

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

Present:

Cllr Andrews	Cllr Brown	Cllr Cobb	Cllr Cuddy	Cllr Feather
Cllr Jempson	Cllr Johnston	Cllr Locklin	Cllr Powles	Cllr Russell

In Attendance: Lawrence Wootten (Clerk/RFO)

Members of the public: None

128.25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies received from Cllr Douglas who had written to the Clerk offering her resignation as a Councillor owing to work commitments.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform VoWHDC Electoral Services of the vacancy and publish Notice of Casual Vacancy.

129.25 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - None

130.25 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST – Cllr Brown declared an interest in payments to be made to OALC since she is an OALC employee

131.25 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting on 12 June 2025 as a true record.

132.25 REPORT OF THE CLERK

NEW ISSUES

A Email received from resident:

We live at xx Bagley Wood Road and would like advice in connection with the two (we think) dead or dying trees in the hedgerow opposite our house. They are on land for which - we understand - the Parish Council is responsible. We suggest they should be cut down before they fall down across electricity cables, the road, and on to our fence and garden. They might also hit our house.

In general we greatly value the hedgerow and are very keen to preserve the sense of Bagley Wood Road as a country lane (for instance the damson tree at the junction with the alley to Upper Road is lovely and we would not want this to be cut down). We are only concerned about hedgerow maintenance and safety. Is this an issue you can take forward?

Clerk ascertained that the trees were not on the Parish Council's tree inventory and referred the resident to the County Council's Tree Team and FixMyStreet.

B Email received from resident:

Good morning, I am frequent user of the footpath from Poplar Grove to Sandford Lane.

I can manage to clear the weeds and overhang at the top (Poplar Grove) end of the path but the lower(Sandford Lane) end is beyond me. Is there anybody I can report this to ? Vale of White Horse ?

Thanks for your time

Clerk referred resident to County Council Public Rights of Way Team and FixMyStreet.

C Email received from resident:

I have been asked to prune some branches from a tree on my property that are hanging over a resident's garden in Otter's Reach. For this I'll need to obtain vehicular access to Cow lane for a few hours.

I don't know who to ask about obtaining temporary use of the keys to the anti-fly tipping gate near the top of Cow Lane. In your capacity as Clerk, would you be able to help on this matter?

Clerk made arrangements for resident to have the key necessary to get vehicular access to Cow Lane to complete the tree pruning.

- D** Email received from resident:
I looked through the April minutes and didn't see mention of the forest side playground. When will work start on the new playground?
I have been talking to other residents and we would be happy to do some fundraising to get the project started sooner, if the issue is funding? Its nearly been out of action for a very long time now and we would like the children to have park again.
Clerk responded with the paragraph submitted for the July/August edition of The Chronicle:
The council is still waiting for the results of the grant applications it submitted for the project, but has reviewed the tenders received and selected its preferred contractor for the rebuild. The repair work necessary to reopen the play area (which had to be closed owing to severe rot in some of the supporting posts) is expected to be completed in the next few weeks to allow children to play safely on the current play area equipment before the rebuild (hopefully) begins later in the year."
And further added that the council was very confident that its grant application would be successful and that the rebuild would begin later in the year.
- E** Email received from Kennington Athletic Football Club:
"We have our tournaments up at Forest Side over the first two weekends in July. As we've not had much rain, please could we ask that the grass isn't cut between now and the week before the first tournament, to try and preserve the pitches as much as possible. Please let me know if this is an issue, but I don't think it will be growing much between now and then anyway!
Clerk contacted BGG to request not mowing Forest Side playing field until after the second weekend in July.
- F** Email received from Kennington Athletic Football Club requesting additional keys for Playfield Rd pavilion + gate (4 additional sets of keys) and Forest Side pavilion and gate (1 additional set of keys).
Clerk checked current key inventory for the club and will arrange for additional keys to be cut and issued to the football club (and added to their signed inventory).
- G** Received reports and photos from resident and Calber of an overflowing waste bin at Playfield Rd. Bin not being emptied by Grundon as it is not on their contract, so instructed Calber to add it to their tasking (along with Playfield Pavilion cleaning and Forest Side bin emptying) while council is without a Village Warden. Resident emailed again to report that the bin had been emptied within 24 hours of the request to Calber.
- H** Clerk received email from member of the public:
I'm trying to track down a publication and wondering if you might know of any member of the Kennington History Society who might have a copy of Robert Sephton's S.P. Grundy (1880-1942): a life of social service in Manchester and North Berkshire. Kennington. 2009, which they might be willing to give me sight of. Samuel Percy ('Peter') Grundy is my grandfather although he died in the year before my parents married and so I never knew him.
Clerk noticed that contact details for Kennington History Society are not included on the Parish Council website – passed on email contact for Kennington History Society to the member of the public and will add contact details to the website.
- I** Received report from Cricket Club that sinks and urinals in the pavilion's male toilet were blocked and backing up. Purchased and applied 3 bottles of sink unblocker to sinks and urinals to see if that cleared the blockages but to no effect. Sinks and urinals remain unfit for use.
- 133.25** It was agreed that the Clerk arrange for a contractor to repair/replace the blocked pipes within a spending limit of £1000.

ACTION FOR CLERK – arrange for a contractor to carry out necessary repair work.
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- J** Chairman's Chain/Ribbon of Office dispatched (insured post) to Fattorini (Birmingham) for additional engraved silver bar (Colin Charlett – 2013-2023) to be added. Cost expected to be £55.43 plus carriage and VAT.
Clerk reported that this had now been received.

- K** Email received from resident:
Apologies if this concern I am bringing to your attention has already been raised, but as I have stated in my heading above, can you contact your contractor to deal with the above please to get it cut back? I regularly use this footpath on my walks, and the problem is growing worse!
The issue only really concerns the overgrowth from the boundary of No.185, as the other side is new wooden fencing. And the two properties at the Poplar Grove end of this public footpath have built solid concrete block walls to their properties, so no problems there.
Clerk instructed BGG to carry out necessary clearance as soon as possible and responded to resident.
Resident replied 48 hours later to report that the work had been done and thanking all concerned.

- L** BGG contacted by clerk to water the troughs and planters in the village – twice per week, two-man team + water bowser.

134.25 It was noted that the flower displays in the troughs were not looking very good. Clerk to investigate.

ACTION FOR CLERK – contact BGG regarding watering of the flower troughs.

- M** Clerk received the following email from a resident regarding litter picking in the village:
Good afternoon I was chatting to a lady who lives in the Kingston Bagpuize, Southmoor Parish who advised as follows:-
Once a month they do a litter pick, naming which road location date and time in the village they are starting from (moving locations each month) encouraging look after your village and take pride.
It could be on a reward point for turning up (loyalty card) that gives you free drink in Apple Cafe. Just my thought.
Or perhaps finish at a location where you have a resident who could take your tea milk coffee biscuits supply in that day and be ready to donate boiling water to paper cups.
It might also be worth getting the local able organisations to who you give donations, to give something back. Some youth organisations might be able to use it to gain community engagement badges or similar.
Clerk responded that the issue would be raised at the next Parish Council meeting and asked if the resident would like their name and details to be passed on as someone who'd like to be involved in the initiative.

135.25 Cllr Andrews pointed out that there was already an unofficial WhatsApp group for village litter picking and that it was a matter for individuals to make contact with that group. Clerk to direct the resident to that group.

ACTION FOR CLERK – to direct the resident to the existing village litter picking WhatsApp group.

- N** Clerk received email from resident on Bagley Wood Road:
I have been advised that the Owner of Bagley Woods intends to remove a large proportion of trees along our boundary. I am hugely concerned that this will cause a very significant rise in road noise from the A34. Can you please advise if this issue has been discussed at the Kennington Parish Council? Is there anything that can be done to stop this or at least enforce the University College to take action along the stretch of the A34 that causes the problem by erecting a sound barrier?
Clerk responded as follows:*The issue of a possible increase in road noise hasn't been discussed, but I shall pass on your concerns (obviously with your name/address etc redacted) to the Parish Council for consideration at its next meeting. The issue of a possible traffic sound barrier is one which would fall to National Highways, rather than a landowner carrying out tree clearance on private land (albeit with permissive public access and considerable amenity value).*

Resident replied as follows:

..... the issue is that a stretch of the A34 rises to or above the treeline at the road edge. We noticed an increase in road noise when the college cut a lot of trees down not far from us not that long ago. It may not be their responsibility to build a noise barrier but I wonder if it is the correct position to take action which knowingly increases road noise for Kennington residents. Through Savills I have requested they build a barrier just along the raised part of the A34. It is about 300M only.....

- 136.25** Cllr Andrews informed Council that the work in Bagley Wood was not expected to happen until at least August owing to the discovery of red-listed Barbastelle bats in the area.

O Received report from resident:

The two slabs of concrete on the wall by the exercise area at the edge of the pitch have been removed once again. I think the previous warden fixed them some time ago but probably not sufficiently well.

Clerk will ask former Village Warden if he can carry out the repair.

ACTION FOR CLERK – to arrange repair of the stone slabs with the former Village Warden.

P Received request from garden maintenance company to access for 4x4 and wood chipper onto Forest Side playing field to trim and reduce the height of the hedge behind a house on Colley Wood. Work to be carried out at householder's expense.

Clerk requested Public Liability Insurance Certificate be provided by the contractor (which has now been received), for works to be carried out while the ground is firm, and to avoid any dates where the football club are using the playing field. Clerk will liaise with contractor to agree a date for the works and to arrange access onto the playing field.

ACTION FOR CLERK – liaise with contractor to obtain access to Forest Side playing field.

Q Received request from External Auditor (Moore & Co) for further financial details to support Explanation of Variances submitted with 2024/25 AGAR Form 3. Information returned to External Auditor.

R Received email from resident regarding Playfield Rd:

This morning at 9.00 the litter all around the pitch was very poor. The Grundon big bin had not been emptied for a while as it was overflowing as was the litter bin at the side of the pavilion.

Clerk to investigate and check frequency of bin emptying by Grundon.

ACTION FOR CLERK – investigate litter bin emptying at Playfield Road.

S Received email from The Circuit (British Heart Foundation) stating that pads in defibrillator unit outside Village Hall were due to expire on 01/08/2025. Checked status of pads in other defibrillators and units outside 11 Playfield Rd and Kirlena House also require new pads from 01/08/2025. Ordered replacement pads for all 3 units.

T Carried out monthly defibrillator checks on all units and updated status on The Circuit. Defibrillator pads at Kirlena House, Forest Side and Village Hall expire on 01/08/2025 – 3 sets of replacement pads compatible with SP1 AED model ordered from WEL Medical at a cost of £225.54 (inc. VAT).

U Email to County Councillors and Clerk received from member of the public regarding Lodge Hill Mitigations in Kennington and Parking enforcement:

It has now been six months or so since the yellow line restriction and zebra crossing were installed for Kennington.

During the installation and planning, it was advised there would be a post implementation survey.

Can you tell us when this will take place.

I think, on behalf of the community here, we all value and appreciate the zebra crossing.

The yellow lines have had an effect in that the buses can flow and emergency vehicles pass on The Avenue in Kennington, as well as increased overall in safety for all categories of road users.

The post implementation review I suspect will highlight that the cars are now parking elsewhere. Perhaps there is a need for a school street status for Grundy Crescent as has been done in Abingdon. As you know, the number of years and actions the school has gone to support and encourage changes in parent behaviours along with weekly reminders in school newsletter. It is not really a school matter and falls with the Council to enforce given all the actions taken by the school to date. The OCC portal for reporting illegally parked vehicle is used by parents however there is no action being taken by OCC. We were advised if the yellow lines were put in, OCC parking enforcement officers would have sufficient time to issue a ticket - this is not being done and parents/carers on school drop off and pick up are blatantly ignoring the parking restriction. Therefore please could you look to do the following:-

Post implementation survey and review of zebra crossing/yellow lines

Install a pillar on the tarmac at the crossing point between Grundy Crescent to Poplar Grove. There are repeated cars that are treating this tarmac as their personal parking space, blocking access for pedestrians. The cars also have to mount the pavement and drive over the yellow lines which we understand to not be legal parking.

You may also wish to instal similar on the grass verges between the Playgroup Building and Grundy Crescent. Vehicles are now parking on the grass via accessing the service road

Please ask parking officers to monitor the area on a regular basis. The issuing of tickets and revenue for these, will more than cover the cost of the officer

- 137.25** Cllr Powles point out that Council has already looked at this problem and double yellow lines simply moves the problem to another part of the village, and School Street status is not practical. Tarmac pillars on the verges are a possibility or perhaps large flower boxes/planters.

V Email received:

I am enquiring about the possibility of using Forest Side recreation ground on August 21st in the afternoon for around 2 hours, approximately 2-4pm.

I am part of a team running a church camp for around 80 14-18 year olds at Cothill House nearby. We are looking at the feasibility of doing a walk in Bagley Wood followed by afternoon tea and some simple games.

We did an exploration walk on Saturday just gone and saw the pavilion. Would it be possible to have access to that for the toilet facilities and the kitchen? Our plan is to have hot and cold drinks along with some cakes and scones (provided), the kitchen access would purely be for hot water to make the drinks. I have a current level 2 food hygiene certificate so will be in charge of serving the food and drinks.

We will have a couple of gazebos and tables to serve food from.

The games will be rounders, football and a couple of other garden games. We will not need to have use of the whole recreation ground.

Please let me know if we will be able to use the ground for the games and access to the pavilion and if there is a cost.

- 138.25** Council approved the hiring of Forest Side Pavilion, subject to the hirer having Public Liability Insurance and a relevant hire agreement being signed and assuming Kennington Athletic Football Club are not using it.

ACTION FOR CLERK – to obtain proof of public liability insurance from hirer, issue a hire agreement and liaise with Kennington Athletic Football Club.

W Zurich Insurance emailed last year's insurance premium invoice (£1,245.55) for payment in error, but the Council made this payment last month. Correct premium (including discount for three-year deal) for 2025-2026 should have been £1262.56. Invoice for additional £17.01 received from Zurich Insurance along with an apology. Council's insurance cover has remained secure throughout.

X Email received from Sports England for information - Sport England Active Places - 1040833 - FOREST SIDE

139.25 Clerk requested clarification if it was ok to pass on the information requested by Sports England. Cllr Brown said it was ok for the Clerk to respond with the information.

CONTINUING ISSUES

- Y** Received response regarding the engraving of memorial benches in the burial ground. All new benches must be “plain” to match the other benches in the Cemetery.
- Z** Clerk received report that the hedgerow alongside The Avenue and Simpsons Way had been cut back by a member of the public on the same day that OCC Highways came to look at the problem.
- AA** 2024-25 AGAR and supporting documents including Notice of Public Rights submitted to the District Council’s External Auditor (Moore & Co) and added to the parish council’s website.
- AB** External Auditor requested additional information to support Analysis of Variance. Additional information sent.
External Auditor replied with a request for further information which Clerk will supply.
- AC** Clerk received Risk Assessment and Insurance Certificate from yoga instructor who had requested holding outdoor yoga sessions at Forest Side over the summer, and also the following request:
I have noticed that there are still people playing football on the pitches at forest side most Thursday evenings, and that there is also a lot of traffic noise, which is when I am hoping to teach. I am therefore considering moving the class to the Links playfield area, just under the trees in the far corner, so it shouldn't inconvenience anyone. Would that be okay with the council?

140.25 The Council agreed with the outdoor classes being held at The Links. Clerk to respond appropriately.

ACTION FOR CLERK – respond to yoga instructor giving permission to use The Links play area.

- AD** Received email from Rosey Hollinrake:
Sorry to report that the water point at the War Memorial is still leaking. Water is pooling in the hole so much, that the plastic green cover is lifting off.
Clerk made contact with local utility services company who visited the site on 1st July and submitted a quote for the repair for £808.71 + VAT.
Taking advice from Cllr Feather, Clerk contacted GP Gas in Kennington who assessed the site within an hour of being called, turned off the water supply to prevent further leakage and returned the next day to repair the leak with no charge made.
- 141.25** It was agreed that a letter of thanks would be sent from the Council and that mention would be made both on Kennington Connected and in the Kennington Chronicle.

ACTION FOR CLERK – to action letter of thanks and publish thanks on Kennington Connected and in Kennington Chronicle.

- AE** Received road safety report from Wild About Kennington.
Simpsons Way exit – visibility to left and right is hampered by shrubs – need to cut back.
St Swithuns Road exit – visibility to right is hampered by shrubs – need to be cut back.
Not sure who is responsible for the shrubs – OCC or Kennington PC?
- 142.25** Cllr Cuddy pointed out that the shrubs are the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council and the matter ought to be dealt with through FixMyStreet.
- AF** Email received from resident:
I wondered if the council had an update on the play area at Forest Side. We have a 4 year old and 1 year old really missing it and I am worried that that will be case all summer. It's also a very useful place for my in laws to take them when they are providing childcare.
I appreciate this would've been discussed at the last meeting but the minutes haven't been published.
I would also be interested to hear the approach being taken in regard to the bus gates.

Clerk replied that funding had now been secured for the rebuild/redesign of the Forest Side play area and it was hoped that the existing play area would be repaired and available for use within the next few weeks. Clerk had no information the approach being taken on bus gates in Oxford city.

AG Clerk contacted MR H Services to obtain a start-date for Forest Side play area repairs. Contractor expects to be on sight within two weeks once current job is complete.

143.25 It was pointed out that weed clearance at the site would be necessary once the repairs have been completed. Cllr Locklin suggested the 20th July as a possible date for weed clearance at Forest Side Play Area for Councillors and members of the public. This was agreed. Clerk to publicise via social media channels.

ACTION FOR CLERK – to publicise the Forest Side Play Area weed clearance on 20th July via Parish Council and Kennington Connected Facebook pages.

AH Clerk met with new Village Warden and showed him the various sites that he will be working at and explained the various tasks + given written job description and PPE (gloves, hi-vis vest). Will meet again next week.

144.25 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUESTS FOR GRANT AID

Requests for Grants

A The Council received a request from the Kennington-Musanda Twinning Association for £450 for materials for the Twinning Event on 11th October.

145.25 The principle of awarding a grant was proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Powles and agreed unanimously.

146.25 The award of a Community Grant of £450 was proposed by Cllr Cobb, seconded by Cllr Johnston and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – to inform the Kennington-Musanda Twinning Association of the award.

Correspondence for discussion/action

B First Draft Oxford Local Plan 2042 (Regulation 18) Consultation

C VoWHDC - Anticipated Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments to town and parish councils for October 2025

147.25 Cllr Brown proposed that CIL payments would be made to the Parish Council and not held by the District Council. Seconded by Cllr Powles and carried unanimously. Clerk to respond appropriately when requested by VoWHDC.

ACTION FOR CLERK – to respond appropriately to VoWHDC when requested.

D OCC Decisions Meeting (17/07/2025) - Cabinet Member for Transport Management

148.25 It was agreed that Council was content with the proposed 40mph speed limit proposed on the A4183. There was no need for Council to attend the meeting.

E South & Vale DC - Reminder - Local Government Reorganisation event

Correspondence forwarded to Councillors for information

F Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme - new online platform

G SO & VoWHDC - Early opening days announced for Abbey Meadow Pool ahead of June heatwave

H News from Vale of White Horse District Council - Community is our superpower this Refugee Week

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- I** Police & Crime Commissioner's Office - PCC's report shows wide range of work done to make Thames Valley safer
- J** Police & Crime Commissioner's Office - New resources on Child Exploitation and Online Harm
- K** Oxfordshire County Council - The latest news for your communities
- L** Wild About Kennington – Annual Report and Letter of Thanks for continued support.
- M** Culture and Heritage Network Event brings local groups together
- N** Thames Valley Police - Have Your Say – notification of event in Radley
- O** VoWHDC & SODC - Have your say on our proposed two new councils (reminder)
- P** Secure Your Spot! Book now for FREE South and Vale Summer Holiday Activities!
- Q** Oxfordshire Resilience Team - For Information- Adverse weather warning
- R** VoWHDC - The July edition of Vale News for 2025

Newsletters

- S** Latest news from Healthwatch Oxfordshire
- T** RSN Weekly News - Free Edition (9 July 2025)
- U** AGE UK - Our latest issue of EngAGE Magazine is here

FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 30 June 2025

Community Account	500.00
Business Premium Account	143,398.95
National Savings & Investment Account	86,540.73
Public Sector Fund (CCLA account)	113,932.52
Total	344,372.20

Income received in June	
CCLA Investment Management Ltd Income reinvestment	417.55
Kennington Village Hall Play area inspection reimbursement	62.25
VE Day Event Bar and Ticket sales – cash receipts Cash paid in at Oxford Cornmarket Branch of Barclays Bank	522.25
Barclays Business Premium Account Interest (3 Mar – 1 Jun)	429.19

Direct debits to be paid in July		Power to Act
Virtual Landline Invoice No. 1061211 (28 June – 28 July 2025) subscription for virtual landline	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
YGP Playfield Road Pavilion June electric (Invoice No: 1040489)	72.16	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP Forest Side Pavilion May electric (Invoice No: 1045960)	50.49	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP War Memorial June electric (Invoice No: 1046094)	37.94	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

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Castle Water Playfield Road Pavilion 01.06.25 to 30.06.25	40.84	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
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Reference No. 2025/	Accounts to be paid in July		Power to Act
069	Mr L J Wootten Salary for June less tax, NI & pension contribution	1,385.34	Section 112 LGA 1972
070	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for June	463.32	Section 111 LGA 1972
071	Mr T Fleming War memorial grass cutting volunteer for June	41.91	Section 111 LGA 1972
072	Mr A Cobb Chairman's monthly allowance for June	73.69	Section 111 LGA 1972
073	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI contributions for June	391.91	Section 111 LGA 1972
074	OALC 2 Delegates at Talking Tables Training Event	72.00	Section 112 LGA 1972
075	Rialtas Business Solutions Clerk Training on Accountancy Software - Invoice 32959	120.00	Section 112 LGA 1972
076	Kennington Village Hall Hall Hire for Kennington Whist Group Approved at meeting on 12 June 2025 (Minute No 86.25)	144.00	LGA 1972 S 137
077	Calber Facilities Management Temporary Warden Cover (bins + pavilion cleaning)	966.05	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
078	OALC 1 delegate at Talking Tables Training Event	36.00	Section 112 LGA 1972
079	Rialtas Clerk training on accounting software - Invoice 32992	186.00	Section 112 LGA 1972
080	Kennington Village Hall Room bookings for 16 th and 20 th May 2025 (additional to other May bookings paid last month)	45.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
081	Lawrence Wootten Postage, bus fare, sink unblocker and defibrillator pads	253.33	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
082	Adventis Web Hosting	31.50	Section 111 LGA 1972
083	Rialtas Business Solutions Clerk training on accountancy software – Invoice 33016	114.00	Section 112 LGA 1972
084	FCC Environment (for Forest Side play area) Landfill Communities Fund third-party funding	5610.43	
085	Kennington Village Hall Various bookings for PC meetings in June	80.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
086	Grundon Wheelie bin emptying at Forest Side & Playfield Rd Invoices 1314581 and 1314580	160.22	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
087	BGG Garden and Tree Care Ltd Verge & Cemetery Mowing + watering planters on 30/06/2025 – Invoice 0376/25	1491.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

088	Thomas Fattorini Ltd Additional silver bar on Chairman's Chain of Office	85.34	
089	Zurich Insurance Adjustment to correct Insurance Premium 2025/26	17.01	Section 111 LGA 1972
090	S H Lewis Cleaning Ltd Bus shelter cleaning	180.00	Section 1 PCA 1957

Total to be transferred in July: £ 11,948.05

Castle Water – water supply for The War Memorial – previous balance was £326.14 in credit

Invoice 10006992704 dated 4th July 2025 (covering period 01-30 June 2025) of £12.88 reduced credit balance to £313.26.

149.25 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 June 2025.

150.25 The financial report was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Johnston and agreed by all.

151.25 Cllr Powles suggested moving some savings out of the NS&I account to take the total below £80,000. It was agreed that the Council should investigate allocating £30,000 of savings to an account with Hinkley & Rugby Building Society or Unity Trust Bank. Clerk to investigate savings accounts.

ACTION FOR CLERK – to investigate savings account available through Hinkley & Rugby Building Society and Unity Trust Bank.

152.25 Cllr Brown pointed out that the Forest Side Play Area rebuild would require the Council to pay for the work, and then claim the grant, so it might be better to transfer £30,000 into the Council's current accounts before transferring it to into savings. Agreed by all.

153.25 It was agreed that the Clerk would work out the profits of the VE Day Supper Dance and bring the figures to the September meeting.

ACTION FOR CLERK – to present the profits of the VE Day Supper Dance to Council in September.

154.25 PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 1 July 2025 were noted.

155.25 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MINUTES

The draft minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 23 June 2025 were noted.

156.25 TO APPROVE POWER TO ACT BY CLERK, CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN DURING JULY & AUGUST

Proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Powles and carried unanimously.

157.25 FIRE SAFETY STRATEGY

The Fire Safety Strategy was reviewed and agreed that no amendments were necessary. Clerk to update the date of last review and publish on the website.

ACTION FOR CLERK – to update the date on the document and publish on the website.

158.25 INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The Investment Strategy was reviewed and agreed that no amendments were necessary. Clerk to update the date of last review and publish on the website.

ACTION FOR CLERK – to update the date on the document and publish on the website.

159.25 PAVILION PROJECT

Cllr Feather informed Council that Planning Permission had been granted for the Playfield Road Pavilion rebuild. A working party of Cllr Brown, Cllr Feather and Cllr Cuddy would move the project forward at this stage.

It was possible that the architect would be able to attend the September meeting to present how the project could progress – perhaps meeting Councillors at 7pm, prior to the main meeting beginning at 7.30pm.

Cllr Feather had made contact with a solicitors firm who had helped Kingston Bagpuize Parish Council with a similar project and was investigating the legal side of the project with them.

160.25 FOREST SIDE PLAY AREA PROJECT

Cllr Brown informed Council that grant funding had been approved by the FCC Communities Foundation. A budget of £500 for a “launch” event was proposed by Cllr Johnston and seconded by Cllr Powles.

161.25 CLERK/COUNCILLOR TRAINING

Cllr Powles indicated that he’d like to attend a Chairman training course when one becomes available.

162.25 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Andrews – St Swithun’s School

The temporary swimming pool at the school had been a great success with some children learning how to swim. The school has recently been awarded a Bronze Accreditation Award with myHappymind, and has submitted an application for an Eco-Schools Award.

Cllr Andrews – St Swithun’s Church

The possibility of another defibrillator at St Swithun’s Church was discussed and it was agreed that this would be put on the agenda of the next meeting.

The church had bought a refrigerator from a Community Grant awarded to them and expressed their thanks to the Parish Council.

Cllr Brown – Village Hall

The Village Hall was currently running at a loss and the level of cleaning has been reduced as a result.

163.25 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

164.25 Cllr Andrews

- Parking issues at Manor Grove had been mentioned on Kennington Connected.
- There was a partially-submerged boat in the River Thames near Hinksey Bridge that was dangerous to both swimmers and river traffic. Could the Clerk investigate how to report the problem?

ACTION FOR CLERK – to investigate the relevant authority to report the submerged boat.

165.25 Cllr Locklin

Are new trees being watered after planting? It was thought that Oxfordshire County Council Tree Team do this for the first two years after planting.

166.25 Cllr Brown

- Could the trees in Kendal Copse be moved to Parish Council land? Could Oxfordshire County Council help?
- Congratulations to Cllr Johnston who was made Honorary Alderman by Oxfordshire County Council.

167.25 Cllr Feather

Thanks to Cllrs Cuddy and Locklin and several members of the public for their help with setting up the flower baskets.

168.25 Cllr Powles

The Santa Sleigh dates would not be able to be confirmed with the Lions until September.

169.25 REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS – Cllrs Diana Lugova and James Cox

1. Council IT Maintenance: At the end of May, major work was done on the Vale's IT systems. While most systems are up and running there is still a backlog in Planning caused by some technical glitches. Consultation periods for planning applications have been extended but if you have any concerns about specific applications, let me know and I will try to help.
2. Abbey Meadow Outdoor Pool: As requested by many members of the public, the outdoor pool in Abingdon opened early this year while the weather was especially hot. At the weekends it was busy but during the week it was not. The decision whether to open the pool during school term is being made based on the weather and staff availability, so if you fancy a swim check it is open on Facebook and book ahead to avoid a wasted journey. When school holidays start it will be open everyday as usual.
3. Local Government Reorganization: All Oxfordshire Councils are engaged with residents to get feedback on proposed regarding LGR Three suggested proposals for the shape of unitary councils in Oxfordshire have all been published and engagement activities are ongoing to get feedback about how residents feel about each one. These are not formal consultations and the ultimately the government will decide which of the three (or something else) is what we end up as part of. Whichever shape or size of unitary council we end up with, my focus will be working to ensure local voices continue to be heard in decision making and that a top down, one-size-fits-all approach is not applied to our varied and predominately rural county.
4. Local Plan Hearing: We are still waiting for the Planning Inspector's Feedback from the hearing last month. I am hopeful that south and Vale's Joint Local Plan will be able to progress to the next stage of examination later in the year.

170.25 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Diana Lugova

1. **Local government reorganisation.** OCC We're asking our residents for thoughts about our interim proposal for a single unitary council for Oxfordshire as part of wider local government reorganisation (LGR) across the country. As you're aware, there are two other proposals for the county, which are being put forward by the city and district councils. The survey is open for comments on Let's talk Oxfordshire [One council: Your Oxfordshire | Let's Talk Oxfordshire](#) until 11.59pm on Sunday 27 July 2025. All views will help inform our final proposal that we will send to the government by 28 November 2025.
2. **OCC Congestion Charge Consultation.** Network Rail's ongoing closure of Botley Road at Oxford station means Cabinet's November 2022 decision to introduce six trial traffic filters in Oxford cannot be implemented until at least August 2026. In early 2025, organizations such as Oxford City Council and Oxford Bus Company requested that Oxfordshire County Council must investigate short term options given the continued closure of Botley Road and the resultant delay to the trial traffic filters. Officers have reviewed a range of potential options, and the recommended options to pursue (subject to consultation and development) have been identified. The main recommended option is a temporary congestion charge scheme based on the existing trial traffic filter proposals. Subject to a future decision by Cabinet, following the consultation, the temporary scheme could be introduced while Botley Road remains closed using the infrastructure and systems already implemented during 2024 in readiness for the traffic filters trial. The recommendation was approved by OCC Cabinet on 17th June and a public

consultation on introducing a temporary congestion charge would start later this month for a period of six weeks. The consultation would help the council understand the impact of the proposed scheme on residents, businesses and other users of the road network. A survey is hosted on the county council's Let's Talk engagement platform [Oxford temporary congestion charge for cars | Let's Talk Oxfordshire](#), with paper copies available in main libraries. A series of online information and Q&A events will be open for all to join, and the council would use a range of methods to reach different audiences across the county. **Climate Change News.** OCC is the best performing county council in the UK for tackling climate change for the second year running, according to an independent survey by an environmental organization. We kept our place as the top scoring county council for climate action in the Climate Emergency UK's (CEUK) 2025 climate action scorecard published last week - [County Councils' Climate Action Scorecards | Climate Emergency UK](#)

3. **Oxfordshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025.** The Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board must produce an assessment of pharmaceutical services in its area every three years. This is required by law under NHS regulations. OCC is consulting with any patient, consumer or community group in the county who has an interest in the provision of pharmaceutical services as well as our statutory stakeholders. Comments received on Let's talk Oxfordshire [Oxfordshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025 consultation | Let's Talk Oxfordshire](#) will inform the final assessment which will be published in September 2025. The consultation will be open until Sunday, 3 August 2025.
4. **Oxfordshire tobacco control strategy 2026 – 2030 consultation.** OCC is running tobacco control strategy consultation on Let's talk Oxfordshire website [Oxfordshire tobacco control strategy 2026 – 2030 consultation | Let's Talk Oxfordshire](#). It will be open till 10th August 2025.
5. **Funding reform.** The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government will publish its consultation on local government funding reform today. It is expected to promise a cap on how much councils' grant income can drop by, transitional protections for those that lose money, as well as extra weighting for rural and coastal areas with higher transport costs.
6. **Ministers set out plans to spend £725bn on UK infrastructure over 10 years.** The Government plans to spend £725 billion over 10 years on infrastructure, with £9 billion annually on repairing schools, hospitals, courts, and prisons. This investment aims to boost infrastructure across the UK and achieve a "national renewal" according to Darren Jones, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury.
7. Part of Lodge Hill Project Management, Cabinet Member for Transport Management will consider **40MPH speed limit** on Oxford Road, Kennington on 17 July 2025 - [CMDTM170725 - Proposed 40mph Speed Limit - Oxford Road Kennington.pdf](#)

171.25 ANY MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION -

Defibrillators
Twinning sign
Santa Sleigh

172.25 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS –

Date of Next Meeting: 11 September 2025

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed

Date 11th September 2025