



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 11th November 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 Hillyer
Cllr S Baxter

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Field – Clerk
DCllr J Huffer – District Councillor

FC24/25.082 **Chairman's Welcome and Open Forum**
The Chairman welcomed all those present.

FC24/25.083 **Apologies for Absence**
Cllr A French – Apologies – Accepted.
Cllr D Watson – Absent.
Cllr M Hillyer – Absent.

FC24/25.084 **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

FC24/25.085 The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2024 were agreed as a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

FC24/25.086 Matters arising from previous meetings.

Village Works Items

Work has not yet started on the verge and hedge cutting by SP Landscapes and the Clerk was instructed to contact them to ascertain a start date. Also required is a date for when the hedge cutting is to take place on Dane Hill Road in order for the letter to residents to be delivered requesting residents to ensure that cars are not parked on the road at that time to diminish the likelihood of damage due to flying vegetation.

FC24/25.087 Community Land Trust ("CLT") Update

Tenants have been selected for the CLT properties but notice has not yet been issued to them for an occupation date due to delays from the developers in dealing with snagging issues.

A Delivery Board meeting is scheduled to take place in early December and the issue of the possibility of installing some form of temporary crossing for school children will be raised. Very insignificant signage has been placed on Station Road alerting drivers to children crossing but it was felt that this measure was not enough to avert accidents.

FC24/25.088 Road Safety and Traffic – Update

As previously reported, the LHI bid had been agreed and it had been confirmed from ECDC that the Parish Council contribution to the costs (in the region of £15,000) can be expended from the CIL monies received. It is hoped that the works will commence in mid 2025. FMCL asked about the white lining renewal near the old school on Dane Hill Road and it was confirmed that this would form part of the usual Highways maintenance programme and not part of the LHI bid.

Since the opening of the new School there have been issues of 'near misses' with children crossing from one side of Station Road to the other at both the old School site and the Pavilion site (where a lot of parents are parking in the morning and afternoon). This situation has been, and will continue to be, raised with both the County Council and the developer to investigate what mitigation can be put in place to ensure childrens' safety.

FC24/25.089 Budget for 2025-26

Further work had been carried out by the Clerk in respect of the budget for the financial year 2025-26 and all Councillors had been provided with a spreadsheet showing the estimated spend for both this year and next year. The draft budget has been published on the Parish Council website to facilitate transparency.

Communication had been received from ECDC (Precepting Authority) requesting confirmation of the precept amount required by the Parish Council for the ensuing financial year by no later than 13th January 2025.

Confirmation had been received from ECDC insofar as a portion of the CIL monies received by the Parish Council can be used as the Parish Council's contribution in respect of the agreed LHI bid for the provision of further traffic calming measures within the village to mitigate the effect of the new development.

The Clerk had also provided all Councillors with a projection of the impact of a large increase in Precept Request would have for Band D properties within the village in order to provide context in monetary value.

In discussion it was felt that it would be sensible to spread the cost of any increase in Precept Request over 2-3 years but this will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The question was asked as to whether the Parish would receive more income once the new properties on the new development were sold and inhabited and the Clerk confirmed that no, there would not be an increase in income. The effect of an increase in Precept Request would be spread among additional properties so the percentage increase would not be as large. It was acknowledged that it could be 3-4 years before all properties were sold and occupied.

It was RESOLVED that the decision regarding the setting of the Precept for the financial year 2025/26 be deferred to the meeting in December to ensure input from all Parish Councillors.

FC24/25.090 External Forum (District Councillors)

The new waste service across the District will be operational in 2026 which will mean that each household will receive a black bin (to replace black bags) which will be emptied fortnightly, a food waste bin alongside an indoor food waste caddy which will be emptied weekly. There will no longer be additional charges for additional green bins. Alternative arrangements will be put in place for those households who do not have the space to accommodate the additional bins or require kerbside assistance for putting bins out. A communication plan is currently being worked on and will be sent to all households across the district to inform residents of the changes.

Work on a new Local Plan will be commenced in January 2025 and a call for land will be sent out at that time or shortly after. The District Council currently have a land supply of 6.6yrs but it has been decided that following central Government's announcement that they wish to build 1m new houses during the life of this Parliament work needs to commence now to ensure that the land supply is sustainable to meet the Government's target. A question was asked as to whether current developments will be taken into account when decisions are taken in regard to the acceptance of land under the call and it was confirmed that it will be a matter for the Planning Inspectorate to decide which land will be included within the land supply and the District Council will have no influence over this element.

FC24/25.091 External Reports – Parish Councillors

Nothing to report at this time.

FC24/25.092 Financial Matters

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

Payee	Amount	Narrative	Power
K & M Lighting	£60.00	Street lighting maintenance for month of October 2024	Open Spaces 1906 ss9 and 10
JRB Enterprises Ltd	£77.22	Refill for Dog Gloves/Bags	Open Spaces 1906 ss9 and 10
Starboard Systems	£172.80	Annual Subscription for Scribe (Accounting Package)	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
Swanson Landscapes	£216.00	Hedge trimming at Cemetery	Open Spaces Act 1906 s9 & 10
TOTAL TO BE EXPENDED	£777.27		

The following amounts have been received into the accounts:

Creditor	Amount	Narrative
ECDC	£643.80	Pride of Place Grant
Lloyds Bank	£9.75	Interest
TOTAL RECEIVED	£653.55	

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

Business Bank Instant: £11,033.31

Treasurers Account: £95,320.15

A query was raised in relation to the Pride of Place Grant insofar as the Parish Council had applied for a sum of £2,500 but only £643.80 had been received. The Clerk confirmed that clarification had been received from ECDC that they would only pay for monies expended and not provide the full amount of the grant for the Parish Council to 'draw down' on.

Further grant pots would be available in the New Year and it was agreed that these would be investigated to ascertain what grants could possibly be available to the Parish Council for further village enhancement works.

The issue of opening a high interest account was raised and the Clerk confirmed that she had endeavoured to do this via the online banking system but had not succeeded at this time. The Clerk will contact Lloyds to get this matter sorted as soon as possible.

FC24/25.093 Parish Councillors noted the increase in hourly rate of pay for the Clerk as per the agreement by NALC following consultation with Unions. The increase of 67p per hour (equating to £10.05 per month) to be backdated to April 2024 and this information to be passed to SALC (Payroll Provider) for implementation.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (AND CLERK)

FC24/25.094 As per the Contract of Employment, Parish Councillors had been requested to consider whether the Clerk had satisfactorily completed her probation period and, if agreed, the Clerk's salary point be uplifted from Scale Point 20 to Scale Point 21.

After discussion it was AGREED that the Clerk's scale point be increase from Scale Point 20 to Scale Point 21 effective 1st December 2024.

PRESS AND PUBLIC (AND CLERK) TO BE RE-ADMITTED

FC24/25.095 Request for Payment for Additional Hours

As previously agreed (at the meeting held on 10th June 2024) the Clerk requested payment for an additional 3 hours for work that had been required to be undertaken due to the lack of historic budget papers.

Following discussion it was AGREED that the Clerk be paid for an additional 3 hours work.

FC24/25.096 Councillors' Forum

TF brought the Parish Council's attention to the situation with the Kennett River and that this had ceased to flow again. It would appear that some works had been carried out in Moulton (probably by the Environment Agency) which has affected the flow of the water. Apparently the Environment Agency will be investigating the issue and TF will continue to press them to get the situation rectified.

The first bulb planting session had taken place the previous day and approximately 2,300 bulbs had been planted. 7 volunteers had attended and it had been decided that the remaining 1,000 bulbs could be planted, with the assistance of volunteers, on Sunday 17th November. Those residents available to meet at the Pavilion at 10am.

ECDC are running a course in respect of safeguarding hedgehogs across the District. TF would be attending along with Mr Cooper-Brown.

The Clerk was asked whether the booklet provided to all residents had been uploaded to the website and she confirmed that it had not. RS to resend the booklet to the Clerk to enable this to be actioned.

The Clerk was instructed to investigate the possibility of the street lights currently owned and maintained by the Parish Council (25 in total) being transferred to the responsibility of the Cuncy Council Highways Department and what, if any, costs would be involved.

FC24/25.097 Items for next meeting (to take place on 9th December 2024)

Budget and Precept Request for the financial year 2025-26.
Grass Cutting Tender – agreement of documents and contractors to contact.
River Kennett – progress with the Environment Agency.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

..... Dated:
Chairman