

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

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

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

536.24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr. Smith

537.24 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – None

538.24 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS – Cllr. Brown declared her interest in the Correspondence Report as she is an employee of Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) and there is a an invitation from OALC to renew the council's membership for 2025/26. Cllr. Johnston also declared his interest in the Correspondence Report as he is Chairman of Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (OPFA) and there is a an invitation from OPFA to renew the council's membership for 2025/26. Cllrs. Andrews and Gamble declared their interest in Agenda Item 15 as they are members of Wild About Kennington.

539.24 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting on 13 February 2025 as a true record.

540.24 REPORT OF THE CLERK - New issues

- A** Freedom of Information request - Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 – Clerk responded.
- B** Received request from Ground Control, who maintain the trees along the overhead power network on behalf of SSEN, if trees at the beginning of the path from St Swithun's Road up to the Playing field belong to the council. Are not the council's – private drive up to residential houses further up the drive.
- C** Refrigerator dumped at the beginning of Forest Side – Village Warden disposed of.
- D** Resident reported prickly branches sticking out along The Avenue pavement, opposite the old dentist, which are not easy to avoid. Reported via FixMyStreet Ref No: 7240556
- E** Received following from resident: *'I was wondering about the process for getting a tennis court built in Kennington? We have two existing recreation grounds (Forest Side and Kennington Memorial Field) and I was wondering whether one might be built in one of them? What's the process to see if this is possible?'*

541.24 It was agreed that this suggestion of a tennis court be discussed at the Annual Village Meeting. This suggestion will also be added onto the list of ideas for Playfield Road.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact resident reminding them of the Annual Village Meeting in April as it is hoped this suggestion will be discussed.
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- F** Resident requested details of Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT), as they wanted to report youths on electric bikes and scooters on the Sustrans track and using OPT land to zoom around. There are becoming more young lads that are zooming around on electric bikes around this area. Resident also noticed they have been in the village, coming out of Sandford Lane, not looking and going straight across the road. Clerk recommended reporting to PCSO Maddie Highmoor.

Continuing issues

- G** Contacted person from South Hinksey Parish Council allotments, explaining it would be up to South Hinksey to manage this site.
- H** Forwarded photographs of the potholes outside The Tandem as requested by FixMyStreet (ref: 7091864), which has since been repaired.

- I Forwarded information regarding the OCC Tree Planting Programme, as resident was interested in having a tree planted outside their house.
- J Written to the Chair of Kennington Gardening Club to ask whether they would be interested in taking over the running of the village's Annual Graden Competition. Response received: ***'The idea of Kennington Garden Club taking over responsibility for this competition was discussed at our committee meeting on 17 February, but unfortunately we agreed that we are not in a position to do this. While we have sympathy with the aims of this competition, we do not feel that the results justify the amount of effort that is needed to run it effectively. I am sorry to have to reply to you in the negative'***.
- K Updated the Community Emergency Plan to include Cllrs. Douglas and Russell – contacted Mr Mastroddi to check whether he had any contact details of residents willing to collect sand for sandbags in the event of a flood.
- L The manhole covers outside Nos 18 and 13 Kennington Road were repaired on 14 February 2025.
- M Contacted the South and Vale Waste Technical Officer that replacing the dog waste bin with a general litter bin at the end of Sandford Lane would seem a perfect solution to the litter issue, as does Sandford Parish Council.
- N Village Warden purchased some grass seed, prepared ground and sowed seed at The Links, putting a protective fence around area.
- O Uploaded the Biodiversity; Sickness Absence and Disciplinary and Grievance policies onto the website and updated the Document Schedule.
- P Wrote letter to FCC Communities Foundation confirming Clerk has authorisation to sign on the parish council's behalf. (minute no 505.24) Also wrote letter to FCC Communities Foundation confirming that the parish council is happy to make the £5,610.43 contribution (minute no 504.24)
- Q Prepared documents/letters as part of grant applications for Forest Side play area, and forwarded to Cllr. Brown
- R Cllr. Brown submitted the FCC Communities Foundation grant application for Forest Side play area.
- S Cllr. Brown set council up with an online Supplier Registration account to enable the council to use the Contract Finder and submit a tender for Forest Side play area. **(agenda item 14)**
- T Ordered and received the four timber upright posts for The Links swings from Proludic. Informed Mick Herring, who plans to carry out work on the swings next week. Requested a quotation for the pathway suggested by M R H services for the council to consider.
- U Sent purchase order to M R H Services to request works start as soon as possible on Forest Side play area so that it can be re-opened as soon as can be arranged.
- V Registered with the Planning Inspectorate (Ref No: 20054737) and submitted comments regarding the Botley West Solar Project.
- W Received letter from Headteacher of St Swithun's School regarding the parking issues on Poplar Grove, explaining that they had included a paragraph in the school's weekly newsletter to parents about this.
- X Clerk copied into a response from Judy Roberts (OCC councillor for North Hinksey) of resident's complaint around the unfinished St Swithun's pelican crossing. ***'understand that Sharaz Arif has already replied to update you on these matters, however I can confirm that the delayed Beacon lights have arrived and our contractors have managed to bring the works forward to Monday 24th February, which is also an inset day at St. Swithun's C of E Primary School, therefore the intention is for all works will be completed before the school reopens after the February half term. As previously advised regarding the concerns you raise about the crossing, our contractors, Milestone, and OCC Road Safety team have advised that the works have been left in a safe condition, replicating the pre-existing informal crossing. The only indication of the forthcoming increased provision is the installation of the red tactile paving. The temporary signage indicates that the control of the crossing is not currently operating, so vehicles are not expected to stop for pedestrians, who should use caution when crossing informally. There was 'keep clear' marking installed previously in an attempt to keep the carriageway clear for pedestrians to cross the carriageway, but it should be noted that the marking in question is advisory and not regulatory so has no legal standing, pedestrians should not attempt to cross unless it is safe to do so in either scenario. It is not prudent to install 'keep clear' road markings for a short period of time before the crossing itself is installed, as the new surface could be damaged whilst removing the 'keep clear'***

marking to allow for the installation of the crossing markings.’ Pelican crossing completed as promised on 24 February 2025.

- Y Received final response from SSE regarding a complaint Clerk opened in April 2024: ***‘I’ve reviewed the information you provided and compared it with the records we have on our system. I can confirm that everything is correct. Your bills have been based on actual usage, and your final meter reading was also based on actuals. If you have any further questions or need additional clarification, please feel free to reach out.’***

542.24 It was agreed that Kennington Parish Council would close this complaint

ACTION FOR CLERK – Confirm this complaint can now be closed with SSE

- Z Sent South and Vale Systems Accountant a summary of expenditure and income as Kennington’s precept exceeds £140,000, as requested.
- AA Resident living on the north end of Poplar Grove contacted Clerk asking if any trees where to be planted at the top of Poplar Grove as there are none. Clerk explained that it was the OCC’s programme of tree planting but if in the future OCC request the planting of future trees that this area will be suggested to them.
- AB Received email from Wild About Kennington requesting additional areas are not cut due to the daffodils and crocuses having been planted. Clerk has requested BGG do not cut any of these areas until after March’s Council meeting. **(agenda item 15)**
- AC Purchased clear sacks for use in collecting re-cyclable waste before placing in the green re-cycling wheelie bins at both pavilions. Posters also produced to request this be carried out.
- AD Clerk and Ann Charlett met with Roger Dennett and Brian and Isabel Baggott regarding where to locate the memorial bench for the late Colin Charlett within Kennington cemetery. A position was agreed, being in the far corner of the cemetery. Clerk requested Church forward the cost of bench together with installation.
- AE Contacted Kay Card, who has kindly volunteered to sell tickets for the Council’s VE day Dinner and Dance event in May, with the council’s bank details. It has been arranged that all enquiries go through the Clerk and forwarded to Kay.
- AF Received photographs of the War Memorial from Rosey Hollinrake showing what can be done ***‘cost free year on year, as it happens as a result of bulbs and perennials’*** Councillors were very pleased with how The War Memorial is looking at the moment, with low level plants looking good.
- AG Street sign outside St Swithun’s Church ‘The Avenue & Kennington Road’, has been replaced.
- AH Fasthost prices are increasing to an annual payment of £139.15 – council’s contract runs out in June – Adventis has given prices to look after hosting and website. (£347.40)

ACTION FOR CLLR. CUDDY – Investigate prices before renewal of Fasthosts agreement

- AI Received notification that YGP is going to upgrade the electricity meters to new smart meters. This will be for both pavilions and the at the War Memorial.
- AJ Received notification that M R H Services, will be increasing its fees for the quarterly inspections of the play areas from £115 to £124.50. This increase is regretfully being increased due to costs in fuel, sundries and storage.
- AK Received quote from BGG regarding cutting back trees along Cow Lane of £563.27. Clerk will get additional quotes for this work – was led to believe it would be a small job.
- AL Paid £1156.00 in respect of the Playing Road pavilion rebuilding planning application fee. P25/V0359/FUL
- AM Requested three additional quotes for carrying out maintenance to the Forest side BMX Track. One company would like to quote but would need to visit the site to understand quantities, team size and time required - There is a fee for the site visit and inspection of £750 +VAT.
- AN Contacted OCC Highways to ask if they could arrange for gullies around The War Memorial be emptied again.
- AO Contacted OCC Traffic Officers team requesting when they are patrolling within the village that they go to the top of Poplar Grove during school drop off or pick up times, due to the inconsiderate / dangerous parking taking place around these times. Response received: ***‘I have requested our parking contractors,***

Trellint to deploy a Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) to the area at school times to ascertain the parking situation. If a vehicle is observed parked in breach of the restrictions in place, after an observation time a Penalty Charge Notice will be issued. However, if residents continue having problems with vehicles contravening the parking restrictions they may report any illegally parked vehicles using the online web form, which is monitored daily by our parking contractors. The link is <https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/reportparkedvehicle>

Clerk also contacted PCSO Maddie Highmoor requesting a presence from time to time, which the councillors feel would be beneficial. Response received: ***'Unfortunately, due to the sheer number of schools that are located within the geographical area that my team cover, we are often unable to provide a policing presence during school pick up and drop off times. As I am sure you can appreciate, there are unfortunately issues with school parking around most schools. Nevertheless, if I find myself in and around the area during these times, I will of course address any dangerous parking that I come across.'***

543.24 It was agreed that this issue would form part of the article in next month's Kennington Chronicle, explaining that residents' concerns have been raised with both the police and OCC Civil Enforcement Officer. Also for the Clerk to contact OCC Highways to request additional markings at the top of Poplar Grove denoting the 10m point away from the junction

ACTION FOR CLERK – Include this issue in the Council's Chronicle article

ACTION FOR CLERK – Request OCC add marking to denote 10m from the junction to The Avenue

AP Informed Paul Wilson, from OCC that councillors would be happy to put out road signs in times of flooding, providing OCC would provide additional signs if any had to be erected during the middle of the night. Also requested protocol that could be included in the village's Community Emergency Plan.

AQ Asked Mrs Knighton, St Swithun's school head teacher, if the council could be part of the governing board.

AR Received email from Revd Samson Kuponiyi regarding Kennington twinning with Musanda. As part of this email Revd Samson ***'formally invites the Parish Council to the event (Towards Twinning – 3pm on 18/05/25) and to ask that a PC representative welcome the visitors (and others) at the event. Also to inform you of the proposed launch date (11/10/25), outline of activities at the launch (above) and support in the following areas.***

- o The signs to be put up in our village***

- o hall rental for the launch***

- o and tree to be planted***

- We envisage the Parish Council will play important role at the event and therefore are asking for the Chair of the PC and as many Councillors as possible to be at the event.***

544.24 It was agreed that both Chair and Vice-chair accept Revd Samson Kuponiyi's kind invitation to the event on 18 May and would be willing to welcome the visitors. Cllrs. Andrews and Gamble plan to attend, with other councillors hoping to also be there. Several councillors plan to attend the launch of the twinning in October 2025.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact Revd Samson Kuponiyi confirming acceptance to his kind invitation to the event on 18 May on behalf of the parish council
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ACTION FOR CLERK – Confirm the cost to supply and fit the twinning signs and report at next meeting
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AS Contacted Zurich Insurance requesting a parish council quote for 2025/26 – renewal quote will be sent out on 11 April (50 days before end of contract) being 31 May 2025.

AT Resident has cut up as much of the branches of the fallen tree in Playfield Road playing field as can be done with his equipment. Most of this wood has been taken by village residents as advertised in last month's chronicle. Resident contacted Clerk explaining that this tree was exactly on the boundary.

545.24 It was agreed that council would thank the resident for all their efforts in clearing away the many branches from the fallen tree back in November, and will, in the fullness of time, as part of further tree work, deal with the trunk of the tree that is left.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write to resident thanking them for arranging to clear more of the branches of the fallen tree and to confirm that the parish council will deal with what is now left.

AU Sent out invitations to all village organisations to the Annual Village Meeting on 23 April 2025

546.24 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUEST FOR GRANT AID

Requests for grants

A Received request from The Abingdon Bridge for a 2025-26 community grant for £800. (Abingdon Bridge received a community grant of £500 this financial year). Requested copy of accounts, forwarded same as last year – requested 2024-25s. (Completed application form sent 19 February 2025) – will forward copy of accounts as soon as they are completed. Gary Hibbins (CEO) would like to attend April's council meeting to answer any questions that may arise.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact The Abingdon Bridge to confirm Gary Hibbins attendance at next month's council meeting

Correspondence for discussion/action

B Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) - invitation to renew membership for 2025/26 at a cost of £943.18

547.24 It was resolved that Kennington Parish Council would renew OALC membership for 2025/2026. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Powles and agreed by all

ACTION FOR CLERK – Renew OALC membership for 2025/26

C Oxford Greenways Project - public engagement on initial proposals – posted on the website and on Facebook. The consultation page is open until 18 March 2025.

D Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (OPFA) - invitation to renew membership for 2025/26 at a cost of £85.00

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

ACTION FOR CLERK – Renew OPFA membership for 2025/26

E Flood project funding Expressions of Interest - OCC Priority Action flood projects 2025/6

549.24 It was agreed that Kennington Parish Council would request funding for 200 sandbags and roll of polythene for use in times of flooding at the north of the village

ACTION FOR CLERK – Request funding for sandbags and polythene

Correspondence forwarded to Councillors for information

F Vale's 2025-26 budget ensures essential services and excellent value – posted on the website and on Facebook

G Home-Start Oxford in your parish – volunteering opportunities and funding.

H Theft of Number Plates & Prevention – TVP – posted on the website

I All the updates from the latest Vale Council meeting – posted on the website and on Facebook

J Does Your Parish /Community Want to Become Part of Oxford Unitary Authority? If Not We Need To Act Now

K Thank you letter from Kennington Women's Institute for the council's recent community grant

L TTRO (T15178) Temporary Road Closure - Sandford on Thames, Heyford Hill - posted on the website and on Facebook

M Have your say on how we provide homes to those in most need – VoWHDC - posted on the website and on Facebook

N A new council for the Vale, South Oxfordshire and West Berkshire – VoWHDC – posted on the website and on Facebook

O Protect yourself from holiday fraud: don't let fraudsters trip you up this summer – posted on the website

- P** Councils offer help to bring empty homes into use – VoWHDC – posted on the website and on Facebook
- Q** Have your say on our Charity Collections Policy – VoWHDC – posted on the website and on Facebook
- R** New plan to help power Oxfordshire using local renewable energy – VoWHDC – posted on the website and on Facebook
- S** OALC February update for member councils
- T** Reduction in bank interest for council's business account - Barclays
- U** New garden waste permit payment system rolls out this week – VoWHDC – posted on the website and on Facebook – posters on all village noticeboards
- V** The latest news for your communities - OCC
- W** A message from Upper Thames Branch AGM
- X** DEFRA's New Waste Legislation
- Y** Rural Housing Event – 3 April - INVITATION
- Z** Appeal for witnesses following burglaries – Thames Valley Police
- AA** Future developments for Oxfordshire South & Vale Citizens Advice
- AB** Have your say on our Housing Allocations Policy – VoWHDC – Posted on Facebook

Newsletters

- AC** The Rural Bulletins **AD** The February edition of Vale News for 2025 - VoWHDC
- AE** CPRE Oxfordshire - February News **AF** Community First Newsletter
- AG** Police & Crime Bulletin Feb '25 - antisocial behaviour; drug dogs and more...
- AH** The latest news from Healthwatch Oxfordshire
- AI** RSN Rural Funding Digest - March 2025
- AJ** Welcome to the spring edition of our magazine – Age UK Oxfordshire

550.24 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 28 February 2025

Community Account	500.00
Business Premium Account	86,498.73
National Savings & Investment Account	86,540.73
Public Sector Fund (CCLA account)	112,276.62
Total	£285,816.08

Income received in March	
CCLA Investment Management Ltd	447.84
Income reinvestment between 31 January – 28 February 2025	

Direct debits to be paid in March		Power to Act
Virtual Landline Invoice No. 935365 (28 Feb – 28 Mar 25) subscription for virtual landline	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
EDF Playfield Road pavilion gas supply 31 January – 28 February 2025	28.54	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
SSE Southern Electric – 26.11.24 to 31.01.25 Forest Side pavilion £30.51 Playfield Road pavilion £58.52 The War Memorial £2.58	91.61	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 The War Memorial Act 1923
YGP War Memorial February electric (Invoice No: 950690)	36.76	War memorial Act 1923
Castle Water – 01.02.25 to 28.02.25 Playfield Road pavilion	39.68	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Reference No. 2024/	Accounts paid in February		Power to Act
242	Vale of White Horse District Council Planning application fee for Playfield Road pavilion P25/V0359/FUL	1,156.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Reference No. 2024/	Accounts to be paid in March		Power to Act
243	Mrs A E Feather Salary for February less tax & pension contribution	1,297.13	Section 112 LGA 1972
244	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for February	465.21	Section 111 LGA 1972
245	Mr J Satchell Salary for February	574.55	Section 111 LGA 1972
246	Mr T Fleming War memorial grass cutting volunteer for February	£41.91	Section 111 LGA 1972
247	Mr A Cobb Chair's monthly allowance for February	73.69	Section 111 LGA 1972
248	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI contributions for February	425.24	Section 111 LGA 1972
249	Community First Oxfordshire Annual Membership for 2025/26	70.00	Section 137 LGA 1972
250	Stanhope Wilkinson Associates Professional services in connection with the Playfield Road Pavilion replacement building project	2,400.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
251	4 Acre Ecology Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Biodiversity Net Gain in relation to the Playfield Road Pavilion replacement building project	1,888.80	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
252	Adventis Digital Limited Web hosting & website managing for February	31.50	Section 111 LGA 1972
253	Kennington Village Hall Room hire for February	85.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
254	Grundon Waste Management Ltd Playfield Rd wheelie bins – February £83.38 Forest Side wheelie bins – February £61.68	145.06	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
255	Savills (on behalf of St John's College) Hire of Forest Side playing field 24.03.25 – 23.06.25	661.90	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
256	M R H services To carry out necessary works at The Links play area	579.58	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
257	Zoro UK Ltd Cleaning supplies, black sacks and paper towels	99.96	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
258	Mrs A E Feather 2 x 200 clear sacks & carbon monoxide alarm £68.84 2025 Annual Google subscription £15.99 12 mths working from home allowance @ £26 per mth £396.83	396.83	Section 111 LGA 1972 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
259	Attack Environmental Ltd Rats in loft at Playfield Road pavilion – 2 nd treatment of 3 visits	254.40	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Total transferred £ 9,490.76

551.24 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 February.

552.24 The financial report was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Andrews and voted unanimously.

553.24 Cllr. Jempson carried out Internal Financial Control checks for Quarter 3 which was noted.

554.24 MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 25 February 2025 were noted.

555.24 MINUTES OF PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 6 March 2025 were noted.

556.24 COMMUNITY GRANT POLICY

557.24 It was agreed that the Community Grant Policy, together with the application form had been reviewed and agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Andrews and agreed unanimously.

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

558.24 CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

559.24 It was agreed that the Child Safeguarding Policy had been reviewed and agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Cobb and agreed unanimously.

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

560.24 SUMMER PLANTS FOR THE VILLAGE

561.24 It was agreed that the council would purchase plants from Purely Plants, including the planting out of the four containers within the village and to request the possibility of planting out a little earlier than last year. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Send Purely Plants Purchase Order requesting plants for all the troughs and to also plant out the plants for the containers.

562.24 PROFESSIONAL GRAFFITI ARTISTS

OCC has a list of approved sites for graffiti projects.

563.24 It was agreed that the council would contact OCC to request if it would in principal agree to the by-pass concrete columns of the bridge over Kennington Road become an approved site for graffiti projects. If this is agreed, request a cost of such a project

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact OCC to ask if the by-pass concrete columns of the bridge over Kennington Road could become an approved site for graffiti projects. Also request a cost of project.

564.24 FOREST SIDE PLAY AREA TENDERS

Cllr. Brown reported that some interested companies have expressed concerns over the closing date for Forest Side play area tenders, giving very little time to visit and prepare tenders. Cllr. Brown has provisionally changed the closing date to end of May, which would also be in line with the grant response date (11 June).

565.24 It was agreed that the council would change the closing date to end of May, giving more time for interested companies.

Cllr. Locklin reported that the council was turned down for a Lottery Grant request, applied for earlier in the year.

566.24 WILD ABOUT KENNINGTON (WAK)

Cllr. Gamble is one of six members of WAK that, later during the year will be attending a scything course, which will help manage the area in Forest Side, which has been scarified. The areas WAK have been caring for were scarified during last autumn and have been planted with both yellow rattle and several kilos of

wild flower seed. Within the next few years these areas should be more colourful, due to the wild flowers which will also keep the length of the grass down.

567.24 After discussion it was agreed that the council would continue to support WAK for a further two years (until 2027). This was proposed by Cllr. Brown seconded by Cllr. Johnston and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform Wild About Kennington of council's decision

568.24 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES -

Cllr. Feather – Kennington Youth Club (KYC)

Cllr. Feather attend KYC'S annual general meeting, with the main topic being the issue of the club's roof. Cllr. Feather cannot understand how KYC is in the position of having a full maintenance lease when they use it once a week. Over the years the agreed 'peppercorn' rent has increased somewhat making the viability of KYC very tenuous. Cllr. Feather did not think that KYC committee members should be dealing with these issues but enhancing the young people's experiences at KYC.

569.24 It was agreed that the council would facilitate by arranging a meeting between KYC and Kennington Village Hall Management Committee (KVHMC) to discuss future relationships and re-negotiating the arrangements, together with formalising any such revised arrangements.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Arrange a meeting at a time to suit both KYC and KVHMC

Cllr. Feather – Pavilion Project

Cllr. Feather reported that the proposed pavilion new-build's planning application's consultation closes next Wednesday with a decision expected mid April. Cllr. Feather has approached the VoWHDC with regard to grants, but unfortunately no grants available at present. The council will have to raise more funds for this project with Cllr. Feather investigating applying for a Public Works Loan. The first stage of this process is for the council to make contact with OALC. Cllr. Feather has spoken with the architect to find out if he is interested in taking the project forward.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact OALC explaining the council's interest in applying for a Public Works Loan and to receive any necessary information OALC may have

Cllr. Andrews – St Swithun's Church

Cllr. Andrews reported that it has been accepted that a footpath is needed within the Church grounds as pedestrians are being put at risk due to moving vehicles. The Church is also changing the gate posts at the main entrance, in a hope to make egress and access as safe as it can, accepting where the entrance is.

Cllr. Cobb – Scouts

Cllr. Cobb reported that there is still the subsidence issue of the Scout hut at Otters Reach. Cracks are increasing in size with the insurance company offering £700. The Scouts have reported this to the Ombudsmen forwarding a quote for £25,000 for the work needing to be carried out. The building is still safe at present. The scouts have a waiting list of young people wishing to join.

Cllr. Brown – Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr. Brown reported that a Professional Fire Risk Assessment had recently taken place. The main issues were those of KADS costumes etc that are stored in the roof space. The report also flagged up the need for fire drills. Cllr. Brown warned the councillors that sometime in a future meeting there will be one of these drills.

570.24 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr. Jempson – Asked whether anyone knew of any Thames Water monitors being fitted within the village. Cllr. Cobb explained that there has been one fitted outside his house in the north of the village.

Cllr. Jempson also suggested that it may be useful for residents to have details of Sustrans on the website.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Post Sustrans details on the Useful Links page of the website

Cllr. Brown and Cllr Powles

Reminded councillors of the Annual Village Meeting in April and if any can help out on the evening it would be gratefully received. This goes for the VE Day Dance as well. Please let either Cllr. Brown or Cllr. Powles know.

Cllr. Russell

Reported the overgrown tree at the bottom of the public footpath between Poplar Grove and Sandford Lane.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Report this issue via FixMyStreet

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

1. **New Garden Waste scheme** is available now online – residents can apply for New Garden Waste Permits and make payments online using this link [Garden waste - Vale of White Horse District Council](#). Once they have purchased a permit, residents will receive a sticker through the post displaying their address which needs to be stuck to their garden waste bin lid to identify it as fully paid for and eligible for collection. Residents now need to make an annual payment for a permit – this replaces the existing direct debit scheme. Everyone's payment year will run from 1 April to 31 March each year. Every bin needs its own permit and customers will receive a new sticker annually each time they renew. This kind of scheme is successfully offered by many other local authorities, including in neighbouring West Oxfordshire. The permits will help the waste collection crews identify which bins are eligible to be emptied.
2. **LGR and Unitary.** Vale is preparing LGR bid response to the government and is considering 2 options: South and Vale with West Berkshire and Oxfordshire County Unitary. Oxon MPs support Oxfordshire County Unitary and made their view clear to the Secretary of State. There are lots of discussions going on and different unitary proposals in Oxfordshire and Oxford City looks like the worst option to Vale and therefore, we need to make a strong bid.
3. **Grant funding advice session.** South and Vale are holding a grant funding advice session at Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot on **Thursday 20 March, appointments available from 12.30pm to 4pm**. Voluntary and community organisations will have the opportunity to discuss projects, ask questions about the application process including eligibility for any of the upcoming grant schemes. Places are limited, so please encourage organisations to book a time slot by emailing grants@southandvale.gov.uk or phone 01235 422405. Alternatively, if they are unable to attend, the team are happy to book a phone call or Teams meeting at a more convenient time. Please help us to spread the word!

572.24 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Johnston

1. On one level there is little to report. The budget has been passed and the Council, with the approaching elections, is going into what is called "purdah" whereby the Council is increasingly run by the Officers who take decisions inline with existing policies and budgets. Anything the least controversial will be left until after the May the 1st elections, for the next administration. This is standard practice.
2. On the other hand the County has to respond to the end of March deadline in respect of the devolution and unitary requests. At the time of writing there would appear to be three proposals on the table. Firstly one from the County Cabinet which proposes an Oxfordshire Unitary with all existing Councils abolished and a new Oxfordshire County Unitary on the present Oxfordshire boundaries formed. This is the simplest proposal which would keep important services such as Social Service free from upheaval. In order to overcome charges of being large and remote, many decisions on matters such as highways and planning would be devolved to area boards. The second proposal is to have a unitary consisting of the Vale, SODC and West Berkshire, this falls far short of the 500,000 population minimum requirement and does not take into account of uncertainties in respect of the present Berkshire unitaries. There is vague talk then of a second Oxfordshire unitary consisting of West Oxfordshire, the City and Cherwell, again way too small. Finally a new proposal (without maps!!) has emerged very recently for a much enlarged Oxford City

with a population of 500,000, where that leaves the other 150,000 Oxfordshire residents is anyone's guess!! In respect of this why not enlarge Oxford City to take in the rest of the County? Discuss!!

573.24 MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Youth Club

Graffiti

BMX Maintenance

Twinning signs for village

574.24 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – staffing matters

Meeting closed at 8:50pm

Signed Date