

Kennington Parish Council
Oxfordshire
Minutes of the meeting held on
15th January 2026 at 7:30pm in the Village Centre

Present:

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

In Attendance: Lawrence Wootten (Clerk/RFO); County & District Cllr Lugova; District Cllr Cox
Members of the public: Three

440.25 NOMINATIONS FOR CO-OPTION None received

441.25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Smith who had written to the Clerk and Chairman resigning as a Councillor.

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

442.25 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The possible acquisition of the Colley Wood Play Area was raised by members of the public (see item 451.25).

The Oxfordshire County Council Flooding Protocol was raised and discussed by a member of the public (see item 471.25).

443.25 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Cllrs Cobb and Brown declared an interest in the Community Grant application made by 40th Oxford (Kennington) Sea Scouts.

444.25 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 DECEMBER 2025

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2025 as a true record.

445.25 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 6 JANUARY 2026

The draft minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 6 January 2026 were noted.

446.25 REPORT OF THE CLERK

NEW ISSUES

A Email received from Oxford City Councillor,

"Dear Kennington PC, I've had a message from a local resident who has cycled to Kennington about the absence of bike stands nearby to Forest Side Playground (amongst other things!). I'm aware that this is sometimes a PC issue, sometimes a DC issue, and sometimes a County issue but wanted to start with you in the first instance! Who is responsible for things like installing cycle stands, has this been considered for Forest Side, and is it something you'd be interested in? I've just recently got some new stands myself near to my local playground as a District Councillor (though I am messaging you in my role as County Active Travel Champion) but aware that I'm part of Oxford City and you're Vale."

447.25 It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate prices for bike stands at the sports pavilions should be researched and put into the budget cycle.

ACTION FOR CLERK – investigate costs of bike stands.

B Email received from Oxfordshire County Council Highways Dept,

"We've been asked by a resident to pass on this request [for a salt bin on Blackman Close] which believe I must come from yourselves."

Does the Council wish to pay for more salt bins in the village?

There was a discussion about provision and locations of salt bins in the village.

448.25 Cllr Johnston proposed that the council should not purchase additional salt bins, seconded by Cllr Feather and agreed by all.

- C** Clerk met with Cllr Lee to sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office ahead of the January meeting.
- D** Clerk received notice of resignation from Cllr Smith. Clerk will inform VoWHDC and post casual vacancy notice on the website.
- E** CIL report for 2024-25 returned to VoWHDC and confirmation of receipt received.
- F** Reply received from VoWHDC Democratic Services Manager regarding possibility of a Community Governance Review: *"Any request for a review should be agreed by the parish council and submitted to the district council by the clerk with the reasons for the request. The district council undertakes the review. Any change would be implemented at the next scheduled elections in May 2027. If the parish council intends to make a request for a review I would encourage any early submission so that the request can be considered by the relevant committee which will determine whether to undertake a review."*
- 449.25** Cllr Patterson proposed that the council should request a Community Governance Review now, seconded by Cllr Cobb and agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – write to VoWHDC Democratic Services Manager to request a Community Governance Review.

- G** Email received from resident regarding flooding protocols in the event of flooding on Kennington Road. Clerk emailed Mr P Wilson, Operations Manager at OCC Highways requesting an update. Operations Manager sent flood protocols (with road diversion routes and positions of road diversion/road closed signs) for Kennington to the Clerk which were forwarded the concerned resident and put on the agenda of this meeting to consider what, if any, assistance the Parish Council is able to give to OCC Highways in a flooding event.
- H** Precept request for 2026-27 sent to VoWHDC and confirmation of receipt received.
- I** Clerk contacted Highfield Trees to thank them for the Norway Spruce supplied for Christmas 2025 and requested that a similar tree is provisionally reserved for 2026.
- J** Clerk received report from Cllr Locklin regarding the Parish Council's entry on the kennington.parish.uk website which seemed to be a mix of information relating to Kennington, Oxfordshire and Kennington, Borough of Lambeth, London. Clerk contacted the website and requested that incorrect information was amended. Website responded rapidly and have corrected the information.
- K** Clerk received report from resident that there was some damage (cracking) to the new slide at Forest Side play area. Clerk will assess and arrange for repairs if necessary.
- L** Clerk received important membership email from the Society of Local Council Clerks – meant for the Clerk to Kennington Community Council in Kent – and responded to SLCC membership department to let them know they had the wrong email address.
- 1** Email received from member of the public:
*"I am writing about the change the St Swithun's Road entrance. Once nice, now a bit of a mess since the addition of the pedestrian crossing.
Where the walking pattern of the pathway has been changed, people still remain walking in the same pattern, which as created a muddy mess (photo attached). In all honesty, remaining on the new path feels awkward (I am not sure if you have ever walked it), so I understand why people do it.
I feel like some sensible planting would help prevent this and hope it this could be taken in to consideration at the next meeting."*
- 450.25** Cllr Brown suggested that this should be reported on FixMyStreet

CONTINUING ISSUES

- M** Email received from resident of Colley Wood: *"My neighbour [house number redacted] has made a TPO application and the area has been visited by the TPO Officer, who is now furthering the case. He suggests that multiple applications will hinder rather than help, so if the PC has not yet applied, it should desist."*
On this advice, the Clerk has not yet made a separate TPO application.
- N** Email received from resident of Colley Wood: *"If the Residents were to purchase the area and offered it to the PC, would that be acceptable? The residents might further agree to do the straightforward maintenance to keep it in a tidy state. We have looked at various possible sources of income and assistance, but none of them offer any guarantee of assured assistance, and this is why we turn to the PC for help."*
Clerk responded as follows: *"At the parish council meeting in November, the parish council agreed that it did not wish to take on responsibility for the green space at the current time. The issue might be reconsidered in the future, but I'm afraid it is not for me to second-guess what a future parish council might decide. If a residents' group were to purchase the area and offer it to the parish council, the matter would be discussed and considered again at a full council meeting - and members of the public may attend the meeting to address the council in person if they so wish - but again, it is not for me to second-guess what that decision might be. I would suggest that if the area were purchased by a residents' group and an offer of it made to the parish council - it would be very helpful to provide the councillors with some detail as to the future financial commitment expected. As to the subject of assured assistance for a residents' group - I think there is a strong probability that a resident's group would be eligible for a community grant from the parish council - in the same way that Wild About Kennington and many other community groups receive regular support on the basis that they are making a positive contribution to the local community. However, I should stress that the decision is not mine to make, since it is the councillors (and not me as Clerk) who make the decisions. I should also point out that a vacancy still exists for a councillor to be co-opted if any residents of the area were in a position to put themselves forward for consideration."*
- 451.25** This was discussed with members of the public present who pointed out to the Parish Council that Pye Homes might be willing to transfer ownership of the Colley Wood Play Area at cost (i.e. legal fees) to the Parish Council, with a restrictive covenant placed on it.
- 452.25** It proposed by Cllr Patterson, seconded by Cllr Johnston and approved by all that the Clerk would contact Pye Homes to enquire about the possibility of a transfer of ownership of the Colley Wood Play Area at cost.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Contact Pye Homes regarding the Colley Wood Play Area.
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- 4** Clerk met at Apple Café with residents of Meadow View Road who had asked about Meadow View Road asking why there is still a building compound on the small green at the junction of Meadow View and Poplar Grove. Portaloo and some material has now been removed but security fencing and some building material remains.
- 5** Clerk contacted Sovereign Housing Association to request that all remaining building material and fencing is removed by Sovereign's contractor within 7 days.
- 453.25** The Clerk reported that shortly after making the phone call to Sovereign Housing Association the area was cleared of all building materials.
- 6** Email received from resident:
"Are there any plans to repair the wooden walkway in the playground at Playfield Road? The edge strips have come off and there are several loose boards."
Clerk replied that the walkway was due for removal and an alternative surface would be installed. The Council is waiting for the contractor to supply costings before proceeding.
- 7** Email received from Kennington Badminton Club

*"This is the page on the PC website which advertises our badminton club.
<https://kennington-pc.gov.uk/organisations-and-clubs/sports/badminton-club/>
Is it possible to get this changed? And, of course, mask the email address with javascript like you do currently. The Kennington Badminton Club plays at the Village Hall on Monday evenings 8:30 – 10:30pm. Due to increased numbers we are currently not accepting new members, but if you would like to be kept notified when there are spaces available, please do contact us."*

Clerk updated the club's details on the website as requested.

- 8** Clerk copied in to email to Cllr Cuddy from OCC Highways Engagement Team regarding flooding at Kennington underpass roundabout in October – *"I can confirm that the gullies in the underpass are included in our regular maintenance schedule and were inspected and cleaned in August. We believe that the flooding issues you experienced in October were likely due to flash flooding, which can temporarily overwhelm our drainage system as the water quickly dissipated after. We will submit it to our Schemes Team to assess it for improvement work and once assessed by them they will programme works if they feel necessary."*

454.25 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUEST FOR GRANT AID

Request for grants

- A** The Council received a request for a £500 Community Grant from Kennington Band (financial report now included as requested at last meeting).

455.25 Cllr Johnston proposed the award of a grant in principle, seconded by Cllr Feather and agreed by all.

456.25 Cllr Powles proposed a Community Grant of £500, seconded by Cllr Johnston and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform Kennington Band and add the Community Grant to the list of payments for authorisation at the next meeting.

- B** The Council received a request for further release of £780.58 from allocated grant funds by Friends of Kennington Library.

457.25 Cllr Johnston proposed the release of a further £780.58, seconded by Cllr Andrews and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform Friends of Kennington Library of the release of a further £780.58 and add it to the list of payments for authorisation at the next meeting.

458.25 Cllrs Cobb and Brown declared an interest in the next item and took no part in the discussion.

459.25 Cllr Cobb relinquished the Chair for the next item.

460.25 Cllr Powles took the Chair for the next item.

- C** The Council received a request for a Community Grant from 40th Oxford (Kennington) Sea Scout Group

461.25 Cllr Johnston proposed the principle of awarding a Community Grant to the Sea Scout Group, seconded by Cllr Patterson and approved by all.

462.25 Cllr Patterson proposed awarding the remainder of the Council's Community Grant budget (£1023.00) to the Sea Scout Group, seconded by Cllr Johnston and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform 40th Oxford (Kennington) Sea Scout Group of the award and add the Community Grant to the list of payments for authorisation at the next meeting.

463.25 Cllr Johnston proposed adding budget virements to the agenda of the next meeting to increase the Community Grant budget, seconded by Cllr Patterson and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Add budget virements to the agenda of the next meeting.

464.25 Cllr Powles relinquished the Chair.

465.25 Cllr Cobb took the Chair.

Correspondence for discussion/action

9 SODC & VoHWDC - Town and Parish Council Training 2026

466.25 It was agreed that Cllrs Powles and Andrews would attend the training session on 3rd March 2026.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Book Cllrs Powles and Andrews onto the training session on 3rd March 2026.

10 Beckley & Stowood Parish Council Chairman: Public Consultation on LGR next month - Urgent Action - Sign Letter to SoS Opposing Greater Oxford

467.25 Proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Powles and agreed by all that Kennington Parish Council would be a signatory to this letter.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Add Kennington Parish Council to the list of signatories to the letter to the Secretary of State Opposing the Great Oxford proposal for Local Government Reorganisation.

Correspondence forwarded to Councillors for information

D SODC & VoWHDC - Media release: Joint Local Plan examination hearings could continue after Government announcement

E VoWHDC – Leader’s Report 2025

F Citizens Advice Oxfordshire – Letter of thanks from the Chief Executive for Community Grant

G Invitation to Register for Neighbourhood Planning Event – 28 January 2PM at Didcot Civic Hall

H SODC & VoWHDC – Media release: Meeting with Inspectors will discuss ways forward for Joint Local Plan

I Oxfordshire County Council: From 14 January 2026 booking in advance required before visiting a household waste recycling centre

J Oxfordshire County Council: Free home upgrades to beat the chill

K SODC & VoWHDC - Media release: Councils secure a high-quality and sustainable future for leisure facilities in uncertain times

11 News from Vale of White Horse District Council - Council supports £100,000 loan for Abingdon Abbey Buildings Enhancement project

12 SODC & VoWHDC Media release: Council submits response to Thames Water reservoir consultation

13 CPRE - Add your voice to our Letter to England

Newsletters

L VoWHDC – December edition of Vale News

M Rural Services Network Weekly Updates

N OALC December Newsletter for Member Councils

O Healthwatch Oxfordshire Latest News

14 News from Vale of White Horse District Council

468.25 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 31 December 2025

Community Account	500.00
Business Premium Account	95,407.14
National Savings & Investment Account	86,540.73
Public Sector Fund (CCLA account)	116,296.03
Total	268,743.90

Kennington Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 15 January 2026

Income received in December	
CCLA Investment Management Ltd Income reinvestment 31 st October – 30 th November 2025	379.15
Barclays Business Premium Account Interest earned 8 September – 7 December 2025	517.77

Direct debits to be paid in January		Power to Act
Virtual Landline Invoice No. 1272074 (28 December 2025 – 28 January 2026) virtual landline subscription	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
YGP Forest Side Pavilion December electric (Invoice No: 1201360)	47.80	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP War Memorial December electric (Invoice No: 1204360)	41.94	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
Castle Water Playfield Road Pavilion 01.12.25-31.12.25 (Invoice 10008739373)	25.53	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
Castle Water War Memorial 01.12.25-31.12.25 (Invoice 10008773691)	16.20	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
EDF Invoice No. KI-3CBED647-0019 Playfield Road Pavilion gas (06 December – 31 December 2025)	23.81	Section 111 LGA 1972

Reference No. 2025/	Accounts to be paid in January		Power to Act
192	Mr L J Wootten Salary for December less tax, NI & pension contribution	1,385.34	Section 112 LGA 1972
193	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for December	463.32	Section 111 LGA 1972
194	Mr A Highley Village Warden Salary for December less tax and NI	367.68	Section 111 LGA 1972
195	Mr T Fleming War memorial grass cutting volunteer for December	41.91	Section 111 LGA 1972
196	Mr A Cobb Chairman's monthly allowance for December	73.69	Section 111 LGA 1972
197	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI contributions for December	490.11	Section 111 LGA 1972
198	Kennington Village Hall Room booking for December	55.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
199	Calber Facilities Management Playfield Rd Pavilion cleaning – Invoice CL484189	208.90	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
200	Adventis Web Hosting – Invoice 0000293	31.50	Section 111 LGA 1972
201	Grundon Wheelie bin emptying at Forest Side & Playfield Rd Invoices 1407814 and 1407813	202.20	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
202	Highfield Partnerships 18ft Spruce Christmas Tree	385.00	Section 137 LGA 1972
203	Eibe Play Ltd Installation of play equipment for Forest Side play area	60,036.85	Public Health Act 1875, s.164

			Local Government Act 1972 s14 ss27; Public Health Acts Amendment s Acts 1890 s44; Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10; Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s19; Commons Act 1899
204	River Thames Society Annual membership	15.00	Section 137 LGA 1972
205	Eurooffice Printer cartridges x2 and A4 paper	149. 49	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
206	Rachel Brown Food for Carols Around the Tree Children's Gifts for Santa Sleigh	384.17	Sections 137 & 145 LGA 1972

Total to be transferred in January: £64,290.16

469.25 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 December 2025.

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

471.25 FLOODING PROTOCOL FROM OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS

472.25 The Council considered the Flooding Protocol for Kennington from Oxfordshire County Council Highways which included road diversions and closures in the event of a flooding event.

473.25 Cllr Powles pointed out that there were two road signs already in the Parish Council's green storage container which could be used as a temporary measure in an emergency.

474.25 Cllr Feather pointed out that any signage put out needs to be with the authority of the County Council and what capacity the Parish Council had to put out signage.

475.25 The question was raised as to when Kennington Road would be closed in the event of a flood and when that closure would be lifted. The Environment Agency provides information to the County Council Highways Department on the status and likelihood of flooding.

476.25 It was agreed that the Parish Council's Emergency Plan should be reviewed at the next meeting and the Flooding Protocol considered alongside that document.

477.25 PURCHASE OF LITTER BIN FOR FOREST SIDE PLAY AREA

478.25 Purchase of a black Copperfield litter bin from NBB Recycled Furniture at a cost of £385 + VAT was proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – order Copperfield litter bin from NBB Recycled Furniture.

479.25 ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2026 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

480.25 Cllr Powles pointed out that the format of last year's Annual Parish Meeting had worked well.

481.25 It was agreed that this would be referred to the Events Committee.

482.25 COUNCILLOR/CLERK TRAINING

483.25 Clerk will investigate possible alternative venues for a First Aid Course.

ACTION FOR CLERK – investigate possible alternative venues for a First Aid Course.

484.25 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

485.25 Cllr Andrews – St Swithun's Church

St Swithun's Church was pleased to report very high Christmas attendances. The Community Larder would start in the New Year and had helped families in need with grocery hampers at Christmas.

486.25 Cllr Cobb – Village Hall

487.25 The Village Hall Management Committee was now looking for a Parish Council representative. Cllr Johnston agreed to take on this role.

488.25 It was requested that the Village Warden tidy up the area around the Village Hall whenever possible.

ACTION FOR CLERK – ask Village Warden to tidy up around the Village Hall whenever possible.

489.25 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

490.25 Cllr Locklin

Cllr Locklin suggested that Councillors may be able to clear the area in St Swithun's Churchyard for the memorial bench. It was suggested that the Clerk proceed with obtaining quotes for contractors to carry out the work in case it can't be done by Councillors.

ACTION FOR CLERK – continue to obtain quotes for preparing the area for the memorial bench at St Swithun's Churchyard.

Cllr Locklin pointed out that the village flower baskets now needed to be removed. It was agreed that Councillors would coordinate this amongst themselves.

ACTION FOR COUNCILLORS – coordinate removal of the village flower baskets.

Cllr Locklin suggested that lighting should be installed under the bridge into the village. It was agreed that this would be a matter for discussion with the County Council Highways Engagement Team.

ACTION FOR CLERK – add this item to others to be discussed with County Council Highways Engagement Team.

491.25 Cllr Jempson

Cllr Jempson asked about Oxfordshire County Council's planned Tree Services Cyclical Survey in Kennington. Cllr Lugova agreed to check on the status of this.

ACTION FOR Cllr LUGOVA – check on the status of the Tree Services Cyclical Survey in Kennington.

Cllr Jempson requested signage directing people from Sandford Lane to the defibrillator at Pebble Hill, Radley. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain necessary signage.

ACTION FOR CLERK – obtain signage to the defibrillator at Pebble Hill.

Cllr Jempson requested that information on the County Council's household waste booking system be added to the Parish Council website. It was agreed that the Clerk would action this.

ACTION FOR CLERK – add information on County Council waste booking system be added to the Parish Council website.

Cllr Jempson had received feedback from residents that the Christmas tree was appreciated, but was it sustainable? Cllr Andrews informed Council that the tree was grown locally in Marsh Baldon and that purchasing the tree from Highfield Trees was supporting a local family business.

492.25 Cllr Feather

Cllr Feather noted that one of the parking posts by the Post Office was missing.

Cllr Feather reported that the Christmas tree lights had been left by the recycling bins at Playfield Road Pavilion and taken. The Clerk had posted on social media requesting their return, but had not received any response. Lynch Brother Homes had apologised for the mistake, and agreed to replace the lights like-for-like. Clerk to find the receipt for the lights and send to Cllr Feather.

ACTION FOR CLERK – find the receipt for the Christmas tree lights and forward to Cllr Feather.

493.25 Cllr Andrews

Cllr Andrews updated the Council on the felling and re-planting work in Bagley Wood.

494.25 Cllr Brown

Cllr Brown informed Council that the new Forest Side Play Area was now completed and being well-used.

Cllr Brown proposed the Council now sign-off on the project, seconded by Cllr Andrews and agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – complete the sign-off documents with Eibe for the Forest Side Play Area.

495.25 Cllr Lee

Cllr Lee pointed out that the BMX track was in need of repair.

496.25 Cllr Cobb

Cllr Cobb proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Brown for her hard work in the funding, design and delivery of the new Forest Side Play Area. This was agreed unanimously.

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

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Joint Local Plan Latest: There were a lot of ministerial statements and letters going back and forth between government and Vale at the end of last year about the Joint Local Plan. Given the minister's new approach to the 'duty to cooperate' on housing numbers, it seems likely that our Joint Local Plan can now continue to be examined and hopefully adopted in the coming months. The Vale has responded positively to a request from the planning inspectors about how we want to proceed.

Local Government Reorganisation: Councils have been told that a statutory consultation will be launched by government in February to consult on the proposals for various geographies for the new unitary councils that will be replacing County and District councils in 2027. Look out for information about how to participate in this consultation.

Neighbourhood Planning: The Vale is hosting an event for Parish Councils to inform and explain the changes in the new NPPF and how this relates to Neighbourhood plans. More information to follow, but you should have received a 'Save the Date' for Wednesday 28th January, 2pm – 5pm in Didcot.

Colley Wood. Requested Planning Application documents from Vale Planning as the application is old and no documents are available online.

498.25 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Diana Lugova

Bagley Wood Road traffic. I requested OCC Engagement Team site visit – the Officers are Andy Sweeney and Claire Moreton. Will come back with proposed dates.

Congestion Charge and Free Bus Pass from P&R. Free bus pass which initially was introduced till the end of January is now extended till the end of March.

Recycling Centres. To avoid long queues which block the traffic and to prevent free recycling from our neighbouring Councils' residents (Councils that charge Oxfordshire's residents) Oxfordshire County Council has implemented a slot booking scheme – which can be done online or over the phone. The scheme starts from 14th January 2026.

499.25 ANY MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Colley Wood Play Area
Emergency Plan
Community Governance Review
Virements to increase Community Grants Budget
OCC Highways Engagement

500.25 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – None

Date of Next Meeting: 12 February 2026
Meeting closed at 9.23pm

Signed

Date 12th February 2026