

Kingston Parish Council (KPC)

Minutes of Meeting Held at 7.30pm on 10th March 2026

Present

Paul Wheeler (PW) (Chair)	Julie Conder (JC) (Vice-Chair)
Miki Ellar (ME) (Parish Councillor)	Mark Nichols (MN)
Sue Dalgleish (SD) (Clerk)	Tumi Hawkins (TH) (District Councillor)
Lucy Haith (LH)	

Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm

1 Apologies

None

2 Planning Application 26/00259/FUL - Former Grain Store, Tinkers Lane, Kingston

LH described the plans for the development of the Former Grain Store in Tinkers Lane. She explained that planning permission already existed for two properties on the site and that the new application was to instead create one dwelling which would be their family home. The house has been moved slightly over from the existing barn development already on the site to increase privacy. The application has been supported by several of the residents of the adjoining properties.

After looking at the plan drawings and discussing the application the parish council voted to support this application.

3 District Councillor's Report (Appendix A)

TH highlighted that the LRG consultation process is continuing with the new structure becoming effective from May 2028. TH advised that the government wishes to introduce a Development Corporation for greater Cambridge which will change who determines how the area grows and develops. Further details of the government's plans will become available over coming months.

TH advised that South Cambs. budget figures would be ready for submission at the end of March.

TH advised that further details of the additional housing planned for Cambourne will follow in due course and that the EWR train stop is an important part of planned development for the area.

4 Approval of Previous Minutes of Parish Council Meetings

Minutes from Meeting on 13th January 2026 were approved and signed by PW.

5 County Councillor's Report

Nothing to report

6 Appointment of New Parish Councillor (PW)

Keith Tan accepted our invitation to become a Parish Councillor. The councillors voted unanimously to co-opt him onto the council.

Matters Ongoing

7 Cranes Lane/The Green - Water Issues (PW)

PW advised that we are awaiting a response from Derek Tinker of the Drainage and Resilience team in respect of the drainage issues in Cranes Lane and The Green. PW will contact them again.

PW advised that the work carried out to clear drainage ditches in the village has helped prevent flooding in many areas during the recent period of heavy rain.

8. Tree Works - The Orchard (PW)

PW advised that work has been completed to prune the trees in the Orchard that were growing towards the power lines.

PW advised that an Ash Tree in the Orchard needs attention, and this will be planned for the end of the year when leaves have fallen. General tidying and clearance of shrubbery in the Orchard will be planned for coming months.

9. Update on Land Registry - The Orchard (MN) Open Spaces Report (MN)

We are still awaiting a response from the Land Registry Authorities. Current delays in processing land registry applications for hitherto unregistered land appear to be between 10 and 22 months therefore it may be some time before our application is processed.

10. Open Spaces Report (MN)

MN reported that the footpaths in the village currently have no major problems. Signage on some of the footpaths could be improved in one or two areas, however this is not thought to be a priority spend at the current time,

MN reported he had collected a further 2.5 black sack bin liners with litter collected from verges on Tinkers Lane, Church Lane and Bourn Road, which (regrettably) quite a lot in a six or seven weeks since the last litter pick.

Matters Arising

11. East West Rail and Public Bus Update (JC)

JC advised that there had not been any reports of problems with the village bus service recently.

JC advised that the parish council had joined the local Haslingfield led representative EWR group which will represent several parishes councils in the area.

JC advised that it appears as if only the South access route for the EWR project is being considered by EWR. There will also not be a statutory consultation in respect of the project.

A Construction Ombudsman is to be appointed - this person will consider complaints and concerns raised during construction of the route.

The level of use of the EWR line for freight appears still not to be clear. It is thought that more freight will be moved using the western end of the EWR rail line around the Oxford area. Passenger numbers using the route around Cambridge when it has been completed also do not appear to be clear at the current time.

12. Street Lighting Costs (SD)

SD advised that we have received a further email from Chris Dodds from ESPO in respect of the increased daily service charge for our street lighting contract. Total Energies are still intending to charge the daily service charge which costs approximately £28.00 per month on average. They still do not appear to have a way to calculate the monthly level of electricity use as the supply is unmetered so the parish clerk will write again to try and obtain a resolution to these issues.

It was suggested that an article is placed in the parish magazine to ask whether residents wish to have street lighting in the three roads in question as it looks like the costs will rise considerably compared with past years. It is also thought that we should obtain details of the process to be followed if we decide to turn off the street lights in the three areas and not renew our contract with ESPO in the future.

Further information will be provided at the next parish council meeting.

13. Play Park Maintenance Tasks (PW)

PW confirmed that all playpark maintenance tasks should be completed by the end of March. It has been arranged that grass in the playpark will be cut each month and hedges trimmed occasionally over the summer period.

14. IT Policy/Assertion 10 Requirements (SD)

A new Parish Council IT policy which addresses the issues raised in the new Assertion 10 guidance document was agreed.

15. Consultation on the four options for re-organisation of Cambridgeshire's seven councils into fewer unitary councils (PW)

PW raised the issue of the merging of several councils in fewer unitary councils. It was mentioned that a period of consultation is open and that residents can respond if they wish. It was not thought that the Parish council wished to respond in an official capacity.

16. Consultation on the set up of a Cambridgeshire Development Corporation (PW)

PW raised the issue of the establishing of a Cambridgeshire Development Corporation. It was not thought that the Parish council wished to comment in an official capacity.

17. State of Roads and Lanes in the village (PW)

PW reported that there are repairs required to potholes and damage to the road surface at the sides of roads in several locations within the village. The county council has been notified online of pothole locations and it is expected that repairs will be carried out over the next few months.

PW reported that the county council will not repair the damage to the road surfaces in two locations at the edges of the road. This has been caused by large coaches that service the village for school runs. PW will obtain a quotation from a contractor to repair these two areas.

18. Correspondence

The parish council agreed to provide financial support to the PCC for teas and coffees at the church gift day in July 2026.

SD will complete the survey regarding allotments/food growing in the village which has been issued by South Cambs council. As the land is owned by the council it was felt that it was important that they were aware that all allotments were in use and valued by village residents.

19. Invoices Paid and for Approval

Company	Service	Date Paid	Amount	Paid by:
James Wakeling	Village Grass Cutting Services	14 January 2026	1182.50	B/P
Nigel Reynolds	Playpark Hedge Wood/Tree disposal Services	30 January 2026	300.00	B/P
Unity Trust	Bank Service Charge	31 January 2026	6.00	D/D
Paul Wheeler	Expenses for Dog Litter Signs for village	9 February 2026	104.70	B/P
Haslingfield Parish Council	Fee for EWR Parish Council Consultation Group	18 February 2026	25.00	B/P
Unity Trust	Bank Service Charge	28 February 2026	6.00	D/D

All invoices were agreed for payment.

20. Bi-monthly Report (JC) Appendix B

JC presented the bi-monthly report which details the parish council’s current level of spending – see Appendix B

21. Items for next meeting to be held on 12 May 2026

Location of planting of the six free trees to be discussed.

22. A.O.B

Defibrillator pads due for renewal in April 2026

The meeting closed at 10.08pm.

Minutes reference: 20260310

Signed:

Date:

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

(comprises the Parishes of Caldecote, Childerley, Kingston, Bourn, Longstowe & Little Gransden)

Councillor's Monthly Report –March 2026

This report of previous month events is for all the Ward, so please be aware that some of the content may not be relevant to your particular Parish.

General

Please contact me with comments, questions, requests for assistance, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services. These are housing need, housing repairs for council tenants, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health issues. Don't fight on your own. I am available to help you to get the best outcome possible for your situation.

Check out articles on my facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/itsCouncillorTumi> and my blog <http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk>. What I post on there is my view and not LibDem or South Cambs official policy unless I state that it is.

Reminders:

LGR Consultation

Started 4th February and closing on 26th March. This is the process in which the Government is seeking to replace existing district and county councils with a single layer of "unitary councils, starting May 2027 and becoming effective May 2028..

Here's the Leader of South Cambridgeshire on the subject

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/news/find-out-more-about-option-b-as-government-consultation-begins>

Here's the government consultation website – please give your feedback.

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/cambridgeshire-and-peterborough/>

Development Corporation (DevCo) for Greater Cambridge – Government Consultation

Government wants to change who determines how our area grows and develops. They've proposed to remove planning powers from the district council and give it to the unelected DevCo. Needless to say, we are unhappy about it and making this known as widely as possible.

The full consultation document is on government website at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/establishing-a-development-corporation-in-greater-cambridge>. Do have a read and respond directly. Closing date is 11:59PM on 1st April 2026.

Full Council Meeting on this taking place at South Cambs on 17th March 2026 to agree our response to the Government consultation. Do feel free to ping me your thoughts before then.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule Consultation

The consultation for the introduction of CIL opened on 16 Feb 2026 and closing on 29 March 2026. See it online at: <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/cil>.

Those who want to view in person can go to SCDC Reception: South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge, CB23 6EA during normal opening hours 9am to 4pm Monday to Friday. You can call the Council phone line [01954 713 000](tel:01954713000) 8am to 5:30pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday 8am to 6:30pm

We encourage you comment online at: <https://oc2.greatercambridgeplanning.org/document/1334>
Comments can also be submitted directly by email: CIL@greatercambridgeplanning.org

Alternatively, comments in writing and post to: CIL Consultation, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning, South Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6EA.

Please include your name, and both your postal and email addresses with any comments so we can keep you informed on the progress of consultation process.

Housing -

M&Me App–For council tenants to report repairs

The Council has launched M&Me, a new mobile app developed in partnership with Mears, offering council tenants a quicker and more convenient way to report repairs. Using the app, tenants can:

- Report a repair at any time through the app
- Choose an appointment slot that suits them
- Receive real-time alerts and updates about their repair
- See who will be attending their home and when

Over the coming weeks, Mears will be writing to all council tenants with full details about the new app, including their unique access code.

Saving Water, Saving Money

SCDC has partnered with Control Flow Technologies to help council tenants reduce water use and lower their bills, at no cost to tenants themselves. For some households, this could mean savings of up to £360 a year. Using funding from MHCLG, SCDC is arranging free water audits for tenants with water meters and will be fitting water-saving devices where appropriate. The water audit involves three short visits:

- Visit 1: An engineer will take a meter reading, provide water-saving advice, and discuss current usage.
- Visit 2: The engineer will install a water-saving device on the incoming water mains (a 30–45 minute appointment). They will also check for hidden leaks in toilets, taps, or showers and carry out minor repairs where possible.
- Visit 3: To measure water usage

Council Tenants will be contacted directly with information on how to book their water audit.

Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM) Survey

The Council has appointed MEL Research to carry out the Annual Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM) Survey with all our council tenants. Letters are being sent to tenants inviting them to complete the survey either on paper using the freepost envelope included or online. Reminder letters will also be issued.

The survey includes a set list of questions that all housing providers are required to ask under the Social Housing Regulations and some additional questions that have been developed with tenant reps for greater insight.

Finance – Budget

Budget and Council Tax Setting

At the Council's budget meeting, members approved its business plan and budget for the coming financial year. SCDC is one of the best run councils in the country and is often held up as an exemplar. It continues to deliver high quality services in the face of sustained cuts by central government, including recent reductions to the amount of Business Rates that local authorities can

retain. The meeting agreed to a £5.24 increase for an average Band D property. This works out to 10p a week and below inflation rise.

The table below shows comparison of the different precepts charged across Cambridgeshire. This doesn't include police and fire precepts or the Mayor's precept. It also doesn't include town and parish precepts (which in an increasing number of cases are now larger than the District Council's). As you can see, South Cambridgeshire charges slightly more than Huntingdonshire DC, but significantly less than both Cambridge CC and Fenland DCs.

District	Unitary Precept	District Precept	County Precept	Total
East Cambs		£142.14	£1,785.42	£1,927.56
Huntingdonshire		£170.86	£1,785.42	£1,956.28
South Cambs		£180.64	£1,785.42	£1,966.06
Cambridge		£239.07	£1,785.42	£2,024.49
Fenland		£253.35	£1,785.42	£2,038.77
Peterborough	£1,836.72			£1,836.72

Community Chest Grants

The Council continues to provide Community Chest funding, and this reflects the Council's commitment to sustaining grassroots initiatives and supporting a stronger, more connected community. By investing in these organisations, the district ensures that local people continue to benefit from essential services, social opportunities, and support networks. Community Chest grant funding is available to voluntary and community sector groups, charities and public sector bodies wishing to further improve quality of life in South Cambridgeshire.

Transport

East West Rail (EWR) update – Community Event

As follow on to releasing its report on “You Said – We Did”, EWR has been holding a series of community events giving people the chance to find out more about the latest designs for the railway. The one closest to us here is on Saturday 14 March, 12pm – 2pm at Hauxton Centre, Church Road, Hauxton, Cambridge, CB22 5HS.

Community Updates

Bourn Airfield Community Newsletter

Thank you to all who attended the last Bourn Airfield and Cambourne community liaison meeting held on Wednesday 11th February 2026. The developers gave some very useful updates, especially on Bourn Airfield.

Greycoat have issued the latest February Newsletter for Bourn Airfield with more details of activities going on to build out the site. Includes:

- Work has begun on the Western access through which all construction traffic will be routed from the A428
- An application has been submitted for the highways and infrastructure needed to support the first new homes (new roads, footpaths, cycleways etc. Subject to planning approval, construction is expected to begin in Spring 2026.
- Archaeological investigations are now underway, updates will be shared through a dedicated blog, with key discoveries showcased at a future open day and pop-up displays at the Community Hub

- The Bourn Airfield Community Scrapbook is now live. This growing collection captures local memories, places and stories and will soon be available to view at the new Community Hub
- Working closely with neighbouring communities, including Bourn Quarter, to support local businesses
- Confirmed Barratt Redrow as the first housebuilder on the site. The first phase will deliver around 500 homes, with 40% affordable housing. They hope the first residents will start moving in from Summer 2027.

Mobile Warden Schemes

SCDC has pledged ongoing funding for Community/Mobile Warden Schemes, which provide crucial support for older, disabled and vulnerable residents - ensuring they can live safely and independently in their own homes. The schemes form part of the Council's work to promote healthy and supported communities.

Community Watercourse Maintenance Grants

Cambridgeshire County Council is offering grants of up to £10,000 to support community-led maintenance of watercourses that help reduce local flood risk. These grants are aimed at areas where ownership is unclear or complex, making regular upkeep difficult. Eligible groups include parish councils and community flood groups with active plans to improve water flow and prevent flooding. Grant funding will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications will remain open until all available funds have been allocated – so the County Council encourages interested applicants to apply as early as possible to avoid disappointment. [More information and how to apply](https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/flood-and-water/residents-and-householders/community-flood-action-programme/watercourse-maintenance-grant) at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/flood-and-water/residents-and-householders/community-flood-action-programme/watercourse-maintenance-grant>

Action for Happiness

The Action for Happiness theme for January is at <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/calendar> - **Mindful March**. The focus is “*Let's pause, breathe and notice, so we can respond more mindfully*”. Have a look at the daily calendar which has some really good ideas for daily actions.

Casework

Please do feel free to contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services. I will help as best I can.

You will find the current and past reports on my blog at <https://tumihawkins.org.uk/caldecote-ward/reports/monthly-reports/>. Feel free to read, share and/or download.

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
4 March 2026

Email me @:	tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk
Read my blog at:	http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk
LinkedIn	TumiHawkins
Facebook	@itsCouncillorTumi
Bluesky:	@tumihawkins
Instagram:	@cllrtumi
Twitter:	@CouncillorTumi
Call me on:	07802 323269

Kingston Parish Council

Financial report 28 February 2026

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2025/26 £	Expenditure YTD £	Budget minus expenditure YTD £	Additional Information
Grass and Hedge cutting - Expenditure	4,125	3,453	672	Incl extra verge cuts
Grass and Hedge cutting - Income	(305)	(422)	117	Fasnacloich; County Council (o/s extra inv £621); Campbell
Insurance	308	300	8	no further payments
Clerk's salary	984		984	3 months
Grants (section 137)	850	1,350	(500)	Churchyard maintenance; bollards
Village Hall upgrade	1,288	1,288	0	PWLB 2 tranches paid
Audit fees	105	105	0	no further payments
Village asset maintenance	4,065	3,934	131	playground; tree surgery; land regn; noticeboards; ditch clearance
Subscriptions	627	201	426	Paid: ICO, one.com; To pay: Parish Online, CAPALC
Parish Magazine	727	859	(132)	
Footpath lighting	99	95	4	Rise in standing charges
Miscellaneous and expenses	938	207	731	allotments rent paid to SCDC; bank charges; dog signs
Income other than precept	(716)	(532)	(184)	interest; allotments
Total	13,095	10,838	2,257	

Bank balances	Current account:	503	<i>see below</i>
	Deposit account:	23,062	
At 28 February 2026		23,565	

Reconciliation of bank balances

Balances brought forward	Current account:	556	
	Deposit account:	20,669	
At 01 April 2025		21,225	
Net expenditure as above		(10,838)	
Other items:	Precept income	13,095	
	VAT refund received	884	
	VAT incurred on net expenditure 2025-26	(801)	To be recovered
At 28 February 2026		23,565	<i>As above</i>

Expenditure approved not yet spent

Ash and plum tree work T65 & T70	from tree survey	475	expected Mar 2026
Tree surgery (re power & internet lines)	from tree survey	1,700	expected Mar 2026