



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 9th February 2026 at 7.45pm
in The Village Hall, Kennett Playing Fields, Kennett

PRESENT: Cllr A French
Cllr F Mclachlan
Cllr R Swanson
Cllr D Watson
Cllr M Hillyer
Cllr S Baxter
Cllr P Nelson

IN ATTENDANCE: None

No Members of the Public

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:
Nothing for this meeting.

FC25/26.119 **Chairman's Welcome and Open Forum**
The Chairman welcomed all those present.

FC25/26.120 **Apologies for Absence**
DCllrs Huffer and Pettit
CCllr Malinowski
Clerk

FC25/26.121 **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 MH – Member CLT
Cllr SB – Member CLT, Trustee VHA
Cllr FMcL – Member CLT
Cllr PN – Member CLT

FC25/26.122 The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2026 were agreed as a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

FC25/26.123 **External Forum – District and County Councillors**

See report sent to Anthony from CCLr Yannifer Malinowski.

It was agreed that the Clerk contact Yannifer to arrange an officer to walk around the village with a member of the PC to look at the work that is required.

FC25/26.124 **Planning Application (26/00054/FUL – Land adjacent to 58 Station Road – Application for a wall, gates and higher fencing – retrospective**

Comments from Meeting held on 12th January It was felt that the lights currently installed upon the wall were intrusive and were a distraction to vehicles travelling along Station Road. The wall that has been erected is not in keeping with the street scene. Concern was raised in respect of visibility splays for neighbouring properties due to its location making it a possible hazard for vehicles exiting neighbouring properties onto Station Road.

The lights on the wall have been changed and no longer cause an issue with vision on approaching them.

The comments raised in the last meeting regarding the wall still stand regarding positioning and reduced visibility for neighbouring properties. See previous minutes FC25/26. 108

There is still some concern that the wall is not in keeping with the rest of the village although that would be of less concern if it was not so close to the footpath.

Land Registry plans show that the wall is not within the correct boundary. These comments to be raised by the Clerk

Gates

It was noted that the gates have been changed.

The lights on the wall have been changed and no longer cause an issue with vision on approaching them
the correct boundary.

Higher Fencing

It was agreed that the fence running parallel to the road was not of concern although again it does not appear to be in line with the Land Registry boundary.

FC25/26.125 Community Land Trust (“CLT”) Update

The possible road closure for a month on Station Rd is a contingency if the work does not go to plan so this may not go ahead. If it does, the perimeter road will be open.

House sales are at approx. 100 occupied plus more sold. This is slower than expected but is following the current market trend. The next CLT houses will

be available in June and there will be 16. The CLT building is due to be finished in May.

FC25/26.126 External Reports – Parish Councillors

The school parking is causing some problems in the new development. Parking is allowed in the village hall but this is damaging the surface and concerns have been raised.

Bellway are still assisting the road crossing at school arrival and departure times.

FC25/26.127 Road Safety and Traffic – Update

It was suggested that the speed signs on Station Road be put in with the LHI bid as they need to conform to Highways regulation. It is not known if the existing poles are to the standards required. Still waiting for costings on erecting the signs if done by the PC.

FC25/26.128 Traffic Calming

The proposed plan is to use speed humps / tables to calm traffic in the new 20mph zone from the village sign along Dane Hill Road and from the village sign along Station Rd. The PC would like to have an input into this proposed plan as it would prefer not to have this form of traffic calming. This needs to be addressed imminently as the perimeter road is due to open in April.

Bellway have put in a plan for this and have a budget allocated, if the PC change the plan and it goes over the proposed budget they will add to it from CIL money.

Look at adding this to the village walk round with an officer (see 26.123)

FC25/26.129 New Policy for Adoption – Grant Policy

In the absence of any policy the Clerk had provided all members with a draft Grant Policy for use for community groups to apply to the Parish Council for funds (up to the sum of £1,000) as a contribution towards work that they wish to carry out within the Parish.

Following discussion it was AGREED to adopt the draft Grant Policy and this will be posted on the Parish Council website.

Any Kennett Community Groups to be encouraged to apply to the Parish Council for any grant to be considered. Grants cannot be awarded to individuals and any group must hold a bank account in the group's name.

FC25/26.130 Replacement Hedging - Funding

Brought forward item from 12th January 2026.

The area is still not adopted so will have to wait until the next planting season later in the year. It should be adopted in March. Plant list and costs to be supplied nearer the planting time.

FC25/26.131 Church Gate – Replacement – Funding
Brought forward item from 12th January 2026.

Estimates had now been received in the sum of approximately £500 plus VAT to replace the gate with wood or £400 plus VAT for a metal gate. Due to Cllrs Swanson and Watson having to declare an interest due to being on the PCC, it was agreed that this item would be carried forward to the meeting scheduled for February where there would be more Councillors able to vote on preferred option.

This is to be carried forward to March meeting and pictures supplied of the gates proposed with costings.

FC25/26.132 Road Junction Issues – Suffolk – Little Boy's Grave Junction

Numerous accidents had taken place in recent weeks at this junction and it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council write to Suffolk Highways to request them to urgently undertake any works that may alleviate further issues.

The Parish Clerk to write to Suffolk Highways and Nick Timothy plus copying in Charlotte Cane MP to recommend that traffic is not redirected through Kennett village. With the new development and increased traffic already in the village this would not be a viable option.

FC25/26.133 Financial Matters

The following invoices were presented to the Parish Council for payment for the month of February 2026 received at the date of meeting.

Payments requiring Authorisation – February 2026

Payee	Amount	Narrative	Power
S Field	£283.70	Clerk's Salary	LGA 1972 s.111
Swanson Landscapes	£360.00	Hedge Trimming along Dane Hill Road	Open Spaces 1906 s.10-11
K&M Lighting	£70.00	Street Light Maintenance	Open Spaces 1906 s.10-11
Lloyds Bank	£4.25	Bank Charges	LGA 1972 s.111
TOTAL EXPENDED	£717.95		

The following amounts have been received into the accounts:

Creditor	Amount	Narrative
Lloyds Bank	£10.78	Interest on Comm Inst Access account
Lloyds Bank	£171.27	Interest on 95 Day Notice High Interest Account (from 1 st to 31 st January 2026)
TOTAL RECEIVED	£182.05	

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

Commercial Instant Access:	£ 21,174.51
Community Account:	£ 3,945.98
90 Day Notice Savings Account:	<u>£ 77,406.94</u>

Total Sum of Bank Accounts:	£102,527.43
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It was **AGREED** that the invoices received be paid by the Clerk at the earliest opportunity.

FC25/26.134 Clerk's Update

The Clerk reminded Councillors that the The Parish Conference and was taking place at The Beeches, Isleham on Thursday 12th February commencing at 10am.

The Clerk had ordered the replacement disposal bags for the dog bins to be delivered to Cllr Baxter.

The Clerk had spoken to ECDC Waste Services in respect of the proposed purchase of additional dog bins to be situated on The Green when it is transferred from the developer to the CLT. ECDC Waste Services had indicated that they would be in agreement to emptying these bins provided that they were situated close to any perimeter roads.

It was also confirmed that personal email addresses will not be used from 1st February 2026 and all Parish Council correspondence will only be sent to dedicated kennett-pc.gov.uk addresses already assigned. DW undertook to ensure that he had full access.

FC25/26.135 Councillors' Forum (items for future meetings)

Nothing noted

Next Parish Council meeting to take place on Monday 9th March 2026 commencing at 7.45pm

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

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Chairman

Dated: