

Kingston Parish Council (KPC)

Minutes of Meeting Held at 7.30pm on 11^h March 2025

Present

Paul Wheeler(PW) (Chair)
Mark Nicholls (MN) (Parish Councillor)
Sue Dalgleish (SD) (Clerk)

Julie Conder (JC) (Vice-Chair)
Miki Ellar (ME) (Parish Councillor)
Tumi Hawkins (TH) (County Councillor)

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

1 Apologies

None

2 Approval of Previous Minutes of Parish Council Meetings

- 2.1 Minutes from Meeting on 14th January 2025 approved and signed by PW.
- 2.2 Minutes from Meeting on 20th February 2025 approved and signed by PW.

3 County Councillor's Report – Nothing to report

4 District Councillor's Report – Report Attached Appendix A

TH highlighted the following issues which were discussed:-

4.1 Local government re-organization is being considered on a national level. In the meantime, local elections will continue as usual this year in Cambridgeshire.

4.2 Local elections will take place on 1 May 2025.

4.3 There are plans to increase the five year house building supply to 3492. In addition, there is provisional planning permission for a further 36,000 in the area however full details of how these are to be built by developers is still being considered.

4.4 EWR – Council leaders continue to meet with representatives of EWR to discuss concerns of residents about the project.

4.5 Bus services – there is a new service that has been created called Tiger on demand which is available for use in the area.

4.6 Council Tax for the South Cambs. share of the annual council tax bills has been increased by 2.99 per cent this year.

Matters Ongoing

5 Cranes Lane/The Green – Water issues (PW)

PW has asked to attend an online teams meeting being held by the county council. There are still two blocked drainage pipes in the village – one in Cranes Lane and the other on The Green which we are looking to liaise with the county council about to see if work could be carried out on these blocked drainage pipes.

6 Tree Survey (PW)

We currently have a quotation for tree survey for works in the Orchard which amounts to £725.00. It was agreed that SD would approach the company and ask for an invoice for the works and a date would be arranged for the survey work to be carried out. If possible, this work should be carried out before the end of the current financial year.

7 20 MPH Speed Limit in Kingston (PW)

PW will submit an application for the next round of funding - closing date for applications is 20th March 2025. To help improve the chances of the work being carried out more quickly it was suggested that details of any recent accidents should also be submitted however when checking details there were not any official reports listed at the current time.

8. Update on Land Registry - The Orchard (MN)

MN reported that the cost of registering the land at the northern end of the Orchard was likely to be in the region of £ 1700.00 inclusive of VAT.

It was thought that a rough valuation of the land is £45000.00 to £60000.00. To proceed with the submission, it will be beneficial to obtain signed statements from longstanding residents willing to confirm our understanding of land use on this site over time e.g. as allotments and then garden area/public site is used by all in village. Various names were considered.

The council voted unanimously to agree to proceed with registering ownership of the land in the Orchard. It was agreed that Hewitsons solicitors will be approached to help with the application submission. MN will take the matter forward.

9. Open Spaces Report (MN)

Litter Picking has continued in the village - it was reported that a significant number of rubber gloves had been left in recent months at locations in the village. Water course levels are currently good.

MN reported that good work has been undertaken by landowners to keep drainage ditches running smoothly which is much appreciated.

An accident was also reported at the junction leading up to Highfields Caldecott. Traffic was diverted through Kingston village to allow cars to reach Toft and Comberton.

MN reported that footpaths in the parish are generally in good condition despite the winter weather. It was noted that hedges in Church Lane require trimming and that this will be tackled in autumn when we are allowed to trim hedges in the village again.

Matters Arising

10. Budget Setting 2025 (JC)

JC reported that the parish council's submission for the budget for the year 25/26 had been made. The figure has been accepted and we have received confirmation of acceptance. An item has been placed in the parish magazine to inform those living in the village of our parish council budget of £13095.00 for the upcoming year.

11. New Parish Clerk Recruitment (SD)

SD reported that following discussions with CAPALC, it had been ascertained that SD would be required to work as a voluntary clerk for 12 months. This would ensure that the regulations requiring an ex-councillor not receiving remuneration in a clerical role for 12 months from the date of resignation are met. It will also ensure the minimum wage regulations for all employees are met. It was advised that in November 2025 the council will discuss the matter again as from January 2026 SD will be eligible to become an employee.

12. East West Rail Update (JC)

JC advised that two report submissions have been made to EWR on behalf of the Parish Council - one was part of the non-statutory consultation process and the other was a scoping document.

JC will attend a meeting with MP Pippa Hayling later this week which will be attended by other several parish council representatives. JC advised that she has submitted details of Kingston's concerns which currently focus upon traffic disruption during construction and possible delays to school buses. JC also highlighted that currently there are no plans for any car parking provision at the new South Cambridge Station therefore the question of how people living in Kingston could access the new train line when it was built was also highlighted.

13. ESPO Street Lighting Account (SD)

SD reported that our account with ESPO is now operating normally with regular monthly direct debit collections taking place.

14. Village Grass Vehicle Damage (PW)

PW advised that wooden posts have been installed at the triangle of grass in Church Lane which appear to be helping to prevent vehicles driving over the grass. It was agreed to purchase a further 10 posts so that they can be installed at other locations in the village to try and prevent damage to grass caused by vehicles.

15. Allotment Renewals (SD)

SD advised that all monies have now been received for the current year. We are still awaiting one signed contract document but that should be received shortly.

16. Select Date for APM Meeting (SD)

Tuesday 27th May 2025 was selected by the parish council as the date for the APM meeting this year.

17. Village Hall Car Park Signage Request (PW)

It was decided that the parish council would liaise with the VHMC regarding the cost of signage for the village hall car park.

18. Invoices Paid and for Approval

Company	Service	Date Paid	Amount	Paid by:
Agriplant	Ditch Clearance Work (bill shared with the Crawshaws)	15 January 2025	420.00	B/P
Unity Trust	Bank Service charge	31 January 2025	6.00	D/D
Kingston Village Hall Management Committee	Annual Hall Rental Invoice	3 February 2025	212.00	B/P
Total Energies	Street Lighting Invoice	19 February 2025	9.36	D/D
Unity Trust	Bank Service charge – monthly	28 February 2025	6.00	D/D

All invoices were agreed for payment.

19. Bi-monthly Report (JC) Appendix B

JC reported that the finances were as expected for the time of year. She asked that any outstanding invoices be claimed before the year end on 31 March 2025.

20 Items for next meeting to be held on 13 May 2025

Nothing to report

20. A.O.B

20.1 The White House Planning Enquiry – it was reported that the planning department from South Cambs will be sending a representative to look at the work recently carried out at the site later this week. Further details will follow.

20.2 Tree works planning Application 25/0232/TTCA – this work was agreed.

20.3 Hare Coursing within the Parish – it was reported that hare coursing is still proving to be an issue in the parish. Contact has been made with the county council with regard to access and how to prevent damage. The installation of bollards at certain locations in the village is being considered by local land owners.

20.4 The creation of a Village WhatsApp was discussed and agreed. PW will discuss this further with Peter Stokes.

20.5 Damage to verges in the village was discussed and it has been agreed previously that further protective posts will be installed.

20.6 Reduction of height of a number of trees in the village playpark was discussed - it was agreed to obtain a quotation for costs to look at work on the trees in the village playpark.

20.7 Parking Signs in village hall car park. It was agreed in principle and decided that PW would speak to the VHMC about the cost of works to agree a way forward.

20.8 Annual CAPALC renewal fee was discussed. It was agreed to renew the parish council membership at a rate of £208.58. SD will process this renewal.

20.9 Bus service disruption due to road works – JC highlighted that there has been disruption to the village bus service when road works were carried out in the Eversdens even though this did not actually effect the Kingston village bus route. JC will continue to monitor the situation.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

Minutes reference: 20250311

Signed:

Date:

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward

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

Councillor's Monthly Report – March 2025

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.

Local Government Reorganisation

Talks are continuing between the leaders and chief execs of the 1 county and 5 district councils in Cambridgeshire, to make proposals to the Government on how the reorganisation could happen in this area. A letter needs to go to Government by end of this month, so councils are having to discuss at scheduled full council or extraordinary full council meeting like we are at South Cambs. What we don't yet know is how long it will take government, after the final submissions are made in the autumn, to decide what they are supporting. Once we know this then we shall have to start to work very closely with the other administration's.

Local Elections

In the meantime, the Cambridgeshire County Council and Combined Authority elections are going ahead as scheduled on 1st May 2025. The Pre-election Period starts on 25th March.

Planning Reforms - again

This Government is in a hurry to get houses built, 1.5million homes by the end of this parliament. One of its recent actions-increasing housing targets to take immediate effect, has affected the housing supply situation for many councils across the country, including us in Greater Cambridge as South Cambs and Cambridge City hold a joint trajectory. The number of homes we are required to demonstrate can be built in the next 5 years increased overnight by 3,492. This meant that our healthy 6.4 years of supply fell to 4.6 years as a result of this change, and this despite the fact that we currently have planning permission for some 36,000 new homes across Greater Cambridge. So, to close this gap we need to demonstrate how we can get an additional 933 homes delivered, over and above those already accounted for. The tilted balance applicable in this situation has a narrow angle.

We are therefore working to address the factors we can ourselves, (such as ensuring that planning conditions and outstanding S106 agreements are cleared quickly). Alongside that, we are also pressing government (and the Cambridge Growth Company) to support the housebuilding sector to build more homes quicker.

As per normal practice, the planning service has been carrying out the annual survey of developers' intentions which is now nearing completion, to give us the updated position on housing delivery in April 2025. We are hopeful that we will find ourselves back in a good position. Watch this space.

Infrastructure Updates

East West Rail

EWR notified us that they are starting ground works investigations in a number of areas. They inform us they have notified the relevant Parish Councils. Work could be on going for months and working hours will be limited to 8am to 6pm week-days only.

Furthermore, EWR have restructured the LRGs (Local Representative Groups) to better reflect the section areas presented at the most recent consultations. The Enhanced LRGs are made up of those wards and parishes which fall within the red line boundary. This includes land that would need to be permanently acquired, and land that would be used temporarily for construction. Caldecote is now part of the Croxton to Toft enhanced LRG Group.

The Group will have the opportunity to discuss the proposals to construct approximately 19km of twin-track railway for that Croxton to Toft section, as well as passing loops to enable travel from Bedford to Cambridge. Also will discuss the associated tunnels, bridges, path crossings and culverts for water courses being considered, as well as the construction of a new station at Cambourne. EWR plans to hold these meetings four times a year in person, with the next one aimed to be sometime between April and June.

There will be an LRG Update Webinar on **Wednesday 26 March** for a chance to receive an update on the Non Statutory Consultation and changes to the LRG groups. This will be held via MS Teams and invitations will be issued to you closer to the time.

Bus Services - CPCA

The Combined Authority has introduced TIGER on Demand, a new, flexible concept for delivering public transport services. Rather than being restricted to travelling along specific routes and at specific times, it is available to book a journey to and from anywhere within the TIGER on Demand travel zones using any of the virtual bus stops. Service is available Monday to Saturday from 06:30 – 19:00.

There are a number of virtual stops for villages in the ward as follows:

- Caldecote: Highfields Road (top) and Caldecote Village Hall
- Kingston: Field Road
- Bourn: Kingfisher Close, Short Street, Wysing Arts Centre, Fox Road
- Longstowe: Rushbrook Close
- Little Gransden: Main Road

Check out the full map at <https://transport.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/buses/tiger-on-demand/> which shows all the virtual stops.

There is an app available on Google Play and Apple store, and you can book 48 hours in advance. Or go online to www.tigerondemand.co.uk.

Environmental Services Updates

Green bin collection has now reverted back to fortnightly collection from March onwards.

Blue Bin Recycling Contract

Following a thorough public sector procurement process, Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service (GCSWS) has finalised a new contract for blue bin recycling processing. From March 3rd, a new

provider - Re-Gen Waste Management Ltd - will take over the processing of our recyclable materials.

Importantly, residents will experience no changes to their recycling service. The same items can continue to be placed in blue bins, and collections will remain unchanged. While the materials will now be processed at Re-Gen's facility in Northern Ireland rather than locally at Waterbeach, this decision was made after careful evaluation of all options, with Re-Gen offering the best combination of cost-effectiveness, processing quality, and environmental compliance. The new arrangement includes several positive features. Re-Gen's state-of-the-art facility uses advanced robotics technology that can achieve a 99% recycling rate - higher than current levels. The company has committed to sustainable practices, including plans to use more environmentally friendly fuels and establish a new facility in the Midlands during the contract term. To minimise environmental impact, they will coordinate transport with their existing operations, using return journeys of vehicles already delivering materials across the UK.

Most recyclable materials will continue to be processed within the UK - currently 82% overall and 100% for plastics - maintaining our commitment to domestic recycling. Materials will initially be consolidated at a Waterbeach transfer station before transport to Northern Ireland, where they will be sorted and sold to established UK-based processors and manufacturers.

Finance/Grants/Business/Resource Updates

Last month, South Cambridgeshire agreed its Budget for 2025/26 which see the Council continue as one of the lowest taxing authorities in the country, with a below inflation increase of 2.99%. This translates to less than 10p a week for a band D home bringing the charge for this band to £175.40 for the SCDC part of the Council Tax bill.

The total cost of running the council in 2025/26 is £84 million, the net cost of providing services is £28 million and we will need £33.5 million from taxation; these figures are broadly the same as this financial year despite the increase in costs. This neutral position has been accomplished by productivity improvements including the use of AI, while improving or maintaining service delivery.

Council Tax will bring in £12 million – the other sources being £18 million from Business Rates and £3 million in Government grants. In addition, the council is expecting to receive nearly £8 million in commercial rent and interest from loans in addition to fees and charges mainly from large scale planning applications. Surplus income from taxation enables a transfer of £3.5 million into reserves to meet a predicted deficit in coming years. SCDC has £31.5 million earmarked for various projects ranging from a fund to support renewable projects to support our net zero communities grants schemes to providing support for homelessness.

Turning to capital expenditure, the council expects to spend some £29 million in 2025/26 including the building of the Northstowe Phase One Community Centre - named the "Unity Centre" by the local community - expected to open in early 2026 - featuring a spacious multi-use hall, a playful messy room, meeting rooms, provision for a cafe and a landscape courtyard.

We will also be buying an extra vehicle and employing another member of staff to support the Council's Enviro-Crime team as it tackles fly-tipping. There will also be additional resource to combat and raise awareness of fraud, plus further support to strengthen ties with parish and town councils.

Grant Funding Opportunity - Increased grant Funding for Electric Vehicle chargers

Funding available from the Council's Electric Vehicle charging grant has increased from £5,000, to up to £12,000 per project. This grant is open to parish councils, community groups and charities for public EV chargers in car parks associated with community buildings and village halls. Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis and is open for the remainder of the 2024/25 financial year. We cannot guarantee the funding will be available into next financial year, so encourage those interested in applying to get in touch soon. For more information about this grant, please visit the website. If you would like to know about community EV charging more generally, please visit Electric vehicle charging - South Cambs District Council, where you can find a video by Steeple Morden Parish Council which explains how they installed their EVCP. You can also contact the Council on evcp.grant@scambs.gov.uk

Housing Updates

Northstowe

Happy to report that the ground breaking ceremony for the new Unity Community Centre for Phase 1 took place early this month. South Cambs has contributed £6.5 million to make up the shortfall in the £2.2million S106 that was earmarked for it back in 2014. Its also had some funds from the Combined Authority via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. You can read more about it at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/news/groundbreaking-ceremony-marks-the-start-of-construction-for-northstowes-unity-centre>.

Part of the Budget process at SCDC includes the Housing Revenue Account. The cost of repairing, improving, and building new council homes cannot by law be subsidised by Council Tax or Business Rates. So, the cost of this (apart from Right to Buy receipts, S106 funding from housing developers and Government grants) is shouldered by our council tenants through their rents or others renting other housing assets such as council garages.

SCDC has over 2,000 families on the housing waiting list so building more council homes for rent is a priority and we have a target of delivering at least 75 new homes a year. We have 5,815 council homes, up from 5,705 last year. We also want to improve the standard of our existing homes, particularly their energy efficiency. In 2025/26 we also have a £205 million loan to repay on top of the £12 million borrowing to build more homes: taken out in 2012 to pay the then Government to keep all council house rents for the council. This loan has to be repaid by council tenants. So we have had to increase council rents by 2.7% bringing the average rent to £129.98 a week bringing an income of £38 million. Some 40% of our tenants receive Housing Benefit.

Glad to acknowledge how helpful Ian Sollom MP has been involving himself in local issues, and helping us regarding Northstowe in particular. We've just completing the purchase/build of 24 flats which are part of the 60 affordable homes in this next phase of the development. We already have 24 new council houses being lived in.

Water Efficiency – Retrofitting

South Cambs received £5.32mil from the Water Scarcity Fund to use in installing retrofitting measures into our own housing stock and council buildings and possibly also into schools to limit water use and waste. There will also be work on fixing leaks as part of this work. The devices that will be fitted reduces the flow/pressure of water.

Community Updates

Ukraine 3 year anniversary

The South Cambs Council Leader Cllr Bridget was invited to speak at a demonstration in Cambridge to mark the 3rd anniversary of the Russian Invasion of Ukraine. We are proud in South Cambs to have welcomed more guests from Ukraine into than any other District in the Country. 953 guests in total hosted by a total of 545 of our residents. This has been down to the enormous efforts of our officer teams who have at times worked day and night to support all of our guests and their hosts. A number of our guests have also written to the Leader to express their gratitude and how well they've been supported.

South Cambs Magazine – Spring Edition

The Spring edition of the magazine is now published and should be hitting doorsteps by mid March. The magazine is delivered through a distribution company, so anyone who does not receive their copy should contact Smart Distribution, email scdc@smartdistribution.co.uk, Tel: 0800 6444 011. Please copy me in on the email so I am aware and can help chase if necessary. The magazine is also available online at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/the-south-cambs-magazine>.

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.

Local Issues/Events

Bourn Quarter Memorial Stone Unveiling

The developers of Bourn Quarter are inviting residents to the unveiling of a memorial stone to honour the service men and women who operated out of the former airfield. Its on Saturday 29th March 2025, 12pm – 3pm at Bourn Quarter. It would be great if the parish councils, especially Bourn and Caldecote could send representatives. Please share with friends and neighbours.

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
6 March 2025

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

Kingston Parish Council

Financial report 28 February 2025

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2024/25 £	Expenditure YTD £	Budget minus expenditure YTD £	Additional Information
Grass and Hedge cutting - Expenditure	2,914	3,268	(354)	2 invs Buchans (£968); lawnmower hire; new contractor autumn cut
Grass and Hedge cutting - Income	(311)	(305)	(6)	Fasnacloich and County Council
Insurance	467	300	167	New insurer
Clerk's salary	3,101	497	2,604	2 months
Grants (section 137)	850	1,350	(500)	Solar panels village hall; Churchyard maintenance
Village Hall upgrade	1,288	1,288	0	PWLB 2 of 2 tranches paid
Audit fees	78	80	(2)	
Village asset maintenance	1,035	1,665	(630)	Defibrillator pads; bus shelter cleaning 2yrs; RoSPA inspection; tree surgery; MetroRod; goalposts; verge posts; ditches (net of receipt). To pay: tree survey?
Subscriptions	569	461	108	Paid: ICO, CAPALC, one.com; ACRE; SLCC and Parish Online to pay
Parish Magazine	862	709	153	No further payments expected
Footpath lighting	353	122	231	New supplier
Miscellaneous and expenses	1,000	417	583	allotments rent paid to SCDC; village hall hire; bank charges; job ad
Income other than precept	(488)	(547)	59	interest; allotments
Total	11,718	9,305	2,413	

Bank balances	Current account:	802	<i>see below</i>
	Deposit account:	21,504	
At 28 February 2025		22,306	

Reconciliation of bank balances

Balances brought forward	Current account:	3,465	
	Deposit account:	16,357	
At 01 April 2024		19,822	
Net expenditure as above		(9,305)	
Other items:	Precept income	11,718	
	VAT refund received	849	For financial year 2023-24
	VAT incurred on net expenditure 2024-25	(778)	To be recovered
At 28 February 2025		22,306	<i>As above</i>