

**MINUTES OF THE KENTFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3RD
SEPTEMBER 2026 AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, BURY ROAD, KENTFORD AT 7.30PM**

Present at Meeting: Cllrs Steven Thompson, Barbara Tautz, David Reid, Alex Dawe, Laura Felgate, District Cllr Roger Dicker and two members of the public

1. Apologies

County Cllr Adrian Whittle

2. Declaration of Interests

None received.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 19th May 2026 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

5. County & District Reports

A written report was received from County Cllr Adrian Whittle and noted.

Points raised in District Cllr Roger Dicker's report included the availability of funding from his Locality Budget; Higham has been identified in the new Local Plan to get a further two and a half thousand new houses, which if successful, will affect all surrounding villages. A public meeting is to be held at Higham Church on Monday 7th September at 7.30. Cllr Dicker and Cllr Dawe will be attending. An initial meeting of the Local Plan Working Group has taken place, currently following the Call for Sites there are 328 pieces of land the developers would like included in the Plan. Further details from WSC when available.

6. Public Forum

A member of the public commented on the absence of the agenda on the website, excessive parking on Jeddah Way alongside the Manor Care Home & Vets, thereby creating poor visibility when approaching the blind corner at the top. It was suggested a safer option would be to park on the opposite side of the road, County Cllr Whittle to be made aware of the issue; plans for the Bell crossroads and the proposed roundabout.

7. Financial report

The finance report to 28th August 2026 was unanimously approved. The balance of the Community Account stands at £20,467.74 Business Account £998.52 Cambridge Building Society £13,017.17. Kennett Parish Council have again raised the issue of the financial

arrangement between themselves and Kentford Parish Council in relation to Kennett village hall. Archived minutes relating to the original decision to be sourced.

8. Ideas for general improvement of the village

Hedge cutting & path clearance – to be carried out in the autumn, a quotation has been accepted.

Repainting white gates – weeds have been trimmed back, repainting still to be carried out.

Graffiti on speed signs – to contact AW.

Withdrawal of road sweeper - to contact AW

Flooding in several areas of the village due to blocked drains – to contact AW.

Outdated website – Cllr Thompson to design a new Kentford website.

9. Guidelines for posting on social media

Approval was given for Cllr Dawe to use Facebook for promoting village events and relevant local matters.

10. Gov.uk email addresses

List of gov.uk email addresses to be forwarded to Cllr Thompson. It was furthermore agreed a WhatsApp Group be set up by Cllr Thompson for councillor use.

11. Speeding

At a meeting with Matthew Fox it was suggested a 20mph zone could be imposed between Gazeley Road crossroads and the Bell crossroads. Residents to be consulted to ascertain their support of the scheme, Facebook to be used for comments. In regard to further calming measures, it was proposed initially an updated traffic survey be carried out and depending on the average speed of vehicles, further options can be explored. Cllr Whittle has offered to cover the cost of the traffic survey.

12. Dropped kerb at Business Park

Currently being processed by Cllr Whittle.

13. Bridge by the railway

Given it is the preferred route for lorries, It has been indicated that following construction of a roundabout at the Bell junction, East Cambs could reopen the Kennett railway bridge. No further details at present.

14. Assets

Assets belonging to Kentford Parish Council are as follows:

3 notice boards 1 litter bin at Packhorse Garden 1 dog waste bin Gazeley Road 1 Village sign

4 speed indicator devices with poles 3 benches 1 defibrillator in church porch 3 gazebos.

Other matters raised included availability of land for a cemetery given that St Mary's church yard is now closed for burials; purchase of a new notice board.

15. Date of next meeting

Confirmed as 12th November 2026.

With no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.45pm.