



KENNETT PARISH COUNCIL

3 Feast Close, Fordham, Ely, Cambs, CB7 5PH

Email: clerk@kennett-pc.gov.uk

MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th October 2024 at 7.30pm
in The Pavilion, Kennett Playing Fields, Kennett

PRESENT: Cllr A French – Chair
Cllr F Mclachlan – Vice Chair
Cllr R Swanson
Cllr T Foddy
Cllr D Watson
Cllr M Hillier – Apologies
Cllr S Baxter – Apologies

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Field – Clerk
DCllr Pettit - ECDC

FC24/25.066 **Chairman's Welcome and Open Forum**
The Chairman welcomed all those present.

FC24/25.067 **Apologies for Absence**
Cllr S Baxter – Apologies – Accepted.
Cllr M Hillier – Apologies – Accepted.

FC24/25.068 **Declarations of Interest**
Standing Declarations of Interests:
Cllr AF – Member CLT
Cllr DW – Member CLT, Trustee VHA, PCC
Cllr RS – Trustee and Member CLT, Trustee VHA, PCC, School
Cllr TF – Trustee and Member CLT
Cllr MH – Member CLT
Cllr SB – Member CLT, Trustee VHA
Cllr FMcL – Member CLT

FC24/25.069 The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2024 were agreed as a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

FC24/25.070 Matters arising from previous meetings.

Playing Field Car Park

The works to the playing field car park had now been completed by Anglia Surfacing and the invoice received. Members of the Parish Council were in agreement that the works had been carried out to their satisfaction and the Clerk was instructed to settle the account. A letter of thanks from the Chair of the Village Hall Committee had been received thanking the Parish Council for funding the works.

Village Works Items

The works have now been scheduled by SP Landscapes and all residents have received a letter (distributed via The Parish News) informing residents that the works would commence in early November. The Clerk was instructed to ascertain from SP Landscapes when the works to the hedges on Dane Hill Road would be carried out in order for a letter to be sent to those residents requesting them to ensure that their vehicles are not parked opposite those hedges to protect them from any flying debris when the work is carried out.

FC24/25.071 Community Land Trust ("CLT") Update

RS confirmed that the contracts had now been exchanged in respect of the Public Open Spaces which will now facilitate the developer to move forward with the selling of properties on the development.

Various meetings have been held with the developers to elicit assurances that there will not be any occurrence of the incidents reported at their development in Fordham which had been reported widely in the press.

The first four CLT properties have yet to be signed over to the CLT as additional work is required on the properties. It is envisaged that this will take place in December. Tenants for the four properties have been selected and it is hoped that they will be able to move in before the end of the year.

The school will be opening immediately after half-term (4th November 2024) but it was acknowledged that there will be concerns raised because of not being able to drive directly to the school at that time and parking provision will not be available for some time. It is hoped that this element will be raised by the local MP in her meetings with the County Council.

FC24/25.072 Road Safety and Traffic – Update

Despite the Clerk having written to the MP no response had been received from her relating to the meeting that had taken place in August. A further email would be sent to request an update on her progress on the matters raised. RS updated the meeting that he had received some communication via ECDC that the MP will be meeting with ECDC and the County Council and it is hoped that a full update will be provided to the Parish Council in due course.

The LHI bid had been moved by the County Council from 'complex' to a lower tier (cost of £10,000 as opposed to £30,000 – if successful the Parish Council will be obligated to pay 50% of the cost) and it was hoped that this would be successful. A full report will be provided once the decision has been made and communicated formally.

There had been an accident at Kennett End Cottages resulting in damage to an oil storage tank and the resultant spillage was currently being dealt with by the relevant authorities. The road is within the County of Suffolk which means that the Parish Council have no jurisdiction but approaches have been made to a West Suffolk Councillor and Suffolk County Councillor. DCllr Pettit also undertook to make enquiries as to whether there was anything that could be done to install traffic calming measures (or at least signage indicating sharp bends) to prevent further accidents.

The issue of the large rocks brought to the attention of the Parish Council in September had been reported to the County Council who would be investigating the matter. DCllr Huffer will endeavour to progress the issue and a further update will be provided at the next meeting.

FC24/25.073 Pride of Place Grant – Update

The grant application for the purchase of the bulbs has been accepted by ECDC and the Clerk had now received a purchase order reference and invoice had been raised and submitted for reimbursement of the monies already expended (£643.80). DCllr Pettit will make enquiries as to whether the Parish Council can claim the remainder of the original grant request which was for £2,500. The delivery of the bulbs is expected shortly.

FC24/25.074 Policies for consideration/adoption
Environmental and Climate Change Policy

The Clerk had provided Cllrs with a draft policy in relation to Environmental and Climate Change for consideration and adoption.

Following discussion, it was AGREED that the policy be adopted and will be published on the Parish Council website at the earliest opportunity. This will be reviewed in October 2025.

Risk Management Strategy

All Parish Councils must have a Risk Management Strategy and the Clerk had produced and circulated a draft for consideration by Cllrs.

Following discussion it was AGREED that this policy be adopted and would be published on the Parish Council website at the earliest opportunity. This will be reviewed in October 2025.

FC24/25.075 Budget for 2025-26

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had provided all Cllrs with a breakdown of the current year's spend against income in order to consider the budget for the next financial year to inform the Precept Request to be submitted to ECDC early in the New Year.

Currently the Parish Council are overspending by approximately £2,800 year on year as the Precept has not been increased and costs have increased, in particular grass cutting and electricity supply for the village street lights. In relation to street lights, DCllr Pettit agreed to make enquiries as to why the Parish Council are funding 15 lights throughout the village as she believed other villages do not have to fund either maintenance or energy usage. Concern was raised as to whether the Parish Council would have to take on responsibility for the street lights on the new development and this would also form part of DCllr Pettit's enquiries.

The overspend amount is being funded from the Parish Council reserves which has resulted in these diminishing year on year. The more the reserves are reduced the less money is going to be available to the Parish Council to progress projects that may be put forward.

It was acknowledged that there had been a large amount of CIL money received from ECDC in respect of the new development but the criteria for allowing spend from this amount is prescribed by law and cannot be used for day to day running expenses.

If the Parish Council were to increase the Precept Request to approximately £15,000 this would equate to an approximate percentage increase of 60% and the resultant increase for a Band D property equivalent will be ascertained from ECDC once further discussions have taken place.

It was agreed that this item be discussed again at the November meeting at which time it was hoped clarification on street lighting responsibility would be available.

The Precept Request will need to be formally resolved at either the meeting to be held on 11th November or the meeting scheduled for 9th December in order to comply with the timetable from ECDC.

FC24/25.076 Residents' Correspondence

An email had been received from a resident outlining various concerns including speed humps, raised roundabout and street lighting.

Discussion took place and it was agreed that there is a possibility that the subject of speed humps (especially along the lower part of Station Road) could form part of a future LHI bid. It was acknowledged that there may be other alternatives which will be discussed at a future meeting (ie chicanes).

The issue of a raised roundabout at The Bell Inn junction is something that the Parish Council do not have jurisdiction to influence as this will be a County Council Highways decision.

The issue of the street light that was not working has been reported to the lighting maintenance contractor and has been rectified.

A formal response will be sent to the resident concerned.

FC24/25.077 External Forum (District Councillors)

The waste review had been agreed by ECDC and would come into effect from 2026. This will mean that each household will have a black bin (to replace black sacks) and a food waste bin (in addition to a small food waste caddy). These bins will be in addition to the current blue and green bins. There will no longer be a charge for an additional green bin. Alternative arrangements will be implemented for those households who do not have the space for the additional bins or who require additional black bins for the disposal of certain waste (ie those with children under 3 or residents with requirements for disposal of other sanitary waste).

The new fleet of waste collection lorries will correlate to the expiration of leases on current vehicles. A full and comprehensive communication programme is planned to inform all residents of the changes and waste that is currently non-recyclable will now be recyclable (ie clingfilm).

ECDC have also decided to start to develop a new Local Plan now (to take effect from 2026) to protect the current 5 year land supply and ensure that any future changes emanating from central Government are, it is hoped, included within the plan. Full consultation will commence shortly.

ECDC, along with neighbouring District and County Councils, have halted their proposed application for Judicial Review in respect of the Sunnica development due to costs and central Government's assertion that all wind and solar farms will be granted permission without exception.

FC24/25.078 External Reports – Parish Councillors

Nothing to report other than those items mentioned earlier in these Minutes.

FC24/25.062 Financial Matters

The following invoices were presented to the Parish Council for authorisation for payment for the month of October 2024.

Payee	Amount	Narrative	Power
K & M Lighting	£60.00	Street lighting maintenance for month of September 2024	Open Spaces 1906 ss9 and 10

Anglia Surfacing	£7,116.00	Resurfacing of part of the playing fields car park (to be funded from CIL monies)	Open Spaces 1906 ss9 and 10
ACRE	£65.00	Subscription Fee	Local Government Act 1972 s111
PKF Littlejohn	£378.00	External Audit fee for y/e March 2024	Local Government Act 1972 s111
S Field	£262.25	Salary (15hrs x £15.75 p/hr) plus Home Working Allowance £26.00 p/mnth – re calendar month of October 2024	Local Government Act 1972 s111
S Field	£32.64	Reimbursement of printing costs (Burwell Print – residents letter)	Local Government Act 1972 s111
Swanson Landscapes	£324.00	Grass cutting for the month of September 2024	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9 & 10
TOTAL TO BE EXPENDED	£8,237.89		

The following amounts have been received into the accounts:

Creditor	Amount	Narrative
ECDC	£4,547.50	Precept – 2 nd payment
HMRC	£659.39	VAT reclaim
Lloyds Bank	£8.52	Interest
TOTAL RECEIVED	£5,215.41	

As at the date of the meeting the bank balances were:

Business Bank Instant: £10,379.76
Treasurers Account: £103,297.31

Copies of the current bank statements and up to date printouts of payments were provided to the Chairman who initialled the same in evidence.

FC24/25.080 Councillors' Forum

DW asked for clarification as to when the consultation on a 20mph limit on Dane Hill Road will commence and RS confirmed that the County Council will be attending the upcoming Delivery Board meeting to update them on the projected timetable. The detail will be reported to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

FC24/25.065 Items for next meeting (to take place on 11th November 2024)

Budget and Precept Request for the financial year 2025-26.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

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Chairman

Dated:

DRAFT