



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 11th May 2026 which commenced at 8 pm following conclusion of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council 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: Clerk

1 Member of the public

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:
Nothing for this meeting.

FC26/27.001 **Chairman's Welcome and Open Forum**
The Chairman welcomed all those present.

FC26/27.002 **Apologies for Absence**
None.

FC26/27.003 **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

FC26/27.004 The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2026 were agreed as a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

FC26/27.005 External Forum – District and County Councillors

Nothing received for this meeting and no District Councillors or the County Councillor in attendance.

FC26/27.006 Community Land Trust (“CLT”) Update

The CLT had been due to take ownership of The Green but there had been a legal holdup so this had not officially taken place at the date of the meeting but the CLT have commenced maintenance of the area and two grass cuts had already taken place under the contract issued to ECDC.

The pond will not be included within the ownership as it is still undergoing repair/remedial work and until such time as it is proved to be fit for purpose this element will be the responsibility of the developer.

13 Affordable properties are due to be completed in June, 2 in July and 1 in September. It was acknowledged that the property market is flat at this moment and just one occupation had taken place in the last month. It is believed that there are approximately 140-150 properties are occupied at this time.

Going forward the CLT, in discussion with the developer and the County Council, will be looking at installing road narrowing measures as opposed to speed bumps to aid with traffic calming. When plans are formalised these will be brought to the Parish Council for comment.

The relief road whilst almost complete it was reiterated (as per the last meeting) that this would not be open to traffic until the safety audit had been carried out by CCC Highways and no timescale was yet available as to when this would take place.

FC26/27.007 External Reports – Parish Councillors

Nothing for this meeting.

FC26/27.008 Road Safety and Traffic – Update

The County Council had provided an updated plan for road signage to deter HGV drivers from entering the village and in particular Dane Hill Road. It was agreed that the signage proposed was, in the Parish Council’s opinion, not enough to act as a deterrent as CCC Highways were only proposing one sign on the main roundabout at the A11 junction. There must be signage installed at the junction of Station Road/Dane Hill Road and at the Herringswell crossroads. It was acknowledged that it would appear that it is a lack of communication between CCC Highways and SCC Highways that is causing issues with the siting of a sign at the Herringswell crossroads and the Clerk was instructed to communicate with the County Councillor requesting her to liaise with relevant officers to get the situation resolved at the earliest opportunity.

The implementation of the traffic calming measures along Dane Hill Road are being delayed due to the issues involving signage and need to be resolved as soon as practicable.

The Clerk was also instructed to contact the County Councillor to elicit a reply to the query that the Parish Council had in respect of volunteer Lollipop Persons to aid with the children crossing the roads to the new school. The Parish Council are asking for CCC to provide funding for training, equipment (including PPE) and coverage of insurance costs as at least one resident has volunteered for the role and it is believed that there may be others who would also volunteer thereby reducing the burden of performing this task on individuals.

FC26/27.009 Financial Matters

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

Payments requiring Authorisation – May 2026

Payee	Amount	Narrative	Power
S Field	£283.70	Clerk's Salary	LGA 1972 s.111
Swanson Landscapes	£354.00	Grass Cutting	Open Spaces 1906 s.10-11
K&M Lighting	£70.00	Street Light Maintenance	Open Spaces 1906 s.10-11
Mulberry Local Authority	£228.42	Internal Audit Fee	LGA 1972 s.111
Lloyds Bank	£4.25	Bank Charges	LGA 1972 s.111
Wave Utilities	£20.61	Water supply for Cemetery	Open Spaces 1906 s.10-11
TOTAL EXPENDED	£960.98		

The following amounts have been received into the accounts:

Creditor	Amount	Narrative
Lloyds Bank	£9.00	Interest on Comm Inst Access account
Lloyds Bank	£95,302.14	1 st Precept Payment 2 nd CIL Payment
Lloyds Bank	£168.14	Interest on 95 Day Notice High Interest Account (from 1 st to 30 th April 2026)
TOTAL RECEIVED	£95,479.28	

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

Commercial Instant Access:	£ 16,201.21
Community Account:	£101,539.14
90 Day Notice Savings Account:	<u>£ 77,916.12</u>

Total Sum of Bank Accounts:	£195,656.47
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It was **AGREED** that the invoices received be paid by the Clerk at the earliest opportunity.

- FC26/27.010 AGAR 2025-26. This item to be the subject of an Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council to take place on Tuesday 19th May 2026 commencing at 6.30pm due to the Clerk having inadvertently not brought the relevant paperwork with her for this meeting.
- FC26/27.011 AGAR 2025-26 – Statement of Governance. For the reason stated at FC26/27.010 above item this will form part of the agenda for the meeting to be held on Tuesday 19th May 2026 commencing at 6.30pm.
- FC26/27.012 A requirement of the AGAR starting for the financial year 2025/26 is the completion annually of a Data Audit and the Clerk had produced the required documentation which had been supplied to Councillors.
- The Data Audit documentation was agreed and accepted by the Parish Council. All documentation relating to the AGAR will be published on the parish council's website.
- The dates for the Exercise of Public Rights were agreed as from Wednesday 3rd June 2026 to Tuesday 14th July 2026 and the relevant notice will be posted in the noticeboards and on the website.
- FC26/27.013 The Parish Council had received the 2nd payment of CIL monies in respect of the new development in the sum of £88,927.14. This receipt has resulted in a large sum of money now available for expenditure within the village. The spending of this money can only be spent on projects/items to "mitigate the effects of the development" as stipulated by the District Council and Councillors were asked for ideas as to what they thought might be suitable projects.

Due to the expansion of the village there will be a need for further burial plots in due course so a suggestion that additional land be purchased to facilitate this. This will require further investigation with the current landowner.

It was agreed to ask residents for ideas and Cllr Swanson will add this to the article for the Parish News.

FC26/27.014 The Clerk had received the renewal invitation from Clear Councils for the provision of insurance for the Parish Council for the forthcoming year in the sum of £698.42 (including taxes and fees). This amount was less than had been anticipated and Councillors were asked whether they approved this amount or whether they wished the Clerk to make enquiries as to alternative providers of this insurance.

Councillors AGREED the renewal quotation and instructed the Clerk to pay the invoice.

FC26/27.015 Planning Application – 26/00389/FUL – Change of Use of Redundant State Primary School Class F1 to Commercial Pre-School Facility Class E.

Following the sale of the old Primary School the Parish Council are being consulted on the change of use to a Commercial Pre-School Facility.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the following comments be provided to the District Council:

“The Parish Council have no objection in principle to the change of use from primary school to a commercial pre-school facility but voiced major concerns about the major adverse impact that will result on traffic along Station Road and surrounding roads at drop off/pick up times. There is already major congestion in respect of the new school premises and the opening of this new facility will exacerbate an already intolerable situation. It is noted that there will be 10 parking spaces on the site but with the employment of 15 staff this could result in 5 vehicles having to find parking off site along with parents of children attending the pre-school. What is going to be included within the application for the provision of additional parking for staff and parents?

It would appear that the operational times of the new facility are from 7am to 6pm, 5 days a week and this will have an impact on neighbouring properties and must also be considered when determining the application.”

The Clerk was instructed to submit the comments to ECDC on 12th May 2026.

FC26/27.016 Clerk's Update

- (i) Due to a class being held in the Pavilion prior to Parish Council meetings, the Clerk asked Councillors whether they wished to consider a change of day/time to allow an earlier finish time for their meetings. Currently there is the possibility that meetings will not finish until 9.45pm (2 hour limit within Standing Orders).

A discussion took place and it was agreed that the District Councillors and County Councillor be consulted as to which day of the week would be more convenient for them to enable their attendance on a more regular basis.

It was acknowledged that the Hall has numerous regular bookings but it was felt that there may be scope for a change if agreement could be reached.

This proposal to be discussed further once replies have been received from the District Councillors and County Councillor.

FC26/27.017 Councillors' Forum (items for future meetings) and matters arising from previous meetings

Despite having received notification from DCllr Pettit that the hedge around the Anglian Water treatment works on Dane Hill Road would be cut back within 2 weeks of the last meeting, this work had not been done. The Clerk to contact DCllr Pettit to ascertain the current situation.

The new Church gates unfortunately had not been completed but it was anticipated that they would be and installed by the next meeting.

It was agreed that a litter pick be organised for the Autumn.

It was also agreed that more bulbs be planted to enhance the aesthetics of the various areas where bulbs were planted in 2024.

PCllrs agreed to think of ideas to bring to a future meeting to enhance the visual amenities of the village.

Cllr DW raised the issue of the emergence of mosquitos again affecting properties along Dane Hill Road and St Nicholas Close. Cllr FMcL will provide Cllr DW with the contact details of the officer in Environmental Health at ECDC who looked into the issue last year and ask them to assist in identifying the source of the problem and eradicating any possible source (ie stagnant water on private land).

It was noted that a new business had commenced at the Station.

It was also anticipated that a new small development may begin shortly on the brown site land at the rear of Station Road. When any application is received the Parish Council will comment accordingly.

An extra Ordinary Parish Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 19th May 2026 commencing at 6.30pm to review the AGAR documentation and an agenda will be issued on 13th May 2026. The next full Ordinary Parish Council meeting to take place on Monday 8th June 2026 commencing at 7.45pm

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

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Chairman

Dated:

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