MINUTES OF THE KENTFORD ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19TH MAY 2026 AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, BURY ROAD, KENTFORD AT 7.30PM.

Present at Meeting: Cllrs Chris Carter, Steven Thompson, David Reid, Alex Dawe, County Cllr Adrian Whittle, District Cllr Roger Dicker and four members of the public.

Prior to the meeting a welcome was given to newly elected County Cllr Adrian Whittle.

1. Election of Chairman

   Proposed and seconded that Cllr Steven Thompson be elected Chairman for the forthcoming year. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

2. Apologies

   Cllr Barbara Tautz.

3. Declarations of Interest

   None declared.

4. Co-option

   Proposed and seconded that Laura Felgate (LF) be co-opted to Kentford Parish Council. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.

5. To approve the minutes if the meeting held on 5th March 2026.

   Unanimously approved.

6. County & District Reports

   County Cllr Whittle offered to assist with any live issues the parish council are currently involved with. Questions were invited.
   District Cllr Dicker informed the meeting there is a court case in June regarding the challenge to the Local Plan from the developers at the Animal Health Trust; LGA Unitary elections in a years' time; no further update with regard to the crossroads at Boy's Grave; leaflets and delivery of new recycling bins are being progressed by WSC; MP Nick Timothy is actively involved in securing additional trains for Kennett Station.

7. Public Forum

   Given that the paths from the junction of Jeddah Way towards the Bell PH are covered in debris and vegetation and affecting the width of the pathway, a member of the public asked what could be done to improve the lighting. In response, DR said a quotation to install additional lighting was received but given the excessive cost, the parish council could not progress this option. It is hoped when the new roundabout at the Bell is installed, the developers at Kennett will invest in additional lighting on that section of the road. In the interim, a new quotation to clear back the vegetation from the Bell public house to Gypsy Boy's Grave to be sought from the grass cutting contractor. For safety reasons and potentially a breach of the Disability Act, LF felt a dropped kerb at either side of the entrance to the business park should be considered a priority. LF to send details of the exact location for forwarding to County Cllr Whittle.

8. Financial Report and to sign the Accountability Governance Audit Report 2025-2026

Balance of the Community Account as of 30th April 2026 stands at £28,117.72, the balance of the Business Interest Account as of 9th April stands at £997.27, the Cambridge Building Society Account stands at £13,017.17, yearly interest yet to be added. Following consideration, the financial report and AGAR were approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

9. Proposed new speed indicator devices

Locations for two new solar speed devices, one for Moulton Road and the other for Herringswell Road have been approved by SCC, following installation of the poles the order will be placed with the supplier.

10. Community communication update

AD felt the website and social media such as Facebook and Next Door should be a starting point for community communication, and potentially could develop into a volunteer run newsletter. On behalf of the parish council, AD to post content on Facebook.

11. Planning applications

No applications have been received since the last meeting.

12. For information only

Planning training at Mildenhall, AD will be attending; Local Plan information to be forwarded to councillors when received; flooding at the bottom of Herringswell Road and an overgrown tree obscuring the Kentford traditional sign have been reported; wooden post barriers at entrances to Kentford to be sanded, ST to action.

Fund raising events at the Church:

Cheese & Wine Saturday 13th June 2026

Summer Fayre on 8th August 2026

13. Date of next meeting

Thursday 3rd September 2026 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.