

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

Present:

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

In Attendance: District & County Councillor Diana Lugova and Lawrence Wootten (Clerk/RFO)

Members of the public: None

62.25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies received from Cllrs Smith and Douglas

63.25 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - None

64.25 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST - None

65.25 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting on 8 May 2025 as a true record.

66.25 REPORT OF THE CLERK

A Resident reported hedgerow blocking the pavement on The Avenue near Simpsons Way causing issues particularly for disabled/wheelchair users. Hedgerow situation on verge between The Avenue and service road for houses on The Avenue so must belong to OCC Highways. Reported on FixMyStreet by Clerk and Cllr Cuddy as a FixMyStreet Super User.

67.25 It was noted that at the time of the meeting this clearance had not been carried out by OCC Highways and the situation was getting worse. Clerk and Cllr Cuddy agreed to pursue the matter further with OCC.

ACTION FOR CLERK & Cllr CUDDY – contact OCC Highways to get the pavement clear and safe to use.

B Received phone call from member of the public asking if there was a procedure for recording near-misses in-and-around schools/zebra crossings in the village. Maybe this is something the parish council could consider. Clerk pointed out that the Community Speedwatch initiative is now active in the village and keen for new members to sign up.

C Resident on Upper Road reported problems with the number of cars parked on Upper Road, some of which have been parked for over a week. Clerk contacted PCSO who suggested that registration numbers of cars which may have been abandoned can be checked if sent to her. Clerk passed the information on to resident.

68.25 Cllr Andrews had spoken with a resident further down Upper Road about the same problem. Cllr Powles suggested a site meeting with OCC Highways to discuss the problem.

ACTION FOR CLERK & Cllr POWLES – contact OCC Highways Community Engagement Team.

D Emailed and phoned regarding the possible engraving of the memorial bench but as yet received no response.

69.25 Cllr Brown suggested finding an alternative company who might be able to engrave the bench.

70.25 Cllr Powles pointed out that the engraving would need to satisfy the criteria for memorial benches in the burial ground.

E Resident reported parking issues on Simpsons Way. Clerk gave contact details of PCSO.

F Resident reported concerns about the state of the frontage of a house on the corner of Bagley Close which is rented by an absentee landlord. Considers the condition of the property to be detrimental to the value of other properties in the vicinity. Can the parish council help?

71.25 Cllr Johnston pointed out that this issue had been raised several times before and there is nothing that either the District or Parish Council can do in such situations.

- G** Clerk has made contact with the company who produced the Chairman's Chain of Office. Fattorini will provide a new engraved silver bar, stitched onto the existing ribbon at a cost of £55.43 nett plus carriage and VAT.

72.25 Council instructed the Clerk to proceed with the order.

ACTION FOR CLERK – send Chairman's Chain of Office to Fattorini for new engraved silver bar to be attached.

- H** Emailed and phoned Holden & Parker plumbers to arrange repair of water supply at War Memorial. As yet, no response [see item Y below].

73.25 Clerk reported that he was now in contact with Holden & Parker plumbers and would arrange a quote for the repair to be done.

- I** Received confirmation from RoSPA of upcoming inspections in July as follows: BMX Dirt Track - Annual Inspection £80, Forest Side Playing Field - Annual Inspection £80, The Links - Annual Inspection £80. Does council wish to proceed with Forest Side Playing Field Annual Inspection?

74.25 It was agreed that all scheduled RoSPA inspections should go ahead as planned. Cllr Powles pointed out that the Forest Side play area would require weeding before re-opening.

ACTION FOR CLERK – respond to RoSPA and confirm all upcoming inspections.

- J** Received email from Macintyre charity asking permission to put a bouncy castle in the car park as part of their summer fair in July. Explained that the Village Hall is not run by the Parish Council and referred the request to the Village Hall Manager.

- K** Delivered hard-copy of Grant Request Forms to representative of Kennington Whist Drive Group since they don't have a printer. Completed application form received and grant request included in the Financial Report for this meeting.

- L** Received the following email from a resident.

"Reference this months chronicle page 31, you request that we get in touch if we have speed or traffic problems. We have both!

Below is an email setting out how dangerous the roundabout end of Upper Road has become.

Today commuters and long term parkers have parked from the roundabout end right up and on the dangerous bend at the top.

We have voiced our concerns frequently but nothing seems to happen. We have not even had the courtesy of a reply to our latest concerns (as per email below).

The speed and the parking at peak travel times is now way beyond comprehension.

We would welcome any help before a serious incident occurs."

Clerk responded to resident explaining that their concerns will be discussed at the June meeting and that our District and County Councillor may be able to offer some insight/advice.

75.25 Cllr Cobb commented that the signage on the approach to the roundabout seemed insufficient and badly positioned. It was agreed that the matter should be raised in a meeting with OCC Highways Engagement Team to discuss highways issue in Kennington in the near future (see 68.25 above).

- M** Received report from concerned resident about The Links Play Area - Just to let you know the chicken wire covering the path as you enter the park at Playfield Road has come loose. It is sticking up at least 15cm and I'm worried about it being a trip hazard. Attached is a photo which shows it as best I could get. Responded to resident thanking them for bringing it to our attention and that the Parish Council would ensure it was made safe asap. Asked Village Warden to assess and make safe which was achieved by removing and disposing of the length of chicken wire.

76.25 It was agreed that council should obtain a quote for the chicken wire to be replaced on the walkway.

ACTION FOR CLERK – contact Mr Satchell to obtain a quote to replace the chicken wire on the walkway.

- N** Received email from resident as follows:

"I wish to make a complaint regarding to parking on the path by the launderette in Playfield Road. I have lived at x playfield Road for xx years and though at times it is busy with the Indian , Chinese , launderette and hairdressers it has now becoming a problem due to the in post parcel delivery and launderette

*The owner of the launderette (he has a designated parking space at the back) but never uses it as he parks on the path and off the road. This is now encouraging others to do it and often 3-4 cars are parked on there at the same time. I believe this is a danger to kids and general public
I cannot believe that the parish has allowed the in post facility in a residential road
I have objected on the retrospect planning permission but find it hard to believe that only 5-6 residents have received the letter regarding to this as it affects most of the street
I am hoping you may be-able to forward this to the suitable people so action can be taken to stop this please at the earliest convenience."*

Clerk responded as follows: *Thank you for your emails regarding the InPost facility that is currently the subject of a Planning Application (application number P25/V0977/FUL).*

You are right to believe the Parish Council would not allow such a proposal in a residential road, however such developments are controlled by the District, and not the Parish Council.

The Parish Council Planning Committee met last week and agreed to submit an objection to the proposed application on exactly the same basis as your own objection. That objection has now been submitted to VoWHDC via their planning portal.

There are quite a few properties listed on VoWHDC's portal, and I note that at present, few have responded. I would encourage all concerned residents to take the opportunity to respond. If concerned residents are not on VoWHDC's list for consultation/notification, they can take the opportunity to comment anyway using the "comment now" button on the lower of the two links below which I have taken from VoWHDC's planning portal - this allows all residents to view the application and make a comment if they so wish.

O Email received from resident:

"Is there any chance we could get the fascia of the Pavilion cleaned. It was last done quite a few years ago and it is looking pretty awful now and does not give a very good impression not only to our people but all the visitors that come to play football and cricket".

77.25 It was agreed that the clerk would contact Taylors to obtain a quote for cleaning the outside of the pavilion.

ACTION FOR CLERK – contact Taylors to obtain a quote for cleaning the outside of the pavilion.

P Email received from resident:

"I am not sure who is responsible for the benches in the Kennington Memorial Field, but on a walk there recently, we observed that all three memorial benches have been vandalised. This is very sad and I hope they can be restored quickly. Two of them cannot be sat on because the slats have been removed and the one under the dedicated tree to the second world war, the label has been vandalised."

Clerk informed resident that this is the responsibility of Oxford Preservation Trust.

CONTINUING ISSUES

Q Clerk received the following email:

"I am a member of the Wild about Kennington group. On Friday 30th May, we conducted a wildflower survey of the verges we have been given permission to look after. During the survey, a resident stopped her car and said that whilst she greatly supported what we were doing, both she and an elderly neighbour struggled to gain sufficient visibility whilst exiting Playfield Road and Simpsons Road.

The contactors have still not mown the 1 metre strip around the verges as promised and as per contract We spent some time cutting down the grass ourselves, but this task needs professional machinery to do effectively and make the Vision Splays safe."

I would be very grateful if you can please remind the contractors that this is now urgent for safety reasons."

Clerk contacted BGG again (and keeping a record of emails already sent on the issue) requesting their teams carry out mowing according to the contract specification. BGG replied with an apology and will ensure their teams mow the 1 metre strips.

78.25 Cllr Andrews reported that the work to reinstate the vision splays had now been completed by BGG and it was agreed that the Clerk would email BGG to thank them.

ACTION FOR CLERK – email BGG thanking them for reinstating the vision splays.

- R** Clerk contacted Chris Lewis Fire & Security Ltd and seek advice on signage and positioning of CCTV camera. For an engineer to make a site visit would cost £300 + VAT for the first hour and £200 + VAT for each subsequent hour spent on site. Clerk requested details of an annual maintenance contract for council to consider at a later date, but council should bear in mind that the clerk will require training in the use of the system which could be incorporated into a site visit under the terms of a maintenance contract.
- S** Emailed Purely Plants for an update on arrival of summer plants for the village. Purely Plants replied saying that they have the troughs and they are planted, just rooting, and they will be in touch soon to arrange delivery of them.
- T** Informed Kennington Toad Patrollers of availability of Playfield Pavilion for social/picnic event.
- U** Contacted M R H Services requesting an update on the Forest Side Play Area repairs. M R H Services expect to be on site in two weeks' time.
- 79.25** Cllr Powles pointed out that there was some exposed concrete around the bases of some of the play equipment at Forest Side that would need to be covered before re-opening.
- V** Received another phone call from a member of Wild about Kennington regarding cutting of visual splays on the verges. Clerk explained that BGG had been emailed earlier that same day (09/06/2025) and they had informed me that a team were due in the village in the next few days.
Issue resolved under item 78.25 above.
- W** Clerk had now received response to enquiry to Chris Lewis Fire & Security. Call outs are charged at £300 for the first hour and £200 for each subsequent hour on-site.
Annual "essentials" maintenance contract would cost £200 + VAT per annum; "premium" maintenance contract would cost £315 + VAT per annum; time to demonstrate CCTV system (offered alongside a maintenance contract) would cost £65 + VAT in addition to whichever maintenance contract is selected. Payable by monthly instalments or single annual fee.
- 80.25** It was agreed that 3 quotes should be obtained for a maintenance contract for the CCTV systems at Playfield Road and Forest Side pavilions.
- 81.25** Clerk would check how many cameras are included in each quote.

ACTION FOR CLERK – contact two additional CCTV contractors for quotes for maintenance programmes.

- X** Received reply from Purely Plants arrival of summer plants for the village.
"We have the troughs here already and they are planted and rooting through at present. We usually deliver these and leave them at Anne's and from there we understand various people distribute them to the locations around the village. We then return and plant insitu the four permanent planters around the village. Would hope to be in touch regarding delivery in the next couple of weeks. If you could advise where you would like the troughs dropped off in the meanwhile."
Clerk responded to request last year's arrangements for delivery.
- Y** Holden & Parker plumbers had made contact regarding War Memorial water supply repair. Clerk has sent photos of site and now awaiting a date/time for a site visit [see item H above] .
- Z** Email received from Prime Compliance Services:
"Just following up to see if there has been any progress on the tank cleans and system disinfection identified as being required at previous site visit, tanks identified to have build-up of sediment/scaling? Were you looking to get the works completed. I have updated quote to make current and attached. Quote attached to email for £630 including VAT."
- 82.25** Cllr Feather proposed that the work was done, seconded by Cllr Powles. Agreed unanimously.
- 83.25** Clerk to respond to Prime Compliance Services to confirm acceptance of the quote and liaise with them to ensure that the work is carried out on day when the pavilion is not in use.

ACTION FOR CLERK – contact Prime Compliance as instructed.

84.25 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUEST FOR GRANT AID
Request for grants

- A** The Council received a request from Kennington Whist Group for the cost of room hire in the Village Hall for 12 monthly meetings (£144).
- 85.25** The principle of awarding a Community Grant to Kennington Whist Group was proposed by Cllr Powles, seconded by Cllr Johnston and agreed unanimously.
- 86.25** The award of the Community Grant for £144 was proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Powles and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – inform Village Hall Manager that the council has agreed to pay for the hire of a room for Kennington Whist Group for year (12 meetings) at a cost of £144.

Correspondence for discussion/action

- B** Oxfordshire County Council Flood projects, Expressions of interest - Results
- C** EN010147- Botley West Solar Farm lease find below a link to a letter from the Examining Authority (ExA) that has been published on the National Infrastructure Planning website.
The letter provides the Examination Timetable for the above application (the 'Rule 8' letter), an invitation to submit Written Representations, details of the publication of the Examining Authority's first Written Questions, requests for Local Impact Reports from Local Authorities, information about the hearings, Accompanied Site Inspections and other information about the Examination.
- D** OALC Talking Tables Event 18th July
- 87.25** It was agreed that Cllrs Cobb and Jempson and the Clerk would attend this event.

ACTION FOR CLERK – book the three attendees at the event with OALC.

- E** Volunteer Flood Wardens – Oxfordshire County Council
- F** Have your say on our proposed two new councils – South and Vale District Councils
- G** Five councils launch two-unitary proposal for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire and seek residents' views on how local government could be improved
- H** Vote for Thames Valley Police Community Heroes!
- I** Oxfordshire County Council - Part-Night Lighting Public Consultation is now live - We look forward to getting your consultation responses
- J** Email received regarding outdoor yoga sessions at Forest Side:
*I am a local yoga teacher hoping to start outdoor yoga classes on Forest Side recreation ground on a weekday evening over summer. I am passionate about bringing people together through yoga and think it would be a lovely asset to the local community.
Would this be possible?*
- 88.25** Council agreed that this was acceptable assuming the organiser could provide a Certificate of Public Liability Insurance and Risk Assessment and avoided times when the recreation ground was booked by the football club.

ACTION FOR CLERK – reply to organiser requesting Certificate of Public Liability and Risk Assessment and provide dates/times when Forest Side recreation ground is used by the football club.

- K** Oxford City Council. Greater Oxford: One council. Local decisions. A better place to live.
- 89.25** It was proposed by Cllr Johnston that the parish council demonstrates the strongest possible opposition to the proposal by Oxford City Council on the basis that the village of Kennington has more in common with other rural villages that it does with City of Oxford suburbs – seconded by Cllr Powles and carried unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – respond in opposition to the Great Oxford City proposal.

- L** Bicester Motion tragedy - first firefighter funeral Saturday 14th June – flag lowering.
- 90.25** It was agreed that Cllrs Brown and Locklin would ensure that the flag at the War Memorial would be lowered on the morning of Saturday 14th June and raised in the afternoon as per the request from Oxfordshire County Council.

ACTION FOR CLRS BROWN AND LOCKLIN – to ensure the flag at the War Memorial is raised and lowered as appropriate on Saturday 14th June.

Correspondence forwarded to Councillors for Information

- M** Community First Oxfordshire – New Website Launch
- N** Letter of thanks from Jane Rendle – ARCh – for Community Grant from Parish Council
- O** VoWHDC - Major council IT system maintenance from 24 May for around one week
- P** TVERC - Join Us for TVERC's Free "Noticing Nature" Events!
- Q** May update from the PCC
- R** Cabinet Members and Chair confirmed at Vale of White Horse District Council – May 2025
- S** CPRE Oxfordshire AGM - 7th June
- T** VoWHDC - Get ready for a fun filled summer in the Vale
- U** VoWHDC - Let's talk rubbish! Tell us what you think of our waste services
- V** Residents First - Local Initiative to Address the Disconnect between Parish Councils and LPAs
- W** SODC & VoWHDC - Get active and join the excitement of half term.
- X** OFA Update: Major step forward for Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme
- Y** SODC & VoWHDC PRESS RELEASE: Reducing need for temporary accommodation
- Z** Let's rethink bulky waste – could you rehome or repair it instead? SODC and VoWHDC media release
- AA** Radley Parish Council Update: June 2025
- AB** Friends of Kennington Library (FoKL) – Letter of thanks for grant from Chair of FoKL.
- AC** Revd Samson Kuponiyi - Thanking you for your support – Kennington Twinning Project
- AD** Savills (on behalf of St John's College) – tree clearance in Bagley Wood
- AE** News from Vale of White Horse District Council - The Beacon's future is looking bright
- AF** TTRO (T16056) Temporary Emergency Road Closure - Kennington, Links Road, OX1 5RU
- AG** Community First Oxfordshire - The Small and Mighty - research report on the infrastructure needs for the micro and small voluntary groups in Oxfordshire
- AH** East West Rail: Keeping You Connected - last chance to complete our newsletter survey
- AI** The Abingdon Bridge Charity Golf Day & Impact Report

Newsletters

- AJ** RSN Weekly News - Free Editions (14 May, 21 May, 29 May, 4 June 2025)
- AK** TVERC News Update | June 2025
- AL** VoWHDC - The May edition of Vale News for 2025
- AM** Read the latest news from Healthwatch Oxfordshire
- AN** CPRE Oxfordshire - June newsletter
- AO** Community First Oxfordshire – June Newsletter

91.25 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 30 May 2025

Community Account	£500.00
Business Premium Account	£155,708.53
National Savings & Investment Account	£86,540.73
Public Sector Fund (CCLA account)	£113,514.97
Total	£356,264.23

Income received in May	
CCLA Investment Management Ltd	414.77
Income reinvestment	
Wolvercote Cricket Club	750.00
For facilities at Playfield Road pavilion, garage and field during 2025	

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Kennington Football Club For facilities at Playfield Road and Forest Side pavilions and fields in 2025 + summer tournaments and presentation day	3560.00
SumUp Payments VE Day Supper Dance Bar Income – Ref M2Z Pid1117583	167.65

Direct debits to be paid in May		Power to Act
Virtual Landline Invoice No. 1027938 (28 May – 28 June 25) subscription for virtual landline	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
YGP Playfield Road Pavilion May electric (Invoice No: 1015160)	23.89	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP Forest Side Pavilion May electric (Invoice No: 1022556)	53.13	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP War Memorial May electric (Invoice No: 1022685)	39.51	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
EDF Playfield Road May gas (Invoice KI-3CBED647-0012)	14.94	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
Castle Water Playfield Road Pavilion 01.05.25 to 31.05.25	37.96	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
PWLB Village hall loan repayment ref. PW463811	2,118.53	Local Government Act 1972

Reference 2025/	Accounts to be paid in June		Power to Act
043	Mrs A E Feather Salary for 9 days annual leave untaken, less tax & pension contribution	469.14	Section 112 LGA 1972
044	Mr L J Wootten Salary for May less tax, NI & pension contribution	1401.34	Section 112 LGA 1972
045	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerks' and Employer's contributions for May	634.49	Section 111 LGA 1972
046	Mr J Satchell Salary for May less tax	576.39	Section 111 LGA 1972
047	Mr T Fleming War memorial grass cutting volunteer for May	41.91	Section 111 LGA 1972
048	Mr A Cobb Chairman's monthly allowance for May	73.69	Section 111 LGA 1972
049	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI contributions for May	606.72	Section 111 LGA 1972
050	Zorro D Shape Litter Picking Hoop	14.99	Section 111 LGA 1972
051	Fleet Line Markers 16 x 10 litres Pitchmarker Super	679.49	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
052	Eurooffice Office Stationery	87.40	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

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053	BGG Garden & Tree Care Verge & Cemetery Maintenance – Invoice 099/25	2256.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
054	Rialtas Clerk training on accounting software - Invoice 32896	48.00	Section 112 LGA 1972
055	Zurich Insurance Parish Council Annual Insurance Premium	1245.55	Section 111 LGA 1972
056	Savills (on behalf of St John's College) Hire of Forest Side playing field 24.06.25 – 28.09.25	661.90	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
057	Grundon Wheelie bin emptying at Forest Side & Playfield Rd Invoices 1280258 and 1280259	172.51	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
058	Rialtus Clerk training on accounting software – Invoice 32918	132.00	Section 112 LGA 1972
059	Kennington Village Hall Room hire for May	45.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
060	Rachel Brown Food, drinks etc for VE Day Event	184.45	Section 145 LGA 1972
061	Justin Satchell Materials for repairing Playfield Road Stone Wall	53.51	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
062	Adventis Web Hosting	31.50	Section 111 LGA 1972
063	ARCh Oxfordshire Approved at the Council meeting on 8 May 2025 Minute No 21.25	100.00	Section 137 LGA 1972
064	BGG Garden and Tree Care Ltd Verge & Cemetery Mowing – Invoice 0202/25	765.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
065	Rialtus Clerk's training on Rialtus software – Invoice 32950	84.00	Section 112 LGA 1972
066	Alan Cobb Village Hall hire for VE Day Supper Dance	140.00	Section 145 LGA 1972
067	M C Accountancy Ltd Fees for the Internal Audit of Kennington Parish Council accounts for the year-ended 31 March 2025	408.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
068	Eurooffice Ink cartridges, A4 plastic wallets, treasury tags	113.58	Section 111 LGA 1972

Total to be transferred in June: £ 11026.56

Castle Water – water supply for The War Memorial – previous balance was £342.34 in credit.

Invoice 10006690389 dated 05/06/2025 (covering 01-31 May 2025) of £16.20 reduced credit balance to £326.14.

92.25 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 May 2025.

93.25 The financial report was proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Powles and agreed by all.

94.25 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2024/25

95.25 The Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25 was received and noted.

96.25 The Annual Governance Statements for 2024/25 (Section 1) was presented. Proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all.

97.25 The Accounting Statements for 2024/25 (Section2) was presented. Proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all.

- 98.25** The Notice of Public Rights period from Monday 16th June to Friday 26th July 2025 was presented. Proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all.
- 99.25** It was agreed that the Clerk/RFO would submit all necessary documents to the County Council's External Auditor.
- 100.25** It was agreed that the Clerk/RFO would upload all necessary documents to the Parish Council's website.

ACTION FOR CLERK – submit all necessary documents to the External Auditor.

ACTION FOR CLERK – upload all necessary documents to the Parish Council's website.

- 101.25** The draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 20 May 2025 were noted.
- 102.25** The draft minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 16 May 2025 were noted.

103.25 NEW FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

New Financial Regulations based on the latest NALC Model were presented to Council.

Cllr Brown suggested a change to paragraph 5.15 Clause 2, which was agreed and will now read: *"the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair of the Council or Chair of the appropriate committee, for any items below £1000 excluding VAT."*

Cllr Brown suggested an amendment to paragraph 7.6, which will now read: *"One councillor who is an authorised signatory shall check the payment details against the invoices before approving each payment using the online banking system."*

- 104.25** Cllr Johnston proposed adopting the new Financial Regulations document with the amendments suggested by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Powles and carried unanimously.
- 105.25** It was agreed that the Clerk will amend the draft document accordingly and upload to the Parish Council's website.

ACTION FOR CLERK – amend the draft document and upload new Financial Regulations to website.

106.25 FOREST SIDE PLAY AREA WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATION

- 107.25** Cllr Brown reported that the Forest Side Play Area Working Group had assessed the tenders received for the rebuild project and that the preferred supplier was Eibe Play Ltd. The council was now waiting for the result of the grant application.
- 108.25** It was resolved that Eibe Play Ltd would be the preferred supplier. Proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Powles and carried unanimously.
- 109.25** Clerk to inform Eibe Play Ltd that they were the council's preferred supplier for the Forest Side Play Area rebuild, and inform the unsuccessful suppliers that they had not been selected.

ACTION FOR CLERK – contact Eibe Play Ltd to inform them that they had been selected as the council's preferred supplier and inform the unsuccessful suppliers accordingly.

110.25 WATERING OF SUMMER PLANTERS AND TROUGHS

- 111.25** Cllr Feather reported that he had still not heard back from The Garden Gang regarding watering of summer planters and troughs. He was seeking alternative contractors and expected the cost to be approximately £1000 for the season.
- 112.25** Cllr Johnston proposed that the decision was delegated to the Clerk, Chairman and Cllr Feather, seconded by Cllr Powles and carried unanimously.

113.25 SOLICITORS FOR COUNCIL - In particular for the purchase of The War Memorial

- 114.25** Cllr Feather had approached Knights, who had experience with property matters and had also approached another solicitors company, but would come to the next meeting with more information.
- 115.25** Cllr Powles proposed that council move forward with Knights to secure ownership of the War Memorial as soon as possible, seconded by Cllr Johnston and agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLLR FEATHER – proceed with Knights plc solicitors.

116.25 PAVILION PROJECT

117.25 Cllr Feather reported that there was no progress on Planning Permission for the new pavilion owing to the District Council's IT restructure which meant at the Planning Portal was not operational.

118.25 INSPECTION OF THE COUNCIL'S ASSET REGISTER

119.25 It was agreed that Cllrs Andrews and Brown would inspect the Council's assets in the north of the village, and Cllrs Jempson and Russel do the same in the south of the village.

120.25 It was agreed that the Clerk would supply the latest version of the Asset Register to Cllr Andrews.

ACTION FOR CLLRs ANDREWS, BROWN, JEMPSON AND RUSSELL – organise a suitable time to inspect the Council's assets.

ACTION FOR CLERK – supply Cllrs Andrews, Brown, Jempson and Russell with the latest version of the Council's Asset Register.

121.25 INSPECTION OF THE COUNCIL'S TREES

122.25 Cllrs Johnston and Gamble agreed to inspect the Council's tree stock.

ACTION FOR CLLRs JOHNSTON AND GAMBLE – organise a suitable time to inspect the Council's tree stock.

123.25 CLERK/COUNCILLOR TRAINING

124.25 It was agreed that Cllrs Cobb and Jempson and the Clerk would attend the OALC Talking Chairs Event (see minute no 87.25 above).

125.25 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

126.25 Cllr Andrews reported that Wild About Kennington had been made aware that a water meadow owned by the Oxford Preservation Trust had been treated with a broadleaf herbicide in an attempt to control ragwort, but the treatment had also killed all other forbs in the meadow. Measures to restore the balance of grasses and forbs were now in place.

117.25 Cllr Feather suggested that the Clerk attempt to re-establish communication with Kennington Youth Club's organisers. All agreed.

ACTION FOR CLERK – contact Kennington Youth Club.

118.25 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

119.25 Cllr Andrews gave an update on the clearance of trees in Bagley Wood. Individual trees within the clearance zone had been marked for saving with red ribbon, but unfortunately some residents had mistakenly removed the ribbon, meaning those trees were now likely to be felled. A request had been made for the work to be carried out in August, outside the bird nesting season. The drainage ditch will be re-dug as part of the clearance works, which will hopefully relieve the flooding issues. A DEFRA grant had been awarded to remove trees near to the path and create a two-tier canopy.

120.25 Cllr Jempson reported that the hedgerow was encroaching onto the pavement running alongside The Avenue near Simpsons Way. Clerk and Cllr Cuddy said that this had already been reported on FixMyStreet and they were hoping that the OCC Highways Team would cut back the hedgerow soon.

121.25 Cllr Brown suggested that the Parish Council meet for a social dinner, perhaps in a local restaurant. All agreed.

122.25 Cllr Cobb had received a letter of thanks from Mrs Feather for her leaving card from the Council.

123.25 Cllr Cobb reported that there had been flooding recently on Edward Road during recent downpours. Cllr Johnston reported that OCC Highways were aware of the problem and that he had reported it to them. The problem had been caused by tarmac blocking drain covers after road resurfacing.

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

1. Vale IT systems migration has been completed and all systems (including Planning Portal) are now

Live.

2. Devolution and Local Government Reorganization (LGR). Vale has started public engagement with its 2-unitary council proposal. The proposal is based on creating 2 unitary councils in Oxfordshire: Oxford and Shires Council (Cherwell, Oxford City and West Oxfordshire) and Ridgeway Council (South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Berkshire). The Proposal is attached and link to more information and face to face public events schedule is here Five councils launch two-unitary proposal for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire and seek residents' views on how local government could be improved - Vale of White Horse District Council. The engagement started on 4th June and will run for 6 weeks. There is a survey on the website Home - Two Councils.
3. Joint Local Plan (JLP) hearings took place last week in Milton Park. Summary of 3-day hearing attached.

125.25 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Diana Lugova

1. Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

Have your say on Devolution and LGR! The Districts and the City councils published their plans for LGR last week. The new County Council Cabinet has re-affirmed its commitment to a single unitary authority and we will commence our programme of engagement with residents in July, with questions added to our annual residents' survey, an online survey which will be launched on the Let's Talk Oxfordshire website, a series of 9 focus groups which will be recruited to represent the diversity of our county's residents, and a series of "sounding boards" with young people. OCC is engaging with town and parish councils through OALC and is conducting research with towns and parishes to explore how neighbourhood governance could form part of a new governance structure.

2. Oxford Traffic – Congestion Charge Consultation

Considering Botley Road extended closure which makes traffic filters implementation not viable and receiving complaints from bus operators about heavy traffic which severely affect bus services in and around Oxford, OCC is introducing interim proposal to handle the city congestion. A recommendation is going to Cabinet on June 17 to go out to consultation on a time-limited version of the traffic filters scheme, using the filter locations as charging points.

The main drivers behind the recommendation are to mitigate congestion, as requested very forcefully by the bus companies, and to enhance bus services by the twin benefits of freeing up road space and generating revenue to potentially enhance services further. Additional benefits would include greater safety, more space for walking and cycling, and better air quality. All permits and exemptions are carried over from the approved traffic filters scheme, so that the daily lives of, for example, traders, health workers, blue-badge holders, those with regular medical appointments, etc, will be significantly better.

3. Gully Cleansing Programme 2025/26

Oxfordshire County Council scheduled Gully Cleansing for all OCC Parishes.

For Vale of White Horse's Parishes the schedule is below:

01/10/2025-30/11/2025 Kennington

4. Digital Infrastructure

Oxfordshire is leading a 5G Innovation Region project. The team have secured funding for private 5G testbeds at Harwell and now along the Bicester – Bletchley section of East-West rail. As well as potential commercial benefits to the council from this centrally government funded initiative, the knowledge and testing process could have applications across the rail network in the county and help to speed up deployment.

126.25 ANY MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION - None

127.25 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – Staffing issues were discussed

Date of Next Meeting: 10 July 2025

Meeting closed at 21.23

Signed

Date 10th July 2025