

**MINUTES OF THE KENTFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 6TH MARCH 2025 AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, BURY ROAD,
KENTFORD AT 7.30PM**

Present at Meeting: Cllrs Malcolm Baker, Barbara Tautz, Chris Carter, Steve Thompson, David Reid, District Cllr Roger Dicker, County Cllr Andy Drummond and two members of the public

1. Apologies
All present.
2. Minutes/matter arising
Amendment in agenda item 2 to read **..brought to the Gazeley end of the village..** the amended minutes were then unanimously approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.
In relation to the BSIP service funding from Suffolk County Council, the ongoing consultation is still open for ideas but must include a strong business case. The next meeting of the improvement programme which will focus on infrastructure is on the 12th March, Cllr Carter to attend and report back at the May meeting. It was suggested information relating to the Community Connections minibus is posted on the PC website. Cllr Carter to forward the link.
Cllr Baker has spoken to Robin Swanson, and it has been confirmed the new roundabout at the Bell crossroads is to go ahead.
Discussion has taken place with our grass cutting contractor Richard Hartley to look at any areas requiring maintenance, including visibility of signage and the overgrown Pack Horse Bridge Garden.
3. Finance
The finance report as of 5th March 2025 was noted and approved. Balance of the Business Account £988.06, balance of the Savings Interest Account £12,164.44, balance of Cambridge Building Society account £13,017.17.
4. Officer reports
County Cllr Andy Drummond's Parish Report was previously circulated. SCC have voted for Devolution and are putting together a plan for a one Suffolk option, the May elections that should have taken place are now not happening, plans will be submitted and the government will decide on the outcome, there will be a combined authority for Norfolk and Suffolk and an elected Mayor.
Correspondence has been received from a Kentford resident concerning the flooding near Gypsy Boys Grave; due to a mistake on the number of temporary traffic lights required to slow down traffic, a new licence application has to be made.
Cllr Drummond to contact Matthew Fox for an updated timeline.

District Cllr Roger Dicker reported WSC have set their part of the Council Tax at 2.99%. With regard to the Local Government Reorganisation, the District Council believe a three system is a better option for local residents; a vote will be taken by WSC on the 18th March and submitted to government.

5. Public Forum

Dog waste bin at Gazeley Road – The clerk to investigate the WSC's capacity to empty the bin. Details of exact location with possible photos to be sent to the clerk. The wooden bridge near the landfill site has holes in it, however, as this is private land it is not the responsibility of the parish council. Cllr Baker to investigate ownership.

6. Projects for next year

Speed signs - Costs for two additional speed signs £8538, two new posts £1200, data collection with blue tooth enabled £379, all costs exclude VAT. Agreed to exchange one of the new units with one of the units on the East carriageway so that Bluetooth data collection is available in both directions. Suggested locations for the new speed devices, on edge of 30mph limit coming into Kentford from Bury, exchange the one measuring Newmarket and locate it on the Bury side. Devices for Moulton Road and Herringswell Road to be a project for another time.

Lighting - Following a meeting between SCC Streetlighting Engineer Ady Last and Cllr Reid, an estimated quotation has been received to supply & install 2 no 6m Columns, lanterns and UKPN electricity supplies in Bury Rd Kentford, and 1 new 6m Column, Lantern, and electricity supply in Herringswell Rd Kentford. Approximate cost £17,500 plus VAT. Some traffic management costs in the quotation have been allowed but will be subject to change once the TM scheme is designed. A further quotation is pending. It was also agreed the revised design plans for the roundabout be checked as installation of lighting could be part of the developer's planning application.

Defibrillators - The Diocese has asked that an architect look at the porch wall where the defibrillator is to be located. Date arranged for the visit 10th March. A thank you was given to Cllr Drummond for his locality budget award of £1500 towards the cost of the defibrillator.

New notice board - Cllr Dicker offered a locality budget grant of £500 towards the cost of a new notice board. Following discussion, it was agreed the Pack House Bridge would be the ideal location – all in favour. Cllr Dicker to send the application form to the clerk.

7. Planning - including Animal Health Trust

A consultation meeting has been held at the AHT visitor centre giving an overview of their proposals for the site. The Masterplan shows 320 for the small version and 530 for the rest of the development. There is to be a hearing in the Royal Court of Justice on 26th March where WSC are taking the government to court over their decision that lost the appeal on the change of use of the dilapidated buildings (320). The rest of it is not in the new Local Plan and the Government Inspector at the time of the public examination was very much against it. The outcome of the court case may determine what happens with the other half of the site. In relation to the revised Local Plan, it was confirmed by Cllr Dicker that Kentford, other than what is known, will not have any further development. Cllr Carter to look through the Local Plan documentation that is out for consultation and submit a response - all agreed.

Planning application DC/25/0312/HH a. single storey rear extension b. first floor rear elevation window reduced 3 The Squires Bury Road Kentford.
No objections.

8. Community Events
Quiz on the 12th April at 6.30pm
Kentford 700 – Summer Fayre June 21st Volunteers needed to help on the day, contact Malcolm if interested, next event meeting 1st April
9. Date of next meeting: To be confirmed.

With no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.