

Kennington Parish Council
Oxfordshire
Minutes of the meeting held on
9th April 2026 at 7:30pm in the Village Centre

Present:

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); District & County Cllr Lugova

Members of the public: None

628.25 NOMINATIONS FOR CO-OPTION - None received

629.25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllrs Andrews and Patterson

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

631.25 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

Cllr Brown declared an interest in the Financial Report (OALC membership invoice)

Cllr Johnston declared an interest in Agenda Item 14 and informed the Council that he would leave the meeting for that discussion

632.25 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2026

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

633.25 MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 MARCH AND DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 31 MARCH 2026

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 10 March 2026 and draft minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 31 March 2026 were noted.

634.25 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 10 MARCH 2026

The draft minutes of the Events Committee Meeting held on 10 March 2026 were noted.

635.25 REPORT OF THE CLERK

NEW ISSUES

A Clerk received the following suggestion from a resident:

"As you'll know, plenty of people park outside the Co-op on the double yellow lines. Has the council ever considered putting a banner or large sign on the Co-op railings with an arrow pointing left, a "P" parking symbol and saying something like "Free parking 180 yards". My thoughts are that this could be useful information for anyone (e.g. from outside the village) who simply doesn't realise that there's free parking nearby; and for those folk (I assume the majority) who do know, a sign could be helpful "social pressure" to encourage good behaviour!"

636.25 Cllr Powles pointed out that although this was potentially a good idea, the Village Hall car park does not belong to the Parish Council, and neither do the railings outside the Co-op, so the Parish Council had no authority to act.

637.25 Cllr Johnston proposed no action to be taken, seconded by Cllr Russell and approved by all.

B Clerk and Chairman took delivery of Colin Charlett's Memorial Bench at St Swithun's Cemetery on 31st March and moved it into position.

C Clerk and Cllrs Feather and Brown attended meeting with Steve Parkinson on 24th March.

638.25 Cllr Feather informed the Council that the meeting had been very profitable. Steve Parkinson would provide a written report in May, indicating the way forward and how VAT can be dealt with.

A PWLB loan from the PWLB was possibly the way forward to ensure funding of the project, with evidence of affordability a pre-requisite.

D Clerk received email from residents:

"Our belated congratulations to all those members of the parish council involved in the initiation, successful grant funding applications and oversight of the project completion. The area is now a credit to the Kennington community and a marvellous, first class amenity. Well done all!"

E Clerk received email from resident:

"I just thought I would thank the parish council - especially Rachel B for the fantastic play area at Forest Side - it was well worth the wait!! It's lovely to think of all the little children that will be playing for hours and hours during the coming months and many years to come. Also I would like to thank the Events Committee for organising such a successful official opening at the weekend."

F Clerk received email from resident regarding bins at St Swithun's Cemetery:

"Not sure who is responsible for this but the bins are overflowing at the cemetery and people are just leaving bags around the bins. If you could look into this and perhaps pass it on to those concerned I would be grateful". Clerk contacted the Church Wardens and the situation has now been resolved.

G Clerk received email from resident:

"Is there any possibility of the Parish Council taking up the matter of poor letter deliveries with Royal Mail, as they have done in the past. I was talking to a postman this morning delivering parcels and asked about the letter situation. I was told that the people of Bagley Wood Road get letter deliveries every day. In Poplar Grove it's about two weeks. I recently had 3 items that were well overdue, and was on the point of claiming for lost parcels when they arrived. This is a great inconvenience for sellers and buyers. I had three letters from the hospital all delivered at once; one was 2 days after my appointment. If I hadn't signed up for the NHS app I could have missed it. I received a letter from Thames Water dated 19th February and I received it 6th March, another letter from the hospital with results dated 22nd February arrived 9th March. The people of Abingdon, who have their own sorting office have already received details of the Council Tax, while I am still waiting; maybe it will arrive after the date it should be paid."

639.25 Cllr Johnston pointed out that, based on prior experience, Royal Mail will only listen to a Member of Parliament and were very unlikely to respond to a Parish Council.

640.25 It was proposed by Cllr Brown that the Clerk should write to Layla Moran MP on this matter, seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – write to Layla Moran MP about the Royal Mail service in parts of Kennington.
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1 Clerk contacted the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) regarding the recent closure (intervention) of Franklins on 6th March 2026 who had acted for the Parish Council for the conveyance of Cow Lane in 2012. Shakespeare Martineau LLP are helping the SRA with the closure and are in the process of collecting client files and documents and will write to the Clerk if any files relating to the Parish Council are recovered. The original paperwork for the conveyance of Cow Lane to the Parish Council in 2012 was held by Franklins, although the Clerk has copies and the land is registered.

CONTINUING ISSUES

H Clerk delivered letters to all residents of Colley Wood and Forest Side whose houses back on to Forest Side, informing them of the Forest Side Play Area Official Opening Event

I Clerk received report of loose planks on the Links Play Area walkway from a resident via Cllr Andrews. Clerk will investigate and make a temporary repair if necessary, but replacement of the walkway is imminent (quotes to be approved at this meeting)

J Clerk received report from a resident regarding the wooden walkway at the Links play area – now missing a wooden plank. Clerk will see if a temporary repair is possible before the walkway is replaced.

641.25 Cllr Lee volunteered to try to make a temporary repair to the walkway.

ACTION FOR CLLR LEE – try to make a temporary repair to the wooden walkway.

2 Clerk has arranged for OCC Highways Office Andy Sweeney to attend the PC meeting on 14th May to discuss Bagley Wood Road traffic.

3 Clerk received updated quote from Elan City for SID + separate solar panel for £2500 excluding VAT. This is for one SID + one solar panel, but does the council wish to buy two solar panels for the two locations in the village?

642.25 The Clerk reminded the Council that the purchase of the unit had already been approved on 8th May 2025 (Item 53.25). Cllr Powles proposed that the Clerk proceed with ordering one SID unit, seconded by Cllr Brown and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – proceed to order one Elan City SID.

4 Clerk and Chairman attended meeting with Radley Parish Council on 7th May to discuss the Community Governance Review.

643.25 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUEST FOR GRANT AID

Requests for grants – None received

Correspondence for discussion/action

A Community First Oxfordshire membership 2026 – Invitation to renew membership

644.25 Cllr Johnston proposed renewing the Council's membership for 2026, seconded by Cllr Feather and approved by all. Clerk to add this to the schedule of payments at the next meeting.

ACTION FOR CLERK – add Community First Oxfordshire to the schedule of payments for the next meeting.

B Flood project funding Expressions of Interest - Oxfordshire County Council Priority Action flood projects 2026/27

5 Report on Bagley Wood Road traffic solutions from Oxfordshire County Council Highways Officer Andy Sweeney.

Correspondence forwarded to Councillors for information

C News from VoWHDC - Important changes to planning and land charging services

D Beckley & Stowood Parish Council Chairman - Presenting Petition to No 10 - Last Opportunity to Sign

E News from VoWHDC - Thames Valley devolution expression of interest moves forward

F Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme update

G News from VoWHDC - Hop into Easter with lots of fun for all the family

H News from VoWHDC - Could your parish be about to change?

I CPRE - Shaping Oxfordshire's Future: Planning Battles, Policy Wins & Spring Events

J News from VoWHDC - Leaders reflect on the close of the government's LGR consultation for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire

K Thames Valley Police - Thames Valley Police ASB Action Plan

L VoWHDC - Planning Alerts – Information on new alerts system

M Beckley & Stowood Parish Council Chairman - Submission and Petition from Oxfordshire Green Belt Parishes to Government Consultation on LGR for Oxfordshire

N River Thames Society Annual General Meeting 2026 Invitation

O Thames Valley Police - Abingdon Neighbourhood Team Report

P VoWHDC - Vale Community Governance Review

Q VoWHDC - Town and Parish Council Forum on Tuesday, 21 April 2026 - upcoming changes to Planning and Land Charges systems

6 SODC & VoWHDC Media Release - Nature in the Vale is revealed in a new biodiversity report

Newsletters

- R** Read the latest news from Healthwatch Oxfordshire
S CPRE Oxfordshire: Latest News, Campaigns and Policy Updates
T OCC – The latest news for your communities
U Rural Services Network – Your free RSN Weekly Newsletter
V OALC – March Newsletter

645.25 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 31 March 2026

Community Account	500.00
Business Premium Account	83,336.43
National Savings & Investment Account	87,406.14
Public Sector Fund (CCLA account)	117,395.95
Total	288,638.52

Income received in March	£
CCLA Investment Management Ltd Income reinvestment 28 February to March 2026	337.90
Barclays Business Premium Account Interest earned 8 December 2025 – 1 March 2026	159.33
FCC Communities Foundation Ltd Forest Side Play Area Grant	52,540.00

Direct debits to be paid in April	£	Power to Act
Virtual Landline Invoice No. 1385240 (28 March 2026 – 28 April 2026) virtual landline subscription	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
YGP Forest Side Pavilion February electric (Invoice No: 1293411)	52.03	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP War Memorial February electric (Invoice No: 1295030)	48.21	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP Playfield Road Pavilion February electric (Invoice No: 1292504)	73.83	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
EDF Playfield Road pavilion gas supply 02.03.26 to 31.03.26	22.91	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Reference No. 2025/	Additional accounts paid in March by Clerk using Barclays Debit Card	£	Power to Act
246	Amazon 16A-13A 4 Gang Electric Hook-Up (For Forest Side Play Area Opening Event)	21.94	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Reference 2026/	Accounts to be paid in April	£	Power to Act
001	Mr L J Wootten Salary for March less tax, NI & pension contribution	1414.99	Section 112 LGA 1972
002	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for March	475.33	Section 111 LGA 1972

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003	Mr A Highley Village Warden Salary for March less tax and NI	373.76	Section 111 LGA 1972
004	Mr T Fleming War memorial grass cutting volunteer for March	41.91	Section 111 LGA 1972
005	Mr A Cobb Chairman's monthly allowance for March	73.69	Section 111 LGA 1972
006	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI contributions for March	510.65	Section 111 LGA 1972
007	Calber Facilities Management Playfield Rd Pavilion cleaning – Invoice CL486095	208.90	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
008	Adventis Web Hosting – Invoice 0000329	31.50	Section 111 LGA 1972
009	Grundon Wheelie bin emptying at Forest Side & Playfield Rd Invoices 1470647 and 1470646	214.36	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
010	Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) Membership fee 2026-2027	968.26	Section 111 LGA 1972
011	Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (OPFA) OPFA membership 2026-2027	87.00	Section 137 LGA 1972
012	Kennington Village Hall Room hire in March – Invoice 2026-130	80.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
013	Anthony Denton Window Cleaning Services Bus stop cleaning – Invoice 1857	150.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
014	Rialtas Business Solutions Accounting software + support package	568.80	Section 111 LGA 1972
015	OALC Parish Pros – Councillor's Course	72.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
016	Rachel Brown Ice creams (£48.25), Banners (£35.97), Bouncy Castle Hire (£165.00) and Costume Hire (37.50) for Forest Side Play Area Opening Event	286.72	Section 137 LGA 1972
017	St Swithun's Church/Apple Café – Pop-Up Shop Community Grant	100.00	Section 137 LGA 1972
018	Fleet (Line Markers Ltd) 16 x 10-litre tubs Pitchmarker Super C	699.84	Section 111 LGA 1972
019	Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) Clerk's SLCC membership fees 2026	221.00	Section 143 (1) (b) LGA 1972

Total to be transferred in April 2026 = £ 6578.71

646.25 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 March 2026.

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

648.25 The Clerk informed the Council that, in consultation with the Chairman, he had renewed the gas supply contract at Playfield Road Pavilion with EDF. The Clerk had submitted a request to Utility Aid, who had recommended a three-year deal with the Council's existing supplier (EDF). The existing three-year fixed-term contract was due to expire on 1st May 2026, and owing to the ongoing situation with global energy

prices, the Chairman and Clerk agreed that a fixed-rate tariff should be obtained without delay. The new contract has a slightly higher standing charge of 45p/day (previously 25p/day), but offset by a lower unit charge of 6.5p/kWh (previously 9.8p/kWh).

649.25 The Clerk informed the Council that, although not included in the March 2026 bank statements and reconciliation, the first half of the Parish Precept (£79,400) had been paid by VoWHDC into the Council's bank account on 2nd April 2026.

650.25 TO REVIEW THE GENERAL TERMS OF REFERENCE OF COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES AND WORKING PARTIES

651.25 The General Terms of Reference of the Council's committees and working parties was reviewed and agreed. Agreement of the document proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Lee and approved by a 9:1 majority.

ACTION FOR CLERK – upload the General Terms of Reference of council's committees and working parties on the Website and update the Document Schedule.

652.25 TO REVIEW THE RISK ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

653.25 It was agreed that the Risk Assessment Statement had been reviewed and agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Powles seconded by Cllr. Johnston and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Upload the Risk Assessment Statement on the Website and update the Document Schedule.

654.25 TO APPROVE THE AMENDED HIRE AGREEMENTS FOR THE PLAYING FIELDS AND SPORTS PAVILIONS

655.25 It was agreed that the Hire Agreements for the playing fields and pavilions had been reviewed and agreed. This was proposed by Cllr. Feather seconded by Cllr. Johnston and agreed unanimously.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Amend the hire agreements and prepare for annual agreements for both the Football and Cricket Clubs

656.25 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW FOR THE AREA OF RADLEY PARISH TO THE NORTH OF SUGWORTH LANE

657.25 Cllr Johnston left the meeting for this item and played no part in the subsequent discussions on the matter.

658.25 Cllr Cobb briefed the Council on the outcome of the meeting with Radley Parish Council on 7th May 2026, and a there was a general discussion of the issues raised at that meeting.

659.25 It was recognised that the decision as to whether to proceed to a further stage of Community Governance Review now rests with the VoWHDC Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee once the initial public consultation has been completed.

660.25 It was proposed by Cllr Powles and seconded by Cllr Brown and agreed by all that the Council would contact the VoWHDC Democratic Services Officer for further guidance as well as seek advice on communication from Breakthrough Communications (via OALC).

661.25 PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN THE VILLAGE

662.25 It was proposed by Cllr Feather and seconded by Cllr Powles that a questionnaire/survey on measures for controlling traffic flow on Bagley Wood Road would be created – and agreed by all. Cllr Powles offered to create a survey using SurveyMonkey for which the Clerk would create a QR code for publication in Kennington Chronicle and via the Council's website and social media output – agreed by all.

ACTION FOR CLLR POWLES/CLERK – Create an online survey on the proposal for traffic flow on Bagley Wood Road and a QR code and explanatory article for publishing in Kennington Chronicle and online.

663.25 SUMMER PLANTS FOR THE VILLAGE

664.25 Acceptance of the quote from Purely Plants for summer planting in the village was proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all. Clerk to respond to Purely Plants.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Write to Purely Plants to accept their quote for summer planting.

665.25 The Clerk informed the Council that he had contacted BGG Garden and Tree Care Ltd, and they had agreed to provide watering of the planters in the summer (if required) at the same price as the previous year.

666.25 UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S ACQUISITION OF THE COLLEY WOOD AMENITY AREA

667.25 The Clerk informed the Council that there was currently no further progress to report on this matter.

668.25 ADDITIONAL PLANTERS FOR THE VILLAGE

669.25 The Clerk presented various designs and prices for additional planters in the village.

670.25 It was agreed to purchase two Broxap Lanarkshire Slim Planters to match existing planters in the village with laser-cut text on gold backing plate to both of the long sides – "*Kennington Parish Council*" at a cost (including delivery) of £1520 (+ VAT). This was proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Submit purchase order to Broxap Street Furniture for two planters.

671.25 REPLACEMENT OF THE WOODEN WALKWAY AT THE LINKS PLAY AREA

672.25 The Clerk presented three quotes for the removal of the wooden walkway at the Links Play Area and to replace it with a binding ballast surface.

673.25 The quote from R Taylor Landscapes for £1,800 (including VAT) was proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Brown and approved by all. Clerk to inform R Taylor Landscapes and arrange access to the Links Play Area for the work to be carried out.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Inform R Taylor Landscapes and arrange access to the Links Play Area when required.

674.25 TO CONSIDER CREATING A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

675.25 Cllr Cobb pointed out that a Neighbourhood Development Plan might be a way of helping control the number of HMOs in the village.

676.25 Cllr Powles proposed that creating a Neighbourhood Development Plan would be a lot of work, but initially a meeting with Ricardo Rios from the VoWHDC Neighbourhood Plan Team should be arranged either before or after a Planning Committee meeting, seconded by Cllr Cobb and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – Invite Ricardo Rios from VoWHDC Neighbourhood Plant Team to a Planning Committee Meeting.

677.25 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

678.25 Cllr Brown – Village Hall Management Committee

The Village Hall Manager has resigned and the trawl for a replacement was underway.

679.25 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

680.25 Cllr Andrews

Cllr Andrews had relayed some comments from a resident regarding the design of the new Forest Side Play Area to the Clerk ahead of the meeting. The Clerk had provided information about the consultation process that preceded the installation of the new play area to Cllr Andrews for her to relay to the resident by way of explanation.

681.25 Cllr Russell

Cllr Russell pointed out that parking outside the school in contravention of parking restrictions was becoming a problem again – can we get Traffic Enforcement Officers to visit?

Cllr Russell congratulated PCSO Maddie Highmoor for catching motorcycle riders illegally using the footpaths near the River Thames and proposed that the Clerk should write to her and thank her for her efforts in supporting our community, seconded by Cllr Cobb and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – write to PCSO Maddie Highmoor.

682.25 Cllr Cuddy

Cllr Cuddy reported a damaged chain-link fence, possibly belonging to a property on Sandford Lane, which was creating an obstruction to users of the footpath between Sandford Lane and Poplar Grove. It had been reported on FixMyStreet, but Cllr Cuddy proposed that the Clerk should write to the resident requesting that the chain-link fence be removed, seconded by Cllr Powles and agreed by all. Cllr Cuddy would provide some wording for the Clerk to use in the letter.

ACTION FOR CLERK – write to resident of Sandford Lane requesting removal of the damaged section of chain-link fence.

683.25 Cllr Jempson

Cllr Jempson reported that she would send FixMyStreet Reports for the Sandford Lane area to the Clerk for reference.

Cllr Jempson reported that the defibrillator at Pebble Hill is possibly going to be moved.

Cllr Jempson pointed out that the trash screen on the Sandford Lane culvert needed to be cleared. Clerk to check when this is due to be carried out.

684.25 Cllr Feather

Cllr Feather had notice some fly-tipping on Oxford Road.

685.25 Cllr Lee

Cllr Lee asked if the Village Hall Play Area fence was likely to be painted to brighten the area up.

Cllr Brown explained that the Village Hall Management Committee were looking to obtain quotes for the fence to be painted.

686.25 Cllr Powles

Cllr Powles thanked everyone involved in organising the Forest Side Play Area Official Opening, with particular thanks to Cllr Brown for making it happen. The event had been a huge success until rain brought the event to a close at 2.45pm.

687.25 Cllr Cobb

Cllr Cobb reiterated Cllr Powles' thanks and proposed that the Clerk write letters of thanks to Rewley Road Fire Station, Martin Barron (photographer), George Andrews (KAFC), Korky Paul and Kennington Library for their support for the Forest Side Play Area Opening Even, seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – write letters of thanks as instructed.

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

1. Important changes to planning, land charges and mapping services. The council is upgrading its Planning, Land Charges and mapping (GIS) systems to ensure they remain reliable and fit for future needs. During April 2026, there will be temporary downtime and changes to how some services are submitted and processed. Planning systems will be unavailable from 9–23 April, with the new system going live on 23–24 April, while Land Charges searches will pause from 9–30 April and resume with extended processing times. Most services will continue in a limited or alternative format during downtime, including email or PDF submissions for planning comments, tree works, and pre-applications. Online registers will remain viewable but read-only. A new mapping system will launch on 23 April 2026, running alongside existing maps for a short transition period. Guidance videos and instructions will be provided ahead of launch, and planning alert subscribers will need to re-register once the new system is live.

2. The government insists on including Swindon into Thames Valley geography for a new Foundational Strategic Authority as part of devolution. Ministers have indicated that if there is no agreement to include Swindon, the area will not be part of the next round of FSAs, which are seen as a key route to future infrastructure funding and investment, particularly as Mayoral Strategic Authorities have been ruled out. While most Berkshire unitaries and Oxfordshire County Council support Swindon's inclusion, there is reluctance locally. The preferred option remains

a Berkshire–Oxfordshire–Buckinghamshire (BOB) geography, reflecting established partnerships, existing public-sector boundaries, and nationally significant assets such as Science Vale and the Oxford–Cambridge corridor. Vale position is that Swindon is viewed as having a distinct identity with stronger historic and administrative ties to Wiltshire, and there are concerns that, if included, it should not become the focus of funding within the western Thames Valley.

3. Extra garden waste collection for permit holders this April. Residents with a permit for the district councils' garden waste collection service in South Oxfordshire or the Vale of White Horse can have extra garden waste collected for free, on their normal scheduled collection day only, between 20 April and 1 May 2026. Permit holders can put out a maximum of four additional sacks of garden waste for each garden waste permit, presented next to their brown bin.

689.25 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Diana Lugova

1. LGR Update. Following the close of the public consultation on local government reorganisation in Oxfordshire, the government is now reviewing the feedback received alongside the proposals submitted by councils across the county. Last week, the government shared its initial direction on LGR for several areas in its fast-track devolution priority programme and has clarified, for other areas undergoing LGR, each decision will be made individually based on original criteria, proposal merits and local context, and will not set a precedent. A 'minded-to' decision on whether there will be one, two or three unitary authorities for Oxfordshire is expected ahead of the parliamentary summer recess, anticipated on or shortly after 16 July.

2. OCC expands support to make homes warmer and cheaper to heat. Hundreds more households across the county could benefit from warmer, healthier homes and lower energy bills thanks to a government funded scheme. The Warm Homes Local Grant, a scheme run by Oxfordshire County Council in partnership with Welcome the Warmth, is designed to help eligible households improve the energy efficiency of their homes, reducing heating costs and improving comfort, particularly for those on lower incomes and living in less energy efficient properties. Improvements include insulation, low carbon heating, and solar panels, depending on eligibility and property type. The scheme is fully funded by the government, meaning residents who qualify do not have to pay for the measures covered by the grant.

3. Bagley Wood Road traffic improvement. After early March visit OCC Highway team analysed the situation and offered 2 options for improvement which they asked Kennington PC to discuss and come back to OCC with comments.

Option 1 – One Way

This option would introduce one-way traffic either northbound or southbound with a short two-way section retained to serve the Head Injury Clinic at the beginning of Bagley Wood Road. This would simplify traffic movement, reduce the risk of vehicles becoming stuck, and limit traffic volumes during one peak period by removing the route for opposing flows. It is likely to be the cheapest option, requiring only signage and a Traffic Regulation Order. While residents would enter and exit via different routes, there is a potential risk of increased speeds by non-local drivers. The arrangement would also improve access for refuse and delivery vehicles and could be combined with a weight restriction to control vehicle size.

Option 2 – Filtered Traffic

This is a more restrictive traffic-filtering option, with the benefit of keeping vehicle speeds very low and limiting access almost entirely to local traffic. Engineering works would be needed at the filtered exit, but this option would deliver the highest level of safety for children walking to school, with consistently low traffic speeds and volumes throughout the day. An alternative layout could place the filter at the northern end near the clinic, giving residents a choice over preferred access arrangements. There may be some risk of non-compliance, which could be addressed with camera enforcement if necessary. A weight limit could also be introduced alongside this option.

The opportunity

Oxfordshire County Council may, pending approval, be starting a programme of works to implement a pilot scheme of Quiet Lanes. Resource-wise - this is probably one of the only opportunities to get something like this done before local government reorganisation. OCC offers to put Bagley Wood Road forward for consideration of entering that programme. Officer Andy Sweeney offered to come in person and present the scheme and answer questions.

4. Update on action being taken on unauthorised flags. On 30th March 2026 Oxfordshire County Council issued a formal legal notice to Raise the Colours, requiring them to cease this activity. This follows repeated incidents involving the placing of flags on or near the highway without consent, and growing evidence of the negative impact this is having on residents and community cohesion more widely. Council spent over £15k (the last known amount) for removing the flags and decided to take actions legally following the repeated installation of flags on or near highways without consent. If the group does not comply with the letter, the council will consider all available options to include, but not limited to, civil and criminal proceedings against the organisation and individuals affiliated with it to prevent further unauthorised action.

5. Community resilience grants of up to £25,000 to help local areas reduce flood risk and improve preparedness following extreme weather concerns continues 3rd year in a row. Communities who want to carry out projects to reduce the impact of flooding can apply for grants of up to £25,000. The funding will be targeted at flood schemes led by parish, town, district and city councils, flood groups and catchment partnerships and is available for the upcoming financial year (April 2026 - March 2027).

The aim is for communities to deliver small scale work themselves to reduce flooding from surface water run-off, ordinary watercourses and groundwater. Groups wishing to apply have until 4 May to register their expression of interest by emailing floodmanagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk

690.25 ANY MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Bagley Wood Road Traffic

Complaints/Grievance Procedure

691.25 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – None

Date of Next Meeting: 14 May 2026

Meeting closed at 9.31pm

Signed

Date 14 May 2026