

Kennington Parish Council
Oxfordshire
Minutes of the meeting held on
12th March 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 Powles	Cllr Russell	

In Attendance: Lawrence Wootten (Clerk/RFO)

Members of the public: None

569.25 NOMINATIONS FOR CO-OPTION - None received

570.25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Patterson and District Cllrs Lugova and Cox

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

572.25 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

573.25 Cllr Brown declared an interest in Correspondence for Discussion/Action Item D (OALC membership)

574.25 Cllr Johnston declared an interest in Correspondence for Discussion/Action Item E (OPFA membership)

575.25 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2026

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2026 as a true record.

576.25 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2026

The draft minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 11 February 2026 were noted.

577.25 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2026

The draft minutes of the Personnel Committee Meeting held on 11 February 2026 were noted.

578.25 REPORT OF THE CLERK

NEW ISSUES

- A** Clerk received request from resident of Otters Reach to plant a small native tree on the grass verge opposite her house. Clerk replied that the grass verges are part of the public highway, and as such are under the control of Oxfordshire County Council, so permission for tree planting would need to be given by them, rather than the Parish Council, and suggested that the resident look at the County Council's Tree Service pages on the County Council website (link provided to resident) – where they could find more information on community tree planting etc.
- 579.25** Cllr Brown had emailed the Clerk to explain that the verges in Otters Reach are the responsibility of the District Council rather than the County Council. The Clerk had contacted resident accordingly.
- B** Clerk attended Playfield Road and Forest Side pavilions for Annual Electrical Safety Inspections and Portable Appliance Testing of equipment at both sites – all parish council-owned equipment passed.
- C** Clerk received request from resident of Forest Side to allow access for arboriculture contractor to access the playing field in order to trim hedge. Clerk checked contractor's Public Liability Insurance cover before arranging access for them to the playing field.
- D** Clerk assisted Cllr Locklin with disposal of planting materials from troughs outside the Village Hall and will arrange for trough liners to be returned to Purely Plants (Busy Baskets).
- E** Clerk wrote to Principal Bursar and President of St John's College, Oxford, inviting them to the official opening of the Forest Side Play Area.

- F** Clerk wrote article about the Forest Side rebuild for the Kennington Chronicle in addition to the usual monthly article.
- G** Resident reported deteriorating pavements on Forest Side which were becoming dangerous to use. Clerk recommended that the resident report the problem on FixMyStreet and forward the report to the Clerk who would forward it to Cllr Lugova.
- H** Village Warden reported a large amount of household waste left in the general waste dumpster at Forest Side.
- I** Resident contacted Clerk on the matter of damage done to the grassed areas between pavement and road.
"There is one of these in Edward Road where there is no grass at all only mud with tyre tracks. It looks awful. Another one or two are getting the same way. This spoils the look of the place but also means that some mud can be spread on pavement and road. And this winter it all looks and is worse."
- J** Clerk received email from VoHWDC requesting a summary statement of budgeted income and expenditure for 2026/27 as required by all parish and town councils with a council tax precept of over £140,000. Statement of budgeted income and expenditure sent to VoHWDC and confirmation of receipt received.
- K** Clerk received email from resident asking who is responsible for road maintenance following a serious accident in the village caused by a large pot hole on Meadow View which resulted in a vehicle being written-off.
Clerk explained that maintenance of the public highways in Kennington is the responsibility of the County Council, and provided the resident with a link to the page on the County Council's website covering compensation claims as a result of highway defects.

CONTINUING ISSUES

- L** Clerk received quote for removal of fallen tree at Forest Side which is blocking the path to Bagley Wood (£285 + VAT).
- 580.25** Proposed by Cllr Johnston and seconded by Cllr Powles to get the necessary work carried out as soon as possible – approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – contact BGG to arrange for the fallen tree to be cleared as soon as possible.

- M** Clerk has ordered 1936 map of Kennington as agreed at last meeting (item 511.25).
- 581.25** It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate the cost for having the map framed by a local framing company.

ACTION FOR CLERK – investigate the cost of having the map framed by a local framing company.

- N** Map of proposed area of Radley Parish to be included in the Community Governance Review sent to VoWHDC Democratic Services.
- O** Clerk attended walkabout on Bagley Wood Road and adjoining footpath with OCC Highways Officers, Cllr Lugova, Cllr Cobb and Cllr Andrews.
- 1** Response received from Pye Homes regarding Colley Wood Amenity Area:
"This is something Pye Homes are willing to consider, perhaps you could present your proposal to us in a form of a formal offer which we can then review internally and respond further."
How does council now wish to proceed?

582.25 Proposed by Cllr Johnston and seconded by Cllr Powles to give delegated authority to the Clerk in consultation with the Chair to obtain a draft proposal from Pye Homes to present to Council – approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – contact Pye Homes for a draft proposal to present to Council.

583.25 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUEST FOR GRANT AID

Requests for grants

A The Council received a request from Friends of Kennington Library for a further release of pre-approved and allocated grant funds of £581.30 (£2500 total grant approved on 10 April 2025 – item 583.24).

B The Council received a request from the Summer Pop-Up Shop (St Swithun's Church/Apple Café) for £100.

584.25 Cllr Powles proposed the award of a grant in principle, seconded by Cllr Powles and agreed by all.

585.25 Cllr Powles proposed the award of the £100 requested, seconded by Cllr Johnston and agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – inform the Pop-Up Shop of the award and add to the list of payments for authorisation at the next meeting

C The Council received a request from Kennington Strollers - requesting a grant to enable them to use Playfield Rd pavilion for every Wednesday from beginning of May through to end of September from 2pm until 3:30pm (so 1.5 hours per week). Kennington Strollers has received a grant within the last 12 months, but is looking for agreement in principle to enable sufficient time for advertising to be arranged. Grant money would be allocated from 2026/27 budget.

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

587.25 Cllr Powles proposed the award of £378 (based on the 2025/26 hire fees for the pavilion), seconded by Cllr Johnston and agreed by all.

Correspondence for discussion/action

D Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) - invitation to renew membership for 2026/27 at a cost of £968.26.

588.25 Cllr Brown left the meeting for this item.

589.25 Cllr Johnston proposed renewing the Council's OALC membership for 2026/27 at a cost of £968.26, seconded by Cllr Andrews and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – add the OALC invoice to the list of payments for authorisation at the next meeting.

E Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – invitation to renew membership for 2026/27 at a cost of £87.00

590.25 Cllr Johnston left the meeting for this item.

591.25 Cllr Brown proposed renewing the Council's OPFA membership for 2026/27 at a cost of £87.00, seconded by Cllr Andrews and approved by all.

Correspondence forwarded to Councillors for information

F SODC & VoWHDC – Media Release - Dig in for free! South and Vale residents invited to grab complimentary compost this March

G SODC & VoWHDC – Media Release - Five Councils outline how a two-unitary proposal would reimagine council service delivery across Oxfordshire and West Berkshire

H SODC & VoWHDC – Media Release - New electric waste vehicle will save councils 13 tonnes of carbon emissions per year.

I River Thames Society – Invitation to AGM of Upper Thames Branch

J SODC & VoWHDC - Event invitation: Connecting Local Action - championing sustainability projects in South & Vale

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

L VoWHDC - Residents who receive garden waste collections in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are being reminded to buy a new permit if they wish to continue receiving collections

Kennington Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 12 March 2026

from 1 April through to 31 March 2027

- M** Oxfordshire County Council - One Oxfordshire and LGR - Invitation to Town and Parish Councils Briefing Session
- N** Community First Oxfordshire - Surveys and consultations
- O** Oxford City Council - Invitation: Briefing on Local Government Reorganisation for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire
- 2** SODC & VoHWDC - media release: Councils offer help to transform empty properties into a home
- Newsletters**
- P** Read the latest news from Healthwatch Oxfordshire
- Q** CPRE Oxfordshire: Latest News, Campaigns and Policy Updates
- 3** Age UK Oxfordshire – March edition of EngAGE Magazine

592.25 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 27 February 2026

Community Account	500.00
Business Premium Account	37,239.82
National Savings & Investment Account	87,406.14
Public Sector Fund (CCLA account)	117,058.05
Total	242,204.01

Income received in February	£
CCLA Investment Management Ltd Income reinvestment 31 January to 28 February 2026	376.31
HMRC VAT reclaim 2025/26 Q3	13,910.65
BGG Garden and Tree Care Ltd Repayment of invoice paid in error (2025/217 was paid twice in error)	660.00
Wolvercote Cricket Club Deposit for Playfield Rd pavilion and gate keys	40.00

Reference No. 2025/	Account paid twice in error February	£	Power to Act
217	BGG Gardeen and Tree Care Ltd - This in Invoice was paid twice in error on 13 th Feb 2026, reported to payee and repaid by BGG on 16 th Feb 2026 (see above).	660.00	Section 112 LGA 1972

Additional Direct debit paid in February	£	Power to Act
YGP - (invoices had not been received since November owing to billing problem with YGP following smart meter installation – problem now resolved and regular monthly billing now being received) Playfield Road Pavilion electricity November 2025 – January 2026	247.31	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

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Direct debits to be paid in March	£	Power to Act
Virtual Landline Invoice No. 1348608 (28 February 2026 – 28 March 2026) virtual landline subscription	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
YGP Forest Side Pavilion February electric (Invoice No: 1264157)	51.35	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP War Memorial February electric (Invoice No: 1266952)	38.26	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP Playfield Road Pavilion February electric (Invoice No: 1260857)	71.84	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
Castle Water Playfield Road Pavilion 01.02.26-28.02.26 (Invoice 10009352465)	21.76	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
Castle Water War Memorial 01.02.26-28.02.26 (Invoice 10009381771)	15.54	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
EDF Playfield Road pavilion gas supply 01.02.26 to 28.02.26	23.55	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Reference No. 2025/	Accounts to be paid in March	£	Power to Act
226	Mr L J Wootten Salary for February less tax, NI & pension contribution	1414.79	Section 112 LGA 1972
227	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for February	475.33	Section 111 LGA 1972
228	Mr A Highley Village Warden Salary for February less tax and NI	373.56	Section 111 LGA 1972
229	Mr T Fleming War memorial grass cutting volunteer for February	41.91	Section 111 LGA 1972
230	Mr A Cobb Chairman's monthly allowance for February	73.69	Section 111 LGA 1972
231	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI contributions for February	511.05	Section 111 LGA 1972
232	Calber Facilities Management Playfield Rd Pavilion cleaning – Invoice CL485427	208.90	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
233	Adventis Web Hosting – Invoice 0000317	31.50	Section 111 LGA 1972
234	Grundon Wheelie bin emptying at Forest Side & Playfield Rd Invoices 1444587 and 1444588	198.79	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
235	NBB Recycled Furniture Copperfield Outdoor Litter Bin – Invoice 4740378	462.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
236	Savills (on behalf of St John's College, Oxford) Forest Side Playing Field rental 25/03/26-23/06/26	661.90	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
237	Kennington Village Hall Room hire in February – Invoice 2026-105	47.50	Section 111 LGA 1972

238	Glasdon UK Ltd Litter bin sacks (90 and 110 litres) InvoiceSI9932881	79.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
239	Mr R Pople 1936 Map of Kennington	56.00	LGA 1972 s.137
240	Friends of Kennington Library Third draw down of Community Grant (£2500 in total agreed on 10 April 2025 – item 583.24)	581.30	LGA 1972 s.145(1)(d)
241	Mr L J Wootten Annual Working From Home Allowance	312	Section 112 LGA 1972
242	Mr L J Wootten Garden Waste Bags for Village Warden bin emptying	11.99	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
244	D E Electrical EICR and PAT Playfield Rd and Forest Side pavilions	595.20	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Total transferred in March = £6,036.16

Payment Ref. 2025/...	Additional accounts already paid in March by Clerk using Barclays Debit Card	£	Power to Act
243	WEL Medical Replacement defibrillator carrying case, replacement defibrillator pads	171.18	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
245	Amazon 4-piece walkie talkie set for village events	42.14	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

593.25 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 February 2026.

594.25 The Financial Report was proposed by Cllr Powles, seconded by Cllr Brown and approved by all

595.25 Cllr Patterson and the Clerk/RFO carried out the Internal Financial Control checks for Quarters 1-3 (2025-26) on 5th March 2026.

596.25 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN OXFORDSHIRE

597.25 It was noted that the Council had already agreed to support the One Oxfordshire Unitary Authority proposal for Local Government Reorganisation in Oxfordshire.

598.25 Cllr Johnston pointed out that the One Oxfordshire option is the only feasible one, and disruption to major services of Highways, Education and Social Services should not be caused by this proposal. The Ridgeway Unitary proposal would cut across all these services.

599.25 Cllr Powles pointed out that the different options have been discussed previously and the Parish Council can respond as a corporate body through the Clerk that neither of the other options are viable, but that concerns remain about communication and local representation within a larger unitary authority.

600.25 It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to the Local Government Reorganisation consultation on behalf of the Parish Council, incorporating the points raised and supporting the One Oxfordshire proposal.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Respond to the Local Government Reorganisation consultation.

601.25 SUMMER PLANTS FOR THE VILLAGE

The Clerk was waiting to receive the quote for summer planting, so this item was carried forward to the next meeting.

602.25 PARKING ISSUES IN THE VILLAGE

603.25 It was agreed to investigate the use of additional planters to prevent antisocial parking and driving across verges near to St Swithun's school. The Clerk will obtain quotes for two additional planters.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Obtain quotes for two additional planters.

604.25 Cllr Cobb reported that he had contacted the Sea Scouts about the possibility of using their car park for school drop-off and collection-time parking, but this was not a feasible option.

605.25 MEMORIAL BENCH IN ST SWITHUN'S CHURCHYARD

606.25 The Clerk presented three quotes to Council for clearing the area and laying slabs for Colin Charlett's memorial bench in St Swithun's Churchyard.

607.25 Cllr Powles proposed accepting the quote provided by BGG Garden & Tree Care Ltd (£775 + VAT), seconded by Cllr Johnston and approved by all. Clerk to contact BGG to arrange for the work to be done.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Instruct BGG Garden & Tree Care Ltd to proceed with the work.

608.25 FOREST SIDE OFFICIAL OPENING EVENT

609.25 Cllr Brown reported that the Official Opening of the Forest Side Play Area would be at midday on Sunday 29th March and various activities and entertainments had been organised by the Events Committee, including Oxford (Kennington) Band and and face-painting (provided by Eibe Play Ltd). Local sports clubs and youth organisations had been encouraged to attend and local media informed about the event.

610.25 The Clerk reported that Professor Heather Bouman, the Keeper of Bagley Wood for St John's College, Oxford would be attending.

611.25 COUNCILLOR/CLERK TRAINING – none requested

612.25 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

613.25 Cllr Andrews – Kennington-Musanda Twinning Association

A talent show/musical event is being organised.

614.25 Cllr Andrews – St Swithun's Church

A Pop-Up Shop is being organised for the summer.

The church is investigating increasing the number of parking spaces.

The 15th September 2026 marks 70 years since the foundation stone was laid for the current church building and a variety of events to mark the anniversary are being planned.

615.25 Cllr Johnston – Village Hall

616.25 The Village Hall AGM is on the 18th march, and is a public meeting with everyone welcome to attend.

617.25 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

618.25 Cllr Brown

Cllr Brown reported that Franklins Solicitors had been closed down by the Solicitors Regulation Authority. It was not known if the Parish Council had any files lodged with Franklins, but it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Solicitors Regulation Authority to find out.

ACTION FOR CLERK – write to the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

619.25 Cllr Russell

Cllr Russell reported that problems with the footpath connecting Poplar Grove to Sandford Lane had been reported on FixMyStreet, but that more reports would mean there was more chance of getting it fixed. There had been reports of motor bikes using the footpaths, which should be reported to PCSO Maddie Highmore.

620.25 Cllr Jempson

Cllr Jempson an overturned car had been reported, but this was on land belonging to Network Rail.

Cllr Jempson had been contacted by a resident regarding a lack of clarity regarding road works being carried out on Sandford Lane by Thames Water.

621.25 Cllr Andrews

Cllr Andrews reported that she had met with Cllr Cobb, Cllr Lugova, the Clerk and two Oxfordshire County Council Highways Officers to discuss traffic on Bagley Wood Road. The Highways Officers had agreed that it was a problem and worth spending money on – various options had been discussed and we are waiting for a written response from OCC Highways.

Cllr Andrews reported that the temporary closure of some of the permissive footpaths in Bagley Wood had been reported on Kennington Connected.

Cllr Andrews reported that the War Memorial area was currently full of tree seedlings which might need clearing in the future.

622.25 Cllr Powles

Cllr Powles informed Council that he had attended a Neighbourhood Planning Event held by the District Council and that templates were now available to make the process of creating a plan easier. It would be a big project, but do we lose out by not having one?

It was agreed to add this to the agenda of the next meeting.

623.25 Cllr Cuddy

Cllr Cuddy reported that one of the SID poles had now been installed by OCC Highways and the SID unit could now be ordered as agreed at the meeting on 8th May 2025 (Minute Ref 53.25).

ACTION FOR CLERK – order the SID unit as agreed on 8th May 2025.

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

Full Council meetings: Have now moved from The Beacon in Wantage to Abbey House in Abingdon. The meeting room at Abbey House is being equipped with livestreaming capability, ensuring that Full Council meetings can be broadcast in the same way as our committee meetings. Once this setup is complete, all future Full Council meetings will be available to watch live via this link: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/watchameeting>

Garden Waste Collection: Residents who receive garden waste collections in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are being reminded to buy a new permit if they wish to continue receiving collections from 1 April through to 31 March 2027.

625.25 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Diana Lugova

Ongoing Road Surface & Pothole Works: OCC has more than doubled pothole repair crews (from 7 teams) to tackle increased defects. Many roads already look better but there is still a long way to go. Please keep reporting potholes on FixMyStreet – and send me the references if you want me to follow up.

Hinksey Hill Interchange: Resurfaced by OCC at the beginning of March and looks much better now. National Highways will resurface A34 near South Hinksey to reduce noise coming from the road – the dates will be confirmed.

LGR Government Consultation is going on: OCC runs online information sharing events for Town and Parish Councils – the last ones take place on Tue, 10th Mar and Wed, 11th Mar 6:30pm -7.15pm.

Bagley Wood Road: OCC Highways team took the case and will work on it to produce suitable options for the road traffic reduction. The options will be presented to Kennington PC for discussion and consideration. Timeline – most likely Feb/Mar 2027.

Kidlington illegal waste site update: The Environment Agency has updated its Engagement HQ page about the Kidlington illegal waste site with information about preparation works that are under way.

New Flood Wardens Sought: OCC is recruiting volunteer flood wardens to support community resilience across the county.

First all-female fire crew in 20 years: Abingdon Fire Station now has its first all-female on-call crew responding to emergencies.

626.25 ANY MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Additional planters for village verges

Neighbourhood Planning

Links Play Area repair work

627.25 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – None

Date of Next Meeting: 9 April 2026

Meeting closed at 9.01pm

Signed

Date 9 April 2026