

MINUTES OF THE KENTFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21ST JANUARY 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, and two members of the public.

1. Apologies
All present.
2. Minutes/matter arising
Amendments: The word **Projects** to be deleted from the heading of agenda item 9 and the wording **....it was agreed to investigate the purchase of two new average speed cameras** to replace **it was agreed to start building towards the purchase of two new speed cameras**. The amended minutes were unanimously approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.
3. Officer reports
No reports were available.
4. Finance
The finance report as of 8th December 2024 was noted and approved. Balance of the Business Account £23323.17, balance of the Savings Interest Account £987.22 balance of the Cambridge Building Society Account £1000. For a better interest rate, it was agreed the sum of £12,000 from the Business Account be paid into the building society account. The Clerk to action.
5. Defibrillator
The defibrillator at the Post Office is currently checked on a weekly basis and regularly maintained by Cllr Thompson and Cllr Reid. Although the PCC have agreed a defibrillator can be installed, permission from the diocese needs to be obtained prior to purchase. Defibrillator cost £2904 plus insurance coverage, the clerk to check for liability cover. County Cllr Andy Drummond has offered to financially support the purchase, Cllr Tautz to contact AD. With regard to the existing light in the porch, a PIR sensor to be fitted, cost to be confirmed.
6. Bus update
Cllr Carter has suggested to Simon Barnett that between SCC and Mulleys, consideration should be given for the bus to be brought to this end of the village prior to it returning to Newmarket. Newmarket Town Council, SCC and Suffolk Passenger Transport are all trying to ascertain a) if Mulleys are making any money and b) will they be continuing the service. On that basis, the bus on market days from Kentford to Bury is almost full and half full on the return journey. Community Connections minibus is an alternative service that is booked on the phone and will pick up from outside your house. Return fare is £8 but bus passes are not accepted. Contact 01638 664304 for further details. Cllr Carter to send the link for posting on the website.
7. Public Forum
No further points were raised.

8. Bury Road update

A second meeting has been held to which Nick Timothy MP attended. Devolution and Local Government Reform was mentioned, along with everyday concerns faced by residents when Bury Road is used as a diversion route. Figures show there were forty night closures on the A14 last year and three more recently. Noise levels, damaged manhole covers and blocked drains, the need for Bury Road to be entirely resurfaced rather than just patched were similarly highlighted to representatives from SCC and National Highways. In relation to speeding, professional data showed only 5/6% of motorists were driving over the speed limit and therefore thresholds for further action have not been met. Cllr Baker to obtain quotations for two additional speed cameras to be located on the opposite side of Bury Road, sites would need permission from SCC prior to purchase. To be effective, the white gates and the 30mph signs coming into the village from Bury need clearing of foliage and cleaning. A question was raised whether a mini roundabout at the Bell junction is still part of the planning conditions for the houses at Kennett – Cllr Baker to speak with Robin Swanson to clarify the situation. To assist with mowing the grass verges, our contractor has offered at a cost of £300 to cut back all overgrown vegetation along the pathway. Cllr Baker to make contact to see whether he would be interested in managing other overgrown areas.

9. Precept

A wish list of projects when determining the level of precept required for 2025/2026 included two speed indicator devices, cost of data management, additional streetlights one between The Bell and the Vets and one on a section of Herringswell Road, signage, self-help costs. Following detailed discussion, it was agreed a zero percentage over last year should be calculated. The clerk to look at figures and report back before the WSC deadline of 22nd January 2025.

10. Community Events

25th January Burns Night

12th April Quiz Night

21st June 700th anniversary of the Church / Summer Fayre

Now fully funded and with a completion date circa middle of March, toilet facilities will soon be available in the church.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Date of next meeting Thursday 6th March 2025 at 7.30pm.