

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

Present: Cllr. Brown Cllr. Cuddy Cllr. Feather Cllr. Gamble Cllr. Johnston Cllr. Powles
Cllr. Smith

In Attendance: District Councillor Diana Lugova, Anne Feather and Lawrence Wootten (Clerks)

578.24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr. Andrews; Cllr. Cobb; Cllr. Douglas; Cllr. Jempson; Cllr. Locklin and Cllr. Russell

579.24 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC – None

580.24 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 to renew the council's membership for 2025/26. Cllr. Johnston also declared his interest in the Financial Report as he is Chairman of Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (OPFA) and there is a payment to OPFA to renew the council's membership for 2025/26.

581.24 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

582.24 REPORT OF THE CLERK - New issues

A Cllr. Cuddy reported broken fence in Kennington flood meadow near the Tandem railway bridge to Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT) and Sustrans

B Cllr. Jempson received concerns from local resident '***We're getting increasingly worried about some activity taking place in the copse. About 6 young kids of secondary school age are in there now and they're absolutely wrecking the wood, jumping up and down on the branches and breaking them. I see there's a Private Property sign further down the lane, but that's no good. Is there anything that can be done to stop them?***'

This is not a matter for the council and any worried resident should contact the police whenever necessary.

C Received the following '***As a resident of Forest Side, I would like to state I am not complaining about the evergreen hedge being reduced in height. However, as you can see, leaving the logs behind is just too tempting to those with matches. If these were to catch fire the oil in the trees would set off a right Californian blaze.***'

ACTION FOR CLERK – Include in Kennington Chronicle the suggestion that residents could collect logs from the hedge at Forest Side.

D New resident is asking if the council could let them know when the next Village Litter Pick is taking place.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Add onto the next Events Committee meeting agenda

E Received email from local resident: '***Apologies for having to write to you again but we are still having problems with drivers parking in Old Nursery View, not only for the football but now for also walking in the woods. It causes many problems as it is nearly always at weekends when our families are visiting I spoke to the gentleman who runs the junior football and he said he did not have enough volunteers on match days and I said that I and another resident would be happy to volunteer. Would there be a list of dates when said matches take place May I ask you who the local police person is and how he/she can be contacted Very many thanks for your help.***' Clerk responded giving PCSO's email address and explained that this would be reported at the Playing Fields Committee meeting later in the month and also reported at the council meeting.

Continuing issues

- F** Resident who reported youths dangerously riding motor and electric bikes on Oxfordshire Preservation Trust (OPT) land, received response from both OPT and Police. OPT requested they report all incidents to the police online. Meanwhile OPT will discuss the issue with its land owner. Cllr. Russell contacted PCSO after receiving complaints of motorcycles causing a problem by travelling at speed along the Sustrans path.
- G** OPT informed PCSO Maddie Highmoor, copying in parish council ***'For your information, that a message was sent to our grazier today saying the chain on the field gate to our land north of Sandford Lane has been cut. I will report it via 101 also.'***
- H** Paul Wilson from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) confirmed that the Sandford Lane trash screen's OCC asset No is #291125376. He will be forwarding the signage location plan in the near future.
- I** Received invitation from Oxfordshire Association for Local Councils (OALC) to OCC Day on 3rd April 2025. Clerk has asked if any councillor would like to attend.
- J** Contacted The Abingdon Bridge (TAB) regarding their request for Gary Hibbins to attend next month's meeting, however they will not have the 2024-25 accounts finalised by next month, so have decided to leave it until later during the year when they can produce last year's accounts.
- K** Contacted Wild About Kennington (WAK) to inform them of the council's decision to continue to support WAK for a further two years. Also confirmed that BGG will not be cutting the WAK areas until mid to late August this year.
- L** In 2025-26's budget £2,500 has been allocated to Friends of Kennington Library (FOKL) – How do FOKL claim this money?
- 583.24** It was agreed that the council would give the Clerk delegated authority to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair to release monies whenever FOKL request funds for events arranged throughout the year by FOKL. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Gamble and agreed by six councillors with one abstention.

ACTION FOR CLERK – To inform FOKL of the funds budgeted in 2025-26 for FOKL's events and explain how to request payments of this money throughout the year.
--

- M** Reported the overhanging tree at the end of the public footpath from Poplar Grove into Sandford Lane via FixMyStreet (ref no:7309624)
- N** Responded to resident asking about the creation of tennis courts in the village – explaining that this can be discussed at the Annual Village meeting.
- O** Informed SSE that complaint regarding monies owed can now be closed, after SSE's review of its system.
- P** Included in the Kennington Chronicle, that residents' concerns regarding inconsiderate/dangerous parking along the top of Poplar Grove during school drop off and pick up times has been raised. Also recommending that residents report any parking issues to www.service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/reportparkedvehicle. Contacted OCC to request it adds marking on the kerb to denote 10m from the junction to The Avenue. OCC require ***'a scan of the council minutes in which the discussion and approval are clearly recorded. Contacted OCC to request it adds marking on the kerb to denote 10m from the junction to The Avenue.'***
- Q** Accepted Revd Samson Kuponiya's invitation for councillors to attend the event on 18 May where visitors from Musanda will be welcomed by both the Chair and Vice-Chair of the council. Five or six councillors are planning to attend. OALC drew the attention to the Clerk of advice notes regarding twinning and it would seem that an independent twinning association should have been set up, along with a constitution. Copies of these were sent to Cllrs. Andrews and Gamble. Clerk contacted Scorpion Printers to confirm costs to supply and fit the twinning signs at both ends of the village. **See agenda No 17**
- R** Wrote to resident who carried out work to deal with the fallen tree at Playfield Road playing field, thanking them for what they have carried out and explaining that the council, in the fullness of time will remove the remaining thick trunk. They have suggested that maybe this trunk could be moved and used as part of a play area for children. They thanked the council for its appreciation.
- S** Contacted OCC regarding its Priority Action flood projects for 2025-26 asking if the request to purchase sandbags and rolls of polythene fell within its terms of the initiative. Clerk was contacted by OCC officer

confirming that the purchase of sandbags would not be within the scheme, if the council could detail some reusable flood barrier, for specific areas within the village, this would be within the scope of the Priority Action Plan projects. (See details of barriers suggested by Paul Wilson) Deadline 18 April 2025

584.24 It was agreed that the council would request funding for flood prevention at the north end of Kennington, in times of flooding in that area. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Complete and return the Priority Action flood projects application form

- T** Uploaded both the reviewed Community Grant and Child Safeguarding policies on the website and on the schedule document.
- U** Forwarded purchase order to Purely Plants requesting this season's plants for the village, asking if possible for the plants to be planted a little earlier this year. They will try for earlier, is all a bit dependant on how things root and come to flower, but will see how it goes. Rosey has requested the same as last year
- V** Contacted OCC to ask if its by-pass bridge concrete columns over Kennington Road could become an approved site for graffiti projects. Also asked for costings of such a project. Received response: *'My Bridge Inspectors normally deal with these types of proposals, and I have copied in James Freeman, who can hopefully help after he returns from annual leave on 27th March. What normally happens is that agreement is reached with a local group or school to paint a mural on the affected areas. OCC would prepare the walls ready for the mural, giving the artist(s) a base colour to work on, after the mural is painted OCC arrange and pay for an anti-graffiti coat to be applied on top. The mural paints and time etc is paid for through the local group funds/the parish etc, some projects in the past have simply asked locals for their half empty tins of paint in their sheds. James can provide more information about this, and the guide lines for the mural itself when he returns'*. James hasn't got back as yet
- W** Contacted OALC explaining the council's interest in applying for a Public Works Loan for the new Playfield Road pavilion and requested any information that it may have. This was received the following day and forwarded to Cllr. Feather for his perusal.
- X** Forwarded details of Fasthosts to Cllr. Cuddy to enable him to investigate with Adventis any future contracts regarding emails; website etc.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Add onto May's Agenda

- Y** Contacted Julia Kent asking if the contract regarding the sale of The War Memorial was OK for the council to sign. She rang Clerk explaining that original fee was agreed did not include reading through the contract, as there isn't really a need for one – the land is being sold to the parish council. The council needs to find a solicitor it is going to use in the future with this contract being the firm request. **See agenda No 18**
- Z** VoWHDC reported that deep cleaning within the village will take place on 16 April 2025, completed request form for certain areas of the village to be cleaned and returned.
- AA** Received response from St Swithun's Primary school regarding considering a council lor being on its Board of Governors: *'I have spoken to my Chair of Governors, Clare Nurton, and we wonder whether it would be possible to arrange a suitable time for us to meet with someone from the Parish Council to talk about its contents. If you were able to give me the details of the Councillor we should be talking to, we would then contact them to arrange a mutually convenient time'*.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Pass on Cllrs. Andrews and Gamble's email addresses to St Swithun's Primary School's head teacher

- AB** Resident requesting additional tree to be planted in Bagley Close, Clerk gave details of the OCC Tree Planting Scheme, suggesting they may be able to help them.
- AC** The Clerk has received no applications from residents regarding the co-option of additional member onto the parish council.
- AD** Cattle are now out on the Memorial Field, OPT will put a post on Kennington Connected Facebook group.

- AE** Cllr Cobb attended Apple Café and reports as follows: *'I had one issue that was raised on Saturday at the Apple cafe. It is with regard to hedge trimming in Forest side. The resident noticed the hedge being in trimmed along Forest side and wondered if it was the Council that had instigated it or the residents. If it was the Council could the hedge be cut along the Colley Wood boundary as the hedge is outside the boundary fence of the properties. I said I had no idea but would pass the comment on also if it was instigated by residents what would be the cost for BGG to cut it as it could be put to the residents to each chip in in order to get it cut.'*
- The council has always assumed that the responsibility for the boundary is that of the Colley Wood residents, as is the hedge at the back of the Forest Side houses. The council is not responsible for the hedge, but can give details of the council's contractors if necessary. The reason it cut back some of the hedge backing onto Forest Side from Forest Side residents was due to encroaching onto the playing field.
- AF** The Friends of Radley Large Wood (FORLW) requested the hire of the pavilion at Playfield Road, unfortunately it is hired out to Wolvercote Cricket Club.

585.24 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUEST FOR GRANT AID

Requests for grants from Additional Report

- A** Received request for community grant from Assisted Reading For Children in Oxfordshire (ARCh) and from Kennington Youth Club – forwarded application forms to both, awaiting return of completed form.

Correspondence for discussion/action

- B** The councillors have been invited to the Thames (Kennington) Trefoil Guild open evening on Tuesday 20 May 2025 (forwarded to councillors)
- C** Our Climate Action Fund could help your organisation – VoWHDC (forwarded to councillors)

Correspondence forwarded to Councillors for information

- D** Invitation: Workshop on Part-Night Lighting and Street Lighting and Illuminated Assets Policy - OCC
- E** Friend, big changes ahead? Our response to the Planning bill - CPRE
- F** Over 35,000 account hackings reported in 2024 – TVP – Posted on the website
- G** Tougher fines to tackle fly-tipping and protect our environment – VoWHDC – Posted on the website and on Facebook
- H** Call for Evidence - Rural Inequalities in Oxfordshire - Marmot Place Project – Community First Oxfordshire - please respond if you would like to
- I** Climate Engagement Participatory Webinar Follow-up - OCC
- J** Brown bin permit holders can have extra garden waste collected – VoWHDC – posted on the website and on Facebook
- K** Oxford Local Plan 2042 Early Engagement Survey
- L** Introducing Ridgeway Council - part of a two unitary council option for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire – VoWHDC – Posted on the website and on Facebook
- M** Get ready for Easter fun with free and low-cost holiday activities across South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse! – VoWHDC – Posted on the website and on Facebook
- N** New depot helps secure the future of waste collections – VoWHDC – posted on the website and on Facebook
- O** OALC March update for member councils
- P** CPRE Oxfordshire is seeking a Volunteer Treasurer – Posted on the website and on Facebook
- Q** Invitation to Online Workshop on Street Lighting Proposals – OCC Highways
- R** EN010147- Botley West Solar Farm - Examining Authority (ExA) - Invitation to the Preliminary Meeting on 13 May, 10:00 at The Kings Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES and virtually via Microsoft Teams.
- S** Road Safety Data - TVP
- T** Press release - Signs point to more nature recovery in Vale – posted on the website and on Facebook
- U** River Thames Society (RTS) Annual General Meeting – 26 April 2025
- V** Positioning the CCLA Investment Funds through a Trade War
- W** We want to ensure local voices are heard in the Planning Bill - CPRE
- X** QUIZ NIGHT - IN AID OF THE ABINGDON BRIDGE - 22nd MAY
- Y** CCLA webinar - navigating Trump

Z New café to open at The Beacon supported by local volunteers – posted on the website and on Facebook
Newsletters

AA	Latest news from Healthwatch Oxfordshire	AB	The Rural Bulletins
AC	The latest news for your communities - OCC		
AD	Spring Newsletter - March 2025 – Town and Parish Council websites		
AE	The March edition of Vale News for 2025	AF	Police & Crime Bulletin Mar '25
AG	RSN Rural Funding Digest	AH	TVERC News Update - April 2025
AI	Rural Services Network (RSN) Weekly News - Free Edition		

586.24 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 31 March 2025

Community Account	500.00
Business Premium Account	77,617.79
National Savings & Investment Account	86,540.73
Public Sector Fund (CCLA account)	112,669.75
Total	277,328.27

Income received in March	
Kennington Village Hall (2024/001) Quarterly play area inspection	57.50
Local residents (2024/002 – 2024/009) -2024/004 Tickets for VE Day Supper and Dance	655.00
3rd Kennington Brownies (2024/004) Wreath for 2024 Remembrance Sunday	20.00
Barclays (2024/0010) Interest earned between 2 December – 2 March 2025	332.65

Income received in April	
CCLA Investment Management Ltd Income reinvestment between 1 March – 31 March 2025	393.13

Direct debits to be paid in April		Power to Act
Virtual Landline Invoice No. 964183 (28 Mar – 28 Apr 25) subscription for virtual landline	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
YGP War Memorial March electric (Invoice No: 971101)	50.37	War memorial Act 1923
YGP Playfield Road Pavilion March electric (Invoice No: 969199)	168.69	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP Forest Side Pavilion March electric (Invoice No: 971102)	109.94	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
EDF Playfield Road pavilion gas supply 1 March – 31 March 2025	25.56	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Reference No. 2025/	Accounts to be paid in April		Power to Act
001	Mrs A E Feather Salary for March less tax & pension contribution	1,405.21	Section 112 LGA 1972

002	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for March	512.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
003	Mr J Satchell Salary for March	534.15	Section 111 LGA 1972
004	Mr T Fleming War memorial grass cutting volunteer for March	41.91	Section 111 LGA 1972
005	Mr A Cobb Chair's monthly allowance for March	73.69	Section 111 LGA 1972
006	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI contributions for March	632.36	Section 111 LGA 1972
007	Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) OALC membership 2025-26	943.18	Section 111 LGA 1972
008	Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (OPFA) OPFA membership 2025-26	85.00	Section 137 LGA 1972
009	Eurooffice Limited Ink cartridges and paper	232.57	Section 111 LGA 1972
010	Mrs R Brown Supplies for VE Day	48.50	Section 137 LGA 1972
011	Mrs A E Feather Gate spring for The Links £ 3.99 DBS Employment check £30.50 Postage £ 2.60	37.09	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 Section 111 LGA 1972
012	S H Lewis Cleaning Ltd Cleaning of 14 x bus shelters	264.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
013	Mr A Cobb Cost of printing the VE Day Supper and Dance tickets	15.80	Section 137 LGA 1972
014	Kennington Village Hall Room hire for March	90.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
015	Adventis Digital Limited Web hosting & website managing for March	31.50	Section 111 LGA 1972
016	Zoro UK Ltd paper towels	55.99	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
017	Grundon Waste Management Ltd Playfield Rd wheelie bins – March £84.42 Forest Side wheelie bins – March £76.79	161.21	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
018	Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd Alpha Software Annual Support & Maintenance licence for 1 user	243.60	Section 111 LGA 1972
019	Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd Data Backup Service – Alpha Annual Subscription	304.80	Section 111 LGA 1972

Total to be transferred in April: £ 5,713.31

Castle Water – water supply for The War Memorial - £393.85 in credit as at 5 March 2025 – Invoice dated 7 April 2025 of £35.53 has brought credit balance down to £358.32.

587.24 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 March.

588.24 The financial report was proposed by Cllr. Smith seconded by Cllr. Gamble and voted unanimously excepting Cllrs. Brown and Johnston who have declared their pecuniary interests.

589.24 2025-26 ANNUAL COUNCIL INSURANCE

The Clerk is awaiting Zurich's 2025-26 quote.

590.24 It was agreed that the council would collect quotes from other companies if, when received, Zurich's quote is outrageous. Need to check that the 2023 case is settled and closed. This was proposed by Cllr. Smith seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Confirm claim is closed. Gather more quotes if Zurich's quote is too high.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Add to next month's Agenda

591.24 MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 18 March and the draft minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2025 were noted.

592.24 MINUTES OF PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 18 March and the draft minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2025 were noted.

593.24 GENERAL TERMS OF REFERENCE

594.24 It was agreed that the General Terms of Reference of council's committees and working parties, had been reviewed and agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Brown seconded by Cllr. Feather and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Upload the General Terms of Reference of council's committees and working parties on the Website and update the Document Schedule.

595.24 RISK ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

596.24 It was agreed that the Risk Assessment Statement had been reviewed and agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Smith seconded by Cllr. Johnston and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Upload the Risk Assessment Statement on the Website and update the Document Schedule.

597.24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS POLICY

598.24 It was agreed that the Public Participation at Meetings Policy had been reviewed and agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Brown seconded by Cllr. Powles and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Upload the Public Participation at Meetings Policy on the Website and update the Document Schedule.

599.24 HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

600.24 It was agreed that the Health and Safety Policy had been reviewed and agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Brown seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed unanimously.

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

601.24 INTERNAL CONTROL POLICY

602.24 It was agreed that the Internal Control Policy had been reviewed and agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Feather seconded by Cllr. Gamble and agreed unanimously.

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

603.24 DISCRETIONARY PENSIONS POLICY

604.24 It was agreed that the Discretionary Pensions Policy had been reviewed and agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed unanimously.

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

605.24 HIRE AGREEMENTS FOR PLAYING FIELDS AND PAVILIONS

606.24 It was agreed that the Hire Agreements for the playing fields and pavilions had been reviewed and agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Feather seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Amend the hire agreements and prepare for annual agreements for both the Football and Cricket Clubs and also prepare hire agreement for Kennington Strollers.

607.24 TREE WORKS AT COW LANE

608.24 It was agreed that the council would accept Oxford Tree Surgeons to carry out these works. This was proposed by Cllr. Brown seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed by all bar one who abstained.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform unsuccessful company and arrange for Oxford Tree Surgeons to carry out the works in Cow Lane

609.24 MAINTENANCE OF BMX TRACK IN FOREST SIDE

Clerk has not received all quotes for this work.

610.24 It was agreed that the council would discuss this necessary maintenance at December's Finance meeting. Also this task could be investigated with the chosen contractor installing a new play area at Forest Side. This was proposed by Cllr. Brown seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed by all bar one who abstained.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Discuss at December's Finance meeting.

ACTION FOR PLAY AREA WORKING PARTY – Discuss with successful contractor of Forest Side play area.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform interested companies of council's decision

611.24 TWINNING PROJECT

Council has been made aware by OALC that an independent twinning association should be set up along with a constitution. Cllr. Gamble has spoken with Revd Samson Kuponiya concerning the formalisation of this twinning project.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact Revd Samson explaining the requirement for this project to be formalised

ACTION FOR CLERK – Chase Scorpion signs for a mock up of what the Village signs would look like.

612.24 PURCHASE OF THE WAR MEMORIAL

Clerk reported that unfortunately Julia Kent cannot give legal advice on the form of contract the Vale of White Horse District Council has forwarded to the councillors for signature as she had not envisaged such a document originally she was under the impression that it was an uncomplicated task of transferring the land and title. Clerk contacted the solicitors that Radley Parish Council use, with one of the partners giving advice, explaining for expedience signing the contract doesn't hold any surprises. Cllr. Brown will contact Vale to check if contract is needed.

613.24 It was agreed that the council would use Knights solicitors once council receive confirmation as to whether contract is necessary. This was proposed by Cllr. Johnston seconded by Cllr. Feather and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLLR. BROWN - to contact Vale to check if contract is necessary

614.24 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES -

Cllr. Feather – Kennington Youth Club (KYC)

Cllr. Feather has contacted the Village Hall Management Committee, in an attempt to arrange a meeting, but has still to receive a response to date.

Cllr. Feather – Pavilion Project

Reported that due to a few issues the Planning Application decision has been extended , with a decision being May 12 May. Reported that, going forward, the architect fees could be in the region of £60,000 (based on a £800,000 build contract). Moving forward Cllr. Feather is wading through the information around applying for a Public Works Loan. Cllr. Feather feels now the project is beginning to move it would be more appropriate if a Committee/Working Party be set up as more involvement is necessary from other councillors.

ACTION FOR CLERK - Add to next month's Agenda

On behalf of the council, Cllr Powles thanked Cllr. Feather for all his hard work and perseverance over the past five years.

Cllr. Smith – Village Hall Management Committee (VHMC)

Cllr. Smith reported the recent VHMC's Annual General Meeting, in which Cllr. Smith and Cllr. Brown were re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair. The VHMC made a loss of £5,000 during the last financial year.

615.24 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr. Cuddy reported that the request for a new Speed Indicator Device (SID) by Police Commissioner funding was unsuccessful. Cllr. Cuddy will attempt to provide three quotes for next month's meeting for a new SID.

ACTION FOR CLLR CUDDY – Obtain three quotes for the purchase of a new SID

ACTION FOR CLERK - Add to next month's Agenda

Cllr. Brown asked for the help and assistance of any councillor with regard to the Annual Village Meeting and the VE Day Supper and Dance. She also requested that each councillor supply a cake (shop bought or homemade) for a raffle at the VE Day event.

Cllr. Powles thanked the outgoing Clerk for her help and support throughout her latest three year tenure.

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

LGR and Devolution. Vale, South and West Berkshire have submitted an interim plan/proposal for Unitary. At the same time Vale is continuing to work with OCC realising that Oxfordshire Unitary is a very probably scenario. The decision will be made by Secretary of State, so, for now we are waiting for our plan examination and response.

Easter Activities. Lots of free and low-cost holiday activities were arranged across South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. To find out what's on and when, and to book a session, visit South and Vale Holiday Activities - South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council Better Leisure Centres across South and Vale are also offering a range of activities during the Easter holidays, you can find out more on the Better website – A Charitable Social Enterprise. Join us now.

2025/2026 Waste Collection Calendar is now available online and residents can download it here [Vale waste calendar page](#)

Wanted to remind about Garden Waste annual payment scheme. Biffa will collect all brown bins even without permit during first collection round, giving residents more time to pay and receive the permit (and fix it on the lid) but after that brown bins without permits will be ignored.

617.24 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Johnston

All is quiet on the County. This is because we are in Purdah ahead of the County elections on the 1st of May. At the moment nearly all of the decisions are being taken by the Officers, but only within existing budgets and policy. Anything controversial will have to wait until after the next annual meeting of the Council on the 20th of May when new Chairs and Leader and Cabinet will be decided.

There has however been a response to the Government's devolution Paper. Three options have been forwarded. The option preferred by the County is for all six existing Councils to be abolished and a new unitary Council based on the existing County boundaries. This has the advantage of avoiding any disruption to major services such as Social Services and Highways. The second proposal is for a Ridgeway Unitary based on the existing Vale, SODC and West Berks. This has the drawback of being too small with a population of only 350,000 which does not take into account what might happen to West Berks if Reading expands to take in Tilehurst and other areas. The final proposal is for Oxford City to be expanded to a population of 500,000 on unspecified boundaries. Likewise what happens to the rest of Oxfordshire is unclear. More will become clear in November.

Cllr. Powles thanked Cllr. Johnston for his dedication, advice and support for the past 43 years Cllr. Johnston has been a County/District Councillor. 43 years of public service is something to be very proud of and respect was shown by all councillors.

Cllr. Douglas entered the meeting

618.24 MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Website and email
Twinning Project
Pavilion Project
SIDs for village
2025-26 Annual Council Insurance

619.24 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – None

Meeting closed at 8:44pm

Signed Date