - Village Warden (VW) was at Forest Side playing field – young mothers were asking why hadn’t anything been done about the play area for so long, and concerned about the risks for young children playing. All signs had been ripped off the fence again with the orange fence having been trodden down again. VW plans to repair fence shortly.

E To note the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024/25

F Clerk has heard of two residents walking their dogs on Forest Side playing field, being told by someone from the football club, that it is not allowed.

G Received report from Otters Reach residents: *Street lights numbered 2 and 4 in Cow Lane, Kennington have recently been replaced with LED units, but the overhanging tree canopy seriously reduces the intensity of the lights. Significant cut back needed.*

318.24 It was agreed that quotes would be sought upon completion of the Tree Inspection, to be carried out by Cllrs. Cuddy; Gamble and Smith.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Get quotes to carry out work

ACTION FOR CLERK – Respond to residents email

Continuing issues

H Chair requested the Village Warden (VW) to dismantle and dispose of the KADS poster frame at the bottom of the slip road – Clerk reminded the Chair that all requests for VW’s time, should come through the Clerk. VW disposed of poster frame.

I Clerk signed and forwarded letter of authority to Utility Aid – electricity agreement coming to an end – Utility Aid investigating new contract.

J Clerk confirmed with Sandford Parish Council that Kennington councillors agreed to work jointly to request a litter bin be installed at the end of Sandford Lane. Location has been agreed between councils. Clerk requested South and Vale’s Waste officer install litter bin in suggested location on behalf of both parish councils. Litter bin cannot be installed where requested as land owned by Environment Agency. *‘I’ll do a visit to assess the litter levels on Sandford Lane and if there is an accumulation I’ll ask Biffa to do a litter pick down there. Once Biffa have litter picked, I’ll start some regular visits to grade the area and assess how quickly it accumulates. I do think we may struggle to find a suitable place to install a bin if one is needed, due to the flooding problems down there, ultimately it will rot a bin. There is an expectation that people keep hold of their litter and either take it home or deposit it in the nearest bin, the closest*

one being on The Avenue across from the entrance to Sandford Lane and the bins in Sandford just up from the Kings Arms. But as I said I will monitor the situation for a few weeks and come back to you with my findings.'

- K** Contacted Kennington Methodist Church informing them that the councillors were happy for them to have a page on the village website. Cllr. Cuddy happy to prepare the page for them
- L** Confirmed with Littlemore Rugby Club that council is happy for it to advertise club on village noticeboards.
- M** Contacted VoWHDC and OCC regarding the flash flooding in Sandford Lane requesting a resolution to the flooding issues – response received from John Backley (Technical Services Manager) of VoWHDC. Also received email from Gordon Kelman from OCC explaining that the jetter crew successfully removed three medium sized root masses from the culvert, explaining that further root cutting work is booked in (19-20 November). Clerk will write to Gordon Kelman after 20 November for details of the works carried out, and requesting again for OCC to include the maintenance and safety of the trash screen in its programme and to confirm responsibility for its structure. Cllr. Johnston still has concerns around the balancing pond.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write to OCC & VoWHDC

- N** Contacted Greene King requesting they mend the flashing lights outside The Tandem – informed resident of this action. Manager of The Tandem explained that the lights have been switched off for the past two weeks and will be fixed 8 November 2024. The lights are still to be repaired, as they are still switched off.
- O** Confirmed with South and Vale that the council is happy for the car parks at both Forest Side and Playfield Road be used as collection points for Christmas trees as last year.
- P** Liaising with Isabel Baggott with regard to the memorial bench for Colin Charlett to be installed in Kennington Cemetery.
- 319.24** **It was agreed that** the council would be happy with the bench being the same as the benches already in the Cemetery. Clerk to confirm supplier, cost and contractor used for installation.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact Isabel Baggott to find out costs etc

ACTION FOR CLERK – Put on next month's agenda

- Q** Informed Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens Advice that council awarded a £900 grant to them this year. Received a thank you letter
- R** Informed Help after Harm of council's decision of not awarding a grant to them. Received email thanking councillors for their time in considering the charity.
- S** Informed Abingdon Bridge that council awarded a £500 grant to them. Received thank you letter
- T** Cllr. Feather informed the architect for the pavilion project that council requests that three quotes are produced before the council will decide upon the production of the bio-diversity statement as part of the planning application. (See item No. 13)
- U** Forest Side Play Area replacement consultation was included in November's Kennington Chronicle, with a display within the village hall, showing all four options. A similar display is hoped to be shown at the Apple Café during November.
- V** Purchase Order sent to Prime Compliance Services to cover the next 12 months' legionella monitoring programme at Playfield Road pavilion.
- W** Cllr. Johnston inspected the trees at The War Memorial and has confirmed that one of the four trees is dying and recommends that this is taken away leaving the remaining three as is. Received a quote from Oxford Tree Surgeons to remove the tree, grind root out and back fill.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Put on next month's agenda

- X** Purchase Order sent to Purely Plants for this winter's plants for the village troughs together with plants for The War Memorial, in time for Remembrance Day.
- Y** Emailed Julia Kent asking if she had checked contract for The War Memorial in readiness for the Chair to sign

Cllr. Powles entered room

- Z** All closure signs ripped off the fence at Forest Side play area again – Cllr. Feather stapled another 8 copies of the sign onto the fence. These were ripped off again – Cllr Feather stapled more notices up and re-erected the orange fence.
- AA** Requested Chris Lewis to come over and show how the CCTV works etc again. Awaiting response.
- AB** Contacted resident who was concerned about vehicles parking on the frontages of the shops at Playfield Road explaining that it was felt that this land is private and belongs to the businesses along that strip.
- AC** Maintenance has been carried out on both flagpoles. Flagpole reports forwarded to councillors for information. It was commented by Cllr. Brown that these were now far easier to use.
- AD** After recent pre-meet regarding this year's Remembrance Day, of all organisations involved, 500 copies of the amended Order of Service have been printed.
- AE** Contacted Vale of White Horse District Council again about the two willows hanging over the footpath just before No 2 Kennington Road. VoWHDC does not believe they own this parcel of land. Regarding the other willows along the verge towards the bottom of the slip road, these were reported via FixMyStreet. This report is now closed with the following comment: ***Thank you for your enquiry. I have instructed works to be carried out on the tree described in your enquiry. This will be added to a package of works that will be completed during the next financial year.***
- AF** Contacted Oxfordshire County Council again requesting progress on the protocol for when it is deemed necessary to close Kennington Road due to flooding. (copied in Mr Mastroddi)
- AG** Dave Escott repaired the electric meter box at The War Memorial – same door but has new locking mechanism. It was commented that it was far easier to use the sockets when using the sound equipment (for Remembrance Day).
- AH** Beech hedge at Forest Side has been cut back – delay in carrying out work on the leylandii hedge at the top of Forest Side due to illness.
- AI** Internal Auditor – MC Accountancy Ltd acknowledged receipt of purchase order and happy to carry out 2024/25's audit.
- AJ** Successful defibrillator awareness course took place in the village hall with one attendee emailing: ***'I want to thank you so much for organising the defibrillator awareness training today. It was truly excellent and I feel would be so helpful for others to undertake. I'd be happy to write a few lines to recommend it if you are advertising it again in future to the village. I also want to thank whoever on the parish council is the "guardian" for the defibrillators. It is one of those tasks that someone quietly does in the background but it is potentially life saving and the village owes gratitude to the guardian, to whoever organised the defibrillators in the first place, and to yourself for organising the training. Many thanks indeed.'*** Forwarded comments to South Central Ambulance and the trainers – also forwarded to the Justin (VW)
- AK** Cllrs. Andrews and Cobb attended Apple Café on Saturday 2 November for residents to report any concerns they may have to the council. Carole Newbiggin would like this new initiative of the council's to be promoted more widely.
- 320.24** **It was agreed that** the council would include the dates monthly in the Chronicle; Facebook and post on the website once Cllr. Powles has agreed which Saturday would be best, each month, with Apple Café.

ACTION FOR CLLR. POWLES – Speak with Carole Newbiggin
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ACTION FOR CLERK – Regularly promote these monthly dates.
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- AL** Received letter from SSE regarding council's complaint – it is working to respond to all the issues raised.
- AM** Cllrs. Andrews and Buckingham have volunteered to carry out the Council's Asset Inspection
- AN** Cllrs. Cuddy; Gamble and Smith have volunteered to carry out the Tree Inspection.
- AO** Contacted council's insurance company to ask what would be the minimum 1st aid cover to adequately cover events. ***'Unfortunately, we are legally non-advisory so I would be unable to advise you on the minimum cover you require.'*** Had previously contacted St John's Ambulance who advised the following: ***'If you want to be able to be first aiders for an event, then at a minimum you would want an Emergency First Aid at Work (EFAW) course, although I would strongly recommend the more comprehensive First Aid at Work (FAW) course. Both of these would cover the HSE requirements***

(<https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/firstaid/first-aid-training.htm>) but the EFAW course only covers the most serious conditions, whereas FAW covers most things you are likely to see on a small event (and realistically, you're much more likely to have patients with minor injuries/illnesses than major ones!) These courses are run by our commercial arm (either at your site, or at our building in Kidlington), and they are not free.' Have since contacted two other training companies, both recommending the three day accredited course.

AP This year's Remembrance Day service went well, with residents thanking councillors for their efforts. It was commented that the sound quality of the PA system was far better than in previous years. Councillors commented on how nice the War Memorial looked on the morning, with thanks going to Rosey Hollinrake. The councillors would also like to thank Apple Café for their support on the day. £10.04 was collected at the teas/coffees before the Parade. Clerk will donate this amount directly to The British Legion website – in exchange for keeping the cash.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Send a letter of appreciation to Rosey Hollinrake and thank Apple Café via Facebook

ACTION FOR CLERK – Include the councillors' appreciation to both Rosey and Apple Café in the Chronicle

AQ Asked Scorpion printers how much a Twinning Sign would be – for attaching to the village's name signs: *If you were to have signs that were the width of the existing Welcome To KENNINGTON signs and a height equal to the narrow part of the shaped signs this would be 1550mmx450mm. To supply and fit an aluminium plate sign with the face graphic being a laminated vinyl print the cost would be £140.00 + VAT each.*

AR Chair and Clerk meeting with Ben from BGG, the grass cutting and maintenance contractor to discuss next seasons contracts on 20 November 2024

AS VW tidied up around the side of the Pavilion at Playfield Road – the old Village notice boards, which are tucked behind the rusty container will be removed shortly.

AT Mick Herring carried out quarterly service inspection of The Links and Village Hall play areas. Village Hall report forwarded to Sandra Hogen. Copy of The Links Report forwarded to all councillors.

AU Advertising for both Christmas events need to be agreed, including design of the banners, so Clerk can order two banners in time. Also songs to be sung at Carols around the tree need to be agreed before Clerk can order the song sheets. Cllr. Brown has produced the posters for the Chronicle and Facebook.

ACTION FOR CLLR. POWLES & BROWN– Produce words for the banners

ACTION FOR CLLR. COBB – Liaise with Lynn Bromley to agree on the songs on the sheet

321.24 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUEST FOR GRANT AID

Requests for grant

A Kennington Chorale (formerly Kennington & District United Church Choirs) – requesting a grant to assist with the costs of its next concert being held at St Michael in the North Gate in Oxford on 8 December. Kennington & District United Church Choirs has raised over £822,000 over the past 50 years – founded in 1973 by Trevor Cowlett.

322.24 It was agreed that the council would give Kennington Chorale a grant. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed by the majority.

323.24 A proposal was made by Cllr. Johnston to grant the sum of £100, which was seconded by Cllr. Andrews and agreed by all bar one with one abstention.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform Kennington Chorale of the council's decision and arrange payment.

Correspondence for discussion/action

B Sent by HMRC after October's Budget - **The rate of employer NICs will increase from 13.8% to 15% from 6 April 2025. The Secondary Threshold is the point at which employers become liable to pay NICs on employees' earnings, and is currently set at £9,100 a year. The government will reduce the Secondary Threshold to £5,000 a year from 6 April 2025 until 6 April 2028, and then increase it by Consumer Price Inflation thereafter.** For council to budget for 2025/26

C Revised Community Toolkit – SSEN (forwarded copy to all councillors)

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- D** Support for keeping residents warm during colder months – OCC (forwarded copy to all councillors)

Correspondence forwarded to Councillors for information

- E** CCTV appeal following assault – Oxford – posted on website and Facebook
F Have your say on our Street Trading Policy – South and Vale
G TTRO (T14372) Temporary Road Closure, Kennington, St Swithun's Road**revised start date* (28 October – 15 November – posted on website and Facebook
H Corrected Revised 3 TTRO (T13934) Temporary Road Closure - Abingdon, A4183, Oxford Road – posted on website and Facebook
I TTRO (T14522) Temporary Road Closure - Kennington, Oxford Road – posted on website and Facebook
J Appeal for witnesses by TVP following an affray – Oxford – posted on website and Facebook
K Have your say on proposed changes to council tax premium for long-term empty properties – VoWHDC – posted on website and Facebook
L Have your say: Councils propose updates to boost street trading and cut plastic waste – VoWHDC – posted on website and Facebook
M Brown bin subscribers can have extra garden waste collected this Autumn – VoWHDC - posted on website and Facebook
N TTRO (T14372) Temporary Road Closure, Kennington, St Swithun's Road revised route start date – posted on website and Facebook
O TCCTV appeal following theft – Oxford – Thames Valley Police – posted on website and Facebook
P The October edition of Vale News for 2024 – VoWHDC
Q Digital Infrastructure Webinar Recording: VoWHDC
R Halloween Posters from Thames Valley Police – Posted on the website and Facebook. Also forwarded email to Apple Cafe; St Swithun's Church; the Methodist Church; the scouts; Brownies and the WI.
S Rethink waste with a trip to a local repair café – VoWHDC – posted on website and Facebook
T Reservoir risks discussed and nature recovery plans highlighted by councillors - - VoWHDC – posted on website and Facebook
U Young winners of council's waste trails presented with a colourful prize – VoWHDC – posted on website and Facebook
V Working together with SGN to help local older people stay safe and warm – Age Concern
W OALC October update for member councils
X Record number of visitors at Abbey Meadow pool 2024 season – VoWHDC – posted on website and Facebook
Y Double fly-tipper ordered to do 60 hours unpaid work – VoWHDC – posted on website and Facebook
Z Women in Policing: Your Path to a Meaningful Career on Tuesday 19 November 7:30 pm- 9:00 pm – posted on website and Facebook
AA Friend, what does the autumn budget mean for our countryside? - CPRE

Newsletters

- AB** The Rural Bulletins **AC** Community First Newsletter
AD Your Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South & Vale (OSAV) October Newsletter
AE Nature Notes - Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust
AF Police & Crime Bulletin Oct '24 - Tackling shoplifting, cash from criminals
AG RSN Rural Funding Digest - November 2024 Edition **AH** CPRE Oxfordshire November 2024

324.24 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 31 October 2024

Community Account	£500.00
Business Premium Account	121,304.83
National Savings & Investment Account	85,681.57
Public Sector Fund (CCLA account)	110,478.00
Total	317,964.40

Income received in October	
Vale of White Horse District Council * CIL money from developments at 158 Poplar Grove 113 Bagley Wood Road	13,732.54
CCLA Investment Management Ltd Income reinvestment between 30 September – 31 October 2024	450.36

***This has been transferred into the CIL - EMR**

Direct debits to be paid in November		Power to Act
Information Commissioner's Office Annual Data Protection Fee (expires 9.11.2024)	35.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
Virtual Landline Invoice No. 820661 (28 Oct – 28 Nov 24) subscription for virtual landline	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
SSE Southern Electric – 01.6.24 – 30.9.24 Forest Side pavilion	33.71	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
EDF Energy Playfield Road pavilion gas supply 1 October – 31 October 2024	6.59	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
Castle Water Playfield Road pavilion water supply 1 October – 31 October 2024	33.14	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
SSE Southern Electric – 01.9.24 – 31.10.24 Playfield Road pavilion	170.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Reference No. 2024/	Accounts to be paid in November		Power to Act
154	Mrs A E Feather Salary for October less tax, NI & pension contribution	1465.05	Section 112 LGA 1972
155	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for October	554.79	Section 111 LGA 1972
156	Mr J Satchell Salary for October less tax	437.66	Section 111 LGA 1972
157	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI contributions for October	718.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
158	Mr T Fleming War memorial grass cutting volunteer for October	£41.91	Section 111 LGA 1972
159	Mr A Cobb Chair's monthly allowance for October	73.69	Section 111 LGA 1972
160	Zoro UK Limited 12 x Pro Power Plus toilet 1 L for Playfield Rd pavilion	34.99	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
161	Eurooffice Ltd 6 x Multi-Purpose cleaner for Playfield Rd pavilion	24.83	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
162	TWM Traffic Control Systems Ltd Clips for The Smiley Camera	179.48	Section 111 LGA 1972
163	Royal British Legion 2024 Poppy Appeal	620.00	Section 137 LGA 1972
164	The Abingdon Bridge Grant agreed at October's meeting (minute Nos 275.24 & 277.24)	500.00	Section 137 LGA 1972

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165	Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens Advice Grant agreed at October's meeting (minute Nos 272.24 & 273.24)	900.00	Section 137 LGA 1972
166	Holden & Parker Ltd Servicing of gas boiler at Playfield Rd pavilion	108.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
167	Windsock Company Limited Maintenance for both flagpoles in village	1874.88	Section 111 LGA 1972
168	Prime Compliance Services Ltd 2024-25 Legionella Control Programme for Playfield Rd pavilion	1420.20	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
169	Mrs A E Feather Oct's & Nov's extra mailbox space (Fasthosts) 2 x 2.40 Tea, coffee, sugar + biscuits for Remembrance Day and defibrillator course 14.00	18.80	Section 111 LGA 1972
170	South Central Ambulance Defibrillator Awareness Session – 29.10.24 Village Hall	100.00	Section 137 LGA 1972
171	JRB Enterprise Ltd 20 boxes of dog gloves for the dog bag dispensers	595.20	Section 111 LGA 1972
172	Purely Plants Autumn/Winter Plants and planting in 4 large planters	673.90	Section 137 LGA 1972
173	Adventis Digital Limited Web hosting & website managing for October	31.50	Section 111 LGA 1972
174	Kennington Village Hall Room hire for October	100.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
175	Holywell Press Printing - Forest Side play area's 4 proposed options x 2	73.20	Section 111 LGA 1972
176	Grundon Waste Management Ltd Playfield Rd wheelie bins – October 98.57 Forest Side wheelie bins – October 93.51 + VAT	230.49	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
177	D E Electrical Attended to electrics box at The War Memorial	126.66	War Memorials Act 1923
178	Martin Cuddy Lithium battery for SID	69.12	Section 111 LGA 1972
179	HVW Ltd 10 x Hi-Viz vests (various sizes)	59.94	Section 111 LGA 1972
180	Holywell Press Limited 500 copies printed of Remembrance Day Order of Service	178.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
181	OALC Cllr. Cobb attending Parish Pros training on 3 Dec '24	66.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
182	Highfield Partnerships Purchase and delivery of 18' Christmas Tree	369.00	Section 137 LGA 1972
183	M R H Services Quarterly service inspections on The Links and the Village Hall's play areas	115.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
184	BGG Garden & Tree Care Ltd Verges on 18 October 400.00 Cemetery maintenance on 18 October 120.00 Village maintenance on 18 October 600.00 Plus VAT	1344.00	Section 214(6) LGA 1972 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

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185	OX365 Ltd Technician time sorting suspicious email	80.33	Section 111 LGA 1972
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Total to be transferred in November: £13,185.89

Castle Water – water supply for The War Memorial - £435.94 in credit as at 24 October 2024 – Invoice dated 5 November 2024 of £9.07 brought credit balance down to £426.87.

325.24 It was agreed that the professional fees regarding the extension of Forest Side playing field lease i.e. £1800 Knights solicitors and £600 Savills be taken out of the EMR for the Play Area Project

326.24 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 October 2024.

327.24 The financial report was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Powles and voted unanimously.

328.24 MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 22 October 2024 and draft minutes of meeting held on 12 November 2024 were noted.

329.24 MINUTES OF PLAYING FIELDS COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the Playing Fields Committee meeting held on 16 October 2024 were noted.

330.24 COUNCIL'S LONG TERM ACTION PLAN

331.24 It was agreed that the council would take this plan forward as a working document. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Andrews and agreed unanimously.

332.24 VE-DAY 80 FLAG OF CELEBRATION (MAY 2025)

333.24 It was agreed that the council would not purchase this flag as it was felt both a waste of money and not a sustainable thing to do, as would only be flown once. This was proposed by Cllr. Andrews seconded by Cllr. Powles and agreed by all.

334.24 DONATION TO ABINGDON LIONS

335.24 Cllr. Russell, who is the President of the Abingdon Lions, thanked the council but explained that there was no need. The contribution made last year was very generous.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write a letter of thanks to Abingdon Lions for the loan of the sleigh

ACTION FOR CLERK – Include thanks to The Abingdon Lions in January's edition of the Chronicle

336.24 BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN ASSESSMENT (BNG)

337.24 It was agreed that the council would accept the quote from 4 Acre Ecology of £1574, with the understanding that if a bat survey is necessary, this would be an extra cost. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Baker and agreed.

ACTION FOR CLLR FEATHER – Inform 4Acre Ecology via the architect of council's decision

ACTION FOR CLLR FEATHER – Inform the unsuccessful companies of council's decision

338.24 RECOGNITION OF ROGER GELDER'S VOLUNTARY WORK

339.24 It was agreed that the Clerk would ask if an article could be created for a future Chronicle edition i.e. once Roger retired. Also that he be remembered when nominations are requested for High Sheriff's Awards.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact Editor of the Chronicle regarding article

340.24 ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR COMBATING THE RATS AT PLAYFIELD RD PAVILION

341.24 It was agreed that the council would not enter into an annual agreement as at present there would seem no sign of rats. The council will continue to monitor the situation.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform Attack Environmental Ltd of council's decision

342.24 PURCHASE OF EMERGENCY WATER BARRIERS

343.24 It was agreed that the council would not purchase any emergency water barriers but to include details of these barriers in the next edition of the Chronicle.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Include details of water barriers in the Council's article in the next edition of the Chronicle

344.24 PUBLIC WORKS LOAN

345.24 It was agreed in principle that the council would be open to applying for a Public Works Loan to assist with the funding of the Playfield Road pavilion rebuild project. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed unanimously.

346.24 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

347.24 Cllr. Cobb – Scouts

Cllr. Cobb reported that the Scouts Firework display had been very successful, with 500 people attending. The one issue was that the 'master of ceremonies' (so as to speak) could not be heard. Cllr. Cobb suggested to the council that next year the council could offer it's PA system for this event.

348.24 It was agreed that the Scouts could have use of the council's PA system on condition that a councillor is present to supervise its use. The was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Powles and agreed.

349.24 Cllr. Andrews – Kennington Library

The authors and illustrators fair that the Friends of Kennington Library organised. This raised £1,000 from the event for FOKL.

350.24 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

351.24 Cllr. Powles

Thanked everyone involved in the successful Remembrance Day. Cllr. Powles was a little concerned about overnight parking at the playing fields car parks. Should the council be looking into some form of ability to control parking.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Put on next month's agenda

352.24 Cllr. Johnston

Cllr. Johnston reported a resident is concerned about the increasing amount of graffiti on OCC's bypass bridge pillars.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Report issue to OCC requesting graffiti be cleaned off

353.24 Cllr. Russell

Cllr. Russell commented that he was impressed by the progress of the safety works at St Swithun's Road.

354.24 Cllr. Jempson

Reported that OCC were planning to switch off street lights during the night, but has deferred this decision as it needs a public consultation. Cllr. Jempson was concerned for public safety if lights were switched off in the village.

355.24 Cllr. Locklin

Whilst at Apple Café after the Remembrance Service, Mr Mutton complained to her about the length of time speed awareness training was taking. Cllr. Cuddy will contact Mr Mutton and Mr Green, as the training is on hold until Mr Green responds.

During the recent road closure, Bagley Wood Road residents have contacted Cllr. Locklin suggesting introducing various traffic management schemes.

356.24 It was decided that the council would monitor this situation over the next three months and revisit this issue again then.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Put on future meeting's agenda

357.24 Cllr. Feather

Cllr. Feather requested an analysis of the waste of the wheelie bins at both playing fields be carried out.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Carry out analysis on waste and bring results to future meeting

358.24 Cllr. Brown

Cllr. Brown reported that many residents had found it difficult to get poppies and suggested that the council could ask if anyone would be interested in arranging the British Legion house to house collections or, to just deliver tins to the shops in Kennington.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Include request for volunteers in next edition of the Chronicle

Requested that more big poppies be purchased for next year's remembrance day for the railings by the village hall. To be considered next year.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Put on September 2025 meeting's agenda

359.24 REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS – Diana Lugova and Bob Johnston

1. **Vale Household Support Fund.** We expect the next round of the Household Support Fund to open in the New Year following the recent Government announcement of the extension to 31 March 2025. The scheme is currently closed whilst officers consider any changes to the approach and delivery of the funding to our residents. If members receive enquiries from people struggling with the cost of living, the community hub can still help. Residents can contact our Community Hub team on 01235 422600, email communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk
2. **Thames Path** (A423 to the Old Kennington railway Bridge). The Thames Path National Trails Team have scheduled a heavy cut back for early next week (w/c 18th Nov) and added it to their summer programme for next year to help keep the vegetation back.
3. **Smart Locker near Laundrette.** Tree Officer from Vale Planning team came back to us and said the tree was not protected, so, nothing they can do. Planning team is checking if it requires either planning permission or application for determination. We hope to get the response before PC meeting.
4. **Councillor Community Grant.** There are only a few weeks left until the deadline for applications for the latest round of the Councillor Community Grant Scheme. All applications must be completed by midday Friday 29 November. If you're aware of any groups interested in funding for their community project or organisation, please do encourage them to get in touch with the team grants@southandvale.gov.uk
5. **Holidays Activities** in The Beacon. What's On - The Beacon Wantage Lots of festive activities arranged in The Beacon for both adults and children.

360.24 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Johnston

I hope by the time of the meeting that I have sorted out the signage to avoid "old Bagley Wood Road being used as a diversion while St Swithun's Road is resurfaced and the pedestrian crossing installed. It has taken series of e-mails etc to achieve this.

Lodge Hill continues, contrary to some posts on social media the scheme is fully funded. The archaeology has been completed and many conditions e.g. biodiversity and landscaping have been discharged and the bridge itself repaired. Works will start next year and take about a year.

A reported gap in the County budget of £13.9 million will be closed by budget time in February. A gap from in year pressures is normal at this stage in the budget cycle.

A some of you know County Officers have found tree roots in the drainage in Sandford Lane which is being addressed. I hope this will put this matter to rest. We still have our doubts about the way the balancing pond is functioning.

361.24 MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Tree work at Cow Lane
The War Memorial Tree
Parking at Playing fields car park
Colin Charlett's Memorial Bench in Cemetery

362.24 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS - None

Meeting closed at 9:00pm

Signed Date