



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 March 2026 at 7.45pm
in The Village Hall, Kennett Playing Fields, Kennett

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

IN ATTENDANCE: CCllr Y Malinowski – CCC
DCllr J Huffer – ECDC
Clerk

4 Members of the public

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Issues concerning parking at drop off and pick up times in the vicinity of the school. It is becoming increasingly dangerous for children and parents/carers with the amount of vehicles parking along not only the private roads on the new development but also along Station Road.

The issues to be discussed further under item FC25/26.143.

FC25/26.136 **Chairman's Welcome and Open Forum**

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr F McLachlan, Vice Chair, agreed to chair this meeting. The Chairman welcomed all those present.

FC25/26.137 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr A French – Apologies – Accepted.
Cllr S Baxter – Apologies – Accepted.

FC25/26.138 **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

FC25/26.139 The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2026 were agreed as a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

FC25/26.140 **External Forum – District and County Councillors**

The CCllr updated the meeting concerning outstanding issues now that she was back at work following a period of absence. These include the problems with all road drainage throughout the village and the potholes.

The CCllr has spoken to the Fire Authority concerning the issue with the now inaccessible fire hydrant but has yet to hear back from them as to what action, if any, they are going to take.

LGR is, as far as both County and District are concerned, still going ahead and all relevant authorities should know by mid-July as to what structure Central Government intends to implement.

It is thought that there might be a delay on any implementation due to Central Government currently reforming Planning Rules/Regulations and it may be felt that to implement LGR at the same time might not be feasible but, at this time, nothing has been heard about any delays.

The DCllr pointed out that it would appear that all licencing decisions will be removed from whatever unitary model is implemented and transferred to the Mayor. This will, the District Council fear, dilute the process in the vetting and issuing of taxi licences insofar as it will move away from a Committee decision to an officer decision.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner will also cease and those responsibilities will be transferred to the Mayor.

FC25/26.141 Community Land Trust (“CLT”) Update

No update on properties for this meeting.

The roadworks/tarmacing of the south roundabout of the relief road had been completed.

Roadworks (with temporary lights) have commenced on Station Road and it is anticipated that within the next couple of weeks there will be a total closure of Station Road (when the relief road is open to traffic) to enable Open Reach to re-lay the underground cables that, when initially installed, were not laid to the correct depth.

This will necessitate the footpath also being closed on the east side of Station Road so pedestrians will need to cross Station Road to traverse a section of Station Road and then cross back to the east side.

It is anticipated that the proposed works will take between 7 to 10 days and full signage will be installed prior to the works commencing.

FC25/26.142 External Reports – Parish Councillors
Nothing to report to this meeting.

FC25/26.143 Road Safety and Traffic – Update

The Parish Council had received a communication from CCC Highways concerning advisory signage for HGV vehicles at both ends of Dane Hill Road. CCC Highways have advised that there will be no signage as it was felt that it would (if installed at the Herringswell end of Dane Hill Road in particular) direct HGVs into a 'dead end'.

The Parish Council expressed frustration that signage would not be installed and instructed the Clerk to respond to the communication stating that signage must be installed at the main roundabout with the A11 and both roundabouts of the relief road in an attempt to educate HGV drivers to the alternative routes.

The CCIr undertook to liaise with CCC Highways on the PC's behalf to ascertain what further measures can be put in place.

CIr FMCL updated the meeting on continuing good dialogue with The Timber Company over lorry movements.

The issues concerning parking at the school that had been raised in the Public Participation part of the meeting was further discussed at this point.

Numerous parents had been in contact with the Member of the Public present to raise their concerns and fears of an "accident waiting to happen" with no safe place to cross Station Road in particular. There had been instances of verbal and physical abuse of residents and Bellway staff from a couple of parents when they had been asked to move their vehicles because of careless parking across residents driveways etc. It was acknowledged by all those present that this sort of behaviour is totally unacceptable.

The CCIr was asked if there was any possibility of funding a 'lollypop lady' to assist with parents and children crossing and the CCIr undertook to look into this on the PC's behalf.

It was also acknowledged that once the relief road is open the situation should improve insofar as there should be less traffic on Station Road but it would not be until the completion of Phases 1 and 2 of the development that a car park would be opened opposite the school and this may not be for another 18 months or possibly more.

At that time it is also envisaged the roads within the development will be adopted by CCC which would then permit the installation of yellow lines and the Police would be able to enforce infringements.

It was also mentioned that when the sale of the old school is completed this may too cause further problems with parking along Station Road but until such time as this happens it is unknown but will be monitored by the PC.

FC25/26.144 Church Gate – Replacement – Funding
Brought forward item from 9th February 2026.

Proposed designs had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Both metal and wooden designs along with approximate costings had been included.

After discussion it was AGREED that the Parish Council will place an order with Palmers of Fordham for a set of metal gates (to match the existing gate) in the sum of £1,415 plus VAT. The gates will be installed by Swanson Landscapes.

The purchase of these gates will be funded by CIL monies held by the Parish Council. The justification for using these funds is that with the increase in residents and the gates being the access to the footpath the gates have been used far more frequently and has resulted in their deterioration.

FC25/26.45 Memorial Request

A request has been received by the Clerk for the installation of a memorial marker to mark the interment of the cremated remains of a former parishoner.

The ashes are interred within the grave of other relatives and a headstone is in place. The applicant has asked whether a flat stone (which is the policy for marking interred ashes) can be placed at the front of the existing headstone. As this may be in contravention of the current policy Councillors are asked to decide whether this can be permitted.

Following discussion it was AGREED that the applicant be permitted a flat stone to be installed (flush with the surrounding grass for maintenance purposes).

FC25/26.146 Financial Matters

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

Payments requiring Authorisation – March 2026

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
JRB Enterprise	£77.22	Doggie Bags	Open Spaces 1906 s.10-11
CAPALC	£295.63	Outstanding Invoice from August 2025 [CAPALC invoicing issues]	LGA 1972 s.111
Lloyds Bank	£4.25	Bank Charges	LGA 1972 s.111
TOTAL EXPENDED	£730.80		

The following amounts have been received into the accounts:

Creditor	Amount	Narrative
Lloyds Bank	£9.57	Interest on Comm Inst Access account
Lloyds Bank	£156.24	Interest on 95 Day Notice High Interest Account (from 1 st to 28 th February 2026)
TOTAL RECEIVED	£165.81	

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

Commercial Instant Access: £ 21,184.08
Community Account: £ 3,180.20
90 Day Notice Savings Account: £ 77,563.26

Total Sum of Bank Accounts: £101,927.55

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

FC25/26.147 Internal Audit Service

The Parish Council are invited to renew the yearly contract with Mulberry Local Authority Services to provide the internal audit service for the financial year 2026/27.

It was AGREED that the contract with Mulberry Local Authority Services be renewed for a period of 1 year.

FC25/26.148 Clerk's Update

The Clerk had attended the Parish Forum in Isleham and had been given a box of 10 Carbon Monoxide Monitors/Alarms for distribution to any vulnerable resident of the village.

FC25/26.149 Councillors' Forum (items for future meetings)

No items for future meetings.

Next Parish Council meeting to take place on Monday 13th April 2026 commencing at 7.45pm

Meeting closed at 9 pm.

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Chairman

Dated: