

Kennington Parish Council
Oxfordshire
Minutes of the meeting held on
16th July 2026 at 7:00pm in the Village Centre

Present:

Cllr Brown	Cllr Cobb	Cllr Cuddy	Cllr Feather	Cllr Jempson
Cllr Lee	Cllr Locklin	Cllr Patterson	Cllr Powles	

In Attendance: Lawrence Wootten (Clerk/RFO); Steve Wolstenholme, architect (for item at minute ref 146.26)
Members of the public: None

140.26 NOMINATIONS FOR CO-OPTION - None received

141.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Andrews; Cllr Johnston and Cllr Russell

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

143.26 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST – None declared

144.26 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 JUNE 2026

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2026 as a true record.

145.26 DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD ON 23 JUNE 2026

The draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 23 June 2026 were noted.

146.26 Cllr Cobb proposed suspending Standing Orders to allow discussion of the Playfield Road Pavilion Project with the project's architect, Steve Wolstenholme (Principal, SWA Architects). This was seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all. Standing Orders were suspended at 7.10pm until 7.40pm. Steve Wolstenholme (Principal, SWA Architects) discussed possible ways forward for the project with councillors.

147.26 REPORT OF THE CLERK
NEW ISSUES

- A** Clerk received email from Kennington Athletic Football Club requesting removal of grass cuttings from the Forest Side football pitches ahead of the July football tournaments to allow for line marking. Clerk has arranged for the cuttings to be removed to allow for pitch marking.
- B** Fly tipping reported at Forest Side car park by several residents. Clerk reported the problem to VoWHDC Envirocrime Team and arranged for an additional dumpster collection by Grundon to remove excess rubbish.
- C** Clerk wrote to Eibe reporting several post-installation issues at Forest Side Play Area. Eibe responded that a member of the Eibe Projects Team visited the site and completed some general maintenance and also put together some information for it to be collated and sent to the Clerk for further action.
- D** Kennington Football Club reported roof leak at Forest Side pavilion during a heavy thunderstorm which eased as the heavy rain subsided. Clerk will investigate and arrange for any necessary repairs to be done.
- E** Clerk received email from resident: "I am contacting you about hedges and ground plants which grow over footways. I spoke to one of the Parish Councillors at the Apple Cafe a while back, and he said to contact the Parish Council with the address of any overgrown hedges, and they would go and inspect it, and send a letter if needed asking for it to be trimmed. Sounds a plan. However, walking along the northern half of Poplar Grove this week, I counted 24 properties with over growing hedges and/or low growing plants significantly encroaching onto the footway. I should add that when I spoke with the Parish Councillor, I had the southern half of Poplar Grove in mind (along with opposite the Coop store). As it seems such a

wide spread problem, could a general item be put in the Parish Council Matters in the Kennington Chronicle, or a separate item on its own, with a request that vegetation is cut back to the back edge of the footway tarmac (or a tad beyond, to allow for regrowth). Conifer hedges are a problem once they begin to go over the boundary. They may not regrow if cut back too far."

Clerk has replied that the Parish Council Matters for July/August edition of the Kennington Chronicle had already been submitted, but a reminder would be included in the September edition. Individual problems have been reported via FixMyStreet.

F Clerk wrote to South & Vale Waste Team/Biffa requesting removal of a lidless green bin that had been left by their team at Playfield Road Pavilion and subsequently filled with general waste by the public. The bin has now been removed from the site.

G Clerk submitted Deep Cleanse request form to South & Vale Waste Team and has received confirmation of receipt.

H Clerk wrote to the Oxford Mail regarding the publication of misleading and factually incorrect information about the Parish Council's request to Oxfordshire County Council for Bagley Wood Road traffic calming measures. The Oxford Mail subsequently published a more accurate article on the matter based on information already published by the Parish Council in Kennington Chronicle, Parish Council meeting minutes, website and social media channels.

I Elderly resident requested help from the Clerk to report a street lamp outside her house that was not working. Clerk reported the issue on FixMyStreet and it has now been repaired.

J Email received from residents on The Links with concerns regarding the large trees in the Kennington Playing Field whose branches are significantly overhanging their properties: "The overhanging branches are causing several issues, including excessive leaf and debris fall, reduced natural light, and concerns about potential damage to our properties during periods of strong winds or adverse weather. I am also concerned about the safety of the overhanging limbs if they continue to grow unchecked. I would appreciate it if the trees could be inspected and the necessary pruning or maintenance carried out as soon as possible to address these concerns."

Clerk has informed resident that a "duty of care" inspection of the Parish Council's tree stock will be carried out in the early autumn.

K Clerk attended OALC Talking Tables event on 25th June.

L Email from Wolvercote Cricket Club regarding mowing height at Playfield Road cricket pitch. Clerk responded that the Parish Council's contractor cuts the outfield to a height of between 15 and 30mm depending on weather conditions.

M Leak at on-field water access point on the Playfield Road cricket pitch reported by the cricket club groundsman. Clerk will arrange for a plumber to assess.

N Email received by Clerk from resident: "I wanted to thank the Parish Council for maintaining the War Memorial Garden so beautifully. It looks attractive throughout the year and provides a pleasant space to sit and reflect. I'm sure it's important to many people in the village to have it looked after so well."

O Clerk received request for the Parish Council's display boards to be used for the Art Show at FOKL Authors and Artists Fair in November. Are the Council happy to allow the boards to be used?

148.26 Cllr Patterson proposed approval, seconded by Cllr Locklin and agreed by all. Clerk to respond to FOKL informing them that the display boards may be used.

ACTION FOR CLERK – notify FOKL of approval.
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P Resident emailed Clerk with complaint of littering from neighbouring garden, asking if the Parish Council can find out if the property is an HMO. Clerk explained that VoWHDC has no register of HMOs, so the Parish Council cannot ascertain the status of the neighbouring property, but has suggested the resident contact the District Council and/or PCSO Maddie Highmoor for assistance and advice.

Q Resident reported damage to bench on grass verge outside St Swithun's Church. Clerk has reported this on FixMyStreet and is trying to ascertain who is responsible for this bench, as it isn't on the Parish Council's Asset Register.

149.26 Cllr Brown pointed out that this bench is the property of St Swithun's church.

- R** Clerk submitted request to OCC Highways for 3 road traffic “tube” surveys in Kennington, and received confirmation of costs and locations – surveys will be carried out after the summer holidays as there is currently no availability of equipment. Clerk also requested and has now received data from historical surveys from Bagley Wood Rd (TC509, TC8420 & TC9405), and from Kennington Rd (by Sugworth Crescent).
- 1** Clerk wrote to Oxfordshire County Council Traveller’s Service regarding the number of licensed pitches at Red Bridge Hollow and has been informed that there are 24 pitches, all of which are currently occupied.
- 2** Resident contacted Clerk regarding overgrowth on footpaths leading from The Avenue to Poplar Grove and Poplar Grove to Sandford Lane. Clerk contacted BGG to request that the scheduled maintenance work is done as soon as possible and has been informed that it will be completed w/e 18/07/2026.

CONTINUING ISSUES

- S** Clerk received confirmation from Pye Homes that their legal fees for the conveyance of the Colley Wood “amenity area” to the Parish Council would be £750 + VAT.
- 150.26** Proposed by Cllr Cobb and seconded by Cllr Powles that the council proceed on this basis, assuming the Council’s conveyancing costs are similar, and approved by all. Clerk to investigate conveyancing costs.

ACTION FOR CLERK – investigate conveyancing costs and report back to council.

- T** Email received from War Memorial volunteer regarding the planting scheme at the War Memorial.
- U** Clerk took delivery of 2000 litres of play-grade bark chippings at the Links play area. Cllrs Brown and Locklin assisted the Clerk in distributing the chippings under the play equipment.

151.26 CORRESPONDENCE AND REQUEST FOR GRANT AID

Requests for grants

- A** The Council received a request for £168 from Kennington Whist Group for the hire of Village Hall Committee Room 1 for their monthly meetings. The group has no bank account, so the Parish Council will pay the room hire fee directly to the Village Hall.
- 152.26** The award of a grant was proposed by Cllr Powles, seconded by Cllr Patterson and approved by all. It was agreed that the Clerk would request that the group would provide more details about their membership and public engagement if a grant application is made next year.
- 153.26** The award of £168 was proposed by Cllr Patterson, seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by all. The Clerk will contact the Village Hall Manager to request that the invoice of £168 for room hire is sent to the Parish Council for payment.

ACTION FOR CLERK – contact Kennington Whist Group to inform them of the Community Grant, pointing out that more information will be required next year, and contact the Village Hall Manager to request an invoice for the room hire.

- 3** The Council received a request for £500 for the Kennington Community Larder.
- 154.26** The principle of awarding a grant was proposed by Cllr Powles, seconded by Cllr Patterson and approved by all.
- 155.26** The award of £500 was proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Powles and approved by majority with two abstentions. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Rev Samson, pointing out the scope of s137 expenditure and explaining that if a Community Grant is requested next year, it should be accompanied by a break-down of the benefits to Kennington residents.

ACTION FOR CLERK – write to Rev Samson, informing him of the Community Grant, and pointing out that more information will be required next year.

Correspondence for discussion/action

- B** Parkinson Partnership - pavilion rebuild project report
- C** OCC - General review of speed limits on Oxfordshire's rural A and B class road network - Stakeholder consultation - Vale of White Horse District
- 4** SODC & VoWHDC Media Release - Local government reorganisation (LGR): government announcement

156.26 It was proposed by Cllr Powles that a letter should be written to the Leader and Chief Executive of Oxford City Council requesting an urgent meeting so they can explain how the Greater Oxford Unitary Authority will impact on Kennington. This was seconded by Cllr Cuddy and approved by majority (5 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention). Cllr Powles agreed to draft a letter.

ACTION FOR CLLR POWLES – write to the Leader and Chief Executive of Oxford City Council requesting a meeting.

157.26 Cllr Brown pointed out that meetings between parish councils and the new unitary authorities were being organised through the OALC, but there was definitely a benefit in meeting directly with Oxford City Council.

Correspondence forwarded to Councillors for information

- D** VoWHDC – Media Release - Vale Cabinet to consider support package for local pubs and rural businesses
- E** SODC & VoWHDC - Street Cleansing update - June 2026
- F** SODC & VoWHDC – Media Release: Bin days staying the same, but collection times may change across South Oxfordshire and the Vale
- G** SODC & VoWHDC - Media statement - Land Charges system to launch on Monday 13 July following major upgrade
- H** OCC – Sandford Lane Resurfacing schedule and TTRN
- I** SODC & VoWHDC - Media release: Free and low-cost family fun all summer long
- J** VoWHDC – Media Release: Community organisations get a boost from the White Horse Community Lottery
- K** VoWHDC – Media Release: New rates support approved for Vale pubs and rural businesses
- L** CPRE – Is this the end for local democracy?
- M** OCC – Sandford Lane Resurfacing - further work required and additional TTRN
- N** OCC – TTRO – T18130 – Bagley Wood Road, Kennington
- O** OCC - TTRO is CANCELLED -Bagley Wood Road, Kennington (issued after Cllr Powles response to OCC Highways on item N above)

Newsletters

- P** Read the latest news from Healthwatch Oxfordshire
- Q** CPRE Oxfordshire: Latest News, Campaigns and Policy Updates
- R** OCC – The latest news for your communities
- S** Rural Services Network – Your free RSN Weekly Newsletter
- T** OALC – July Update
- U** VoWHDC - The May edition of Vale News
- V** Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre – News Update – July 2026

158.26 FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Bank Accounts as at 30 June 2026

Community Account	500.00
Business Premium Account	157,844.24
National Savings & Investment Account	87,406.14
Public Sector Fund (CCLA account)	118,513.69
Total	364,264.07

Income received in June	£
Wolvercote Cricket Club	787.50
Pavilion and pitch fees 2026/27	
Kennington Athletic Football Club	3645.50
Pavilion and pitch fees 2026/27 + Forest Side tournament hire fees	

Oxfordshire County Council Grass cutting grant	2334.96
Barclays Bank Interest received (2 Mar – 7 Jun)	368.97
CCLA Investment Management Ltd Income Reinvestment 31 May to 30 June 2026	380.65

Direct debits paid in June (not on Financial Report for June)	£	Power to Act
EDF Playfield Road Pavilion gas (Invoice No: 3CBED647-0026)	17.24	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
Public Works Loan Board Loan repayment	2118.53	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Direct debits to be paid in July	£	Power to Act
Virtual Landline Invoice No. 1503595 (28 June 2026 – 28 July 2026) virtual landline subscription	8.75	Section 111 LGA 1972
YGP Forest Side Pavilion electric (Invoice No: 1399312)	64.56	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP War Memorial electric (Invoice No: 1404564)	40.78	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
YGP Playfield Road Pavilion electric (Invoice No: 1397448)	87.58	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
Castle Water Playfield Road Pavilion water (Inv No: 10010631234)	44.69	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
EDF Playfield Road gas (Invoice 3CBED647-0027)	15.86	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Direct debits – accounts currently in credit	£	Power to Act
Castle Water Inv. 10010622492 War Memorial water 01.06.26 to 30.06.26	15.65 CR	LG (Misc Prov) Ac t 1976

Reference No. 2026/	Accounts to be paid in July	£	Power to Act
058	Mr L J Wootten Salary for June less tax, NI & pension contribution	1267.89	Section 112 LGA 1972
059	Oxfordshire County Council Pension Fund Clerk's and Employer's contributions for June	451.70	Section 111 LGA 1972
060	Mr A Highley Village Warden Salary for June less tax and NI	373.56	Section 111 LGA 1972
061	Mr T Fleming War memorial grass cutting volunteer for June	45.18	Section 111 LGA 1972
062	Mr A Cobb Chairman's monthly allowance for June	73.69	Section 111 LGA 1972
063	HM Revenue and Customs Tax and Employer NI contributions for June	689.75	Section 111 LGA 1972

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064	ARCh Oxfordshire Community Grant	185.00	LGA 1972 S137
065	Calber Facilities Management Playfield Rd Pavilion cleaning – Invoice CL487961	224.70	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
066	Adventis Web Hosting – Invoice 0000363	31.50	Section 111 LGA 1972
067	Kennington Village Hall Room hire in June – Invoice 2026-226	54.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
068	JRB Enterprise Ltd Dog waste bags (Invoice 28914)	596.40	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
069	Grundon Pavilion wheeled bins – Invoices 1520583 & 1520582	178.77	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
070	BGG Links, Forest Side, Playfield Road, Burial Ground and Verge Mowing (Inv 26449)	1,362.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
071	OALC 1 Delegate at Talking Tables Training Event (Inv. 6442)	48.00	Section 112 LGA 1972
072	MR H Services Wall and fence repairs at The Links play area	238.97	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
080	Eurooffice Printer ink and printer paper	215.33	Section 111 LGA 1972

**Total
to be**

transferred in July: £ 6,036.64

Reference No. 2026/	Additional accounts paid in June by Clerk using Barclays Debit Card (not on June Financial Report)	£	Power to Act
073	AWBS (Oxford Garden Centre) 30 geraniums for War Memorial planting	113.74	LGA 1972 S137
074	Survey Monkey Advantage Annual Subscription	396.00	Section 111 LGA 1972
075	Amazon Pack of 10 dehumidifier blocks for defibrillator cabinets	9.98	LGA 1972 S137
076	Amazon Folding bin trolley for Village Warden	28.49	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976

Reference No. 2026/	Additional accounts paid in July by Clerk using Barclays Debit Card	£	Power to Act
077	Amazon Wasp freeze spray for Village Warden	28.89	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
078	Amazon Box of reusable nitrile gloves for Village Warden	9.98	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976
079	WEL Medical Replacement defibrillator pad set and defibrillator carrying case	151.20	LGA 1972 S137

158a.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 June.

158b.26 The Financial Report was proposed by Cllr Powles, seconded by Cllr Cobb and approved by all.

159.26 REINVESTMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S THREE-YEAR FIXED RATE CAMBRIDGE AND COUNTIES BOND INTO A ONE-YEAR FIXED RATE BOND

160.26 Reinvestment options available through Cambridge and Counties had been circulated to councillors ahead of the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Cobb and seconded by Cllr Powles that the Council would reinvest the full amount of the 3-year fixed rate bond on maturity (£102,541.66) into a 1-year bond. Approved by all. Cllrs Brown and Powles signed the relevant form for the Clerk to send to Cambridge and Counties.

ACTION FOR CLERK – send the form to Cambridge & Counties Bank instructing them to reinvest the full amount of the 3-year fixed-rate bond (£102,541.66) into a 1-year fixed rate bond.

161.26 AMENDMENTS TO THE BANKING MANDATE AND MAIN CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE COUNCIL'S CCLA ACCOUNT

162.26 It was agreed that the main contact details for the CCLA account should be the current Clerk and that former councillors would be removed from the banking mandate. Cllrs Cobb and Powles signed the relevant forms for the Clerk to send to CCLA.

ACTION FOR CLERK – send the banking mandate and main contact details form to CCLA.

163.26 AMENDMENTS TO THE BANKING MANDATE AND MAIN CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE COUNCIL'S CAMBRIDGE & COUNTIES BANK ACCOUNT

164.26 It was agreed that the main contact details for the Cambridge & Counties Bank account should be the current Clerk and that former councillors would be removed from the banking mandate. Cllrs Brown and Powles signed the relevant form for the Clerk to send to Cambridge and Counties.

ACTION FOR CLERK – send the banking mandate and main contact details form to Cambridge & Counties Bank.

165.26 PLAYFIELD ROAD PAVILION PROJECT – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND REPORT FROM THE PROJECT'S ARCHITECT AND TO AGREE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN BEFORE THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

166.26 The Council had received an update on the project and possible ways forward from the project's architect at minute ref 146.26.

167.26 Cllr Powles pointed out that a huge amount of work had already been put into the project to get it to this stage, with architect's plans drawn-up and Planning Permission granted - he proposed that the parish council agrees to take the issue of project funding to the public consultation stage, to seek funding from other sources and if necessary to seek funding from the Public Works Loan Board. This was seconded by Cllr Cobb and approved unanimously.

168.26 Cllr Feather agreed to produce an article for the Kennington Chronicle with a survey to be included as an insert/flyer with a link to an online questionnaire, which he will send to the Clerk to submit to the Editor of the Kennington Chronicle for the September 2026 edition. Cllr Powles agreed to create an online questionnaire with SurveyMonkey – Clerk to assist as required.

ACTION FOR CLLR FEATHER – draft an article and questionnaire for the Kennington Chronicle.

ACTION FOR CLLR POWLES – create an online questionnaire using Cllr Feather's template.

ACTION FOR CLERK – forward Cllr Feather's article and questionnaire to the Editor of the Kennington Chronicle and assist with setting up the online questionnaire.

169.26 PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

170.26 It was agreed access to the Parish Council's social media output should remain with the Clerk, but that Councillors who wish to comment on Parish Council-related issues could do so by creating a "Councillor's" social media profile separate from their personal profiles.

171.26 CONVEYANCING OF COLLEY WOOD AMENITY AREA FROM PYE HOMES TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

172.26 A budget of £1,000 for the council's conveyancing costs was proposed by Cllr Powles and seconded by Cllr Patterson and approved by all. Clerk to investigate costs of possible conveyancing solicitors and report back to council.

ACTION FOR CLERK – investigate costs of possible conveyancing solicitor and report back to council.

173.26 HMOS IN KENNINGTON

174.26 It was agreed to move this item to the next meeting.

175.26 ANTI-SOCIAL PARKING

176.26 Cllr Powles had circulated a document to councillors ahead of the meeting for discussion presenting two possible banner/poster designs with a unified theme, including the Kennington Parish Council logo, to discourage antisocial parking in Kennington. He proposed that he will liaise with OCC Highways and County Cllr Lugova, and produce the banners. This was seconded by Cllr Cuddy and approved by all. Cllr Powles will progress this before the September meeting.

ACTION FOR CLLR POWLES – progress the banners to discourage antisocial parking in Kennington.

177.26 County Cllr Lugova pointed out that monies for the project might be available through her County Councillor's fund.

178.26 FLAG POLICY

179.26 The Clerk had circulated a draft Flag Policy ahead of the meeting. Cllr Powles proposed that the policy be adopted, seconded by Cllr Brown and approved by all. Clerk to add the policy to the website.

ACTION FOR CLERK – add the Flag Policy to the website.

180.26 REPORTS OF MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Cuddy - Transport

The Kennington bus routes now have 5 new electric double-deckers.

181.26 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

Cllr Jempson

Raised the issue of cars parked at the top of Sandford Lane.

Cllr Powles

Thanked Cllr Cuddy for getting a large pavement pothole reported and fixed via FixMyStreet.

Cllr Cobb

Pointed out that there was an overhanging tree near the Kennington slip road.

Suggested that the rewilding verges might present a fire risk during the prolonged dry spell.

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

Joint Local Plan (JLP) Examination. The second stage of the public hearings for the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Joint Local Plan is taking place from 7 to 9 July 2026 at Abbey House, Abingdon, with proceedings also available online via the councils' YouTube channel. Topics under examination include legal and procedural matters, effective cooperation between authorities, the vision and spatial strategy for the area, and housing requirements.

Recent Cabinet Decisions. At its meeting on 3 July 2026, the Cabinet agreed a number of important initiatives:

- A 15% Business Rates reduction for all pubs across the district for the current year.
- Extension of support to eligible village businesses such as shops, post offices and petrol stations where they are the sole qualifying business in the village.
- Adoption of a new Waste and Street Cleansing Vehicle Procurement Policy, designed to support a future transition to electric vehicles and lower-carbon fuels such as
- Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil (HVO).
- Publication of the council's first Annual Report on progress against the current Council Plan.
- Progression of a joint Community Cohesion Strategy with South Oxfordshire District Council to help address increasing division within communities.

Support for Local Businesses and Tourism. The Economic Development Team recently produced a business support update focused on the hospitality and tourism sector, providing guidance and opportunities for local businesses operating within these industries.

A34 Litter Issues. The council continues to raise concerns regarding litter along the A34. Correspondence has been received from both National Highways and the Minister for Roads and Buses, indicating there are currently no plans to alter existing arrangements for litter clearance on major A-roads. The matter has attracted wider media attention and further options are being considered.

Changes to Waste Collection Time. From 29 June 2026, minor adjustments have been made to waste and recycling collection rounds to help maintain service efficiency. Collection days remain unchanged; however, collection times may vary and crews may arrive earlier than previously. Residents are therefore encouraged to place bins out by 6.00am on collection day, or the evening before where appropriate and safe to do so.

New Director of Planning. Jeni Jackson joined the council as Director of Planning on 1 July 2026. She brings nearly 30 years of local government experience, including senior planning roles at Basingstoke and Deane Council, the London Boroughs of Richmond upon Thames and Wandsworth, and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

183.26 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Cllr Diana Lugova

Heatwaves and Climate Change Adaptation. The latest heatwave is quite extreme and most certainly we have more heatwaves coming. OCC allocated funding to help residents and community to adapt better. The Community Action Groups (CAG) Oxfordshire climate grants programme, funded by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), offers grants of £100–£1,000 per project for community activities that help residents respond to climate-related challenges. Groups can apply to one or more of three funding themes, potentially receiving up to £3,000 if combining projects across all themes. Projects must be completed or substantially underway before 1 April 2027.

<https://www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk/post/oxfordshire-2026-climate-grants>.

LGR Update. Preparations for local government reorganisation (LGR) in Oxfordshire and West Berkshire are progressing, with all seven councils working jointly to plan for different possible outcomes. The focus is on maintaining high-quality services and supporting communities and staff during the transition. The reorganisation aims to simplify services, reduce duplication, and reinvest savings locally. Following the government's upcoming 'minded to' decision, a formal structure is expected in 2026, leading to a transition period, the election of shadow authorities in 2027, and the establishment of new councils by April 2028.

Waste Management - Booking System Review. 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.

Oxford Filters. From Monday 14 September Oxford's temporary congestion charge will be replaced by a traffic filters trial. Car drivers will no longer have the option to pay the £5 charge. For most people, their congestion charge permit will automatically become a traffic filters permit. They will not need to reapply. The scheme aims to reduce congestion and pollution, improve public transport and cycling conditions, and support a more accessible city. All parts of Oxford will remain reachable by car, although some journeys may require different routes if a driver does not have a permit.

How it will work

- Only cars need a permit. All other vehicles, including vans, mopeds, and motorbikes, can pass through the traffic filters any time.
- Automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras will enforce the restrictions.
- Traffic signs will show where and when traffic filters apply to cars. Advance warning signs will give you time to choose another route before you reach the filter point.
- Each traffic filter applies to one point on the road, over just a few metres. You can still use the road on either side at any time without a permit. There will be no physical barriers.
- The locations and operating times will stay the same as the congestion charge scheme.
- Everyone can drive to all parts of Oxford, however if they do not have a permit for their car, they may need to use a different route.

OCC Cllr Priority Fund. The application deadline is in November, and I still have £1,372 left for Kennington PC project(s). Please apply ASAP.

184.26 ANY MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

HMOs
Public Works Loan Board

185.26 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS – None

Date of Next Meeting: 10 September 2026

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed

Date 10 September 2026