MINUTES OF THE KENTFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2026 AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, BURY ROAD, KENTFORD AT 7.30PM

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

1. Apologies

Cllr Steve Thompson

2. Declaration of Interests

None received.

3. Minutes / Matters arising

Matthew Fox has been advised of the two insurance claims in relation to Boy's Grave road junction; the bad state of repair of Newmarket High Street due to heavy traffic, particularly on race days; a site meeting at Boy's Grave will hopefully be held in April/May, Paul West Portfolio Holder for Highways will be leading the meeting and will be reporting back to the parish council. Cllr Drummond to ascertain possible dates for Nick Timothy MP to attend. Cllr Reid commented on the extremely bad condition of Norwich Road near to the junction due to trucks not following the Travel Plan. Registration numbers should be taken and reported to SCC for enforcement action. Signage saying 'Not suitable for HGVs' was considered and following a vote was approved. Cllr Drummond offered to use his budget to pay for the sign, the clerk to send a formal request to AD.

4. County & District Reports

Cllr Drummond's report was previously circulated. Topics included the decision of West Suffolk Council not to support the Newmarket Sports Hub due to branding the site unsuitable. SCC, however, is still prepared to support the sports facility at the St Felix site; there will be a SCC election on the 7th May which will run for a year, then elections for whatever the decision is on the number of Unitaries; Forest City meeting at Haverhill for the development of 375,000 houses just south of Newmarket and north of Haverhill; in relation to the next Local Plan process, and working in parallel with the existing plan to 2041, every five years there will be a new Plan requiring the provision of additional 15,000 houses across the district.

Cllr Dicker's report included the pre-application submission by AHT, the public meeting planned by Hugo for 12th March has been cancelled; the new recycling waste collection is going to plan timewise with a pamphlet delivered to all householders explaining the new arrangements.

5. Public Forum

A member of the public asked whether the parish council had received a planning application

for tree works at Meddler Stud, the clerk to check whether it was received by the parish council.

6. Financial report

The finance report to 17th February 2026 was unanimously approved. The balance of the Community Account stands at £9359.51, Business Account £996.03, Cambridge Building Society £13017.17. The quotation from Richard Hartley Garden Services for additional works at Kentford was approved.

7. Highways attending the meeting - deferred at present.

Speed cameras and data – data suggests there is no significant change in speeding when the A14 is closed, and traffic is diverted through Kentford.

Locations for speed cameras – sites have been identified and letters to those affected are ready to be sent. Once approved, an application to be made to SCC Highways, DR to action.

Entry gates – One traffic calming entry gate only requires painting, however, the wood on the other gate is rotten and needs additional work carried out, ST to action.

20mph speed restriction – Cllr Drummond to check the criteria for implementing a 20mph speed restriction along Bury Road.

Highways survey – Completed and will be returned to SALC.

8. Village footpath

A map showing a potential walkway linking both ends of the village was circulated by Cllr Dawe. All agreed this was an excellent idea, but questions need to be raised on the feasibility of the project. Further discussion at a later meeting.

9. Community Communication

To help bring local communities/businesses together, Cllr Dawe suggested Kentford PC should consider having a newsletter similar to the one distributed in Moulton. AD offered to assist in producing the first issue by putting one together to show whether there is any interest in taking this further.

10. Community Events

Quiz night 18th April 2026.

Summer Fete – Provisional date August.

11. Cllr Reid asked whether there was any update on the installation of the proposed mini roundabout at the Bell crossroads – dependent on number of new houses sold at Kennett. Robin Swanson to be contacted for information, the clerk to action.

12. Date of next meeting

Thursday 21st May 2026