



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 14th July 2025 at 7.45pm
in The Village Hall, Kennett Playing Fields, Kennett

PRESENT: Cllr A French – Chairman
Cllr F Mclachlan – Vice Chairman
Cllr R Swanson
Cllr T Foddy
Cllr D Watson
Cllr M Hillyer
Cllr S Baxter

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Field – Clerk
One member of the public – arrived at 8.15pm

FC25/26.031 **Chairman's Welcome and Open Forum**
The Chairman welcomed all those present.

FC25/26.032 **Apologies for Absence**
DCllr K Pettit, DCllr J Huffer, CCllr Y Malinowski

FC25/26.033 **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

FC25/26.034 The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2025 were agreed as a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

FC25/26.035 External Forum (District and County Councillors)
DCllrs Pettit and Huffer were unable to attend but had informed the Clerk that bin collections would be commencing earlier w/c 14th July due to predicted heatwave conditions.

ECDC has written to various Government Departments along with the local MP, voicing concern over the lack of regulation in respect of the battery storage facilities proposed for the new Sunnica site.

FC25/26.036 Agricultural Reservoirs Seminar – Update by Cllr Foddy

TF attended, on behalf of the Parish Council, a presentation concerning the possible development of agricultural reservoirs. This proposal is being formulated by the organisation Eastern Power House (comprising of, amongst others, educational establishments and district councils). The aim of the proposal is to encourage local landowners to create lagoons/lakes on their land which in turn will be used to supply water (for human consumption) to the planned large increase in housing in the Eastern Region.

No concrete plans are yet in place and, as far as can be ascertained, the local water companies are not involved in this group at this stage. AF will update the PC on any further developments that are communicated.

FC25/26.037 Planning Application – Animal Health Trust Land in Kennett (West Suffolk area)

All residents had received a 'flyer' concerning this proposed development which contained material considerations that the authors of the flyer believed should be used as a basis for refusal by West Suffolk Council of this application.

Whilst not a statutory consultee to the application due to its location within another planning authority area, the PC **AGREED** that a letter be written to West Suffolk outlining the concerns that the PC have, especially in regard to its proximity to an already large development that is within the village of Kennett.

FC25/26.038 Sunnica – Parish Council Alliance

Communication had been received asking whether the PC would like to re-join the Parish Council Alliance that had been originally formed when the Sunnica proposals were first formulated. It was **AGREED** that the PC would re-join the Alliance. The Clerk to communicate this to the Clerk of Chippenham Parish Council from whom the correspondence had been received.

FC25/26.039 Sunnica – Letter to Central Government

In conjunction with the above item, a template letter had been circulated by the Alliance with a request that this be sent to the relevant Central Government departments and District/County Councils outlining concerns over, for example, safety issues for the battery storage facilities planned.

The PC **AGREED** that the letter be sent and the Clerk will create, from the template received, and send on behalf of the PC.

FC25/26.040 Community Land Trust (“CLT”) Update

The sales market is improving and more properties have now been sold. The CLT will be taking ownership of 8 more properties in August/September. The CLT will also be taking ownership of the Village Green within the next month or so but the issues over the pond (lack of water) still need to be resolved before this element is taken on by the CLT.

Three £100k houses have now been released and advertised and applications for these should be made to the District Council who are administering the scheme.

FC25/26.041 External Reports – Parish Councillors

AF and RS had attending a meeting with officers from Cambridgeshire Highways, on site, to survey the issues of speeding vehicles along Station Road in particular. This had been a useful meeting and information received from Highways would be utilised by the PC in their decision for the purchase of electronic speed awareness signage and their application for funding within the next round of LHI due to open in August 2025. RS will liaise with Highways in respect of options available to the PC for traffic calming measures, ie chicanes, speed humps, speed tables, to be included within the PC’s LHI application.

FC25/26.042 Road Safety and Traffic – Update

A member of the public spoke, passionately, about issues facing residents (particularly along Station Road) relating to noise pollution, risk of accidents, destruction of bio-diverse habitat etc. Cllrs reiterated their wish for additional traffic calming measures to be installed to alleviate the problems being encountered by residents and confirmed that the PC will be applying for funding/permission to install measures but did inform the resident that these measures will take time to materialise due to the processes that need to be adhered to.

042(a) Purchase of electronic speed awareness signage

AF had been in communication with a company who supply speed signs which, according to the Highways Officers present at the meeting mentioned above, could be accommodated within the village on existing street furniture. It was **AGREED** that AF continue to investigate the costs involved with a view to securing an order for a number of these signs. The signs would allow the collection of data of speeding vehicles which will form the basis of evidence in respect of the proposed LHI bid. DW had also obtained information about an additional device which could collect data which would, more specifically, identify whether the speeding vehicles were motorbikes, cars, vans or lorries which would add further evidence to the bid. It was further **AGREED** that the cost of this additional device be included within the proposed spend.

The CIL monies held by the PC will be used for the purchase of these items as they fall within the “mitigation of effect” element of the allowable spend of such monies.

It was **AGREED** that items will be purchased as soon as practicable for installation as soon as possible.

FC25/26.043 Financial Matters

The following invoices were presented to the Parish Council for authorisation for payment for the month of July 2025 received at the date of meeting.

Payee	Amount	Narrative	Power
S Field	£275.75	Clerk's Salary	LGA 1972 s.111
K&M Lighting	£70.00	Street Light Maintenance	Open Spaces 1906 s.10-11
Swanson Landscapes	£354.00	Grass Cutting – May 2025	Open Spaces 1906 s.10-11
Lloyds Bank	£4.25	Bank Charges	LGA 1972 s.111
TOTAL EXPENDED	£704.00		

The following amounts have been received into the accounts:

Creditor	Amount	Narrative
Lloyds Bank	£7.38	Interest on Comm Inst Access account
Lloyds Bank	£194.33	Interest on 95 Day Notice High Interest Account (from 1 st June 2025 to 30 th June 2025)
TOTAL RECEIVED	£201.71	

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

Commercial Instant Access:	£11,099.78
Community Account:	£20,567.85
90 Day Notice Savings Account:	<u>£76,121.52</u>
Total Sum of Bank Accounts:	£107,789.15

It was **AGREED** that the invoices received be paid by the Clerk at the earliest opportunity.

MH raised the possibility of some of the funds being moved from the Community Account to the Instant Access Account as the latter account attracts interest and the Clerk will endeavour to move funds at the earliest opportunity.

FC25/26.044 Clerk's Update

The Clerk requested that the date of the meeting schedule for 10th November 2025 be moved to 17th November 2025. This was **AGREED** and notification would be added to the website accordingly.

FC25/26.045 Councillors' Forum (items for future meetings)

The planned regular meeting with Ridgeons (The Timber Company) is due to be held w/c 21st July and FM will report back to the next meeting.

The issues with the plethora of mosquitoes are still ongoing and the PC are still awaiting a progress report from ECDC Environmental Health as to the actions they are proposing to take to mitigate the problems.

The Clerk was reminded that a survey still needs to be carried out in respect of burial fees with adjacent burial authorities to inform a review of the PC's current charges.

TF had provided the Clerk with a list of items to send to the CCllr in respect of highways issues (which she had offered to take forward on the PC's behalf) and this information will be converted into a table which the Clerk will circulate to all Cllrs for further input prior to sending to the CCllr.

NOTE: No meeting in August (Recess). Next Parish Council meeting to take place on Monday 8th September 2025 commencing at 7.45pm

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm

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Chairman

Dated: