Kennington Parish Council
Oxfordshire
Minutes of the Annual Finance meeting on
4 December 2025 at 7:30 pm

Present:	Cllr Andrews	Cllr Brown	Cllr Cobb	Cllr Feather
	Cllr Jempson	Cllr. Locklin	Cllr Patterson	Cllr Powles

In Attendance: Lawrence Wootten (Clerk)

1.0 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE -** Cllr. Smith

2.0 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS –** None

3.0 **REVISED ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2025-26**

3.1 The Clerk reported on the projected financial position at 1 April 2026.

General Reserves at 1 April 2025 **Ear Marked Reserves (EMR)**	£ 27,424 £251,361
Add projected income	£151,238 + £6,419 + £2335 + £52540 (Forest Side Grant) + £11,021 + £1467 + £3560 + £1012 **£229,592**
Less projected expenditure	**£195,384** (including Forest Side Play Area rebuild)
Estimated General Reserve at 1 April 2026 **Ear Marked Reserves (EMR)**	£28,645 + £34,208 = **£62,853** £251,361

3.2 This means that the General Reserve in 2026-27 should be approximately £62,853 before any transfer into Earmarked Reserves, allowing for some flexibility in planning expenditure for the next financial year.

3.3 Cllr Brown pointed out that the Earmarked Reserves will have changed by the end of the financial year and CIL monies might be used towards the Forest Side play area.

3.4 It was proposed by Cllr Patterson that CIL monies be used for the remainder of the costs for the Forest Side Play Area, seconded by Cllr Brown and agreed by all.

3.5 It was agreed that unspent funds would be transferred into various EMRs – to be agreed at April 2026's council meeting.

4.0 **BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2026-27**

4.1 The Clerk presented a report giving details of budgeted income and expenditure for 2026-27 and explained the items where the budget differed from last year.

4.2 It had been assumed for draft budget purposes that the precept would be increased by 3.8% being the October 2025 Consumer Price Index.

4.3 The Clerk had assumed 3.8% increases in most budgets - details were provided within Appendices 2 and 3.

4.4 Background to the Clerk's and Village Warden's salaries were provided in Appendix 4.

4.5 Members of the Committee agreed estimated figures in Appendix 2, except the following:
1001 (Bank Interest Received) decrease to £6,000
1010 (OCC Grass Cutting Grant) will not increase with CPI – keep at £2,335
1030 (Other Income) reduce to zero (no Other Income expected)

1042 (Income – other hirers) reduce to £100
4120 (Telephone/Internet) remove from budget and place all items under 4140 (Software)
4130 (Training) increase to £2,000
4150 (Elections) reduce to £200
4153 (Travelling Expenses) reduce to £50
4200 (Community Grants) increase to £10,000
4202 (Carols Around the Tree/Santa Sleight) increase to £1250
4210 (Flowers for the village) increase to £3500
4211 (Defibrillators) increase to £1000
4302 (Traffic Schemes) remove (dealt with under other codes)
4305 (Weed Spraying) remove
4308 (Litter Collection) reduce to £500
4315 (Sundries) reduce to £500
4341 (Notice boards) remove (dealt with under Asset Replacement)
4346 (Replacement Flags) remove (dealt with under Asset Replacement)
4408 (Playfield Rd hedge maintenance) reduce to £500
4410 (Forest Side Rent) increase to £3,500
4412 (Forest Side Play Area Repairs) reduce to £1,000 (new play area just built)
4415 (BMX Track) increase to £3000
4419 (Forest Side play area project) combine with 4412 and allocate £1,000
4421/4422 (Links Play area) merge codes and allocate £5,000 for maintenance/repairs
4425 (Playing Field Litter Bins) remove
4429 (Playfield Road Pavilion Project) increase to £35,000
4454 (War Memorial Flowers) increase to £300

4.6 **It was agreed that** the Clerk's salary would rise in line with the national scales and reviewed on the anniversary of his appointment.

4.7 **It was agreed that** the Village Warden's salary would rise in line with the national scales and reviewed on the anniversary of his appointment.

4.8 **It was agreed that** the Village Groundsperson's salary would rise in line with the national scales.

5.0 NEW EXPENDITURE FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2026-27

5.1 The council went through the Long-Term Aspirations updating what was felt to be 'do-able' in the financial year given the high priority of the Playfield Road Pavilion Project.
Possible items of additional expenditure to be considered in 2026/27were raise, including:

- Playfield Road MUGA refurbishment
- Two new bus shelters
- Road bollards/Planters at Grundy Crescent
- Additional car parking at Forest Side
- Gym equipment refurbishment/replacement at Playfield Road
- Bagley Wood Road Low Traffic Neighbourhood/Traffic Calming
- Remembrance Sunday – more poppies
- Noticeboard at Meadow View/Poplar Grove – consider relocating it
- Hedging at Playfield Road

5.2 **It was agreed that** the council would support Kennington Library by granting it £2,595 in 2026/27.

6.0 TO APPROVE LIST OF DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS

6.1 The 2026-27 list of Direct Debit payments was provisionally approved.

7.0 At 9.57pm Cllr Brown proposed suspension of Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue; seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all.

8.0 PARISH PRECEPT FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2026-27

8.1 The provisional council tax base for 2026-27 is £1,740.20 for Kennington Parish.

8.2 A proposal was made by Cllr. Patterson to raise the precept by 5% to £158,800, which was seconded by Cllr. Locklin and agreed by all.

£158,800 / **£1,740.20** = **£91.11 per annum for a Band D property**

Meeting Closed – 10.15pm

11th December 2025

Signed ………………………………………………. **Date** ……………………………….