

**MINUTES OF THE KENTFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 3RD JULY 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 twenty three members of the public.

To allow members of the public to voice their concerns regarding the AHT planning applications, agenda item 9 was heard at the beginning of the meeting.

9. AHT planning application

All points raised will be collated and be part of the Parish Council's response to West Suffolk Council. A public meeting with the developer to be arranged.

1. Apologies

Cllr Andy Drummond.

2. Declaration of Interests

None.

3. Minutes / Matters arising other than on the agenda

The minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting of Tuesday 13th May 2025 were unanimously approved.

The cost to empty a new bin on Gazeley Road will be £312, an official quotation to be requested and circulated, Cllr Reid to action; Cllr Thompson has now joined the K&K committee as the KPC representative; a decision to pay a 5% contribution from the precept to K&K was deferred at present.

4. Finance

The finance report to 30^{6th} June 2025 was unanimously approved. Balance of the Business Interest Account £991.18, Community Account £24569.16, Cambridge Building Society £13,017.17. the sum of £20000 transferred from the Treasurers Account has yet to be shown on the bank statement.

5. Public Forum

Heard earlier in the meeting.

6. Highways

Costs for improving the road surface including drains on Bury Road is still awaiting from Matthew Fox, Cllr Baker to chase. New signage at the Gypsy Boys Grave crossroads is being obscured by vegetation, Matthew Fox, Highways Community Liaison Engineer, to be informed.

7. Update on projects – Bins, speed signs and defibrillators

Bins - Style of new combined litter/dog waste bin was agreed and will now be ordered, delivery to Cllr Tautz.

Speed signs – Sites have been approved by Highways for new poles, time scale for installation six weeks. The solar speed cameras will be ordered by Cllr Baker after the poles are in situ.

Defibrillator – Now delivered and will be installed in the church porch shortly, Steve Tautz and David Reid to liaise regarding installation. Additional paperwork to register the unit with the ambulance service will be completed when received.

8. Community update

Kentford 700 Event held on the 21st June 2025 proved to be very popular with many new residents attending. Thanks to Steve, Barbara and Catherine and all those involved in ensuring a successful event.

9. Any other business

Cllr Carter advised the meeting he had responded to Ben Greening relating to an email sent by a resident to the MP underlining the lack of bus coverage in Kentford. Various information links, including the Suffolk Enhanced Partnership Passenger Group (formed to address and obtain government funding from various agencies) were sent to Mr Greening.

Online meetings with the Bus Service Improvement Programme (BISP) continue on a quarterly basis. A request was made on behalf of KPC to extend the existing 312 bus service along Bury Road from the Bell junction towards the Gazeley end of Kentford and back to Newmarket. This was rejected.

More money (around £2.6m over 2025/26) has been allocated by Government and is being spent on existing or identified improvements.

Date of the public meeting with Hugo Haig to be confirmed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.