

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

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

The parish council was deeply saddened to hear the news that Louise Newbigging, passed away on Sunday morning and had a minute's silence in tribute.

In Attendance: Anne Feather (Clerk)

363.24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr. Jempson; Cllr. Johnston; Cllr. Smith and District Councillor Diana Lugova

364.24 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – None

365.24 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS – Cllr. Brown 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. Also a payment is being made to her for the purchase of food and drink for the Carols around the Tree Event on 1 December.

366.24 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting on 14 November 2024 as a true record.

367.24 REPORT OF THE CLERK

New Issues

A Dead tree from a residence along Bagley Wood Road fell into Playfield Road playing field during the recent storm Bert. The Football Club took away the branches that ended up on the pitch but the rest of the tree remains although it does seem to be getting less daily – people seem to be taking the wood away.

368.24 It was agreed that the council would write to the owners of the property where the tree fell from, explaining what has happened and reminding them of their duty of care regarding their remaining trees over hanging into the playing field.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write to the residents of 93 Bagley Wood Road

B SSE need to change the meter at The War Memorial. They need space in front to exchange meter, meaning the bush will need to be cut back. Slot booked for Monday 20 January 2025.

C Received an apology from Sylvia Vetta, that she is unlikely to attend Carols around the Tree and also made a suggestion of renaming Kennington as Kennington on Thames.

369.24 It was agreed that this is not something that the council would want to pursue at this time, but thank Sylvia Vetta for her interest.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write to Sylvia Vetta with the council's decision.

D Resident contacted Clerk reporting 4 black sacks having been dumped outside her house – informed Biffa who will report it as fly tipping and arrange collection. Informed resident. All gone

E Reported tree collapsing over pavement into the main road from trees along the service road at The Avenue (on the right – coming from Abingdon) via FixMyStreet (Ref: 6800684). Been taken down

F Received notification from Grundon Waste Management Limited that the daily rental for each wheelie bin will increase of 1p. The council rents 4. This comes into effect on 1 January 2025.

G Concerned resident contacted Clerk to report the dangerous sign opposite Playfield Road (near 151 The Avenue) – it has been damaged and is half hanging off, Already been reported on FixMyStreet, updated report. Response received that this will be repaired/replaced.

- H Resident contacted Clerk concerned about issues surrounding the Christmas lights and Father Christmas at 130 Poplar Grove, including the parking and litter problems. Clerk contacted District Councillor Diana Lugova who has responded: ***'Thank you for bringing it to my attention. Vale Environmental Health will look into food serving aspect. I am talking to officers regarding what can be done regarding turning house Christmas display into local attraction and advertising it. While it's nice to see beautiful Christmas displays, in this case It seems like too much for a quiet residential area'***. Cllr. Diana Lugova suggesting Chair and Vice Chair meet up with resident who organises these lights. Christmas lights display has grown into a Christmas Fair and has become a public attraction. Environment Health reported that ***They are likely to fall under the requirement to register as a food business, this is free and can be completed on the councils website. I have contacted Martin on the email that he published to confirm activities.***

Cllr. Powles arrived

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact resident reporting that council forwarded issues onto Vale of White Horse District Council (VoWHDC)

- I Received email from resident concerned about when the crossing at St Swithun's Road would be finished. Clerk contacted County Councillor Bob Johnston who explained that ***'The County awaits some of the components for the crossing. As soon as they are available, the crossing will be completed'***. Passed this information onto the resident.
- J Oxford Preservation Trust responded to resident's request for OPT to remove graffiti on the wall along the entrance track to the War Memorial field from The Avenue. OPT explained the graffiti is on a wall owned by No. 2 Cranbrook Drive – Clerk was copied into this response.
- K Reported, via FixMyStreet, noisy manhole cover outside 18 Kennington Road – already reported - sent an update

Continuing issues

- L Completed annual CIL declaration form for 2023-24 forwarding to VoWHDC
- M Completed annual waste transfer notes for 2025 returning to Grundon Waste Management Ltd
- N Received following from Cllr. Jempson: ***'Due to stormy weather, a top part of a tree (near to the footpath) has broken off and fallen down obstructing the access route. I'm aware that, as this has happened on private land it is neither a Highways nor a FixMyStreet concern. It does however, raise a question over public safety, especially as members of the public regularly access Copse, and children also use the area as recreational space. Lidless wheelie bin left behind Sandford Lane Bus shelter'***. There is a further lidless bin behind Strode Court's sign along the Kennington Road. Clerk found a further lidless bin on Kennington Road.
- O Received following from Cllr. Jempson: ***'Last week unfortunately, there was yet another case of flash flooding down Sandford Lane - Due to other commitments, I was unable to take photographs to document the incident. To note, on 28th & 29th November, large tankers were seen working near to the Railway Bridge. To clarify was the Parish Council informed of such work being carried out? Speaking on behalf of concerned residents, I should be very grateful if Cllr. Johnston would be able provide a progress update towards this ongoing matter'***. Confirmed council was not aware of works carried out on these dates.
- P Received an email from VoWHDC informing the council of its proposed deep cleanse of the village during January, enclosing a form asking which areas would the council like to be done. Clerk forwarded form to the Village Warden for completion.
- Q BGG cleared the mini meadow at Forest Side - Wild About Kennington raked the grass off the mini meadow and planted wildflower seeds and yellow rattle, for next summer. The rough patch at the top of Playfield Road playing fields was also cut by BGG.
- R Responded to residents concerned with the lack of light in Cow Lane, explaining that a tree inspection is being carried out, after which quotes will be sought to cut back the trees in the lane. BGG is going to attend with the maintenance, including the trees within the wall, by Otters Reach garages.

- S** Requested details and costs for benches within the Cemetery, together with installation. Contacted Isabel Baggott. Clerk arranging to meet Ann Charlett and Roger Dennett at the Cemetery to discuss where Colin's memorial bench could be sited.
- T** Cllr. Cobb and Clerk had meeting with BGG, went through the contracts, increase of maximum 5%. Had planned to carry out maintenance/cutting of Cemetery hedge the following week – resident reported still needed cutting, the hedge has since been cut back. Also asked when planned maintenance of trees down Cow Lane was going to take place (as discussed at the meeting).
- U** Lynch Brothers erected the 18' Christmas tree at The War Memorial. They have asked if they could advertise their company at The War Memorial. Clerk thanked them via the Kennington Chronicle; Cllr Feather thanked them for all their hard work – they did a great job. Cllr. Cobb also thanked them at The Carols around the Tree. Assuming Lynch Brothers Homes kindly offer to erect next year's tree a sign could be erected thanking them.

370.24 It was agreed that next year a discrete sign be placed next to the Christmas Tree would be erected '***This Christmas Tree was kindly erected by Lynch Brothers Homes Limited***'.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write to Lynch Brothers Homes explaining the council's decision

- V** Clerk ordered the new Christmas banners and amended song sheets for Carols around the Tree. Cllr Cuddy reported some errors, which he will forward to the Clerk. This event was a great success and thanks went to all involved in making it such a success, with special thanks going to Cllrs. Brown and Cuddy.
- W** Clerk contacted Paul Wilson of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) requesting the protocol for when Kennington Road floods at the northern end of the village. Copied in Layla Moran MP
- X** Paid in £10.04 donation from coffees/teas on Remembrance Day, to The British Legion (Ref: VY0907834)
- Y** Clerk contacted the Enforcement team of South and Vale District Councils regarding the existing Parcel Box Collection Unit outside Best One and the proposed unit along side the laundrette at Playfield Road. Reported that Kennington already has one of these units outside Best One, along Kennington Road. Received response: '***The enforcement team will open an investigation and let you know the outcome in due course. In most cases this type of development is subject to the prior approval application process. We can confirm that no such application was made and so permission is likely to be needed***'. Clerk asked which parcel unit will be investigated. '***I can confirm that we will log two cases for triage: 80 Kennington Road Kennington OXFORD OX1 5PB and Rub A Dub Dub laundrette at 11 Playfield Road Kennington OXFORD OX1 5RS.***'
- Z** Forwarded OCC's Senior Biodiversity Officer's email regarding the wilding areas along the verge to Wild About Kennington, who have contacted him explaining the plans – which he is happy with. Clerk contacted Officer after speaking with BBG, about cutting back the lower branches of the trees where the wilding areas are situated, making it easier to maintain. He has forwarded this request to the Highways and Trees team.
- AA** Sent the council's thanks and appreciation to Rosey Hollinrake for enhancing The War Memorial. Also thanked Apple Café for its support at Remembrance Sunday, via Facebook. Included thanks in December's issue of Kennington Chronicle.
- AB** Informed Kennington Chorale of council's decision to award £100 to assist in their December concerts.
- AC** Sent a letter of thanks to Abingdon Lions for the loan of Father Christmas's sleigh again this year. Included thanks in December's issue of Kennington Chronicle. Unfortunately due to weather conditions Father Christmas's visits on 6 and 7 December had to be cancelled. Council has opportunity to borrow the sleigh on Friday 20 December which has been taken up. Events Committee arranging with Father Christmas, an early evening visit for the whole village.
- AD** Informed 4 Acre Ecology via the architect, of council's decision to accept their quote for producing the necessary Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment for the proposed pavilion re-build. Unsuccessful firms informed. Cllr. Feather met with 4 Acre Ecology at the pavilion to enable the assessment to take place. It was felt, that it was negligible that there were bats in the existing pavilion. 4Acre Ecology, working along side the architect, are working towards applying for planning before Christmas.

- AE** Contacted the editor of Kennington Chronicle regarding article around Roger Gelder's retirement. Article will be included sometime in the new year.
- AF** Contacted Attack Environmental of council's decision not to enter into an annual contract but to contact them as and when.
- AG** Included details of emergency water barriers and request for volunteers for house to house collections and/or at shops for next year's poppy appeal in December's edition of Kennington Chronicle.
- AH** Reported graffiti on OCC's bridge columns via FixMyStreet (Ref: 678866).
- AI** Village Warden repairing the dry stone wall, having to find additional stones to complete.
- AJ** Clerk in the process of changing councillors' passwords for the council emails
- AK** Membership renewal for the River Thames Society of £15
- AL** Amended Council's long term action plan – Clerk will produce less detailed plan (assisted by AI) which can be brought to next year's Annual Parish Meeting, before it is published on the website. Apparent OCC funding – Cllr. Cuddy volunteered to contact Bob Johnston. Cllr. Cuddy has contacted Rdley Parish Council asking for advice in relation to roaming -v- static SAIDs – awaiting response.

ACTION FOR CLLR CUDDY – Contact OCC Bob Johnston to find out about funding opportunities

As part of this plan SID movement needs a Risk Assessment.

ACTION FOR CLERK & CLLR. CUDDY – Produce a risk assessment

- AM** Received Highway Engagement Feedback Form to the walk and talk event along Sandford Lane.
- AN** Updates to our Terms of Service and Data Processing Agreement – forwarded to Cllrs. Brown and Scott as they use the Sum-up. Useful update is the facility of using mobile phones for payments.
- AO** Cllr. Cuddy is in correspondence with concerned residents regarding traffic travelling through the village. Cllr. Cuddy reported that the Speed Watch Group is up and running, involving interested residents.
- AP** Contacted OCC to ask if the planned work to remove more tree root masses from the culvert at Sandford Lane was carried out and if it was felt to be a success. Also requested confirmation that the trash screen is on the county council's asset list and on a programme of regular maintenance. Received response: ***'I can confirm that an additional visit was carried out on 19th November to remove the rest of the roots within the culvert which was fully successful. Trash screen clearance would be part of the cyclic maintenance so the Cyclic Team will need to confirm the trash screens inclusion in their maintenance schedule'.***
- 371.24** **It was agreed that** Clerk contact County Councillor Bob Johnston requesting he confirm trash screens are within the Cyclic Teams forward

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact Council Councillor requesting confirmation

372.24 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUEST FOR GRANT AID

Requests for grants

- A** **Oxfordshire Mind/Mind in Berkshire** – Requesting a donation. 'Oxfordshire Mind/Mind in Berkshire has been dedicated to supporting people and promoting better mental health services within Oxfordshire for over 50 years'.
- 373.24** **It was agreed that** the council would give Oxfordshire Mind/Mind in Berkshire the opportunity to show how much it helps Kennington residents, by requesting how many Kennington residents have been supported together with a request to have sight of its financial accounts.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact Oxfordshire Mind/Mind in Berkshire requesting the more information

- B** **Age UK Oxfordshire – Requesting a donation.** 'Our Phone Friends service provides a vital lifeline, offering regular friendly phone calls to those who are feeling lonely, forgotten or who have no one to talk to. Currently over 330 older Oxfordshire residents receive a free, weekly telephone call from one of our volunteers, but we have a waiting list of older people who could benefit from this support.
- 374.24** **It was agreed that** the council would give Age UK Oxfordshire the opportunity to show how much it helps Kennington residents, by requesting how many Kennington residents have been supported together with a request to have sight of its financial accounts.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact Age UK Oxfordshire requesting the more information

- C Kennington Women’s Institute** – Requesting a grant as in May 2025 Kennington Women’s Institute will become 100 years old. The Institute would very much like to celebrate this by arranging a celebratory tea with entertainment for past and present members together with specially invited guests.
- 375.24 It was agreed** that the council would give Kennington Women’s Institute a grant. This was proposed by Cllr. Buckingham seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed unanimously.
- 376.24** A proposal was made by Cllr. Buckingham to grant the sum of £100 , which was seconded by Cllr. Gamble. A counter proposal was made by Cllr. Powles to grant the sum of £250, which was seconded by Cllr. Brown and **agreed by a majority (6 for – 4 against).**

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

- D St Swithun’s Church** – requesting a grant to purchase a refrigerator for Kennington Community Larder, in order to maintain relevant hygiene standards required for some of the produce distributed at the Kennington Centre. The community larder’s primary objective is to eliminate or at least reduce food wastage within the food supply chain. The larder also runs a café during the operating hours of the larder. The larder also continues to help families with food items where such is needed. There are over 110 members and serves on average of 100 at the weekly sessions. All through the hard work of around 30 volunteers.
- 377.24 It was agreed** that the council would give St Swithun’s Church a grant. This was proposed by Cllr. Brown seconded by Cllr. Buckingham and agreed unanimously.
- 378.24** A proposal was made by Cllr. Powles to grant the sum of £500, which was seconded by Cllr. Russell and **agreed by all.**

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform St Swithun’s Church of the council’s decision and arrange payment.

Correspondence for discussion/action - None

Correspondence forwarded to Councillors for information

- D** Councils take delivery of their first electric waste vehicle – Vale of White Horse District Council - posted on the website and on Facebook
- E** Major £340,000 investment in new gym equipment at Vale Leisure Centres in Wantage, Faringdon and Abingdon – posted on the website and on Facebook
- F** CONSULTATION – Various Roads (South & Vale Districts) - Proposed Disabled Persons Parking Places - posted on the website and on Facebook
- G** Scams awareness group talks available for local older people – forwarded to some village organisation, posted on the website and on Facebook.
- H** Adverse weather update – posted on the website and on Facebook
- I** Councils begin to decarbonise fleet with delivery of new Electric Vans – VoWHDC – posted on the website and on Facebook
- J** Council Services Over Christmas and New Year 2024/25 – VoWHDC – posted on the website and on Facebook
- K** Revamp to White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre reception complete – posted on the website and on Facebook
- L** OALC November update for member councils
- M** Revised TTRO (T14522) Temporary Road Closure - Kennington, Oxford Road – posted on the website and on Facebook
- N** The latest news for your communities – Oxfordshire County Council
- O** Vision for the future of sports pitches and leisure facilities approved – VoWHDC – posted on the website and on Facebook
- P** Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme update
- Q** Say ‘no no no’ to buying an e-scooter this Christmas – Posted on the Website and on Facebook
- R** Joint Local Plan 2041: Consultation on SA Technical Addendum

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- S** Invitation: OCC Climate Engagement Webinar
T Next steps in shaping our districts' future – Vale of White Horse DC
U A statement from Cllr Bethia Thomas, Leader of the Vale of White Horse District Council – Posted on the Website and on Facebook

Newsletters

- V** Rural Bulletins **W** Police & Crime Bulletin Nov '24 - National Insurance rise set to cost £1.3m
X Latest news from Healthwatch Oxfordshire **Y** November edition of Vale News for 2024
Z Welcome to your wild December – Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust

379.24 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 30 November 2024

Community Account	£500.00
Business Premium Account	108,277.30
National Savings & Investment Account	85,681.57
Public Sector Fund (CCLA account)	110,941.50
Total	305,400.37

Income received in November	
40th Sea Scouts	20.00
Wreath for 2024 Remembrance Day	
Oxford Preservation Trust	20.00
Wreath for 2024 Remembrance Day	
Kennington Methodist Church	20.00
Wreath for 2024 Remembrance Day	
Kennington Festival Group	20.00
Wreath for 2024 Remembrance Day	
Kennington Village Hall Management Committee	365.01
Play Area Inspections and 3 x months Calber emptying bins	
CCLA Investment Management Ltd	463.50
Income reinvestment between 31 October – 30 November 2024	

Direct debits to be paid in December		Power to Act
Virtual Landline Invoice No. 848220 (28 Nov – 28 Dec 24) subscription for virtual landline	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
PWLB Village hall loan repayment ref. PW463811	1,511.91	Local Government Act 1972
SSE Southern Electric – 01.6.24 – 30.10.24 Forest Side pavilion	44.25	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
Castle Water Playfield Road pavilion water supply 1 November – 30 November 2024	32.91	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Reference No. 2024/	Accounts to be paid in December		Power to Act
186	Mrs A E Feather Salary for November + pay increase backdated less tax, NI & pension contribution	1,583.12	Section 112 LGA 1972

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187	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for November	603.05	Section 111 LGA 1972
188	Mr J Satchell Salary for November + pay increase backdated less tax	532.69	Section 111 LGA 1972
189	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI contributions for November	813.81	Section 111 LGA 1972
190	Mr T Fleming War memorial grass cutting volunteer for November	£41.91	Section 111 LGA 1972
191	Mr A Cobb Chair's monthly allowance for November	73.69	Section 111 LGA 1972
192	Zoro UK Limited 6 rolls of blue paper towels 12 + 5l liquid soap for Playfield Rd pavilion	29.97	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
193	Eurooffice Ltd Stapler, copier paper, black sacks, laminating pouches + plastic pockets	69.52	Section 111 LGA 1972
194	Savills (on behalf of St John's College) Hire of Forest Side playing field 25.12.24 – 24.03.25	661.90	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
195	Attack Environmental Ltd Final visit to Playfield Road pavilion to collect rodent baiting stations	81.60	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
196	Adventis Digital Limited Web hosting & website managing for November	31.50	Section 111 LGA 1972
197	Kennington Chorale Grant agreed at November's meeting (minute Nos 322.24 & 323.24)	100.00	Section 137 LGA 1972
198	OALC AI in Action training for the Clerk	66.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
199	Holywell Press Printing – 250 x Christmas song sheets	247.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
200	Oxford Tree Surgeons Cut back oak by Village Hall £150 Beech Hedges & crown lifting around BMX track at Forest Side £550 Leylandii reduction at Forest Side £7,000 + VAT	9,240.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
201	Kennington Village Hall Room hire for November	119.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
202	Grundon Waste Management Ltd Playfield Rd wheelie bins – November £45.66 Forest Side wheelie bins – November £52.28 + VAT	117.53	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
203	Scorpion Signs 2 x Christmas banners	60.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
204	Eurooffice Ltd Set of Ink cartridges (2 x black)	208.57	Section 111 LGA 1972
205	Mrs A E Feather 2025 annual Microsoft 365 subscription	59.99	Section 111 LGA 1972
206	Mrs R Brown Food and drink for Carols around the Tree	115.17	Section 137 LGA 1972

Total transferred in December: £14,856.02

Castle Water – water supply for The War Memorial - £426.87 in credit as at 5 November 2024 – Invoice

dated 4 December 2024 of £8.86 brought credit balance down to £418.01.

380.24 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 November 2024.

381.24 The financial report was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Brown and voted unanimously.

382.24 BUDGET ESTIMATES AND PRECEPT FOR 2025-26

383.24 It was resolved to accept the budget estimates and precept for 2025-26. This was proposed by Cllr. Brown seconded by Cllr. Feather and voted unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Forward agreed precept of £151,238 to Vale of White Horse District Council

384.24 ACCEPTABLE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) POLICY

385.24 It was resolved that the Acceptable Use of Information and Communication Technology Policy had been reviewed and agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Andrews and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Update document on the Website and within the Documents review schedule

386.24 FINANCIAL COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

387.24 It was resolved that the Finance Committee's Terms of Reference had been reviewed and agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Andrews and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Update document on the Website and within the Documents review schedule

388.24 TREE AT THE WAR MEMORIAL

389.24 It was agreed that the council would leave the cutting down of the tree and monitor the situation in the spring.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform Oxford Tree Surgeons Limited of council's decision

390.24 OVERNIGHT PARKING AT FOREST SIDE CAR PARK

It was reported that both playing field car parks have signs not allowing overnight parking. Vehicle is parked over night, every night at Forest Side carpark and at the weekends, which can cause issues when football matches are played at this site.

391.24 It was agreed that the council would monitor the use of these car parks.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform owner/user of vehicle parking overnight at Forest Side that vehicle should not be parked in the car park overnight – putting letter on windscreen

392.24 FOREST SIDE PLAY AREA – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Cllr. Brown presented the results of the Public Consultation which closed on 30 November. The outcome was that 71% of those who voted are in favour of Option 4. 7.2% of those on Kennington's electoral roll voted. The Play Area Working Group will work together to move the project forward, contacting those firms who submitted one of the four options together with other companies offering to quote. Work towards a tender will commence, at the same time as applying for available grants.

ACTION FOR PLAY AREA WORKING GROUP – Preparing tender and applying for appropriate grants

393.24 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

394.24 Cllr. Brown -Village Hall Management Committee

Required confirmation as to tasks Village Hall Management Committee was being charged for as part of the hour per week of the Village Warden's time – should be emptying the litter bins and clearing rubbish around the village hall.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Make sure Village Warden is aware of the necessary tasks to carry out around the Village Hall on a weekly basis

395.24 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

396.24 Cllr. Buckingham

Cllr. Buckingham has decided to stand down from being a parish councillor. She feels she can no longer give it the time and attention that the post deserves. Councillors around the table were sad to see her resign, having enjoyed working with her throughout the years, but understand that other things, from time to time, take president. All the councillors wished Cllr. Buckingham well.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform Vale of White Horse District Council and advertise for a councillor to be co-opted onto the council

397.24 Cllr. Russell

Wished everyone a very Happy Christmas.

398.24 Cllr. Powles

Volunteered to take away the wreaths at The War Memorial

399.24 Cllr. Locklin

The litter pick that Cllr. Locklin had planned last month went well. She was accompanied by Cllr. Andrews and Angela from Wild about Kennington. They collected 5 sacks of litters together with bigger items not being able to move. A further litter pick is planned during December with any councillor welcome to come along to help.

Asked if any councillor knew anything about the traffic monitoring station along Bagley Wood Road. No-one was away of anything. It is assumed that OCC are carrying out monitoring in relation to the Lodge Hill scheme.

400.24 Cllr. Cobb

Cllr. Cobb asked Cllr. Buckingham if she had spoken with her builders regarding The War Memorial. Cllr. Buckingham would still like to be a member of The War Memorial Working Party.

401.24 Cllr. Jempson (read out by Clerk)

Action Fraud Website (AF) and contact details - Unfortunately, having recently been a victim of fraud and reading about the increase of scams happening in and around the UK. I feel it is important to help raise as much awareness as possible to our residents. Would the council be happy to add the AF's details onto the Parish Council website, social media page and also in the Kennington Chronicle Magazine?

402.24 It was agreed that the council would add this information on the Website's useful telephone numbers .

ACTION FOR CLERK – Post information onto website

Sandford Lane Stream - Concerns have been brought to my attention in connection to the stream and public safety. More and more children are using the Copse as a recreational space. There is a worry about children falling into stream, especially, when there is a flash flooding resulting in the stream's water level being significantly higher than normal. May I suggest we inform the landowner on this matter by letter? Is there anything the council can do to raise safety awareness to both Kennington & Redrow residents?

403.24 It was agreed that the council would in this instance write to the owner explaining the situation. It must be remembered that the land Cllr. Jempson is reporting is private and has nothing to do with the parish council, having not the responsibility for this continuing situation. Residents of Sandford Lane should be liaising directly with the land owner.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Post information onto website

404.24 Cllr. Andrews

Concerned about the closed Forest Side play area, if an accident happens, as children can still get in the area.

Reported the seat outside St Swithun's Church is in urgent mean of repair.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Investigate and arrange for repair

405.24 Cllr. Feather

Confirmed that arrangements needed to be made for the Christmas tree to be taken down between 3 – 6 January 2025. Cllr. Feather with contact The Lynch Brothers.

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

Vale is working on the **2025/26 budget** now and we will update you about coming changes. The budget will be presented to the Council for approval in February 2025. One of the recommended changes to Council Tax Reduction scheme is to extend backdated period from 6 months to 12 months. Wanted to remind that Vale provides Council tax discounts and exemptions where applicable - Council tax - Vale of White Horse District Council

Christmas Waste Collection changes and guidance can be found on the Vale of White Horse District Council's website.

Joint Local Plan (JLP) has now been submitted to the Government for the examination stage. The Planning Inspectorate will examine the JLP and assess whether it has been prepared in accordance with legal and procedural requirements. At the end of the public examination, the Inspector will conclude whether or not the plan is sound. In most cases the Inspector's report will recommend some changes that would allow the plan to be adopted. If successfully adopted, the plan would replace the existing Local Plans for both Vale and South.

407.24 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Johnston

My apologies, the meeting clashes with Radley PC whose last meeting I was unable to attend because of another clash. I fully support the draft proposals in the budget for 2025/26.

The County Council Tax is likely to rise by 5% next year. This includes a top up to keep Social Services afloat.

We expect a Government White Paper on Local Government next week, it is likely to propose the abolition of the District Councils, Unitaries and Combined Authorities with a Mayor. If the proposals are as sweeping as expected then the County elections next May are likely to be postponed for a year. If that happens I have agreed with my Group that I will stay on for an extra year rather than force an expensive by-election.

408.24 MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Forest Side play area rebuild

409.24 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS - None

Meeting closed at 9:10pm

Signed Date