



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 10th February 2025 at 7.45pm
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 K Pettit – ECDC
Ms E Grima – ECDC
One Member of the Public

FC24/25.129 **Chairman's Welcome and Open Forum**
The Chairman welcomed all those present.

FC24/25.130 **Apologies for Absence**
None.

FC24/25.131 **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

FC24/25.132 The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2025 were agreed as a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

FC24/25.133 Matters arising from previous meetings
Covered under other items on the agenda.

FC24/25.134 Community Land Trust (“CLT”) Update

The CLT are close to taking ownership of the 6 properties and the tenants who will be moving in are due to receiving their months’ notice very shortly.

FC24/25.135 Road Safety and Traffic – Update

There have been further incidents of lorries driving across the grass at the junction of Station Road and Dane Hill Road. The Parish Council RESOLVED to purchase and have installed boulders on the grass at that junction to deter this happening in future [the land concerned is owned by the Parish Council]. Ms Grima confirmed that CIL monies could be used to purchase these boulders.

Despite weekly emails being sent to the MP’s office requesting an update on conversations with Ridgeons nothing had been received at all which the Parish Council noted was very disappointing as the MP had been very keen to assist the Parish Council in sourcing a solution to the lorry movements throughout the village. Emails will continue to be sent to request that the MP follows up on the steps that she had assured the Parish Council she would take.

Cllr Mclachlan undertook to contact one of the haulier companies who it was believed is partially responsible for the degrading of the verges to ascertain whether it was possible for them to remind their drivers of the importance of preserving the integrity of verges etc. Mention was also made of the historic “gentleman’s agreement” in respect of routes and timings of lorry movements and it was agreed that this needed to be raised at a “face to face” meeting with all parties involved as soon as practicable.

FC24/25.136 Applications for 20mph zone initiative

The Clerk had, prior to the meeting, circulated an email from County Highways in respect of the 20mph zone initiative. The Clerk was instructed to ascertain what funding would be available to the Parish Council if they opted to apply for the 20mph zone, what sort of additional measures could be installed to enforce the zone (ie chicanes) and what is the criteria for applying for this initiative. The Clerk to report back to Councillors via email as and when information available and report to the next meeting.

FC24/25.137 Land at Bell Inn Junction

Ms Grima updated the meeting about a meeting that had been held that day with Highways where it had been confirmed that the technical specifications of the improvement to the junction were about to be submitted to their legal processes. This would take approximately 1 year to be finalised and as such the installation of the mini roundabout would not be physically present for about 18 months (at which time it is hoped that the relief road would also be constructed).

Evidence had been obtained in respect of the Parish Council maintaining the land and the Clerk was instructed to forward this to the solicitors acting for the Parish Council in order for the legal process to proceed. The solicitors would also prepare a "Statement of Truth" for some Councillors to sign to evidence the fact that the Parish Council had maintained this area of land for a minimum of 10 years.

It was confirmed that all road signage in respect of the proposed new roundabout would be the responsibility of County Highways and not the Parish Council.

Plans for the new roundabout should be received by the beginning of April but there will be no consultation process as these junction improvement works are part of the planning considerations linked to the new development.

FC24/25.138 Burial Ground Policy

The Clerk had provided Councillors with the draft burial ground policy which it was AGREED to be adopted by the Parish Council. All documents will be combined into one document and uploaded to the Parish Council website and forwarded to local Funeral Directors for their use as required.

It was AGREED that the table of fees needed revision/updating and the Clerk was instructed to contact neighbouring Parish Councils, who have cemeteries, to ascertain their charges after which a comparison could be drawn and any amendment to Kennett's fees could then be adopted after debate.

FC24/25.139 Grass Cutting Contract 2025-28

A draft Grass Cutting Contract document had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Tender Documentation was AGREED and the Clerk was instructed to send the same to the three contractors previously identified asking them to submit quotations to be considered at the meeting to be held on 10th March 2025.

FC24/25.140 Street Lighting Maintenance Contract Renewal

It was AGREED that a new 3 year contract be entered into with K&M Lighting for maintenance of the village street lights.

The Clerk was instructed to obtain quotes, to assist with reducing energy costs, from K&M Lighting for the replacement of all lamps to LED, the possibility of solar powered lamps and whether it was possible to have the lights turned off from, for example, midnight to 7am to further save on energy costs.

FC24/25.141 External Forum (District Councillors)

DCllr Pettit (and Ms Grima) updated the meeting on the next steps that ECDC are implementing following the request from Central Government for

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to look at reorganisation of local government from District/Boroughs/County to one Unitary authority.

A consultation document will be sent by ECDC to all asking for comments/suggestions within the next 2 weeks.

Further information in this regard will be circulated to the Parish Council in due course.

A Community Safety Partnership event will be hosted by Fordham Parish Council in the Spring at which will be all relevant agencies/stakeholders and the Parish Council were asked to support this event which was AGREED and representatives from the Parish Council will be in attendance.

FC24/25.142 External Reports – Parish Councillors

Councillors have surveyed the works completed by Grasshopper Landscaping in respect of the village tidy-up and all were pleased with the works that had been carried out. Residents to be made aware that this was not a regular event, that this tidy-up was a “one-off” and residents are to be encouraged to ensure that their boundaries that front the public highways must be maintained by them on an ongoing basis.

It had been noted during the inspection of the works that there were various road drains that were blocked which could cause issues in the event of prolonged/heavy rain events and these should be reported on the Cambridgeshire Highways “Report a Fault” website at the earliest opportunity.

FC24/25.143 Financial Matters

The following invoices were presented to the Parish Council for authorisation for payment for the month of February 2025 (those received to date of meeting).

Payee	Amount	Narrative	Power
S Field	£275.75	Salary (15hrs x £15.75 p/hr) plus Home Working Allowance £26.00 p/mnth – re calendar month of January 2025	Local Government Act 1972 s111
S Field	£23.88	Printer Ink Cartridges – invoice provided	Local Government Act 1972 s111
Cloud Next	£119.98	Website Domain Annual Renewal	Local Government Act 1972 s111
TOTAL TO BE EXPENDED	£419.61		

The following amounts have been received into the accounts:

Creditor	Amount	Narrative
Lloyds Bank		Statement yet to be received at date of meeting for month of February 2025
TOTAL RECEIVED	£0.00	

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

Commercial Instant Access: £11,051.15
Community Account: £18,424.60
90 Day Notice Savings Account: £75,000.00

A copy of the bank reconciliation report was presented to Councillors and signed by the Chairman to indicate agreement with the detail contained therein.

A sum of £75,000 has been transferred into a High Interest 90 day notice account and a paper statement is expected from Lloyds Bank by the end of February 2025. Interest earned on this amount will be reported to the next meeting.

FC24/25.144 Clerk's Update

Nothing to report to this meeting.

FC24/25.145 Councillors' Forum

It was noted that there is a large amount of rubbish being dumped by train users due to the lack of a bin outside of the station (there are bins on the platforms but nothing outside the station itself). Historically there had been a 'sponsor' for the Station and it was AGREED that investigations would be undertaken to ascertain whether there was still a sponsor and who that was and to request that a bin be installed to encourage passengers alighting rail services to use a provided bin as opposed to depositing rubbish in resident's gardens.

FC24/25.146 Items for next meeting (to take place on 10th March 2025)

Award of grass cutting contract for the years 2025-2028.

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm

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Chairman

Dated: