

Kennington Parish Council
Oxfordshire
Minutes of the meeting held on
11th June 2026 at 7:30pm in the Village Centre

Present:

Cllr Andrews	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)

Members of the public: None

72.26 NOMINATIONS FOR CO-OPTION - None received

73.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Brown and Cllr Lugova

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

75.26 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST – None declared

76.26 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 MAY 2026

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2026 as a true record.

76.26a DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 2 JUNE 2026

The draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 2 June 2026 were noted.

77.26 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND OUTSIDE BODIES AND SIGNATORIES FOR CHEQUES

It was agreed that the following would be appointed to the committees and outside bodies.

78.26 COMMITTEES

1. Finance Committee - *The whole council*
2. Planning Committee - *Cllrs Andrews, Cobb, Feather, Jempson, Johnston, Patterson and Powles*
3. Playing Fields Committee - *Cllrs Brown, Cobb, Feather and Lee plus representatives from Football Club (2), Cricket Club (3) and member of the public (1)*
4. Personnel Committee - *Cllrs Andrews, Brown, Jempson, Johnston and Powles*
5. Pavilion building project Working Group - *Cllrs Brown, Cuddy, Feather and Powles*
6. Events Committee - *Cllrs Andrews, Brown, Cuddy, Locklin and Powles*
7. Play Areas Working Group - *Cllrs Andrews, Brown, Cobb, Locklin and Powles*
8. War Memorial Working Group - *Cllrs Andrews, Cobb and Powles*

The Chair is an ex-officio member of all committees and advisory working groups. The Chair shall have the right to speak at meetings but does not have voting rights, as per the General Terms of Reference of Council's Committees and Working Groups

79.26 OUTSIDE BODIES

1. Village Hall Management Committee – *Cllrs Johnston and Brown*
2. Youth Club – *Cllr Feather*
3. Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) – *Cllrs Brown and Andrews*
4. Friends of Kennington Library – *Cllr Andrews*
5. Scouts and Cubs – *Cllr Cobb*
6. St Swithun's Church – *Cllr Andrews*
7. Wild about Kennington – *Cllr Andrews*
8. St Swithun's School – *Cllr Andrews*
8. Community Speedwatch – *Cllr Cuddy*

9. Transport – Cllr Cuddy

80.26 CHEQUE SIGNATORIES

Five signatories for the bank accounts – Cllrs Andrews, Brown, Cobb, Lee, Powles were approved.

81.26 All the above committee members and bank signatories were proposed by Cllr Johnston seconded by Cllr Powles and all elected unopposed.

ACTION FOR CLERK – contact Barclays Bank to update bank account signatories

82.26 REPORT OF THE CLERK

NEW ISSUES

A Clerk received the following email from the Secretary of Kennington Women's Institute – *"I am writing to inform the Parish Council that we held our final meeting (which was also our Annual Meeting) on Wednesday, 4th March. I am attaching the piece which has appeared in the April edition of the Kennington Chronicle, which explains the reason we have had to be 'suspended'. This is a very sad time for all our members but we are hopeful that some new ladies may decide to start it up again some time in the future. My reason for writing is to formally inform the Parish Council and thank them for their support over the years. Last year they kindly awarded us a grant to help towards our centenary tea party, which was a great success. 101 years is a very long time and I think I am right in thinking we were probably the longest serving organisation in the village. With kind regards to you and the members"*.

B Clerk submitted June article for Kennington Chronicle, including a QR code for VoWHDC's Bin App.

C Email received from Kennington Athletic Football Club – *"Just wanted to reach out as we've been doing a bit of work on the pitches at Forest Side this morning, crucially including re-turfing the goalmouths and centre circle. I wanted to ask if it might be possible to request not cutting the grass there for 2 or 3 weeks to avoid ripping up the newly placed turf? Or potentially ask them to avoid the areas that have been relaid. Let me know if that might be possible"*

Clerk responded that this was, of course, possible and contacted BGG requesting that mowing the goalmouths and centre circle at Forest Side was temporarily suspended.

D Clerk received notification from RoSPA that Annual Safety Inspections were due in July at the following sites and at the following costs: BMX Dirt Track - Annual Inspection £83; Forest Side Playing Field - Annual Inspection £83, The Links - Annual Inspection £83.

E Clerk received request from the son of a lifelong resident of Kennington who had previously played for the KAFC and avidly supported them over the last 25 plus years, explaining that one of his wishes in his will was to have a bench erected for supporters to use at Playfield Road as he would always bemoan that there wasn't any seating for elderly supporters to use. The bench and installation would be paid for by the family. Clerk has already passed on details of various suppliers and costs of memorial benches and is waiting for a reply. Is this something the Parish Council would consider?

83.26 It was agreed that a new bench could be installed subject to consultation with the Playing Fields Committee on location. Proposed by Cllr Cobb and seconded by Cllr Powles.

ACTION FOR CLERK – to confirm permission, and confirm the location of the bench at the next Playing Fields Committee meeting

F Clerk received the following email from OPT – *"We've made some repairs to the footbridges at Kennington Flood Meadows. The southern bridge, on the path to the bridge by the EA car park, had become impassable as it had moved during the recent flooding. We're hoping that the bridges are now fixed down more securely that they'll be able to resist the floodwaters - time will tell. When I visited yesterday to check on the work, I saw that a tree on the boundary has come down across the path onto the land owned by the EA. We will get this cleared."*

G Email received from Friends of St Swithun's School – *"Thank you so much for letting us use the PA system at the weekend. It was so professional and an enormous help to have it. Thank you from all of us at FOSS. We're still counting and sorting out expenses, but we're expecting to have raised just shy of £10k to go towards school projects"*

- H** Email received from elderly resident of Poplar Grove asking if help is available with mowing the verge outside their house. Clerk suggested the resident contact the District Council, and has passed on the message to Cllr Lugova.
- 84.26** It was proposed by Cllr Johnston and seconded by Cllr Andrews that in this case as well as item 1 below, the council could offer assistance to the elderly residents and the properties could be added to the schedule of works for mowing. Furthermore, the Clerk would write to all those households on the current schedule of works at the end of the mowing season to ask if they still require assistance. This was approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – contact BGG to update the schedule of works

- I** Email received from Kennington Athletic Football Club reporting that they had replaced various light bulbs with new LED bulbs and that they would like to refresh the interior paint in the pavilion at no cost to the Parish Council as well as removing a self-seeded shrub that is growing where the goals are stored – would it be ok to remove it? Clerk consulted with Cllr Feather, who agreed that the work could be done, and replied to the football club to give permission and thank them.
- J** Email received from resident of Kennington Road who had been refused home insurance with his long-term provider owing to "flood risk" – resident asked if any anyone else had experienced similar problems. Clerk replied that he had not received any similar reports and asked Councillors if they had experienced any issues – but to no avail.
Resident has since contacted the Clerk to report that he had succeeded in finding an alternative insurer through a broker.
- K** Email received from OPT – *"Please see the correspondence below and photos attached regarding a fire in Kennington on 23rd April. The fire was on the railway embankment, on or close the boundary of land owned by [name redacted] (the land registry information is attached). I visited with our land agent and it looks like the people who started the fire accessed via the railway land, through a gap in the fence, not through OPT land to the south. I wanted to make you aware that there is a gap in the fence and that people are accessing this area through it."*
It was agreed that since the land is not owned by the Parish Council it was not a matter for action.
- L** Email received by Clerk from recently-retired ex-resident of Kennington requesting permission for metal detecting in the Memorial Field as he had done so in the 1980s with the permission of then cow man. Clerk explained that ownership of the Memorial Field is with the OPT, not the Parish Council, and suggested he contact them for permission.
- M** Clerk received report from Councillor of graffiti at the bus stop near the Post Office. Clerk has requested Village Warden to try to remove it.
- 1** Clerk received from elderly resident regarding assistance with verge mowing outside their property (see item 82.26 above).

CONTINUING ISSUES

- N** Response from Royal Mail to Layla Moran's email to them forwarded to the Clerk
"Dear Ms Moran.
Thank you for your email dated 11 May regarding mail deliveries to addresses on Poplar Grove, Kennington, OXFORD, OX1 5QN. I am sorry that your constituent has cause for concern. I am always disappointed when I hear that any of our customers do not feel that they are receiving the service that they ought to. Following your communication, I contacted the Customer Operations Manager at Oxford Delivery Office. Addresses on Poplar Grove are on the RO8 delivery round, which has a regular postie. They have advised me that there are no current issues with the delivery of mail to addresses on Poplar Grove. They have confirmed that mail deliveries to addresses on Poplar Grove are taking place six days a week, when there is mail available to be delivered. I would like to reassure you that if it is not possible to deliver mail on a given day, mail would be delivered the next working day.
The Customer Operations Manager has advised that they are currently operating with one vacancy, and recruitment is currently underway for five new posties for Oxford Delivery Office, with interviews currently taking place as part of the selection process.

As you are aware many high volume senders use our economy product, rather than the standard First or Second Class services. As much as 48 per cent of letter are now sent using this service. Items sent using this service are only delivered with a First or Second Class item or after five working days from posting. As a result, some residents may routinely see a number of items arrive at the same time. That is normal, and in line with the specification of that service.

Regarding NHS letters; NHS organisations use a wide variety of postal services, with no standardised approach. Royal Mail and the NHS have therefore been working together to ensure NHS organisations continue to have a choice of both price and speed when sending letters, and to improve how NHS letters are sent to patients across the UK. Reliability is of vital importance to NHS providers and patients, and whilst all mail is important, not all is urgent.

NHS providers recognise that they must ensure they are sending patients' post out within the right timeframe and it is up to them to determine what service they use to enable that. To help with this, NHS England and NHS Providers have produced guidance for NHS organisations, including a case study, to increase awareness and uptake of the variety of Royal Mail services for the timely delivery of NHS letters. We are also pleased to announce that we have mutually agreed the introduction of a new Royal Mail NHS-specific barcode. Where Royal Mail quality of service performance targets are not being met, this barcode will mitigate the impact on NHS letters by helping to optimise their delivery at times of local and national disruption."

- O** Clerk submitted the Expression of Interest Forms to Oxfordshire County Council regarding Bagley Wood Road traffic calming measures.
- P** Clerk forwarded details of Proposed Disabled Persons Parking Places (November 2025) to Cllr Lugova to chase-up on behalf of Poplar Grove resident whose Disabled Parking Place has been approved but not yet installed.
- Q** Email received from new resident of The Avenue regarding mowing of the grass verge outside their property. Clerk explained that the verge running outside their property and that of their neighbours forms part of the Parish Council's highway verge cutting programme agreed with Oxfordshire County Council Highways, and that mowing is scheduled to take place approximately every three weeks between mid-March and mid-October. Resident thanked the Clerk for clarifying the issue.
- R** Reply received to Clerk's response to them regarding hedge cutting at Forest Side – *"I have talked to some of the neighbours & I have looked at the deeds for the property. It shows the boundary line runs straight through the middle of the hedges & I have found nothing in the deeds to say the hedge maintenance is our responsibility. Surely therefore, the field side is Parish Council's responsibility & the other side the residents? From what I understand this area was a nursery before, which may explain some of the hedges slightly differing. The reason for the heights being different, is because residents have attempted to cut the hedges themselves & at different times of the year. Would it be possible for the parish council to use your contractors to come once a year & cut along the top of all the hedges? I am sure with their machinery this could be done in half a day (unlike the 2 days it used to take for my husband & I to do just our section). I am pretty certain if this was arranged the residents would be happy to share the costs. It would also save the gate having to be opened continually, if people employed individual contractors. This would also help to improve the look of Forest Side."*
- 85.26** Cllr Feather proposed that the Parish Council's side of the hedge would be cut in October in consultation with residents, seconded by Cllr Johnston and approved by all. Clerk to establish likely costs.

ACTION FOR CLERK – establish likely costs of hedge cutting at Forest Side.

- 2** Contractor contacted Clerk regarding "Kennington Parish Council" signs for the refurbished noticeboard. Current board is lacking a sign (previous sign has been removed and cannot be found). Contractor has received quotes of approximately £110 + VAT for replacement signs to fit the noticeboard. Does Council wish to proceed?
- 86.26** Cllr Patterson proposed that the Council instructs the Clerk to purchase the signs so that VAT can be reclaimed. Seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – contact the contractor and request details and order the Parish Council sign directly from manufacturer.

- 3** Resident reported cracking on the slide at Forest Side Play Area which seems to be getting worse. Clerk and Cllr Brown will contact Eibe and seek advice on the slide and several other problems with the Play Area equipment.

ACTION FOR CLERK/CLLR BROWN – contact Eibe regarding the slide and other items at Forest Side Play Area.

- 4** Clerk met with Internal Auditor to discuss the AGAR 2025/26 and receive the Annual Audit Report and Internal Auditor's Written Report for 2025/26.
- 5** Clerk submitted invoice for the Council's Annual Highways Mowing Grant from Oxfordshire County Council. Grant of £ £2,334.96 received on 5th June (will be included as Income Received in next month's Financial Report).
- 6** Clerk received email received from resident. *"I notice that the damaged chain link fence at the side of this path has now been removed with a huge safety benefit to users. If this is something you or colleagues on the council had a part in then please accept my thanks for this, as a regular user of the path I really appreciate the improvement".*

87.26 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUEST FOR GRANT AID

Requests for grants

- A** The Council received a request for £100 (or more if available) from ARCh Oxfordshire for year-long 1:1 literacy support to 6 children in St Swithun's school.
- 88a.26** The principle of making a donation to the charity was proposed by Cllr Powles, seconded by Cllr Patterson and approved by all.
- 88b.26** The donation of the sum of £185 was proposed by Cllr Patterson, seconded by Cllr Johnston and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – contact ARCh informing them of the grant and add to the list of payments for approval at the next meeting.

- 88c.26** Cllr Johnston proposed that the Clerk write to ARCh suggesting that they contact County Cllr Lugova for further assistance through the County Councillor Priority Fund. Seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – write to ARCh suggesting they contact County Cllr Lugova.

Correspondence for discussion/action

- B** Oxfordshire County Council - Important consultation on a local Oxfordshire policy for community benefit contributions and community shared ownership
- C** Vale of Whitehorse District Council Deep Cleanse Service - action required
- 89.26** The Clerk explained that Kennington was due to receive a Deep Cleanse Service from VoWHDC in July. Locations requiring attention from VoWHDC's Deep Cleanse Service in Kennington were given to the Clerk by Councillors, which he will add to several locations already requested by residents and submit the return form to South & Vale Waste Team.

ACTION FOR CLERK – submit Deep Cleanse return form to South & Vale Waste Team.

- D** Oxfordshire County Council Highways Dept - Sandford Lane, Kennington - Resurfacing
- E** Oxfordshire County Council - Oxfordshire quiet lanes pilot programme now open for expressions of interest

Correspondence forwarded to Councillors for information

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- F** South & Vale DCs - Media release: Cost-of-living support and advice on offer at the Community Hub roadshows
- G** OALC - Speed Dating for Town & Parish Councils and NALC's Project Keystone Survey
- H** South & Vale DCs – Media release: New scheme launches to IGNITE support for artists in Oxfordshire
- I** TVP - HAD (Humane Animal Dispatch) Volunteers
- J** Oxfordshire County Council - Flood Projects, Expressions of Interest – Results Report
- K** South & Vale DCs – Media Release: Next steps for Local Plans
- 7** Abingdon Neighbourhood Team Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) - Survey
- 8** South and Vale DCs - Media release: Oxfordshire and West Berkshire councils collaborating ahead of local government announcement

Newsletters

- L** Read the latest news from Healthwatch Oxfordshire
- M** CPRE Oxfordshire: Latest News, Campaigns and Policy Updates
- N** OCC – The latest news for your communities
- O** Rural Services Network – Your free RSN Weekly Newsletter
- P** OALC – May Newsletter
- Q** VoHWDC - The May edition of Vale News
- R** Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre – News Update – June 2026

90.26 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 31 May 2026

Community Account	500.00
Business Premium Account	162,326.72
National Savings & Investment Account	87,406.14
Public Sector Fund (CCLA account)	118,133.04
Total	368,365.90

Income received in May	£
CCLA Investment Management Ltd	363.88
Income reinvestment 30 April to 31 May 2026	

Direct debits paid in May (not on Financial Report for May)	£	Power to Act
Castle Water Inv. 10010004305 Playfield Road Pavilion water 01.04.26 to 30.04.26 (Billing point 11 th May 2026 – account reported as £5.54 in credit in Financial Report for May 2026)	39.15	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Direct debits to be paid in June	£	Power to Act
Virtual Landline Invoice No. 1463700 (28 May 2026 – 28 June 2026) virtual landline subscription	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
YGP Forest Side Pavilion electric (Invoice No: 1364683)	57.28	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP War Memorial electric (Invoice No: 1372317)	37.34	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP Playfield Road Pavilion electric (Invoice No: 1362733)	106.62	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

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Castle Water Inv. 10010316724 Playfield Road pavilion water 01.05.26 to 31.05.26	41.49	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
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Direct debits – accounts currently in credit	£	Power to Act
Castle Water Inv. 1001029254 War Memorial water 01.05.26 to 31.05.26 (billing point 8 th June 2026)	22.56 CR	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Direct debits – accounts currently in credit	£	Power to Act
Castle Water Inv. 10009986567 War Memorial water 01.04.26 to 30.04.26 (billing point 11 th May 2026)	29.71 CR	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Reference No. 2026/	Accounts to be paid in June	£	Power to Act
042	Mr L J Wootten Salary for May less tax, NI & pension contribution	1267.89	Section 112 LGA 1972
043	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for May	420.06	Section 111 LGA 1972
044	Mr A Highley Village Warden Salary for May less tax and NI	373.56	Section 111 LGA 1972
045	Mr T Fleming War memorial grass cutting volunteer for May	45.18	Section 111 LGA 1972
046	Mr A Cobb Chairman's monthly allowance for May	73.69	Section 111 LGA 1972
047	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI contributions for May	689.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
048	Calber Facilities Management Playfield Rd Pavilion cleaning – Invoice CL487309	261.12	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
049	Adventis Web Hosting – Invoice 0000351	31.50	Section 111 LGA 1972
050	Kennington Village Hall Room hire in April – Invoice 2026-196	42.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
051	Grundon Pavilion wheeled bins – Invoices 1509478 & 1509479	175.84	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
052	BGG Links, Forest Side, Playfield Road, Burial Ground and Verge Mowing	1,722.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
053	Savills (on behalf of St John's College, Oxford) Forest Side Playing Field rental 24/06/26-28/09/26	661.90	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
054	Graham Sillman Property Services Repairs to toilet doors at Playfield Road Pavilion	247.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
055	Anthony Denton Window Cleaning Services Bus Stop cleaning	264.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
056	Eurooffice Stationery, sanitary bags for Playfield Road pavilion toilets	50.96	Section 111 LGA 1972 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

057	Dandy's Garden Supplies 1 x 1000 litre play bark; 20 x 50-litre play bark handy bags (to be paid using Clerk's debit card – payment required ahead of delivery)	481.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
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Total to be transferred in June: £ 6326.45 + £1824.00 = £ 8,150.45

(Payment Ref 2026/031 for £1824.00 to Broxap (2 x planters) was on last month's list of payments approved, but wasn't paid owing to a billing error, so will be paid this month)

91a.26 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 May 2026.

91b.26 The Financial Report was proposed by Cllr Powles, seconded by Cllr Johnston and approved by all.

92.26 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2025/26

93.26 The Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26 was received and noted.

94.26 The Annual Governance Statements for 2025/26 (Section 1) were presented. Proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all.

95.26 The Accounting Statements for 2025/26 (Section2) were presented. Proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all.

96.26 The Notice of Public Rights period from Monday 15th June to Friday 24th July 2025 was presented. Proposed by Cllr Johnston, seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all.

97.26 It was agreed that the Clerk/RFO would submit all necessary documents to the County Council's External Auditor.

98.26 It was agreed that the Clerk/RFO would upload all necessary documents to the Parish Council's website.

ACTION FOR CLERK – submit all necessary documents to the External Auditor.

ACTION FOR CLERK – upload all necessary documents to the Parish Council's website.

99.26 TO RECEIVE THE INTERNAL AUDITOR'S WRITTEN REPORT

100.26 The Parish Council's Internal Auditor's written report was received and recommendations proposed by the Internal Auditor were agreed. Proposed by Cllr Powles, seconded by Cllr Cobb and approved by all. The Clerk will add the report to the Finance page of the website.

ACTION FOR CLERK – upload the Internal Auditor's written report to the Finance page of the website.

101.26 INVESTMENT OF CAMBRIDGE AND COUNTIES FIXED THREE-YEAR RATE BOND ON MATURITY

102.26 Cllr Johnston proposed that the three-year fixed-rate bond be reinvested in a shorter-term 12-month bond with Cambridge and Counties, seconded by Cllr Feather and approved by all. Clerk to report back to the next meeting with interest rates for approval by Council.

ACTION FOR CLERK – report to next meeting with up-to-date interest rates for Cambridge and Counties 12-month, fixed-rate bonds.

103.26 ALLOCATION OF THE COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL ASSETS

104.26 It was agreed that there would be no further movement of monies into Allocated Reserves from the General Reserve. This was proposed by Cllr Powles, seconded by Cllr Johnston and approved by all.

105.26 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

106.25 The Council noted the results of the Community Governance Review for the area of Radley Parish to the north of Sugworth Lane which had been discussed by the VoWHDC Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee on 28 May 2026. 368 responses were received to the online survey. 36 responses agreed or strongly agreed with the proposal. 324 disagreed or strongly disagreed with the proposal. Comments submitted from those respondents that objected to the proposal included praise for Radley

parish and comments that they feel integrated into Radley village life. Comments in support of the proposal centred around the proximity to Kennington parish. The recommendation of the committee was to take the matter no further.

106.26 REQUESTING FURTHER ROAD TRAFFIC SURVEYS IN KENNINGTON

107.26 It was proposed by Cllr Powles and seconded by Cllr Johnston that a request should be sent to Oxfordshire County Council for further road traffic surveys to be carried out in Kennington to provide clear evidence to support future discussions. Approved by all.

108.26 The Clerk reported that road traffic “tube” surveys could be requested from Oxfordshire County Council at a cost of £190 + VAT per survey. Each survey will provide data on traffic speed, frequency and class of vehicle over a seven-day period.

109.26 It was proposed by Cllr Powles that 3 road traffic “tube” surveys be carried out initially, seconded by Cllr Johnston and approved by all. Cllr Powles will provide the Clerk with a map marking the locations of the surveys. Clerk to make the request to Oxfordshire County Council.

ACTION FOR CLLR POWLES – supply Clerk with a map showing the locations of the traffic surveys.

ACTION FOR CLERK – request 3 road traffic “tube” surveys at the locations specified by Cllr Powles.

110.26 PARISH COUNCIL FLAG POLICY

111.26 It was proposed by Cllr Johnston and seconded by Cllr Lee that a draft Parish Council Flag Policy would be drawn up by the Clerk for consideration. This was approved by all.

ACTION FOR CLERK – create a draft Flag Policy for consideration.

112.26 INSPECTION OF THE COUNCIL’S ASSET REGISTER

113.26 It was agreed that Cllr Andrews and the Clerk would carry out an inspection of the Council’s Asset Register at a date to be agreed.

ACTION FOR CLERK /CLLR ANDREWS– carry out an inspection of the Council’s Asset Register.

114.26 INSPECTION OF THE COUNCIL’S TREE STOCK

115.26 The Clerk pointed out that the last Duty of Care Inspection of the Council’s tree stock had been carried out in 2023, and it was now time for the process to be repeated.

116.26 It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain 3 quotes for the Duty of Care Inspection.

ACTION FOR CLERK – obtain 3 quotes for the Duty of Care Inspection of the Council’s tree stock.

117.26 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Johnston – Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee had now appointed a Village Hall Manager and Facilities Manager.

Cllr Andrews – Wild About Kennington

Oxeye daisies had been cut back to maintain vision splays on some of the verges

Cllr Andrews – St Swithun’s School

The temporary swimming pool at the school was working again.

118.26 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr Powles

119.26 A property on Cranbrook Drive with graffiti on the walls is causing concern from residents. It was agreed that the Clerk would seek advice from OALC on how this might be resolved.

ACTION FOR CLERK – contact OALC for advice on dealing with graffiti on the outside of a private residence.

120.26 The roundabout at St Swithun's Road needs to be investigated and improved as it seems to be quite dangerous. Road markings need to be reinstated and road signage improved.

121.26 Cllr Johnston proposed that this should be reported to Oxfordshire County Council with a request for help to improve the situation. Seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all.

Cllr Lee

122.26 Cllr Lee reported that low branches from a lime tree at Grundy Crescent were causing problems for pedestrians.

Cllr Johnston

123.26 Cllr Johnston reported overhanging branches outside a property on Kennington Road.

Cllr Patterson

124.26 Cllr Patterson reported that a hedge at Woodcroft/Upper Road was encroaching into the pavement and needed to be cut back. Could the Clerk write to the resident to request trimming the hedge? It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the resident.

126.26 Cllr Andrews suggested that initially, she would discuss this issue with the resident. Agreed by all.

Cllr Jempson

127.26 Cllr Jempson updated the Council on Sandford Lane resurfacing. The Clerk had circulated an email from the Oxfordshire County Council Highways Officer regarding the work.

128.26 Cllr Jempson reported that the repositioning of the Pebble Hill defibrillator had been put on hold.

129.26 Cllr Jempson reported that the single-decker buses used sometimes by the Oxford Bus Company were not suitable for the route through from Oxford to Abingdon via Kennington.

130.26 Cllr Jempson had written to Oxfordshire County Council in advance of the scheduled road resurfacing on Sandford Lane, highlighting the historic issue related to the water drainage located just before and underneath the Railway Bridge which results in a lot of surface water (due to natural water springs) running across and down the area in question. She had requested that before the essential resurfacing work commenced, could the relevant OCC Team assess the existing drainage system and consider modifying it to a better and more robust infrastructure.

She has received the following reply from Mr G Kelman, Senior Officer (Highway Schemes), Highway Maintenance, Oxfordshire County Council, which had been circulated to Councillors.

"I'm aware through various channels about the drainage issues along Sandford Lane and have been carrying various attempts to make improvements over the last 2 or 3 years. Some attempts have been better than others but overall, I think things have improved. The trouble with springs is they have a habit of moving around so it's very difficult to guarantee that work will actually solve the problem. But from my own observations, things are better than they were.

I will say that some of the water problems are actually as a consequence of the rail bridge itself and this is also something that is difficult to solve. The bridge walls under the bridge have weep holes and waters outfall from these, albeit slowly, which can build up over time on the road surface. The verge just after the bridge is constantly wet year-round and has a decent amount of reeds growing on it so there is definitely drainage issues there in particular. However, the plan is to hopefully shape the new road surface around the existing gully pot just after the bridge to catch as much of this water as possible from both the weep holes under the bridge and the wet verge to avoid it flowing further down the road. See below exert from the scheme drawing for the gully location which is already set low in the road anyway so it should be fairly easy to shape the road surface to take the water more efficiently."

Cllr Andrews

131.26 Cllr Andrews reported that the Parish Council's planters were looking bad. The Clerk reported that the summer planting had not been done yet, but was due to be done soon.

Cllr Feather

- 132.26** Cllr Feather informed the Council that he had arranged for the Playfield pavilion project architect to address the next meeting on 16th July 2026, which would begin at 7.00pm to allow time for discussion.
- 133.26** Cllr Feather requested that the Public Works Board Loan be put on the agenda of the next meeting. This would allow the process to progress over the summer period. Seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all.

Cllr Cobb

- 134.26** Cllr Cobb raised the problem of HMOs in Kennington with reference to the VoWH Local Plan. He pointed out that the VoWH Local is designed to take the overall addition of housing that Oxford City Council cannot accommodate, which will include HMOs. Since VoWHDC does not have a policy on HMOs (unlike Oxford City Council) it presents the risk that Kennington could be inundated with small HMOs to begin with and then through planning where building extensions are approved, a larger HMO is created by stealth.
- 135.26** Cllr Cobb suggested that information could be sought from Oxford City Council regarding the number of pitches currently approved at Red Bridge Hollow.

ACTION FOR CLERK – contact Oxford City Council and/or Oxfordshire County Council to request data on the number of pitches at Red Bridge Hollow.

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

Joint Local Plan (JLP) Update. The councils' Joint Local Plan 2041 is currently being examined by government-appointed inspectors. The plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination in December 2024. The first stage of inspector-led hearing sessions took place in June 2025, with the second stage of hearing sessions programmed to take place on 7 to 9 July 2026, followed by further hearings in the autumn.

Cost-of-living support and advice on offer at the Community Hub roadshows. Community Hub roadshows will take place across South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse from May to December, offering residents advice and support on managing living costs, including help with housing, energy bills and grants. The events also provide opportunities for residents to give feedback and shape future services.

New scheme launches to IGNITE support for artists in Oxfordshire. A new "IGNITE" scheme has launched to support Oxfordshire artists by providing free access to studio and rehearsal spaces, along with mentoring, exhibitions and performance opportunities. The initiative aims to help creatives develop their work, collaborate and reach new audiences.

137.26 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Diana Lugova

New OCC Leader. Following the recent extraordinary meetings of Council, Councillor Tim Bearder has been appointed as council leader, and new cabinet roles are now confirmed.

LGR Update. Since the start of the year, Oxfordshire and West Berkshire councils have been working together to prepare for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). Multiple workstreams were set up to gather key data across areas like finance, HR, ICT, governance, and assets, supported by joint communications and data teams. With data collection now complete, the programme is moving into the next phase—planning how services would operate under potential new structures of one, two, or three unitary councils, including how services might be split across different areas.

The planned three-month closure of Redbridge Recycling Centre for refurbishment has been delayed. Dates TBC but most likely to be the end of the year. OCC won't wait until it reopens to review the booking system. The review will take place in October/November and will be completed by December 2026. Overall, cost is down and recycling is up, so, it looks positive. Data shows that fly tipping is within normal variation.

138.26 ANY MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Flag policy and flag purchase
Ground rules for Parish Council communication
Public Works Loan Board

139.26 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – None

Date of Next Meeting: 16 July 2026

Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed

Date 16 July 2026