

Kennington Parish Council
Oxfordshire
Minutes of the meeting held on
13 February 2025 at 7:30pm in the Village Centre

Present: Cllr. Brown Cllr. Cobb Cllr. Cuddy Cllr. Douglas Cllr. Gamble Cllr. Jempson
Cllr. Johnston Cllr. Locklin Cllr. Powles Cllr. Russell Cllr. Smith

In Attendance: Anne Feather (Clerk)

469.24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr. Andrews and Cllr. Feather and District Councillor Diana Lugova

470.24 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – None

471.24 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS – Cllr. Johnston declared his interest in the Correspondence for discussion/action (E) as he is the Chair of Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (OPFA). 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.

472.24 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting on 16 January 2025 as a true record.

473.24 REPORT OF THE CLERK - New issues

A Lady from the allotments by Red Bridge Hollow, was ringing around trying to find out which parish council looks after these plots, as they would like some wood chip delivered to the end of the drive. Clerk explained that it was most probably South Hinksey – which it was, but although it manages these allotments it will not help at all with the arrangement of delivering wood chippings, as the drive is in Kennington.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact lady explaining that Kennington Parish Council cannot do anything – allotments are managed by South Hinksey Parish Council.

B Concerned resident reported large potholes along the footpath at the entrance to The Tandem. Clerk reported via FixMyStreet (ref: 7091864). Requesting photos of potholes

ACTION FOR CLERK – To take photograph and send to FixMyStreet

C Received progress report from Wild about Kennington, with a request for the council to support it's project for a further two years. (Report attached)

ACTION FOR CLERK – Add as an agenda item on March's council meeting for future discussion

D Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – the district council is in the process of identifying any anticipated CIL monies that have been paid between 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025 that can be transferred to the parish council by 28 April 2025. They are reminding the council to ensure that a meeting is held for this to be formally discussed before 31 March 2025, at which the council needs to decide if it wishes the district council to hold these monies on the parish council's behalf, as the usual practice is for parish councils to have its CIL monies automatically transferred.

474.24 It was agreed that Kennington Parish Council would like any CIL monies automatically transferred to its bank account and not held by South and Vale on it's behalf. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – To inform South and Vale District Council of parish council's decision – to include minute number and date of meeting when this was agreed.

E Received email from resident: *'A car had been parked on the pavement in St Swithun's Road on axel stands for a week now .Its impossible to pass with a pushchair. I had to walk on the road with my*

grandson. Its completely selfish and unacceptable for someone to leave it like this and totally life risking for people with mobility issues /wheelchair users / young children in prams/ pushchairs. - I hope this issue can be addressed quickly.' Clerk reported to PCSO Maddie Highmoor who visited St Swithun's Road, vehicle was no longer there.

- F Resident just asking why trees are being planted that will just grow up onto the phone lines in a few years creating more costs. Resident emailed the Clerk: *'I have seen new trees planted on the verges in Bagley Close – how do we get one planted outside our house?'*

ACTION FOR CLERK – Respond explaining there was a Tree planting programme, which had been advertised around the village. Give resident contact details of OCC Tree Planting Team

Continuing issues

- G Responded to The Lawns development's proposed 20mph speed limit consultation supporting this limit.
- H Liaised with Utility Aid in setting up a new 36 month contract with Yorkshire Gas and Power (YGP) with regard to the supply of electricity to both Sports pavilions and the War Memorial. Cancelled smart meter installation at The War Memorial by SSE. YGP will be installing smart meters at all three sites. Meter readings given on 31.1.25
- I Clerk met with Mr Mastroddi for a pre-meet regarding the protocol for closure of Kennington Road is subjected to flooding. Cllrs. Cobb; Feather and Johnston, together with Mr Mastroddi met with Paul Wilson of OCC, to discuss and agree with what the future protocol in times of bad weather - copy of notes forwarded to councillors. It was suggested that the parish council could house the various signs, to be able to display, when instructed by OCC in times of flooding. Also suggested the benefit of purchasing empty sandbags in readiness for future events. **(See agenda item 18)**
- J Clerk reviewing the council's Emergency Plan, to include any agreed protocol for when Kennington Road is in flood with Cllr. Powles. Cllr. Russell volunteered to be on the contact list, with Cllr. Douglas volunteering to help with any task necessary in an emergency.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Amend Emergency Plan to include Cllrs. Russell and Douglas

- K Council copied in on a response from Radley Parish Council to an email sent by the Bursar at St Hilda's regarding Radley Large Wood – forwarded to councillors.
- L Updated Terms of Reference to both the Personnel and Playing Fields Committees, taking out Cllr. Buckingham's name and inserting Cllrs. Andrews and Douglas's respectively, posted on the website.
- M Responded to Clean Slate who requested a community grant, forwarding them to the Kennington Parish's website requesting they complete the grant application form.
- N Contacted BGG requesting a quote for cutting trees back along Cow Lane to enable the light from the street lights to illuminate the lane. At present the trees are hanging over and growing in front of the street lights.
- O Thames Water have 'made safe' the manhole cover outside 18 Kennington Road whilst they investigate whose asset it belongs to. The clanking remains – Clerk contacted TW again and raised another report. Being temporarily sorted before investigation occurs. Received response from Customer Relations officer: *'Apologies for the delay. Regrettably, this has been replanned for 13 February, due to other priority work, such as pollutions which our Network Engineers have needed to attend. I have expressed to our planners to avoid deallocating the new date if they can. I should be able to provide you with an update on Friday.'* Another TW manhole cover has become an issue, having not been put back properly after being listed up. Reported to the TW customer liaison officer requesting it be fixed on the same day as the original issue. No works were carried out on the rattling manhole cover or the new cover not having been shut properly.

ACTION FOR CLERK – To contact TW Customer Liaison Officer again

- P Wrote to The Friends of Kennington Library thanking them for what they do for Kennington residents and the library and informing them of the £125 collected as The Chair's 2024 Charity.

- Q** Wrote to the owner/occupier of 49 Playfield Road reassuring him that the council will review its decision for Christmas trees to be collected from the car park at Playfield Road next Christmas, due to their concerns of a fire risk to their property.
- R** Wrote to the driver of the minibus who parks overnight at Forest Side car park, requesting they find alternative parking arrangements due to the regulations around the no overnight parking at this car park.
- S** Informed Age UK Oxfordshire of the £50 grant awarded to them.
- T** Going forward, Clerk to email all papers; agendas and minutes to councillors – with councillors requesting hard copies, if needed, at meetings. Hard copies still to be delivered to the usual village organisations and posted on the village hall noticeboard.
- U** Contacted PCSO Highmoor, making her aware of the parking situation at the top of Poplar Grove and including the blind corner, where, at dropping off and picking up times for St Swithun's school, the parking of cars is resulting in a dangerous situation for other road users, including those riding bikes. Received response: ***'Please can I confirm, is this the end of Poplar Grove that has the double yellow lines painted on the roadside? If so, unfortunately there is little action that Police can take, since parking on these restrictions has been decriminalised, and is now enforced by Oxfordshire County Council. At my last 'Have Your Say' event in Kennington, some residents of Poplar Grove advised me that they had seen a Parking Enforcement Officer attend the location and issue tickets to vehicles parked on the double yellow lines. As you have mentioned, I believe that contacting the school would be a positive course of action to take. Unfortunately, the situation around parking at school pick up and drop off is the same for most schools, and is not one that is easily solved'***
- Asked whether parking on the bend causing danger is within the Police's remit. Response received: ***If any vehicle is parked on single or double yellow lines, then the road markings would supersede any Police enforcement. If there are no road markings, and a vehicle is parked within 10 metres of a junction, then Police have the power to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice to the vehicle. However, it is a very challenging piece of legislation to enforce, as I am sure you can appreciate in some cases it is can be difficult to confidently determine 10 metres without physically measuring the distance. Therefore, all Fixed Penalty Notices are issued at the discretion of each PCSO/Police Officer. In terms of a 'blind bend', this would be down to each PCSO/Police Officer's discretion as to whether they believe it is parked dangerously or is causing an obstruction. Ultimately, the vehicle will be assessed whether a vehicle is parked illegally or simply 'inconsiderately', which whilst I appreciate it is not ideal, a Fixed Penalty Notice cannot be issued for 'inconsiderate' parking. In order to issue a Fixed Penalty Notice for a vehicle causing an obstruction, the PCSO/Police Officer has to witness the obstruction occurring.***

ACTION FOR CLERK – To contact PCSO Maddie Highmoor requesting a presence in this area at either pick up or drop off times, as councillors felt it would be beneficial with regarding inconsiderate/dangerous parking

ACTION FOR CLERK – To contact OCC Deputy Civil Enforcement Manager requesting a presence in this area at either pick up or drop off times, as councillors felt it would be beneficial with regarding inconsiderate/dangerous parking, including parking on the double yellow lines.

- V** Contacted St Swithun's School making it aware of the current parking situation at the top of Poplar Grove and requesting something is included in the weekly Newsletter sent to all parents/guardians
- W** Cllr. Cuddy forwarded email received from OCC: ***'I wanted to let you know we have a process for waste collection, from cutting back verges / vegetation; Disposing of waste following the cutting back of vegetation before any collection is made, we require clear before and after photographs of the highway vegetation cut back, as well as a map or picture showing the stockpiling and its location. To ensure we provide value for money, our waste collection must be efficient in allocating resources. For minor waste items, we hope these can be placed in household bins. Please place in tonne bags or a tidy pile and leave on highway or common land, provided it does not obstruct passage or views. Email volunteercoordinationteam@oxfordshire.gov.uk with the photographs and map/location for collection. Collection approx. 2 week turnaround once recorded'***
- X** Received two quotes to carry out the maintenance on Forest Side BMX track. (See agenda item 16).

- Y** Could not pay Kennington Women's Institute's (WI) recent community grant into its bank account as it is too old. Can only be cheque or cash. Clerk delivered cheque to secretary of WI
- Z** Clerk prepared 2025/26 council meeting dates – on the Village Diary, with copies emailed to all councillors
- AA** Annual service carried out on all fire equipment at both pavilions on 24 January 2025.
- AB** Mick Herring carried out inspection of The Links play area – copies forwarded to all councillors, together with a report on the subsequent meeting with the Clerk. Clerk has cost of replacement timber uprights for the swings (**See agenda item 15**).
- AC** At the beginning of the year Grundon Waste Management, the company the council hire the wheelie bins from failed to collect rubbish from the green wheelie bin at Playfield Road as the bin had been contaminated with other non recyclable rubbish. Clerk requested the Football Club to make sure that this rubbish was taken out of the green bin. Clerk also sent an email to both the Football and Cricket clubs reminding them to lock this bin. Mark Baker from the Football Club explained that they do not use the green wheelie bins. Council paid £421.40 for green wheelie bins during 2024 and part 2023.
- 475.24 It was agreed** to extend the trial for three months and review, in the meantime contact all Football managers to make sure all were aware and to purchase clear re-cycling bin bags to make collecting green waste easier, before putting in the green wheelie bin. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Cllr. Locklin and agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform all Football managers about the green wheelie bins and the available clear re-cycling bin bags. Also put posters up at both pavilions reminding users of the green wheelie bins.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Add as an agenda item on June's council meeting for future discussion

- AD** Further to the council's Notice of Vacancy for a councillor at the beginning of January 2025 – VoWHDC has confirmed that it has received no requests for an election to be called so the council can therefore proceed to co-option of a councillor. Clerk to advertise co-option – which will hopefully be filled at April's council meeting, unless someone comes forward before March, then co-option could be filled at March's council meeting.
- AE** Reported the increasing graffiti on the columns under the by pass bridge via FixMyStreet (ref: 7086041). Received response: ***'We can only clear if it is racist, sexist, offensive or graphic. If you have any images so we can assess this but if you do not have any, please confirm the context of the graffiti.'***

ACTION FOR CLERK – To take photograph and send to FixMyStreet

- AF** Clerk contacted OCC again requesting confirmation of the Sandford Lane trash screen being one of its asset. Also suggested an appropriate platform together with safety railing be installed, which may encourage residents to clear screen themselves. Received response from Paul Wilson OCC Operations Manager: ***'The Cyclical team also form part of my team. Following our meeting last week I did make note of the concerns re the Sandford Lane trash screen, and that is certainly on my radar now. It does make sense to consider some form of platform, if nothing else to make it easier for our own teams to clear it, if other feel inclined then even better, but not something we would push as a recommendation.'*** Clerk responded requesting confirmation that trash screen is now on the cyclical programme of maintenance, together with requesting OCC's Asset number. Received email from Paul Wilson : ***'I have been discussing this with Gordon [Kelman] and we will be progressing the platform idea as soon as possible. Unfortunately the Trash Screen does not currently have an asset number'***.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Periodically ask for asset number of this trash screen

- AG** Village Garden Competition – Events committee requested Clerk to ask the Chair if the Gardening Club would be interested in taking on the Village Garden Competition.
- 476.24 It was agreed** that Clerk would write to Chair of Kennington Gardening Club to ask whether they would like to take over the running of the Village Garden Competition in partnership with the Events Committee. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – To contact the Chair of Kennington Gardening Club to ask whether they would like to take over the running of the Village Garden Competition

AH Contacted South and Vale again regarding the report of the damaged street sign outside St Swithun's Church. Received response: '***The order was submitted last week for a single sign to replace <-- Kennington Road and The Avenue -->. The names will be stacked one under the other. Installation should be within 8 weeks'***.

AI Requested quote from Purely Plants for this summer's plants for the village

AJ Contacted South and Vale Waste Technical Officer to ask if the issue regarding litter at the end of Sandford Lane had been graded, as planned. Received response: '***The litter levels in Sandford Lane recently have not been too bad. I think due to the time of year. In relation to a litter bin down there I think the easiest solution would be to remove the dog waste bin, which is not in great condition and replace it with a litter bin. They are all due purpose now so can be used for dog waste also. Can you let me know your thoughts?' Sandford Parish Council think this a good solution to the original request.***

477.24 It was agreed that removing the existing dog waste bin and replacing with a general litter bin would be an excellent idea.

ACTION FOR CLERK – To inform the Waste Technical Officer that the council thinks this would be a perfect solution (copy in Sandford Parish Council).

AK Received following email from South and Vale Systems accountant: '***As you are probably aware parishes and town councils who set a council tax precept of over £140,000 are required to provide a statement of expenditure and income for publishing on the council's website. Please can you let me have the statement for 2025/26 for Kennington Parish Council by the end of February.'***

Systems Accountant sent Clerk some examples of what other councils have produced. Clerk asked if Cllr. Brown could assist with the necessary financial statement.

ACTION FOR CLERK – With the help of Cllr Brown, to produce a statement of expenditure and income and forwarding to the Systems accountant by the end of February.

478.24 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUEST FOR GRANT AID

Requests for grants

A **Kennington Strollers** - requesting a grant to enable them to use Playfield Rd pavilion for every Wednesday from beginning of May through to end of September from 2pm until 4pm. The cost of the pavilion totals £378. Kennington Strollers has received grant within last 12 months, but is looking for agreement in principle to enable sufficient time for advertising to be arranged. Grant money could be allocated out of 2025/26 budget.

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

480.24 A proposal was made by Cllr. Smith to grant the sum of £378 from 2025-26's Budget, which was seconded by Cllr. Gamble and agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform Kennington Strollers of the council's decision and arrange payment in April 2025

Correspondence for discussion/action

B Community First Oxfordshire - invitation to renew membership for 2025/26 at a cost of £70

481.24 It was resolved that Kennington Parish Council would renew Community First Oxfordshire membership for 2025/2026. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed by all

ACTION FOR CLERK – Renew Community First Oxfordshire membership for 2025/26

C Community Fund is Open – Police and Crime Commissioner (TVP). Cllr. Cuddy volunteered to forward request for a fixed SID.

ACTION FOR CLERK CUDDY– Prepare and forward request for a fixed SID for the village

D Reduce litter in your Parish (especially dog poo bags and cigarettes!)

- E** Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (OPFA) – *‘As you’ll be aware we are the only not-for-profit organisation in Oxfordshire able to offer an impartial and comprehensive outdoor playing space advice service and work to ensure that everyone in the County has access to good quality local outdoor sport, play and recreation facilities. With that in mind, I am writing to offer to visit you or a member of your Council or committee to offer whatever assistance you feel may benefit. So, if you have a new project in mind, or are pondering the refurbishment of existing play or sports facilities please get in touch. You may also have some queries about the management of your facilities, which we could discuss with your particular circumstances in mind. There will be no charge!’* Councillors will bare this in mind when discussing The Links play area as part of the pavilion project.

Correspondence forwarded to Councillors for information

- F** Theft of vehicles – Thames Valley Police
- G** New Legislation – Get your business prepared for Simpler Recycling – Grundon Waste Management
- H** The latest news for your communities - OCC
- i** Environment Agency and government need to do more to prevent flooding in the Vale – VoWHDC - posted on the website and on Facebook.
- j** The county council must make its position on devolution geography clear – VoWHDC – posted on the website and on Facebook
- k** Shock at Network Rail’s disappointing announcement – VoWHDC – posted on the website and on Facebook
- L** Notification of withdrawal of the Oxford Local Plan 2040 – Oxford City Council
- M** Vale pledges to represent local communities following reservoir announcement – VoWHDC – posted on the website and on Facebook
- N** Call for sites for Local Plan 2042 – Oxford City Council
- O** Changes coming this spring to garden waste service in South and Vale – VoWHDC – posted on the website and on Facebook
- P** Man jailed for stealing more than £223,000 from small business – TVP – posted on the website and on Facebook
- Q** OCC Response following the formal consultation on the proposal by OCC to designate certain streets as traffic-sensitive (Summer 2024).
- R** Thames Valley Police launches antisocial behaviour campaign
- S** A34 Lodge Hill Progress Update – OCC
- T** Community Catalysts – a community Interest Company – project funded by OCC

Newsletters

- U** Happy New Year from all of us at CPRE **V** The Rural Bulletins
- W** The latest news from Healthwatch Oxfordshire **X** The January edition of Vale News for 2024
- Y** Police & Crime Bulletin Jan ‘25 - Crime prevention, shop theft & child abuse
- Z** Welcome to your wild February – Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOW)
- AA** Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre (TVERC) News Update - February 2025

482.24 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 31 January 2025

Community Account	£500.00
Business Premium Account	£92,430.89
National Savings & Investment Account	86,540.73
Public Sector Fund (CCLA account)	£111,828.78
Total	291,300.40

Income received in December	
HMRC VAT refund for Quarters 2 and 3 2024/25 (July - Sept & Oct – Dec))	6,469.76
CCLA Investment Management Ltd Income reinvestment between 1 January – 31 January 2025	449.36

Direct debits paid in January		Power to Act
Castle Water – 01.12.24 to 31.12.24 Playfield Road pavilion	30.72	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Direct debits to be paid in February		Power to Act
Virtual Landline Invoice No. 904499 (28 Jan– 28 Feb 25) subscription for virtual landline	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
EDF Playfield Road pavilion gas supply 1 January – 31 January 2025	37.10	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
SSE Southern Electric – 1.12.24 to 31.12.24 Forest Side pavilion £32.43 Playfield Road pavilion £72.70 + VAT	110.39	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP War Memorial February electric (Invoice No: 932693)	44.93	War memorial Act 1923
YGP Playfield Road pavilion February electric (Invoice No: 93247)	104.30	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP Forest Side pavilion February electric (Invoice No: 932631)	61.44	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
Castle Water – 01.01.25 to 31.01.25 Playfield Road pavilion	23.51	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Reference No. 2024/	Accounts to be paid in February		Power to Act
224	Mrs A E Feather Salary for January less tax & pension contribution	1,485.90	Section 112 LGA 1972
225	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for January	534.15	Section 111 LGA 1972
226	Mr J Satchell Salary for January	574.55	Section 111 LGA 1972
227	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI contributions for January	507.24	Section 111 LGA 1972
228	Mr T Fleming War memorial grass cutting volunteer for January	£41.91	Section 111 LGA 1972
229	Mr A Cobb Chair's monthly allowance for January	73.69	Section 111 LGA 1972
230	SLCC Annual Membership for 2025/26	190.00	Section 137 LGA 1972
231	River Thames Society Annual Membership for 2025	15.00	Section 137 LGA 1972

232	Age UK Oxfordshire Grant agreed at January's meeting (Minute Nos: 418.24 & 419.24)	50.00	Section 137 LGA 1972
233	** Adventis Digital Limited Domain name registration (annual fee)	45.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
234	Kennington Village Hall Room hire for January	60.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
235	Grundon Waste Management Ltd Playfield Rd wheelie bins – January £84.42 Forest Side wheelie bins – January £86.89	171.31	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
236	M R H services To carry out a quarterly inspection for The Links and the Village Hall play areas	115.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
237	OALC Preparing for Year End and Audit	60.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
238	M R H services To carry out inspection of Forest Side play area	50.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
239	Mrs A E Feather Oct's & Nov's extra mailbox space (Fasthosts) 2 x 2.40	52.19	Section 111 LGA 1972
240	Attack Environmental Ltd Rats in loft at Playfield Road pavilion – initial treatment + 2 follow up visits	254.40	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
241	Churches Fire Security Ltd Annual Fire Equipment Inspection for Forest Side Pavilion Annual Fire Equipment Inspection for Playfield Rd Pavilion	106.30	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Total transferred £ 4,386.64

Castle Water – water supply for The War Memorial - £411.34 in credit as at 8 January 2025 – Invoice dated 6 February 2025 of £9.07 brought credit balance down to £402.27.

** Due to online banking issues last month, payment ref: 2024/218 (Adventis) was paid twice = £63.00.

To correct this – February's invoice for £31.50 will not be paid.

483.24 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 January.

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

485.24 Cllr. Jempson carried out Internal Financial Control checks for quarter 2 which was noted.

486.24 MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 4 February 2025 were noted.

487.24 MINUTES OF PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 29 January 2025 were noted.

488.24 MINUTES OF EVENTS COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the Events Committee meeting held on 6 February 2025 were noted.

489.24 COMMUNITY GRANT POLICY

There were a few alterations necessary.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Add as an agenda item on March's council meeting

490.24 CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

There were a few alterations necessary.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Add as an agenda item on March's council meeting

491.24 DISCIPLINARY AND GRIEVANCE POLICY

492.24 It was agreed that the Disciplinary and Grievance Policy be adopted. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Powles and agreed unanimously.

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

493.24 SICKNESS ABSENCE POLICY

494.24 It was resolved that the Sickness Absence Policy had been reviewed and agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Powles and agreed unanimously.

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

495.24 It was also agreed that the duplicate policy entitled Sickness and Pay Policy can be archived and taken off the Document Schedule. This was proposed by Cllr. Gramble seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Take the Sickness and Pay Policy off the Website and Document Schedule.

496.24 BIODIVERSITY POLICY

497.24 It was agreed that the Biodiversity Policy be adopted. This was proposed by Cllr. Cllr. Brown seconded by Cllr. Cobb and agreed unanimously.

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

498.24 FOREST SIDE PLAY AREA UPDATE

499.24 It was agreed that the Invitation to Tender for Forest side Play Area be published using Contract Finder on 18 February 2025. With a tender offer submission deadline of 1300hrs on 31 March 2025. This was proposed by Cllr. Douglas seconded by Cllr. Locklin and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLLR BROWN – To set council up with an on line Supplier Registration account to enable the council to use the Contract Finder

500.24 It was agreed that a Lottery grant application of £50,000.00 be made as soon as possible. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLLR LOCKLIN – To send off the application form

501.24 It was agreed that a FCC Communities Foundation grant application of £52,540.00 be made as soon as possible. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLLR BROWN – To send off the application form

502.24 It was agreed that the council is happy to make a contribution of £5,610.43 with the Clerk confirming this in writing together with this minute No.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Confirm council is happy to make a £5,610.43 contribution including minute No of council's decision.

503.24 It was agreed that the Clerk has the authority to sign on Kennington Parish Council's behalf for the Forest Side play area project. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed unanimously.

504.24 It was agreed that the estimate from M R H Services of £3,545.21 be accepted to reinstate the play equipment and enabling the play area to be re-opened. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Russell and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform M R H Services of Council's decision and send Purchase order for works

505.24 THE LINKS PLAY AREA UPDATE

506.24 It was agreed that four timber uprights for The Links swings would be purchased at the estimate given by the manufacturers. This was proposed by Cllr. Jempson seconded by Cllr. Locklin and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Send purchase order to Proludic for £810.22 (+VAT) for the four timber uprights

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform Mick Herring of delivery date of posts when known

507.24 It was agreed that the construction of a pathway would be better than a walkway. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Russell and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform M R H services of council's decision and ask for quote, including a picture of final pathway

Mick Herring recommended erecting a fence at the top of the slope to prevent children from falling.

508.24 It was agreed that as there has been no incidents since the play area was built some two years ago a fence/barrier is not needed, and in fact concerns were raised that children may climb the fence, increasing the height of any fall. The council felt that exposing children to the possibility of risk should be seen as a positive life skill.

Mick Herring has replaced the broken matting at the bottom of the slide in The Links, with a 1m² rubber mat, the soil he had to dig out he has spread over the uneven area where the sandpits were. He has asked if the Village Warden could rake out, using more top soil from the mole hills around the field – the council can then get grass seed, sow and fence off. This will then be safe for children within a short time.

509.24 It was agreed that filling in the uneven area when the sandpits were located was a good idea and that having a grassed area would be more suitable.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Purchase some grass seed and ask the Village Warden to sow and erect fence around area.

510.24 FOREST SIDE BMX TRACK

511.24 It was agreed that the council would request quotes from more companies, with the Clerk returning next month with prices

ACTION FOR CLERK Obtain more quotes

ACTION FOR CLERK – Add as an agenda item on March's council meeting

512.24 PLAYFIELD ROAD PAVILION 2025-26 HIRE FEES

513.24 It was agreed that the hire fees recommended by the Playing Fields Committee be accepted. This was proposed by Cllr. Jempson seconded by Cllr. Douglas and agreed unanimously.

514.24 FUTURE FLOODING ON KENNINGTON ROAD

515.24 It was agreed that councillors would/could put out signs, once instructed to by OCC Highways, signs could be safely stored within the green container, provided OCC provide additional signs if signs need to be put out in the middle of the night by OCC officers. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Cuddy and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform Paul Wilson, of OCC Highways and ask for protocol and sign location map for inclusion within the Community Emergency Plan.

516.24 It was agreed that 200 empty hessian sand bags be purchased in preparation of any flooding – to be stored in the green container. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Douglas and agreed with one abstention. Clerk would also purchase a roll of polythene to be used in conjunction with the sand bags

ACTION FOR CLERK – To purchase 200 empty sandbags and roll of polythene.

517.24 BOTLEY WEST SOLAR PROJECT

518.24 After discussion it was agreed that as this is likely to happen council commented as follows:

Propose: they seed the meadow with grass and flowers for pollination; the land is used for extensive sheep grazing and that the solar panels are elevated to allow the free movement of animals to graze.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Register with the Planning Inspectorate and submit above comments

519.24 APRIL'S VILLAGE MEETING

The Events Committee reported that this year's Annual Village Meeting will be similar to last year's event, although due to the effect of elections on 1 May the County and District councillors will be unable to report on the past year. The committee is considering ways that candidates could be invited to meet with residents.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Include agenda in Kennington Chronicle

ACTION FOR CLERK – Send out invitations to all village organisations

520.24 VE DAY – DINNER AND DANCE

The Events Committee is organising a Dinner and Dance (100 tickets) to take place in the Village Hall on Saturday 3 May to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. The Bob Cutting Big Band will be playing big band music. The £20 adult; £15 child ticket will include fish and chip supper (provided by Ocean Blue in Kennington) plus a welcome drink. There will be a bar. It is hoping that the event will be self funding but council funds are available if necessary. Any monies made will be sent to the Royal British Legion.

ACTION FOR CLERK – To produce poster

ACTION FOR CLERK – Include poster in March and April's Kennington Chronicle

521.24 LINKS BETWEEN COUNCIL AND ST SWITHUN'S SCHOOL

522.24 It was resolved that the council would approach the school to request a councillor become a school governor, as was the case some years ago.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact the Head Teacher requesting the council could become involved in the school governors

523.24 PROPOSED CHANGES IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In light of recent news, it was felt that this agenda item need not be discussed. OCC will make further proposals in March – combine with a final proposal in place by November.

524.24 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

525.24 Church/Community Larder – Cllr. Andrews (report forwarded for meeting)

The Community Larder now has c. 130 members with over 100 regularly coming every week. If any councillor would like to visit one week, or see the complex set up process before opening do let me know. The church is aware that there can occasionally be safety issues for pedestrians navigating the car park at busy times and will look at options. I suggested that a footpath would be ideal and this will be discussed.

526.24 Library – Cllr. Andrews (report forwarded for meeting)

The Friends of Kennington Library are advertising for more trustees as part of their future/succession planning. They have already recruited 3 fantastic new people and ideally need 1 - 3 more particularly those with admin, membership, events or fundraising skills. This need is due to many current trustees wanting to retire (many over 80). FOKL already have a strong team, and many plans, but want to augment it further

527.24 Kennington Village Centre – Cllr. Smith

Fire Safety Risk Assessment has been recently undertaken, which has flagged up a few areas to be sorted. Hall bookings are up.

528.24 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

529.24 Cllr Gamble reported that he was attending a meeting with Radley Parish Council and Radley College regarding the college's 20 acre field.

530.24 Cllr. Locklin reported that she recently assisted with the annual toad patrol along Oxford Road, she, along with others picked up 12 sacks of rubbish, including an office chair; clothes and the front of a car. She also reported that residents can register as a Community Litter Picker.

ACTION FOR CLLR LOCKLIN – To send Clerk details of how to register

Cllr. Locklin suggested that may be the council could invite professional graffiti artists to create something on the by pass bridge columns.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Add as an agenda item on March's council meeting for future discussion

531.24 Cllrs Powles and Cobb thanked those councillors who have attended event meetings and those who are giving up their time to carry out the necessary works in registering applications for the funding for Forest Side play area – it is all very much appreciated.

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

Vale has Budget Council meeting on Wed, 12th February – and we will update you on Thursday during PC meeting. Budget setting 2025/26 includes £5 increase for Band D which will be £161.69.

Council meeting on Local Government Reorganization (which targets County and District Councils) takes place on 19th February and we will provide update after the meeting. The letter sent to all Oxfordshire DCs <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-government-reorganisation-invitation-to-local-authorities-in-two-tier-areas/letter-oxfordshire> and Government is expecting proposals/plans regarding unitary structure from DCs with the following timeline: interim plans submitted by 21 March 2025 and full proposal to be submitted by 28 November.

School mid-term. Fun games, badminton, football and pickleball are just some of the free and low-cost activities available for children and their families to enjoy this February half-term, hosted by South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils. The link is here

<http://www.southandvale.gov.uk/holidayactivities>

Reminder about Garden Waste changes coming from 1st April 2025. To receive garden waste collections from 1 April 2025, residents must purchase an annual permit which will replace existing direct debits.

What residents need to do starting from the end of February: visit

www.southandvale.gov.uk/GardenWastePermit to make a one-off, annual payment for garden waste collections. The permit will be issued and sent by post and it should be stuck to the lid of their brown bin. It will be a sign for garden waste collectors.

533.24 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Johnston

The County Council elections will now definitely take place on Thursday the 1st of May. I shall not be seeking re-election having been a County Councillor since 1993 with one brief gap.

The 11th of February will be budget day for the County. I understand that three budgets will be presented. From previous experience the most likely outcome is a budget with elements from at least two of these. I hope to give an oral update at the meeting.

It is hoped the rest of the crossing in St Swithun's Road will be installed at the end of the month. It would appear that there is a shortage of beacons!

Lodge Hill is now going ahead at speed with a compound for the construction to be established shortly.

534.24 MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Wild About Kennington
Community Grant Policy
Child Safeguarding Policy
Forest Side BMX track

Official graffiti artist for bridge columns.

535.24 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – None

Meeting closed at 9:20pm

Signed Date