

Kennington Parish Council
Oxfordshire
Minutes of the meeting held on
11th September 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 Patterson Cllr Powles Cllr Russell

In Attendance: Lawrence Wootten (Clerk/RFO)

Members of the public: None

173.25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Smith, and also from Cllr Gamble who had written to the Clerk and Chairman offering his resignation as a Councillor owing to work commitments.

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

174.24 TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS FOR CO-OPTION TO FILL THE CASUAL VACANCIES AND ELECT ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

Cllr Patterson was nominated for co-option by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Andrews and elected unopposed. Acceptance of nomination was signed by Cllr Patterson and witnessed by the Clerk.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform VoWHDC Electoral Services of the co-option.

175.25 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - None

176.25 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Cllr Brown declared an interest in payments to be made to OALC since she is an OALC employee.

Cllr Johnston declared an interest in the Kennington History Society Community Grant application.

177.25 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2025 as a true record.

178.25 REPORT OF THE CLERK

NEW ISSUES

- A** Contacted Environment Agency to inform them of sunken boat in the River Thames reported by Cllr Andrews at the last meeting. Clerk was informed that the boat presented a risk to navigation and would be removed as a matter of urgency. The boat has now been removed.
- B** Arranged for GP Gas to assess the blocked urinals and sinks at Playfield Road Pavilion and met them on-site. Waste pipes were badly blocked and couldn't be cleared, so were replaced. Clerk informed cricket and football clubs that the urinals and sinks are now working fine.
- C** Email received from Kennington Village Hall Manager asking if the Parish Council were paying for the hall booking for the Kennington-Musanda Twinning Event in October. Clerk informed Hall Manager that the Parish Council had awarded the Twinning Association a Community Grant, and that included the cost for the hire of the hall, so payment would be from them.
- D** Report received from cricket club that Playfield Road showers weren't working. Clerk met Cricket Club Groundsman on-site and demonstrated how to turn on the showers.
- E** Request received from cricket club to mow the outfield at Playfield Road despite the hot weather as an inter-county tournament was being held. Contacted BGG asking them to mow as normal which was done a few days before the tournament.

- F** Email received from RoSPA regarding high-risk finding in the wooden hut at The Links play area. Following consultation with Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the hut has been cordoned off with “no entry” signs. Clerk has since met MR H Services on-site, who would be able to repair and make safe.
- G** Additional security keys for Forest Side and Playfield Road pavilions and playing fields requested by Kennington Athletic Football Club and Wolvercote Cricket Club (only for Playfield Road) obtained from Bryans Lock Services. New key sets along with invoices will be issued and key inventory updated.
- H** FCC Communities Foundation Contract for Forest Side Play Area rebuild signed by Clerk and receipt confirmed.
- I** Report from Cricket Club Groundsman that the Playfield Rd Pavilion clock had stopped and there was no power to sockets and lights in the scoreboard. Resident had also emailed clerk reporting the clock wasn’t working. Clerk investigated on-site with Groundsman, but couldn’t find the problem as all circuit breakers were ok. Cllr Feather suggested a local electrician to investigate, who found two hidden circuit breakers in the scoreboard which had “tripped”. Clock, scoreboard lights and scoreboard now working.
- J** Removed the remainder of archival Parish Council’s files from previous clerk’s home for storage at Playfield Rd Pavilion. Clerk noted that some financial files could now be disposed of as they are over ten years old.
- K** Email received from resident:
I am contacting the Parish Council regarding problems created for Forest Side residents by the football tournaments in July.
As you will see from the email exchange below, I have already contacted the football club. I found their response rather dismissive of the issues raised, and misleading about the problems with the scaffold structures.
I am therefore asking the Parish Council for their intervention to ensure these problems are not repeated. This is in respect of three key areas:
1. Ensuring future tournaments are not on consecutive weekends so residents get a break and can enjoy their gardens. It has never been on consecutive weekends before and we don't want this to be the new norm.
2. Situating the temporary structures on the far side of the field from our gardens at [house numbers redacted]. This will reduce disturbance on the days, and from kids climbing on the scaffolding at night
3. Ensuring the structures are removed within 24 hours. Although as you can see below, the club says that they are taken away after a couple of days, in fact they were left in place for 9 days. They became a noisy gathering point for kids and also a safety risk
I would be grateful if this issue could be raised by Councillors with the football club and a satisfactory outcome agreed. Please do keep me informed
- 179.25** Cllr Feather pointed out that a Risk Assessment for the tournament, including the temporary structure should be produced by the football club and forwarded to the Parish Council. This was a point to be raised via the Playing Fields Committee ahead of next year’s tournament.
- 180.25** Cllr Powles mentioned that the tournaments had been well-organised and the fact that a girls’ tournament was being held was a positive thing.
- 181.25** Cllr Brown pointed out that the football club has written to residents living nearby in previous years, and had this been done this year?

ACTION FOR CLERK – Raise issues of Risk Assessment, length of time the temporary structure was in place, and communication with local residents with the football club at the next Playing Fields Committee meeting.
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L Email received from resident:

Especially in the warmer months I cycle to work to Abingdon, taking the beautiful route along the Thames, which then at Kennington is switching to next to the train tracks.

In this area, I noticed that at the moment the cycle path is very overgrown. It is a beautiful cycle path, actually very wide (if not overgrown) and also very frequently used by cyclists, runners, etc.

Unfortunately the overgrowing plants make it less nice to use the path, some places are even dangerous, especially with oncoming traffic. Also, the plants are mainly mean ones with thorns or stinging nettles. I am not sure if you are the right person to contact about this, but as I noticed this situation particularly at the path next to the train tracks, which are running north-south next to Kennington, I thought it might make sense to contact you and ask if Kennington is responsible for maintaining this part of the cycle path and if somebody in the near future could cut at least the dangerous narrow sections. I think that would make a lot of people very happy.

Clerk contacted Cllr Cuddy who explained that the path is the responsibility of Sustrans from Sandford Lane to the fish gate, and then Thames Path (Oxfordshire County Council) from there into Oxford. This information would be added to our Parish Online mapping for future reference.

Clerk replied to resident with this information and resident replied that the path had been cleared very recently.

- M** MR H Services reported that the concrete foundations of the play equipment at Forest Side play area were found to be much deeper and larger than expected and could not be removed with the contractor's hand-held machinery. Clerk consulted with Cllrs Cobb, Powles, Brown and Feather and the decision was taken to stop the repair work immediately and ask MR H Services to "make-safe". Clerk met with MR H Services on-site and all new timber poles purchased for the repair work were moved into safe storage in the garage at Playfield Rd Pavilion and can either be used for repairs in The Links play area, or will be bought back from the Parish Council by the contractor as/when required at other play areas.

N Email received from South & Vale Community Safety Officer:

We have purchased some bats and balls for the community to use on the community table tennis tables.

We are looking for somewhere to store these that the community are able to collect and return them to.

I believe there is a table tennis table at Forest Side Playing field. Are you aware of anywhere that might be appropriate for us to put this equipment?

Clerk replied and confirmed that there is still a table tennis table at Forest Side and he was happy to receive the equipment. Ten table tennis bats and a bag of balls delivered to Clerk's home. Could Council consider how these can be made available to the community?

- 182.25** Cllr Brown proposed that the Clerk leave a set of bats and balls out for use at the table tennis table, seconded by Cllr Powles and agreed.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Leave a set of table tennis bats and balls at the outdoor table tennis table.

O Email received from resident:

Firstly, the flowers in the village do us proud and thank you to whoever is in charge of their upkeep and watering.

Secondly, the hedge at Forest Side on both sides of the road, has increased considerably over the years and I am witnessing more and more near misses as people try to pull out of the road.

The sign that gives warning to drivers that we have a playground has completely disappeared within the hedge on the lamp post. Can a polite letter be written to residents pointing this out, children and drivers are at risk. The 20 mile hour is not taken seriously and cars still travel at great speed.

- 183.25** It was agreed that the Clerk would put a reminder to residents to trim their hedges in the next article for the Kennington Chronicle.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write a polite reminder about the importance of hedge trimming for road safety in the next edition of the Kennington Chronicle.

P Email received from resident:

Speeding on Upper Road - there is concern about vehicles speeding along this section of Upper Road and the junction of Forest Side. There are not any 20mph signs approaching Forest Side from both directions and vehicles are speeding excessively at times - which is dangerous for children ,pedestrians and vehicles turning into /out of Forest Side. There are football matches most weekends with training sessions in evenings and the general use of the playfields during the week ,which is well used and enjoyed . I have made requests to Fix My Street on a couple of occasions last year requesting 20mph signs and better signs for the Playground but nothing happened yet.

Could you look into installing some speed monitoring units like the ones on Boars Hill which seem to be effective and have been there for a number of years in a less populated area than Kennington.

Clerk responded:

I've spoken with Cllr Martin Cuddy, and he has told me that the Community Speedwatch Group are looking for more members and they could do a session on Upper Road for data capture and as a deterrent. He is very happy for you to email him for more information - martin.cuddy@kennington-pc.gov.uk

We'll also discuss this issue at the next council meeting, there may be scope for a SID but it would be dependent on finances and approval by the Highways Department.

We will also approach Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department and ask them about extra 20mph "repeater" signs - there are quite specific rules about the placing of such signs and the distances between them, but we can at least ask if the requirement is being met.

Q Email received from Hailey Parish Council Clerk:

I notice you have a BMX track similar to ours in Hailey and would like to ask if you have had repair work on the track and who did it. Our needs repair in a few places and I cant find a local contractor skilled in the repair of these type of gravel/ dirt tracks.

Clerk confirmed that Kennington PC has a BMX track and passed on details of former Village Warden and MR H Services.

R The Clerk attended a meeting with clerks of Wootton & Dry Sandford PC and Sunningwell PC and I&G Contractors to discuss the closure of Foxcombe Road from 9th September. Posted the notification and further clarification of the extent of the closure on Kennington PC's social media channels.

S Emailed The Flagpole Company to arrange annual inspection and maintenance of the village flagpoles. Quote received.

184.25 It was agreed that an inspection was not necessary this year, but it would be put in the budget for next year and reviewed.

T Email received from resident of Sandford Lane:

As a family, we are deeply concerned about the overhanging ash trees opposite our home and outside numbers 17 and 21. They are now completely overhanging the road itself and are old and fragile. Only a week ago, one of the ash trees further up the road came down in the middle of the night. It blocked the road and brought down the telegraph pole. It was fortunate that our neighbours' properties weren't damaged. Our concern is that we have the same trees opposite our house. I am very worried that they will come down in the first winter storm. Our house is close by and if they fall, they will hit our large fir tree, which would be a further concern if that came down as well. They could also hit homes.

Is it possible to have a word with the gentleman who owns the copse for these trees to be trimmed back? I think they sit on Kennington land as they are on this side of the stream. They did do some trimming in the area a few years ago, but they completely ignored these particular trees. We are just very worried and get frightened whenever there are strong winds.

Also, we are worried as Redrow created a walkway through the copse from its new estate to cut through to Sandford Lane. Since then we have had children playing in this area. This is an area where trees are coming down regularly and it is only a matter of time before someone gets seriously hurt. Some of the children playing are fine. However, there are others who have been very destructive. They have been aggressive

and can be seen swinging on old, fragile trees or breaking off branches to make a type of den. The other day four youths on bikes were in the area and one spat in our direction when we walked along the road.

185.25 Cllr Powles pointed out that this is private land, and matters of anti-social behaviour should be reported to PCSO Maddie Highmore.

186.25 It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the OCC Tree Officer (previously contacted by Cllr Jempson) who had written to the landowner, and ask if a response has been received.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write to OCC Tree Officer asking if a response has been received from the landowner.

U Received email from resident whose property has been flash-flooded by run-off from Forest Side playing field to Upper Road. Despite contacting the Parish Council in the past about the flash-flooding last year, the problem persists, they are still being flooded and no action seems to have been taken by the County Council to improve the situation. Is there more the Parish Council can do to help?

187.25 Cllr Brown pointed out that this has been an ongoing problem between OCC and Thames Water.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write to OCC and Thames Water – and report the problem again via FixMyStreet.

V Email received from resident

Dear Kennington Parish council,

Hoping you can help! Parents and carers continue to park on the zig zags at the school, on service roads parallel to the avenue and on single yellow lines at school drop off and pick up. It's never ending despite the school emailing every week about it. I've contacted both the vale of white horse and Oxford city council who claim they cannot help, and also the police but they cannot help either. So I'm coming to you as I am aware that Garsington parish council stepped in when it was bad at their primary school. Parking fines were issued on the spot and regular patrolling and presence helped stop the ignorant parking. I'm sure Mrs Knighton as head of St Swithun's would also welcome support in the matter.

188.25 Cllr Powles pointed out that the wide catchment of the school means that parents have to drive their children there, and the parking situation is difficult to police.

189.25 It was agreed that the issue would be raised with PCSO Maddie Highmore – perhaps at her next surgery at the Village Hall.

190.25 The Parish Council was interested to hear the residents report about Garsington Parish Council's success in controlling parking around their primary school. Clerk to request further information.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Raise the issue with PCSO Maddie Highmore. Reply to resident requesting further information about how Garsington Parish Council improved the parking situation near Garsington Primary School.

W Resident reported flash-flooding caused by road gulleys overflowing on the corners of Edward Rd and also Kenville Rd. Can the Parish Council get OCC Highways to clear the road gulleys?

191.25 Cllr Brown suggested that the Clerk should contact the OCC Highways Engagement Team to point out the problem again – all agreed.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write to OCC Highways Engagement Team.

X Resident requested help in obtaining an a disabled parking space outside his house, which has no off-street parking. Existing disabled parking space is being used by a disabled neighbour. Clerk has offered to guide the resident through the online application process.

Y Resident asked about maintenance of Cow Lane, as a popular thoroughfare for leisure. The large concrete base could possibly be made to look less austere with community planting by volunteers?

192.25 Cllr Feather pointed out that the concrete block is part of Thames Water infrastructure, and not under the Parish Council's ownership.

CONTINUING ISSUES

- Z** Received Road Safety report from Wild About Kennington for July and August. Vision splays were being cut. No problems to report.
- AA** Certificate of Disinfection received for water tank at Playfield Road Pavilion from Prime Compliance.
- AB** Received email from Colin Charlett's family regarding the status of the memorial bench. Ascertained that permission had not yet been requested from the Diocese but the location and style of bench had been agreed with the family. Manufacturer's details have been received by the Clerk. Bench will be delivered assembled and will just require installation using ground-fixings supplied. MR H Services would be able to carry out installation.
- 193.25** Cllr Brown proposed that the Clerk place the order for the bench at a cost of £727.99, seconded by Cllr Powles and agreed by all. Clerk to confirm wording of the memorial inscription with the family before placing the order.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Confirm working of memorial inscription and place order for bench.

- AC** Email received from resident:
Can the parish council please provide an update on the play area? What are the time frames for the repair work? My parents in-law rely on local parks when providing childcare for us and Forest Side play area was a useful place for them when it was accessible. It would have been particularly the case over this summer where they have now been having to get in the car to drive to the other end of the village.
Clerk responded as follows:
When I last emailed you, we had expected our contractor to be able to complete the necessary safety repairs at Forest Side in a matter of weeks. Weeds were cleared from the site by councillors a few weeks ago with the expectation that the site would re-open very soon. However, the concrete foundations for the upright wooden poles were much deeper and larger than anyone expected and would require specialist heavy-plant machinery to remove, rather than the usual hand-held electric jackhammers used by our contractor to carry out all our repair work at both Forest Side and Playfield Road.
Given that the Forest Side play area is scheduled for a complete rebuild in a few months, the Parish Council took the decision to stop further work at the site, so I'm afraid that it will now remain closed until work begins on the rebuild, which we expect to be in about four or five weeks time.
- AD** Road Closure Request for Remembrance Sunday submitted to VoWHDC.
- AE** Email received from Moore and Co (External Auditor):
Following a further review of your AGAR, we would be grateful if you could provide the following:
A breakdown of Box 3 for the current and prior year
Information required by 12th September 2025
Clerk responded as follows:
Please find attached the following documents
Box 3 breakdown for the 2024/25 tax year.
Box 3 breakdown for the 2023/24 tax year (giving a total of £26,022 as submitted to you originally in Box 3).
Signed External Auditor report for the 2023/24 tax year instructing Kennington Parish Council to restate Box 3 as £111,022 instead of the originally submitted sum of £26,022 - and giving full explanation of why £85,000 needed to be added to Box 3.
- AF** Email received from member of Wild About Kennington:
I would be very grateful if you could please remind the mowing contractors, BGG, that when they next come here to mow Kennington's grass verges during August, they need to cut and remove all of the cuttings from the wildlife-friendly verges that run along the western side of The Avenue between the Playfield Road junction and the War Memorial, including the patch of grass behind the St Swithun's School

bus stop. Please could they confirm that they do intend to cut and remove all of the cuttings from these areas of tall vegetation before the end of August, as per the agreed mowing contract?

Clerk checked the terms and conditions of the contract between Kennington Parish Council and BGG before sending the following reply:

Just to confirm that I have emailed BGG to remind them to cut and clear the wildlife-friendly verges according to the terms of our contract and have received confirmation that this will be done.

For your information the terms of the contract between Kennington Parish Council and BGG state that: Areas 34, 39, 45, 46, 47 and 48 have been designated as pilot areas for "wilding" in 2025. These areas shall be cut in mid-March and then left uncut until between 1 April and late August, with the exception of visibility splays at each road junction and a one metre strip along the kerb edge along The Avenue, which shall be mown every three weeks. All cuttings from the September cut will be removed. After the September "cut and collect" cut, these verges are to be mown once every three weeks.

I would therefore expect the "cut and collect" cut to be in the next week or so, according to the terms of our contract, rather than in August.

AG Email from resident:

Spoke to someone [whilst on holiday] there who does the village litter pick. They have designated areas/roads with people who offer to litter pick every two weeks. They leave the litter rubbish bag sealed up on side of Road and the local bin collector collect when they come round. We already have designated areas for the chronicle so could adopt the same locations and the volunteers can go out on days that suit them.

AH Clerk met with MR H Services at St Swithun's Churchyard to assess site for Colin Charlett's memorial bench. No need for ground fixings as other benches in the churchyard are free-standing on concrete bases. Recycled plastic benches are much heavier than wooden benches, so will need to be put into position by two people.

AI Email received from Cllr Cuddy regarding the possible sites of additional SIDs in the village recommended by OCC Highways Officer.

194.25 Cllr Cuddy reported that the cost of installing 2 posts to support the SIDs would be approximately £1000 but he would get a more definite cost to present to council before December to allow the cost to be included in the 2026-27 budget.

ACTION FOR CLLR CUDDY – Obtain accurate costings for the installation of 2 SID posts to present to council.

AJ Clerk has received confirmation of – Road Closure Order (NO 52 ORDER 2025) - Remembrance Day Parade and Service from VoWHDC

AK Quote received from MR H Services for repair of the wooden hut at The Links - £500-550 depending on price of play-grade timber at time of purchase.

195.25 It was proposed by Cllr Powles that with one playground out of action, it would make sense to get the necessary repair done asap, seconded by Cllr Johnston and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Instruct MR H Services to carry out repair.

AL Clerk received report from Village Warden that the remaining chicken wire covering the wooden path at The Links was loose and presented a trip hazard. Spoke with MR H Services regarding making the path safe for the immediate future (given likely rebuild of the pavilion within the next two years) and was advised that replacing the whole length of chicken wire was the most cost-effective solution.

196.25 It was proposed by Cllr Johnston that if the repair could be done for less than £500, the Clerk could authorise the work under Delegated Power in consultation with the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Brown, and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Obtain quote for repair from MR H Services and consult with Chairman if the work can be authorised using Delegated Power.

AM Village Warden has asked if an additional dog poo bag dispenser could be placed near the entrance to Bagley Wood at the top of Bagley Close.

197.25 It was pointed out that an additional dog poo bag dispenser might not alleviate the problem, since it was probably being caused by one or two individuals walking several (up to seven) dogs at a time. It was proposed by Cllr Brown that the Clerk should include a paragraph about the importance of clearing up your dogs' mess in the next edition of the Kennington Chronicle, seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write a polite reminder about clearing up your dogs' mess in the next edition of the Kennington Chronicle.

AN Cllr Jempson reported that she had received a response from an OCC Tree Officer regarding the FixMyStreet report about overgrowing trees on the Sandford Lane copse as follows:
Thank you for your enquiry. I have visited the location and assessed the tree. The tree is the responsibility of the adjacent landowner and not Oxfordshire County Council. I will send a letter to the landowners, detailing the problem and advising that they carry out remedial works to remove any hazard to the highway.

198.25 It was proposed by Cllr Jempson that the Clerk would write to the OCC Tree Officer to request and update on the situation, seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write to OCC Tree Officer asking if he has had a response from the Sandford Lane Copse land owner.

AO Cllr Jempson had reported to the Clerk that on 9th September an old dead tree trunk (with lots of ivy attached to it) fell onto the lane. The trunk was cleared up by residents and the debris returned to the landowner's land.

199.25 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUEST FOR GRANT AID

Request for grants

A The Council received a request for £280 from Kennington History Society for a new projector and to assist with increased running costs.

200.25 Cllr Johnston withdrew from the meeting for this item since he had declared an interest.

200.25a Cllr Powles commented that the sum requested was not unreasonable for the service provided to the community and proposed that a grant be made, seconded by Cllr Andrews and approved by all.

201.25 The grant of £280 was proposed by Cllr Patterson, seconded by Cllr Brown and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – to inform Kennington History Society of the approval of a £280 Community Grant.

Correspondence for discussion/action

B Police Commissioner's Office - Apply Now: Community Fund is Open!

C Parishes Connection and Engagement - EA Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

D Chairman of Beckley & Stowood, and Vice-Chairman of Kidlington Parish Council - Local Government Reorganization: Greater Oxford Proposal

E VoWHDC - Have your say on our Licensing Act Policy consultation

F Oxford Greenbelt Network - From OGBN - an opportunity to register an objection now to becoming part of Greater Oxford after 2028

202.25 It was proposed by Cllr Powles that the Council write in support of the objections of the OGBN and resolves to oppose any plan that puts Kennington in a Greater Oxford, and is in favour of one council for the whole county including Oxford City, seconded by Cllr Patterson and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – to write a letter stating the Parish Council's opposition to the Greater Oxford proposal and supporting the proposal for one council for the whole county including Oxford City.

Correspondence forwarded to Councillors for information

- G** Oxfordshire County Council - Highways Depot Open Day - 27 September 2025
- H** Invitation to AGM of Citizens Advice Oxfordshire
- I** MyVision Oxfordshire AGM 2025
- J** Oxfordshire County Council - Media Release: Construction work begins on Lodge Hill junction improvements
- K** Planning Inspectorate - EN010147- Botley West Solar Farm
- L** Temporary Traffic Regulation Order – S14 Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
Temporary Road Closure at Kennington, Foxcombe Road & Fox Lane
- M** South Hinksey Parish Council – A34 Noise Reduction Request

Newsletters

- N** Latest news from Healthwatch Oxfordshire
- O** RSN Weekly News
- P** OALC August Newsletter for Member Councils
- Q** Oxfordshire County Council - The latest news for your communities
- R** Community First Oxfordshire – July & August Newsletters
- S** CPRE Oxfordshire - August newsletter
- T** VoWHDC - The September edition of Vale News for 2025

FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 31 July 2025

Community Account	500.00
Business Premium Account	133,564.78
National Savings & Investment Account	86,540.73
Public Sector Fund (CCLA account)	114,332.84
Total	334,938.35

Income received in July		
CCLA Investment Management Ltd		400.32
Income reinvestment		
Oxfordshire County Council		2334.96
Grass Cutting Grant		
Direct debits paid in August		Power to Act
Virtual Landline Invoice No. 1094985 (28 July – 28 Aug 2025) subscription for virtual landline	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
EDF Playfield Road July gas (Invoice KI-3CBED647-0014)	11.10	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP Playfield Road Pavilion electric (Invoice No: 1065741)	61.33	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP Forest Side Pavilion electric (Invoice No: 1069706)	52.06	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP War Memorial electric (Invoice No: 1069705)	39.17	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
Castle Water Playfield Road Pavilion 01.07.25 to 31.07.25	41.06	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Kennington Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 11 September 2025

Reference No. 2025/	Accounts paid in August		Power to Act
091	Mr L J Wootten Salary for July less tax, NI & pension contribution	1,385.34	Section 112 LGA 1972
092	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for July	463.32	Section 111 LGA 1972
093	Mr A Highley Village Warden Salary for July less tax and NI	339.52	Section 111 LGA 1972
094	Mr T Fleming War memorial grass cutting volunteer for July	41.91	Section 111 LGA 1972
095	Mr A Cobb Chairman's monthly allowance for July	73.69	Section 111 LGA 1972
096	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI contributions for July	477.81	Section 111 LGA 1972
097	GP Gas Ltd Replace pipework in toilets at Playfield Rd Pavilion	396.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
098	RoSPA Play Safety Annual Safety Inspection at The Link & BMX Track	206.40	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
099	Kennington Village Hall Room bookings in July	60.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
100	Calber Facilities Management Playfield Rd Pavilion cleaning + Village Warden cover	825.11	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
101	Adventis Web Hosting	31.50	Section 111 LGA 1972
102	Grundon Wheelie bin emptying at Forest Side & Playfield Rd Invoices 1326224 and 1326223	189.79	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
103	BGG Garden and Tree Care Ltd Verge, paying field & cemetery mowing + watering planters Invoice 0547/25	1788.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
104	MR H Services Repair work at The Links	293.66	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
105	Busy Baskets Supply of summer flower baskets and on-site planters	1800.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
106	Prime Compliance Ltd Water system disinfection	630.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
107	Bryans Lock Services Ltd Supply of additional security keys for sports pavilions and access gates	248.40	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
108	Lawrence Wootten Online safety courses, DBS check and PPE for Village Warden	128.95	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
109	Kennington-Musanda Twinning Association Community Grant for Twinning Event in October 2025	450.00	Section 137 LGA 1972

Total transferred in August = £ 9829.40

Castle Water – water supply for The War Memorial – previous balance was £313.26 in credit
Invoice 10007286880 (covering period 01-31 July 2025) of £16.20 reduced credit balance to £297.06.

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 29 August 2025

Community Account	500.00
Business Premium Account	123557.91
National Savings & Investment Account	86,540.73
Public Sector Fund (CCLA account) (as at 31 August 2025)	114,743.31
Total	325,341.95

**Statement of Account of Cambridge & Counties 3 year Fixed Rate Bond as at 19th June 2025
(due to mature in June 2026) As over 12 months investment, classed as long term and is captured within the council's Asset Register.**

20 June 2024 Brought forward	93,721.01
Interest credited at 14 June 2025	4311.17
To be recorded in council's Asset Register	
Total	98032.18

Income received in August	
CCLA Investment Management Ltd Income reinvestment	410.47
Kennington Toad Patrol Hire of Playfield Rd Pavilion	18.00
Church Pastoral Aid Society Hire of Forest Side Pavilion	18.00

Direct debits to be paid in September		Power to Act
Virtual Landline Invoice No. 1129370 (28 August – 28 September) subscription for virtual landline	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
YGP Playfield Road Pavilion August electric (Invoice No: 1091096)	91.48	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP Forest Side Pavilion August electric (Invoice No: 1094431)	51.26	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP War Memorial August electric (Invoice No: 1094250)	38.91	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
Castle Water Playfield Road Pavilion 01.87.25 to 31.08.25	37.96	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
EDF Playfield Road pavilion gas supply 01.08.25 to 31.08.25	10.98	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Income received in September	£
Vale of White Horse District Council 2 nd half of the 2025-26 Council Precept (received 5 th September 2025)	75619.00

Reference No. 2025/	Accounts to be paid in September		Power to Act
110	Mr L J Wootten Salary for August less tax, NI & pension contribution	1,385.54	Section 112 LGA 1972
111	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for August	463.32	Section 111 LGA 1972
112	Mr A Highley Village Warden Salary for August less tax and NI	367.68	Section 111 LGA 1972
113	Mr T Fleming War memorial grass cutting volunteer for August	41.91	Section 111 LGA 1972
114	Mr A Cobb Chairman's monthly allowance for August	73.69	Section 111 LGA 1972
115	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI contributions for August	490.11	Section 111 LGA 1972
116	Savills (on behalf of St John's College) Hire of Forest Side playing field 29.09.25 – 24.12.25	661.90	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
117	Kennington Village Hall Room booking for August	10.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
118	Calber Facilities Management Playfield Rd Pavilion cleaning – Invoice CL481698	261.12	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
119	BGG Garden and Tree Care Ltd Playfield Rd mowing + watering planters Invoice 0669/25	486.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
120	Adventis Web Hosting – Invoice 0000245	31.50	Section 111 LGA 1972
121	MR H Services Quarterly inspections at The Links and Village Hall play areas	124.50	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
122	MR H Services Supply of 12 timber posts + excavation work at Forest Side play area + site-make safe and storage of posts	1719.88	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
123	OALC Operational Inspection Training Course for Clerk	432.00	Section 112 LGA 1972
124	Grundon Wheelie bin emptying at Forest Side & Playfield Rd Invoices 1326224 and 1326223	141.55	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
125	Royal British Legion 8 x wreath of poppies for Remembrance Sunday	160.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Total to be transferred in September = £ 6850.70

Castle Water – water supply for The War Memorial – previous balance was £297.06 in credit
Invoice 10007574499 (covering period 01-31 August 2025) of £16.20 reduced credit balance to £280.86. `

203.25 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 July and August 2025.

204.25 The second half of the Parish Precept had been received from VoWHDC on the 5th September.

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

206.25 Cllr Jempson and the Clerk/RFO carried out the Internal Financial Control checks for Quarter 4 (2024-25) on 24th July 2025.

207.25 VE Day Supper Dance had a total income of £1404.90 and total expenses of £1735.00, so a loss of £330.10.

208.25 Cllr Powles proposed that although the VE Day Supper Dance had been a great success, it had not made the anticipated surplus to donate to the Royal British Legion, the council should therefore wait until November to make a slightly larger donation, seconded by Cllr Johnston and approved by all.

209.25 PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 22 July 2025 were noted.

210.25 PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE MINUTES

The draft minutes of the Playing Field Committee meeting held on 16 July 2025 were noted.

211.25 TWINNING SIGNS FOR VILLAGE ENTRANCES

212.25 The Clerk presented two possible designs produced by Scorpion Signs for the Kennington-Musanda twinning signs for the village entrances. A design was approved by council with a minor amendment to punctuation.

213.25 The purchase of 3 signs of the approved design at a cost of approximately £140 + VAT per sign (including installation) was proposed by Cllr Powles, seconded by Cllr Johnston and approved by all. Signs to be installed ahead of the twinning ceremony on 11th October 2025.

ACTION FOR CLERK – to place the order with Scorpion Signs for 3 signs to be installed at the village entrances.

214.25 OXFORD TRAFFIC FILTERS

215.25 Cllr Powles proposed that residents of communities who border Oxford, but are outside the city boundary should be allocated more permits than those who live further out and that a request should be made for communities like Botley and Kennington to be treated more fairly.

216.25 Cllr Johnston pointed out that the Oxford Traffic Filter permits are allocated according to a statutory legal document which cannot be altered until the six-month review point.

217.25 It was suggested by Cllr Powles that Cllr Gant be invited to a meeting of the Parish Council after the scheme has been running for six months.

218.25 ADDITIONAL DEFIBRILLATORS IN THE VILLAGE

219.25 Cllr Andrews said that Diocese approval for the installation of a defibrillator on the outside wall of the church would be required, but should not be a problem to obtain.

220.25 Cllr Jempson asked if Sandford Lane could be considered for a defibrillator if Radley parish has one.

221.25 Cllr Brown pointed out that we need to investigate the life-expectancy of the units.

222.25 Cllr Andrews would investigate costs of suitable units and speak with Rev Sampson about installing one outside the church.

ACTION FOR CLLR ANDREWS – to investigate costs of defibrillator units.

223.25 REUSABLE FLOOD BARRIERS

224.25 Cllr Powles pointed out that a road closure plan in the event of flooding is in place with Oxfordshire County Council.

225.25 Cllr Patterson pointed out that the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme should alleviate the problem, and so the council should wait for the effects of that scheme to be seen, seconded by Cllr Powles and approved.

226.25 Cllr Brown suggested that the Community Emergency Plan should be reviewed and updated – Clerk and Cllr Brown to meet to review the document.

ACTION FOR CLERK & CLLR BROWN – to update the Community Emergency Plan.

227.25 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

228.25 Cllr Brown requested help with teas and coffees at the Village Hall on the morning of the parade.

229.25 Cllr Powles requested help with attendance at the road closure points.

230.25 Cllr Brown will produce a QR Code for both the Order of Service and the road closures.

ACTION FOR CLLR BROWN – produce QR codes for the Order of Service and road closures.

231.25 CHRISTMAS TREE

232.25 It was proposed by Cllr Johnston that an 18-foot Norway Spruce would be ordered from Highfield Trees , seconded by Cllr Cobb and approved by all. The tree would need to be in place and decorated before the Carols Around The Tree event on 30th November.

233.25 Cllr Feather had spoken with Lynch Brother Homes, to arrange erection of the tree.

ACTION FOR CLERK – to order an 18-foot Norway Spruce tree from Highfield Trees.

234.25 ANNUAL ROSPA INSPECTION OF PLAY AREAS

235.25 The RoSPA Annual Inspection of the council's play areas had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

236.25 Cllr Brown proposed that the Clerk meet with a contractor on-site to assess necessary improvement work which can then go into the budget for 2026/27, seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – arrange to meet with contractor on-site to discuss RoSPA report and obtain estimates for required work.

237.25 PAVILION PROJECT

238.25 Cllr Feather reported that he had raised £694 towards the project and had created a Just Giving page.

239.25 Various sources of funding for the project were discussed including the possibility of a Public Works Loan.

240.25 Cllr Feather suggested a Pavilion Working Party meeting to discuss the architects report and how to grow the project fund could be held after the next Playing Fields Committee meeting.

241.25 FOREST SIDE PLAY AREA PROJECT

242.25 Cllr Brown informed Council that a meeting with the contractor was taking place on 29th September, and that work was due to begin on 10th November with a target completion date before Christmas.

243.25 A vote of thanks to Cllr Brown was proposed by Cllr Cobb, seconded by Cllr Powles and agreed by all.

244.25 CLERK/COUNCILLOR TRAINING

245.25 It was approved that the Clerk would attend the OALC RPII Operational Inspection Course in September.

246.25 Cllr Powles suggested First Aid training for councillors and staff.

247.25 Cllr Brown suggested a training company who could carry out training for a small group and would pass details on to the clerk to obtain more information and availability.

ACTION FOR CLERK – investigate possible First Aid training for councillors and staff.

248.25 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Andrews – Wild About Kennington

Wild flower planting was planned for October.

Cllr Brown – Village Hall

The Youth Club Roof is in a state of disrepair and the Youth Club and Village Hall Committees are looking at options for the future.

249.25 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

250.25 Cllr Powles

The Santa Sleigh has been arranged for 12th and 13th December. Cllr Locklin will collect the trailer.

251.25 Cllr Jempson

Cllr Jempson requested a second councillor to help with the quarterly financial checks. Cllr Patterson offered to assist.

252.25 Cllr Feather

Cllr Feather reported that the council's summer flower planting had been "a mixed bag" with the big planters looking very good throughout, but the smaller troughs suffering during the prolonged hose pipe ban and rain-free period. Could the clerk contact Purely Plants to obtain a quote for winter planting as per last year.

ACTION FOR CLERK – contact Purely Plants to obtain a quote for village winter planting.

253.25 At this point in the meeting, owing to the time, Cllr Brown proposed suspending Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue, seconded by Cllr Powles and agreed unanimously.

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

Threat to Local Planning Committees

At the last Vale District Council meeting we backed a motion to oppose Part 3 of the government's Planning and Infrastructure Bill because it would reduce the role of planning committee and mean that more planning decisions were made behind closed doors by officer. This would reduce transparency; limit scrutiny of decisions made and prevent local parish councils and residents being able to input into planning decisions. We also have concerns about the watering down of biodiversity and environmental protections in the Bill.

Planning Applications Processing Delays

Although almost caught up, Vale is still working through the backlog of planning applications after the IT systems migration earlier this summer. We are aware this has caused some frustration. Please let us know about any specific applications of concern so we can make sure they're properly followed up.

255.25 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Diana Lugova

Oxford Temporary Congestion Charge.

The consultation survey received 7,165 responses, with concerns raised about the scheme's effectiveness, impact on local businesses, and fairness. However, there is also substantial support for the proposal's potential to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, and enhance public transport services. Based on the feedback received during the consultation (including 7,165 survey responses), we have made several amendments to the proposal. These changes will be reviewed by the council's Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 August, with a final decision to be made by the council's cabinet on 10 September. The report to the Committee is here <https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s77493/Place%20Scrutiny%20report%20Temporary%20Congestion%20Charge.pdf>

The revised proposals now include recommendations for free park and ride journeys for an initial period of two months, covering the busy Christmas period, and additional permits for specific circumstances, such as ice hockey clubs and business cars.

The revised scheme was scrutinized by Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 27th August and it is considered by OCC Cabinet today.

If approved (which is 99.9% chance), the scheme is expected to reduce traffic while Botley Road remains closed, contributing to a healthier and more accessible city. It's designed to improve bus services and facilitate travel for those with permits, including carers, traders, and blue badge holders. It could be introduced later in autumn this year.

EA Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme.

Recently EA arranged a site visit for OCC Cllrs – after providing update about the status of the scheme. The design and planning are practically finalized. They are negotiating S106 and the planning permission will be issued. The funding is not fully confirmed yet but there is a good chance it will be in place after the planning permission granted. As Kennington is one of the Parishes affected by the scheme, South Hinksey PC is very keen to work together closely with Kennington PC. EA team from their side is very committed to stay connected with local Parishes and residents before and during construction.

SESRO statutory consultation (October 2025 to January 2026).

Thames Water will be undertaking its statutory consultation in relation to its proposed reservoir east of Abingdon from October 2025 to January 2026. This consultation will include a greater level of detail than the non-statutory consultation. We will be providing a response to this consultation as it's the main avenue for formal feedback on the proposed scheme. In advance of the statutory consultation the strategic planning team is holding a members' briefing and question and answer session on 18 September. Thames Water has also offered to hold some member briefing sessions prior to the statutory consultation.

Better Travel: Helping Oxfordshire move smarter

Better Travel is [OCC new online hub](#) designed to help residents make smarter, healthier, and more sustainable travel choices. Whether it's walking, wheeling, cycling, or using shared and public transport, the webpages bring together local groups, routes, events, and schemes that support active travel, wellbeing, and community connection. You can play a key role in promoting Better Travel by sharing the link with your networks, including it in newsletters or bulletins, and encouraging residents to explore the options available in their area. By helping spread the word, you'll be supporting healthier lifestyles, reducing congestion, and strengthening community ties. Explore and share: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/better-travel

Consultations: OCC is running resident consultations:

1. National Highways and Transport (NHT) Network 2025. Oxfordshire is taking part in a nationwide survey on public satisfaction with transport and road services. We're [asking for residents' views](#) on: accessibility, highways maintenance, public transport, road safety, tackling congestion, walking and cycling and business uses. The surveys are independent and have been created for the National Highways and Traffic Network. Residents can take part in one or all of them. The surveys will be open until 28 February 2026.
2. OxRAIL 2040: Plan for rail. We are asking residents to [have their say](#) on a new rail strategy for Oxfordshire, its vision, themes and proposed areas for focus. OxRAIL 2040: Plan for rail is our bold plan to improve transport across the county over the next 15 years. We'd like to hear residents' thoughts, to understand if there is anything in the plan that needs improvement or adding to make sure it works well for everyone in Oxfordshire. This survey covers the three core themes of: improving connectivity, climate action and rail as place shaper. The plan describes a vision of rail as a central part of an integrated, world-class and sustainable transport system. The consultation will close on 1 October 2025.

256.25 ANY MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION -

Bus provision to Matthew Arnold School
Speed Indicator Device
Winter flowers for the village

257.25 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – None

Date of Next Meeting: 9 October 2025
Meeting closed at 10.18pm

Signed

Date 9 October 2025