



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 17th November 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 – Apologies
Cllr S Baxter

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Field – Clerk
DCllr K Pettit
1 Member of the Public

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:
No issues raised.

FC25/26.072 **Chairman's Welcome and Open Forum**
The Chairman welcomed all those present.

FC25/26.073 **Apologies for Absence**
Cllr M Hillyer – Apologies – accepted.
CCllr Y Malinowski – Apologies.
DCllr J Huffer – Apologies.

FC25/26.074 **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

FC25/26.075 The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2025 were agreed as a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

FC25/26.076 External Forum (District and County Councillors)

DCllr Pettit updated the meeting on the upcoming Full Council at ECDC where a vote for Option B on the Local Government Reorganisation will take place. ECDC feel that this option will serve the residents best and this had been informed by the district wide public consultation which had taken place. CCC had already voted to opt for Option A but this had been submitted to their Full Council without a business case so this is awaited by all the affected districts to further understand the reasoning behind their preferred option.

The reformed Parish Alliance (formed in part to hold Government and developers to account) in respect of the Sunnica development are holding a meeting on 24th November at 6.30pm in Chippenham Village Hall and all Parish Councillors are encouraged, if they are able, to attend. Nick Wright and Jessica Wright from Chippenham have developed a large information pack in respect of the concerns being raised (especially in regard to plans to be put in place in the event of a fire at the battery storage sites) and DCllr Pettit will forward this electronically for people to read.

FC25/26.077 Community Land Trust ("CLT") Update

The Open Space take over by the CLT had been delayed. Considerable progress has been made on the perimeter road insofar as the top roundabout was now complete and the majority of the physical road building down to the lower roundabout was almost complete. It is believed that the work on the bottom roundabout (near The Bell) will be commenced in the New Year with completion in the Spring of 2026.

The transfer of 14 houses into the ownership of CLT had been completed and all are now tenanted. A further 16 are due to be completed/transferred during 2026. All current tenants are happy with their new homes.

FC25/26.078 External Reports – Parish Councillors

Continuing monitoring of lorry movements along Dane Hill Road would appear to indicate that there are fewer lorry movements but the situation will be kept under review.

FC25/26.079 Road Safety and Traffic – Update

The newly purchased MVAS units are awaiting installation and are currently in storage. The County Council Highways have provided some options in respect of their installation (self procurement or privately funded installation (paid for by the PC)) and CCC will carry out the work on behalf of the PC. Further correspondence will be entered into with Highways to ascertain the best/most cost effective way forward.

Consensus of opinion of the PC is that the existing poles (where the redundant signs are situated) could be used to site the new units and this information will be communicated to Highways to see if this can be moved forward at pace.

Highways have indicated that they are still waiting on technical plans from Suffolk Highways in respect of the LHI Dane Hill Road element is still outstanding and part of the plan extends into Suffolk County Council land (in particular signage).

FC25/26.080 Replacement Hedging - Funding

It would appear that the plants/shrubs that have been planted by the developers are of an ornamental style as opposed to native trees and it was AGREED that AF and TF will survey the site and draw up a plan to include native species.

This item will be revisited at the December meeting in order for the PC to decide on the amount of CIL monies they wish to ringfence to purchase/plant trees/shrubs identified.

FC25/26.081 Church Gate – Replacement – Funding

Some work had taken place to obtain quotations in respect of replacing the Church Gate but this was ongoing and will be place on the agenda for December to ascertain progress/costs.

FC25/26.082 Financial Matters

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

Payments requiring Authorisation – November 2025

Payee	Amount	Narrative	Power
S Field	£283.70	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 – October 2025	Open Spaces 1906 s.10-11
Scribe	£172.80	Accounting Package – Annual Fee	LGA 1972 s.111
Cambs ACRE	£60.00*	Annual Subscription	LGA 1972 s.111
JRB Enterprise	£77.22	Dog Bin Waste Bags	Open Spaces 1906 s.10-11
Lloyds Bank	£4.25	Bank Charges	LGA 1972 s.111
TOTAL EXPENDED	£1,021.97		

** This figure should read £72.00. Figure of £60.00 does not include VAT. Accounting package will be amended accordingly to reflect difference.*

The following amounts have been received into the accounts:

Creditor	Amount	Narrative
Lloyds Bank	£12.89	Interest on Comm Inst Access account
Lloyds Bank	£177.96	Interest on 95 Day Notice High Interest Account (from 1 st to 31 st October 2025)
CCC	£517.03	County Council contribution to grass cutting
TOTAL RECEIVED	£707.88	

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

Commercial Instant Access:	£21,153.65
Community Account:	£6,805.27
90 Day Notice Savings Account:	<u>£76,845.26</u>
Total Sum of Bank Accounts:	£104,804.18

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

A draft budget had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting and following discussion it was AGREED that the precept request be raised by 21% for the financial year 2026-27 to £12,750. For a Band C property this equates to a 20p per month increase.

FC25/26.070 Clerk's Update

The Clerk had had conversations with Mr Ian Poole of Places4People to ascertain steps and estimated costs for the creation of a local Neighbourhood Plan. Whilst the creation of such a plan would not stop any future development within the village it would be a document that the principal planning authority would have to take into account when considering any future applications.

A meeting with Mr Poole has been scheduled for 5.30pm on Wednesday 3rd December to which all Parish Councillors were encouraged to attend to understand the process involved.

It is believed that ECDC have a 'pot' of funds which may be applied to to cover some of the costs and it is understood that CIL monies may be used for the development of the Plan as this would fall within the "mitigation of effect" criteria set by ECDC.

The Clerk also reiterated the advice received from Planning Enforcement at ECDC in respect of 58 Station Road. Planning Enforcement have stated that

whilst they are happy to accept reports of perceived contraventions of planning policy, any reports must be evidenced with photographic evidence to support any such reports. The ECDC team have attended the site numerous times over the last few weeks and have stated that the legal process must now be allowed to progress. If, of course, there are major incidents these should still be reported but with photographic evidence to support these reports.

FC25/26.071 Councillors' Forum (items for future meetings)

It had been observed that despite all the works done last year tidying up the various hedges these had now grown quite considerably and further remedial works were required to ensure that the hedging was kept under control. It was AGREED to request Swanson Landscapes (contracted supplier) to provide a quote for the works to be carried out. These works would need to be done by 1st April 2026 to take account of nesting season. The Clerk was instructed to contact Anglian Water to request them to deal with their hedge responsibility (corner of Dane Hill Road and Station Road).

It would appear that the new CCC Highways reporting tool is not as effective as had been promised by the County Councillor insofar as every issue that had been reported had been flagged as "not currently meeting our criteria for repair". These reports had been received in respect of drain/gully clearance, broken/non-functioning cats eyes, line painting, signage etc etc. The Clerk had escalated these issues to the County Councillor and a response is awaited.

At the conclusion of this item Cllr T Foddy resigned from the Parish Council in part as a result of the apparent inability to get Highways to accept responsibility for these newly reported highway issues. Cllr Foddy stated that despite numerous attempts over numerous years to get matters (those above and others) dealt with and resolved at County level there was still a distinct lack of interest from County Officers to engage with the Parish Council and residents alike and, he felt, that there was, and is, a complete disregard for accepting responsibility for their legal responsibilities.

Next Parish Council meeting to take place on Monday 8th December 2025 commencing at 7.45pm

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

.....
Chairman

Dated: