

Kennington Parish Council
Oxfordshire
Minutes of the meeting held on
12th February 2026 at 7:30pm in the Village Centre

Present:

Cllr Andrews Cllr Brown Cllr Cobb Cllr Cuddy
Cllr Johnston Cllr Locklin Cllr Patterson Cllr Powles

In Attendance: Lawrence Wootten (Clerk/RFO); County & District Cllr Lugova; District Cllr Cox
Members of the public: None

501.25 NOMINATIONS FOR CO-OPTION - None received

502.25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Feather; Cllr Jempson; Cllr Lee and Cllr Russell

503.25 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - No members of the public in attendance

504.25 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST – None declared

505.25 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 JANUARY 2026

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2026 as a true record.

506.25 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2026

The draft minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 29 January 2026 were noted.

507.25 REPORT OF THE CLERK

NEW ISSUES

- A** Clerk received phone call from National Grid Officer requesting access to Kendall Copse for maintenance work. Clerk explained that the Parish Council does not hold access keys, but contacted Friends of Kendall Copse, who informed him that access could be obtained through Oxford City Council Park Rangers. National Grid Officer informed.
- B** Resident of Simpsons Way contacted Clerk regarding damage to roadside verge. Clerk referred resident to FixMyStreet.
- C** Clerk added Kennington Parish Council to list of signatories to the letter to the Secretary of State regarding the Greater Oxford Council proposal.
- D** Clerk contacted by Councillor regarding dirty, broken 'food waste collecting' green wheelie bins left by Biffa at the top of Otters Reach/Poplar Grove on the street. Clerk contacted Biffa and requested that the bins be removed as soon as possible and has been told that the bins will be taken away.

508.25 Cllr Powles suggested that the Clerk contact VoWHDC if it happens again.

- E** Clerk has written to Pye Homes regarding the possible acquisition of the Colley Wood Play Area by the Parish Council. Pye Homes' contact for Colley Wood matters is currently on paternity leave and not back until early March, so it seems unlikely that a response will be received until then.

509.25 Cllr Patterson pointed out that this ought to be referred to as an Amenity Area rather than a Play Area.

- F** Village Warden reported that the defibrillator cabinet on Kennington Road can only be accessed by standing on the grass verge which has become very wet, muddy and slippery. Would paving slabs in front of the cabinet be a good idea?

510.25 Proposed by Cllr Patterson and seconded by Cllr Johnston to get a quote for paving slabs to be installed, subject to agreement with OCC Highways and Kirlena House Care Home – approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact OCC Highways and Kirlena House Care Home and then get quotes for paving slabs to be installed.

- G** Clerk placed order for litter bin at Forest Side Play Area. Bin delivered on 6th February and now needs installation.
- H** Fallen conifer tree behind Forest Side pavilion reported to Clerk by resident. Clerk attended site, has taken photos and will organise clearance.
- I** Kennington map from 1936 offered to the Parish Council by member of the public for £50 + postage via Village Hall Committee – is this something the Parish Council would wish to purchase.
- 511.25** Cllr Johnston proposed that subject to the map being genuine it should be purchased and framed, seconded by Cllr Patterson and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact the seller and arrange purchase if it is genuine.

- 1** Email received by clerk from a local family-run fun travelling fun asking if they could bring their fun fair to Playfield playing fields in late May (31st May-7th June) or July (19th-26th July) - fair open Thursday-Saturday. Clerk requested further information about the size of the fair, and was been told that it would only be a small corner of the playing fields, - a couple of children's rides, trampolines and side stalls plus traditional food.
Clerk has informed the operator that Playfield Road playing field is used by Wolvercote Cricket Club all day on Saturdays throughout the summer months, so is not available for such an event.
- 2** Email received from Oxford Diocesan Registry Clerk at a local solicitors practice: "I have received an enquiry from a member of the public asking if the above cemetery belongs to St Swithun's church, Kennington or is council owned. As far as my records can say, it is not additional land owned by the church. Can I check that it is indeed council owned and who the best person this gentleman needs to contact regarding his parents grave?"
Clerk responded that St Swithun's churchyard is owned by the church/diocese, not the Parish or District Council and gave contact details for St Swithun's Church Wardens and clergy.
- 3** Village Warden reported fly-tipping at the bottom of Kennington Road near the village entrance – six bags and a box in total, which he has cleared.
- 512.25** Cllr Patterson suggested that a retrospective report should be sent to VoWHDC to report the fly tipping.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform VoWHDC about the fly-tipping.

- 4** Village Warden reported building waste (bricks and sand/cement) left in concrete rubbish bins at the Village Hall – which he has cleared. Clerk has reported this to the Village Hall Manager asking if there were contractors working in that area recently.
- 5** Clerk received call from resident asking about legality of cars parking on the pavement. Clerk explained that the pavement is regarded as part of the highway and as long as a car is insured, taxed and has an MOT it is not illegal to park on it as long as there are no legally-enforceable parking restrictions in place.

CONTINUING ISSUES

- J** Clerk received confirmation from VoWHDC that a Tree Preservation Order has been placed on the oak tree at Colley Wood Play Area.
- 6** Cllr Jempson reported that tree surgery work was being carried out on Sandford Copse trees (the ones which are encroaching onto Sandford Lane - in particular, the large tree branches, hanging across Sandford Lane to houses opposite were being cut down to a safe height level.

7 Clerk obtained prices for bike racks for possible installation at the sports pavilions. A “toast rack” for up to 6 bikes would cost £167 (+VAT and delivery).

513.25 Proposed by Cllr Johnston and seconded by Cllr Patterson that 2 racks should be purchased and locations agreed by the Playing Fields Committee – approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Purchase 2 bike racks and get quotes for installation once locations have been agreed by the Playing Fields Committee.

514.25 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUEST FOR GRANT AID

Correspondence for discussion/action

A Friends of Kennington Library 15th Anniversary Celebration Invite

515.25 Cllrs Andrews, Cobb and Brown would be attending this event.

B SODC & VoWHDC - Invitation - T&P councils and Local Government Reorganisation

516.25 Cllr Brown would be attending this event.

Correspondence forwarded to Councillors for information

C TTRO (T17221) Temporary Road Closure - Kennington, 3 Sandford Lane, OX1 5RW. A temporary Notice is being made by Oxfordshire County Council to implement the temporary restriction and will operate from 12 March 2026 up to and including 13 March 2026. This will operate between 08:00 and 1800 for the installation of a new water connection.

D Beckley & Stowood Parish Council - LGR Oxfordshire - Letter of Objection to 'Greater Oxford' and 3-Council Proposal from Parish Councils and Meetings

E SODC & VoHWDC - Media release - From payments to emissions – tell us what you think about proposed taxi policy updates

F CPRE at 100: Celebrating Wins and Standing Up for Oxfordshire’s Countryside

G TTRO (T17140) Temporary Road Closure - Kennington, Bagley Wood Road

H SODC & VoWHDC - Media release: Councils lead the way in disability representation

I SODC & VoWHDC - Media release: Fun, Theatre and Family Days Out This February Half-Term

J VoWHDC – Media release - Draft Vale 2026/27 budget to be considered by Council

K Oxfordshire County Council - Local government reorganisation - One Oxfordshire

L SODC & VoHWDC - Media release: Residents urged to respond to government consultation on once-in-a-generation opportunity to change local councils

M Thames Valley Police – Have Your Say – PCSO at Apple Café on Thursday 12th February 2026

8 SODC & VoWHDC - media release: Food and Warmth Grant Scheme supports people this winter

9 SODC & VoWHDC - media release: Sound financial management means parking fees frozen

10 CPRE - A once-in-a-decade chance to help shape national planning policy

Newsletters

N Read the latest news from Healthwatch Oxfordshire

O News from Vale of White Horse District Council

P The January edition of Vale News

Q CPRE - Your latest update on our countryside

R Rural Services Network – Your free RSN Weekly Newsletter

S Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre - News Update - February 2026

11 Community First Oxfordshire – Bimonthly Newsletter

12 OALC - January Newsletter for Member Councils

13 SODC & VoWHDC - Local Government Reorganisation special edition of Vale News

14 Read the latest news from Healthwatch Oxfordshire

517.25 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 31 January 2026

Community Account	500.00
Business Premium Account	31,711.33
National Savings & Investment Account	87,406.14
Public Sector Fund (CCLA account)	116,681.74
Total	236,299.21

Income received in January	£
CCLA Investment Management Ltd Income reinvestment 31 December 2025 to 31 January 2026	385.71
M & AE Feather Proceeds from yard sale (for Pavilion Project Fund)	758.58
National Savings & Investment Account Interest capitalisation	865.41

Direct debits to be paid in February	£	Power to Act
Virtual Landline Invoice No. 1308902 (28 January 2026 – 28 February 2026) virtual landline subscription	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
YGP Forest Side Pavilion January electric (Invoice No: 1231557)	52.25	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP War Memorial January electric (Invoice No: 1239220)	42.51	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
Castle Water Playfield Road Pavilion 01.01.26-31.01.26 (Invoice 10009022780)	22.42	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
Castle Water War Memorial 01.01.26-31.01.26 (Invoice 10009050754)	13.10	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
EDF Playfield Road pavilion gas supply 01.01.26 to 31.01.26	26.76	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Reference No. 2025/	Accounts to be paid in February	£	Power to Act
207	Mr L J Wootten Salary for January less tax, NI & pension contribution	1,742.74	Section 112 LGA 1972
208	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for January	609.18	Section 111 LGA 1972
209	Mr A Highley Village Warden Salary for January less tax and NI	408.08	Section 111 LGA 1972
210	Mr T Fleming War memorial grass cutting volunteer for January	41.91	Section 111 LGA 1972
211	Mr A Cobb Chairman's monthly allowance for January	73.69	Section 111 LGA 1972
212	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI contributions for January	729.67	Section 111 LGA 1972
213	Calber Facilities Management Playfield Rd Pavilion cleaning – Invoice CL484802	261.12	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

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214	Adventis Web Hosting – Invoice 0000305	31.50	Section 111 LGA 1972
215	Grundon Wheelie bin emptying at Forest Side & Playfield Rd Invoices 1436464 and 1436463	182.96	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
216	Newton Newton Flags Ltd Civic flag	453.60	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
217	BGG Garden and Tree Care Ltd Burial Ground Hedge Cutting	660.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
218	Churches Fire & Security Fire extinguisher service at Playfield Road Pavilion Invoice 0158127	50.77	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
219	Churches Fire & Security Fire extinguisher service at Forest Side Pavilion Invoice 0158126	50.77	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
220	Anthony Denton Window Cleaning Services Bus shelter cleaning – Invoice 1374	220.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
221	Friends of Kennington Library Second draw down of Community Grant	780.58	LGA 1972 s.145(1)(d)
222	Kennington (Oxford) Band Community Grant	500.00	LGA 1972 s.137
223	40th Oxford (Kennington) Sea Scout Group Community Grant	1023.00	LGA 1972 s.137
224	MR H Services Service inspection of play areas	124.50	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Total to be transferred in February = £ 7944.07

Payment Ref. 2025/...	Additional accounts already paid in February by Clerk using Barclays Debit Card	£	Power to Act
225	ESET Cybersecurity Laptop security software	64.99	Section 111 LGA 1972

518.25 The £758.58 collected by the yard sale held by Cllr and Mrs Feather and donated in aid of the Playfield Road Pavilion Project was noted. It was proposed by Cllr Powles and seconded by Cllr Johnston that a letter of thanks would be sent from the Parish Council to thank them for their efforts – approved unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write to Cllr and Mrs Feather thanking them for raising £758.58 for the Playfield Road Pavilion Project.

519.25 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 January 2026.

520.25 The Financial Report was proposed by Cllr Powles, seconded by Cllr Johnston and approved.

521.25 BUDGET VIREMENTS

522.25 Budget virement of £2000 from code 4310 (Village Maintenance) to code 4200 (Community Grants) proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all. This will allow further Community Grants to be considered and awarded in 2025/26.

523.25 Budget virement of £500 from code 4308 (Litter Collection) to code 4203 (Summer Fun Day) to allow expenditure on the Forest Side Play Area opening event proposed by Cllr Powles, seconded by Cllr Brown and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Ensure budget virements are recorded in the Parish Council accounts.

524.25 APPOINTMENT OF THE INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR THE 2025/26 TAX YEAR

525.25 The appointment of MC Accountancy Ltd as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor for the 2025/26 Annual Governance and Accountability Return was proposed by Cllr Powles, seconded by Cllr Cobb and approved by all. Internal Audit fees will be the same as for the 2024/25 tax year (£408) assuming the same amount of time/travel required.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform MC Accountancy Ltd of its appointment as Internal Auditor.

526.25 KENNINGTON COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN UPDATE

527.25 It was agreed that Cllr Brown would be added to the Kennington Community Emergency Plan as both a general helper and key holder for the Village Hall, replacing the councillors who have resigned since the last update of the plan.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Update the Emergency Plan as above and submit to the Oxfordshire Joint Resilience Team.

528.25 Cllr Johnston pointed out that the Parish Council has permissive power to act in an emergency situation but the County Council, as the highway authority has a statutory duty to do so (i.e. putting out road closure and diversion signs).

529.25 Cllr Brown suggested Green King could be approached to enquire about the use of The Tandem in a community emergency situation.

530.25 COLLEY WOOD PLAY AREA PROGRESS

531.25 As mentioned in the Clerk's Report (507.25 Item E) the Clerk has written to Pye Homes regarding the possible acquisition of the Colley Wood Play Area by the Parish Council. Pye Homes' contact for Colley Wood matters is currently on paternity leave and not back until early March, so it seems unlikely that a response will be received until then.

532.25 Cllr Johnston proposed that the item be carried forward to the next meeting since no further progress could be made at present – agreed by all.

533.25 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

534.25 The boundary of the area in Radley Parish to be included in the request for a Community Governance Review as those properties to the north of Sugworth Lane, to the east of the A34 and to the west of the River Thames was proposed by Cllr Patterson, seconded by Cllr Johnston and approved by all. Clerk to respond to VoHWDC Democratic Services supplying a map of the proposed area for Community Governance Review.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Respond to VoHWDC Democratic Services requesting the Community Governance Review and supplying a map of the agreed area.

535.25 INSTALLATION OF MEMORIAL BENCH IN ST SWITHUN'S CHURCHYARD

536.25 The Clerk reported that quotes for the work had not been received yet, but one contractor suggested that a small skip would be required to remove all waste materials.

537.25 It was agreed that the Clerk would approach St Swithun's Church for permission for a small skip to be positioned near/in the churchyard for a short period of time to allow clearance of waste material.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact St Swithun's Church when necessary.

538.25 LINKS PLAY AREA REPAIRS

539.25 It was agreed that repairs to the walls and capping stones should be carried out as soon as possible at an estimated cost of £96.65 (bank slide coping slabs) and £294.98 (wall opposite play area) – proposed by Cllr Powles, seconded by Cllr Johnston and approved by all. Clerk to instruct MR H Services to carry out the work.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Instruct MR H Services to carry out the work as above.

540.25 It was agreed that further quotes needed to be obtained for further repair work identified in the quarterly safety inspection.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Obtain further quotes for repair work at the play area.

541.25 PLAYFIELD ROAD PAVILION PROJECT

542.25 Appointment of the Parkinson Partnership as a consultant to the project was confirmed

543.25 Cllr Brown reported that a Working Group to discuss funding options had met on the 11th February.

544.25 COUNCILLOR/CLERK TRAINING – none requested

545.25 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

546.25 Cllr Andrews – Wild About Kennington

Spring bulbs are in flower and looking good.

The Water Vole talk had been a great success with more than 50 attendees.

547.25 Cllr Andrews – St Swithun’s School

Parking at school drop-off times continues to cause problems with antisocial/inconsiderate parking

548.25 Cllr Johnston suggested contacting OCC Highways to see what can be put on the village verges to deter antisocial parking – agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact OCC Highways regarding permissible verge parking deterrents.

549.25 Cllr Johnston – Village Hall

550.25 The Library roof and dormer windows are leaking. The Village Hall Management Committee has agreed to investigate.

551.25 Cllr Brown informed the meeting that the Village Hall Management Committee had agreed to increase its hire fees for 2026/27.

552.25 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

553.25 Cllr Jempson

Cllr Jempson had sent apologies for this meeting, but had written to the Clerk ahead of the meeting suggesting that a link to one.network could be added to the Parish Council’s website for residents to check on the status of roadworks in the area, and also for “signposts” to be available on the website to point residents to other village/local services.

554.25 Cllr Cuddy pointed out that the website was currently being redesigned and these suggestions could be included in a website update.

555.25 Cllr Locklin

Cllr Locklin had removed the flower basket liners from Manor Grove, but she would need help removing the ones at the Village Hall.

Could the poppy wreaths now be removed from the War Memorial? Sainsbury’s offer a recycling facility for them during November, so the wreaths could be removed from the War Memorial and stored for recycling next November.

556.25 It was agreed that the poppy wreaths would be removed from the War Memorial and stored for recycling next November.

The Kennington Toad Patrollers had a litter clearance and collected 13 bags of litter.
The footpath off Bagley Wood Road becomes very slippery in wet weather and is regularly used – can something be done to improve it?

557.25 Cllr Brown

The official opening of the Forest Side Play Area would be held on Sunday 29th March at midday.
It was hoped that Eibe Play Ltd, FCC, Oxford Mail, and a local celebrity would be in attendance.

558.25 Cllr Johnston suggested that a press release could be prepared for the event.

Cllr Brown had attended a Neighbourhood Planning Event held by SODC and VoWHDC which had been very useful and informative, but it seems that Neighbourhood Plans hold little scope to help in the control of HMO's.

559.25 Cllr Andrews

Cllr Andrews informed the meeting that some of the permissive paths in Bagley Wood had been temporarily closed owing to rain and mud making them impassable.

Cllr Andrews asked if the missing Christmas Tree lights had ever been found?

560.25 The Clerk informed the meeting that Lynch Brother Homes were arranging for a like-for-like replacement set which was expected to be delivered to Cllr Feather in the next few days.

Cllr Andrews raised the issue of trees overhanging on Bagley Wood Road, making it difficult for pedestrians.

561.25 Cllr Lugova informed the meeting that any such problems can be reported via FixMyStreet.

Cllr Andrews suggested that the Bursar and President of St John's College should be invited to the official opening of the Forest Side Play Area. Agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Invite Bursar and President of St John's College to the Forest Side Play Area official opening.

562.25 Cllr Powles

Cllr Powles commented on the large number of potholes throughout Oxfordshire as well as Kennington.

563.25 Cllr Lugova recommended all potholes should be reported on FixMyStreet and that all FixMyStreet reports are sent to her.

564.25 Cllr Powles suggested that something should be published in the Kennington Chronicle and via the Parish Council website and social media to encourage individuals to report problems on FixMyStreet. Agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Publicise FixMyStreet via Kennington Chronicle and Parish Council social media and website.

565.25 REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS – Cllrs Diana Lugova and James Cox
Vale Budget for 2026/27 FY.

Vale Budget Council meeting will be held tonight, 11th Feb - so, it's not like the budget is approved yet but it's proposed to increase Council tax for the same 4.99% for the next FY.

JLP Update.

Procedural Meeting for the Joint Local Plan will be held on Thursday 12 February 2026 in Meeting Room 1 of Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, OX14 3JE, between 12-2pm. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the way forward for the Examination in light of recent announcements surrounding the Duty to Co-operate.

Barrow Hill resurfacing funding included in the Vale budget for next year.

As you probably know, Barrow Hill BMX was closed by Vale due to damaged surface. It was in similar condition quite for a while, but taking into account Bellway development, 3 Abingdon Cllrs joined me pushing for repair. As a result, £100k allocated in the budget for next year to repair and reopen BMX.

566.25 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Diana Lugova

Council Budget 2026/2027.

OCC approved budget for 2026/27 financial year. Council tax will increase 4.99% - which is the maximum allowed increase without triggering a referendum. It means Band D Council Tax for 2026/27 will be £2,006.78.

Bagley Wood Road Site Visit.

OCC Highways site visit is scheduled for 3rd March 2026 9:30am. Please join if you can.

Road Closure.

OCC have programmed to complete the full width resurfacing of the Hinksey Hill Interchange on Monday 2nd March; 20:00 – 06:00Hrs via a series of two overnight full road closures. Works will include ironwork adjustments and the resurfacing of the existing carriageway surface, following which all existing road markings will be reinstated. The interchange will be fully reopened daytime between shifts to allow business and commuter traffic to pass through. If you would like to get Teams briefing, please let me know and I will arrange it.

LGR Government Consultation.

UK Government started Consultation regarding Oxfordshire reorganization - Local government reorganisation in Oxfordshire - [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). The residents can respond online here Consultation on Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Oxfordshire - Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government - Citizen Space , via email to LGRconsultationresponse@communities.gov.uk or mail your response to:

LGR Consultation

Fry Building 2NE Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

567.25 ANY MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Government consultation on Local Government Reorganisation

Parking issues in the village

568.25 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – Staffing matters were discussed

Date of Next Meeting: 12 March 2026

Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed

Date 12th March 2026