Kingston Annual Parish Meeting
Minutes of Meeting Held at 7.30pm on 27th May 2025

Present

Paul Wheeler (PW) (Chair) Julie Conder – Vice - Chair (JC)
Miki Ellar - Councillor (ME) Mark Nicholls - Councillor (MN)
Sue Dalgleish - Clerk (SD)

Melissa Alexander (MA) Linda Washington (LW) Peter Reynolds (PR)
Jill Coleman (JCo) Rachel Hooper (RH) Lisa Tan (LT)
Keith Tan (KT) Linda Rimmer (LR) Irena Heyman (IH)
Peter Stokes (PS) Tim Colquhon (TC) Donal O'Donnell (DD)
Suzy Stokes (SS)

Apologies - Tumi Hawkins (TH), Christopher Morris (CM)

Meeting commenced at 7.38pm

Paul Wheeler welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. Parochial Church Council - Appendix A

PR reported that there have been several changes in people involved in helping run the PCC over the past year. The PCC has sadly lost three members who have played a large role over the years and they will be sadly missed. They have also welcomed some new members - Christine Allison, Janet Clear and Melissa and their support is very much appreciated. PR also mentioned that a new rector has recently been appointed and it is expected he will take up his role on 1st September 2025 – his name is Matthew Phillips.

The finances of PCC still provide challenges as income is around £10,000 but expenditure runs at around £13,000 - therefore fund raising continues to play an important role. The upcoming Open Garden event is planned for 29th June 2025 - support from everyone in the village will be much appreciated.

2. Chair of Parish Council's Report - Appendix B

Personnel – PW advised that Sue Dalgleish has stepped down as Chair of the Parish Council and taken on the role of Clerk. PW has taken on the role of Chair of the Parish Council. The Parish Council has also have appointed a new auditor this year – Ben Stoehr.

Planning – the Parish Council has processed 22 planning applications in the past year. We have also logged 21 highways fault reports of which only 2 remain

outstanding. We also have one non-compliance case and are currently awaiting a report following investigations.

Open Spaces – the Parish Council are currently carrying out work to register a plot of land at The Orchard which has been brought to our attention as not having been registered with the land registry authorities.

Hare coursing has continued to prove to be a problem in the parish. We have been in contact with the footpaths officer to report cases. Recently, steel bollards have been installed around the village to try and prevent hare coursing, especially along the Wimpole Way.

Grass Cutting – We have appointed a new contractor this year. We are currently monitoring weather conditions and arranging for our grass cutting schedule to reflect changes in season – our new contractor is happy to be flexible as this allows us to target attention towards specific areas if required.

We have continued to work on a programme of ditch clearance as this helps drainage within the village. Currently we are in correspondence with the County Council regarding responsibility of the ditches in Cranes Lane.

The 2025 village play park inspection was carried out recently and we are currently working on the findings to help us plan future maintenance works in the play park.

Transport - East West Rail – the Parish Council continues to monitor developments in respect of East West Rail and we have attended several meetings over the past year.

20 MPH Speed Limit- we have again applied to benefit from funding for the 20 MPH speed limit scheme for the village. This scheme has proved to be very popular and over-subscribed so we await details later in the year to hear if our application has been successful.

3. **Transport Report -** Appendix C

JC advised that she has attended several meetings to ensure that Kingston is seen and heard at higher levels to ensure that our transport needs as a village are considered. The general view on the No 18 bus service provided by Whippet is that it appears to have improved compared with the past however we are aware there can still be problems at times. JC asked that, if anyone suffers from problems with our bus service, that they send an email and she will investigate and raise the matter with Whippet. JC also continues to monitor the topic of bus franchising to see what this might mean for Kingston.

EWR – we continue to monitor communications from EWR. The business case between a northern and southern route still seems to be in discussion – we have attended several meetings over the past year and will continue to monitor the provisions that are being made for disruption to local communities if and when

we get to the construction stage of the project as this could affect bus services and create quite a level of road disruption I and around Kingston.

4, Open Spaces Report - Appendix D

MN mentioned that there has been an increase in fly tipping incidents within the village this year. We continue to liaise with the council to have items removed. If anyone spots cases of fly tipping, could they please take a photo of the items and send details to the Parish Council and we will arrange for the items to be removed. Adding photographs speeds up the removal as it helps the council ascertain what type of waste they are required to remove and can then send appropriately equipped teams.

5. **Clerk's Report -** Appendix E

1. Costs

SD reported that KPC's funds were healthy at present but that costs, particularly grass cutting and other village asset repair costs have risen. As there is currently no parish clerk salary being paid this has helped cover the increase in costs of the two above mentioned areas.

Grants have been made towards churchyard maintenance and the VHMC for solar Panels on the village hall.

2. Bank Accounts

SD reported that our bank balance is healthy at a level of £ 21225.00 which is an increase from last year's figure of £ 19822.00. We do however have to be mindful that we might have some large expenditure in respect of various items of play equipment in coming years as the wood in some of the structures is wearing and we also might need to add special surfaces around play equipment to comply with safety regulations.

6. **District Councillor's Report -** Appendix F

TH was unable to attend the meeting but forwarded her report, which was made available at the meeting.

7. **County Councillor's Report**

Nothing to report

8. Kingston Village Hall Management Committee Report - Appendix G

PS reported that the village Hall was in a good financial state - thanks to it's charitable status. PS reported that casual events in the village hall such as coffee mornings and pub night continue to be popular. Larger one-off events have however had to be cancelled due to a lack of support which raises the question of how to approach fundraising in the future as the village hall relies on a few events to help funds to allow it to operate each year.

The installation of solar panels will help reduce the running costs of the hall considerably.

PS also asked people in the village to consider volunteering to help with the running of the village hall as there are many roles available and all support is always greatly appreciated.

9. KINGSTON POOR CHARITY - Appendix H

DD reported that the Kingston Poor Charity is financially sound at the current time. The main tenant is now paying the full level of rent which has increased annual income the Charity receives greatly to £4500 per annum. In the past year the charity has paid out £1850.00 to two school leavers and also in 7 other cases.

DD mentioned that the charity currently has a balance of £13000 – of this, £3000 is a deposit belonging to the tenant for rental of the site which would have to be returned if/when the tenancy is ended.

The charity had to pay significant legal fees to set up the tenancy agreement however the benefits of the larger rental are now starting to be appreciated and this places the charity in a good financial position for the future. DD reported that registering the land is still in hand and being processed.

10. Open Forum

10.1 PS asked if an area of the playpark could have the hedge trimmed to allow better use of the bench seating in that area. PW advised that it is planned for September.
10.2 It was asked whether there were any plans on how The Orchard could be used for more community events. PW said the topic would be discussed at the next parish council meeting in July.
10.3 It was asked if information about planning applications could be placed in the village magazine - PW advised the topic would be discussed at the next parish council meeting in July.
10.4 JCo mentioned that the footpath between Southsea Farm, Kings wood and Kingston Pastures is cracked and perhaps needing attention. It was agreed that this would be looked into.
10.5 The frequency of grass cutting was discussed - currently the parish council are looking at a more flexible cutting schedule rather than a standard two cuts per month system. This is dependent on weather conditions but also helps give a more rural village feel which appears to be popular with residents. It also helps reduce some of the grass cutting costs. We will be revisiting the schedule of works during the year and it is envisaged that changes will be made as weather conditions change.
10.6 The issue of times when the No 18 bus does not arrive in the village was raised - it was reported that this has happened on two occasions in the past year when a person was wanting to travel which was inconvenient. JC asked that if

anyone experiences this again they contact her so that she can talk with Whippet to find the reasons and also work towards ensuring that it does not happen again.

PW thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting finished at 8:34pm.

Minutes reference: 20252705

Signed: ……..

Date: ……..

Appendix A

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS AND SAINT ANDREW, KINGSTON – 31st MARCH 2024 – 1st APRIL 2025

1. **Statement required under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956**: The Parochial Church Council agrees to cooperate with the Team Rector in charge of the Papworth Team Ministry (Team East) in promoting in the parish of Kingston the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

2. Members of the Council who have served during the current financial year

Revd Nigel Pearson (NP)
Kay Forsythe (Treasurer, KF)
Lee Steele (LS)
Peter Reynolds (Secretary, PR)
Linda Rimmer (LR)
Torrie Smith (to April 2024, TS)

Parochial Church Council Meetings were held four times**:** on 17.04.24, following the APCM; on 02.07.24; on 03.10.24; and on 16.01.25.

3. The following were the principal matters dealt with by the PCC March 2024 – March 2025:

i. Gift Day 06.07.24 with Teddy Bear Parachuting from tower raised £3,090 for the General Purposes Fund and £1,750 for the Restoration Fund (+ Gift Aid).
ii. Donations to charities: £175 to Help for Heroes (from 2023 Remembrance) and £50 to the Cambs Historic Churches Trust.
iii. Maintaining public worship – reduced to one service of Family Worship each month. Harvest Festival 12.10.24 (Harvest Supper cancelled for lack of support); Remembrance Service 10.11.24, well attended; Christmas Carol Service 15.12.24 with the new Papworth Team Choir, and Christmas Eve service.
iv. Five Concerts: The Ermine Street Band with Patrick Dailly, 28.04.24; three Harcamlow-Music concerts organised by Hartmut Kuhlmann and Gwen Owen Robinson, Canzona 'Les Nations', 10.05.24; 'The Galant Flute', 21.06.24; The London Haydn Quartet, 27.09.24; and The Bingham Quartet 'A Christmas Carol' 13.12.25 organised by Jeremy Harmer.
v. One Funeral: James Clear 02.12.24.
vi. Annual inspection of fabric; fire extinguisher inspection by Morgan Fire Protection 05.02.25 (£112.56).
vii. Nave ceiling, south aisle roof and south clerestory window repairs. Final Certificate issued 02.09.24 following inspection by architect on 30.08.24. Payment of retention sum (invoice 02.09.24) of £2,940.81 (+ VAT of £588.16) and final payment to Archangel Architects of £250.80 (+ VAT £50.16). Total cost of project, including unscheduled works and cleaning of chancel arch wall painting £164,204 (ex VAT, recovered through Listed Places of Worship scheme (See Fabric Report for details).
viii. Application to Thalia WB Community Fund for final £10,000 instalment of £57,000 grant.
ix. The church was inspected by (i) Ruth Brennan of Historic England 18.04.24. She sent the PCC a letter of congratulations for successfully completing the ceiling and roof repairs

and had removed the church from the Heritage At Risk Register (21.05.24); and (ii) by Uday Rachiani of ENTRUST on 24.05.24. ENTRUST is the government regulator for the Landfill Communities Fund and is required to inspect projects such as ours, which received a grant of £57,000 from the Thalia WB (formerly Amey) Community Fund.

x. Following the removal of the old safe, repairs to tower wall in lime render (and area on south side of chancel arch) were carried out by G Cook and Sons (invoice 30.05.24) £780 + VAT of £156.00 (VAT recovered).

xi. Parish chest inspected by Ludovic Potts (Furniture Conservator) 14.05.24.

xii. Celebratory reception on 21.09.24 to mark delivery of new chalice and paten on commissioned from Jonny Stokes and Alewijn Slingerland of the Bishopsland Educational Trust. The chalice and paten were loaned for entry to the annual Goldsmiths' Craft and Design Council Competition and the two silversmiths were awarded three prizes at Goldsmiths' Hall on the 3rd March 2025, including the Gold Award for the Silversmithing Design category.

xiii. PCC Membership: Torrie Smith resigned from the PCC in April 2024. He and Linda Smith left the village in December 2024 after 35 years of service to the church. Torrie was a PCC member, a Churchwarden, twice Treasurer, and much involved with fund raising and other events, including two Auctions of Promises; Linda organised the church flowers rota.

xiv. Resignation of Kay Forsythe and appointment (PCC meeting of 03.10.24) of Jane Coutts of Papworth Everard as a paid Treasurer.

xv. Consideration of future staffing arrangements for the Papworth Team following the Rev'd Stephen Day's departure in August 2023. The Rev'd Nigel di Castiglione announced his intention to retire 2025 and resigned as Team Rector 05.01.2025 so as to vacate the Elsworth Rectory, and he was then appointed as interim Team Vicar. PCC produced a Parish Profile for inclusion in a Team Profile, and the Team Rector post advertised – one candidate now under consideration. NP had represented Kingston in deliberations with the Archdeacon and the Papworth Team.

4. **Finances to 31.12.2024**

The main regular sources of funding for the church have been donations by standing orders and income from the Endowment Fund. Grants totalling £3,079 were received with thanks from the Parish Council towards the upkeep of the churchyard (£850) and for the production of the Parish and Church Magazine.

The Treasurer's Annual Report had been circulated by Jane Coutts before the meeting and showed total income for the year to December 31st 2024 for the General Purposes Account as £65,201 (£285,190 in 2023)) and expenditure £63,629 (£286,152 in 2023), with an excess of income over expenditure of £1,572 (minus £962 in 2023). Dividends from the Endowment Fund to 31.12.23 were £2,399 (£2,408 in 2023). Gift Aid tax refunds on donations amounted to £4,265 (£2,731 in 2023). The accounts were inspected by the Team Treasurer Simon Fordham 19.04.25.

Balances

Fund	31.12.2024	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.12.2021	31.12.2020
General	£10,262	£8,689	£9,651	£8,610	£7,188
Restoration	£28,190	£29,522	£45,694	£26,029	£18,419
Todd Fund	£827	£811	£796	£786	£777
Endowment	£60,417	£59,368	£57,043	£63,740	£57,021

valuation					

The Parish Ministry Share was £7,024 (£7,031 in 2023) and Kingston's Team contribution was £1,899 (£1,860 in 2023).

5. **The Electoral Roll** There were 20 members on the roll to April 1st 2025. A new Electoral Roll is now being drawn up as required under the Church Representation Rules.

6. Attendance at services

Average Sunday attendances

Service	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**
H. C.	6	7	6	5	6	6	5	5	4	5	0
E. P.	6	6	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
F. S.	13	14	10	10	10	10	11	5	5	7	6

Attendance at the major festivals

Festival	**2014**	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**
Easter	49	33	39	23	42	38	0	25	30	29	30
Harvest	21	26	17	32	27	21	20	12	12	15	15
Carol Service	31	[52]	[45]	36	35	35	0	15	15	21	43
Christmas Eve/Day	30	47	41	20	35	20	16	3	17	14	16
Total	**131**	**158**	**142**	**111**	**139**	**114**	**36**	**55**	**74**	**79**	**104**

The monthly services of Holy Communion were suspended from April 2024. Attendance at Family Service was stable but remained very low. The Carol Service attendance included the Papworth Team Choir and supporters numbering about 20.

Secretary Peter Reynolds

Signed……Chairperson

April 2025

Appendix B

Chairman's Report for Kingston Annual Parish Meeting

27th May 2025

Welcome to the Kingston Annual Parish Meeting (KAPM) of 2025. The KAPM allows for the Kingston Parish Council (KPC), and other Organisations within Kingston, to provide a Brief to the Kingston residents, and gives the opportunity, for those in attendance, to ask questions or raise for discussion any matter of common interest.

Before I inform you with the KPC Brief, I would first like to thank our Councillors Julie Condor, Mark Nicholls and Miki Ellar for their contributions and support to the KPC over the past year.

Special mention must be made for the tireless work undertaken by Sue Dalgleish, without whom the KPC would not function.

In general, the Parish Council's activities in the past Year have fallen into 5 categories:

Personnel

Several changes have had to be made over the past 12 months, resulting in :

The position of Parish Clerk has now been taken up by Sue Dalgleish.

The position of Chair has now been taken up by Paul Wheeler.

Ben Stoehr has been employed as the new Accounts Auditor.

Planning Applications

We have received, and responded to, 22 planning applications over the past Year. Full details of all these Planning Applications can be found on the South Cambridgeshire Planning Website pages at https://applications.greatercambridgeplanning.org/online-applications/.

Highways

In total, 21 Highway Fault Reports have been submitted, primarily to do with Pothole repairs. Of these, 2 remain.

These relate to the broken rainwater drain on Cranes Lane and the blocked rainwater drain grill on the Green. Both are currently being assessed by the County Council Drainage and Resilience Team(CCDRT) for the implementation of a Drain Mapping exercise to be undertaken in the two said areas.

Conservation Area Non-Compliance (CANC)

The KPC has submitted 1 CANC. To which we are awaiting an official Report as to outcome.

Open Spaces

Land Registration.

A Land Registration Request, on behalf of the KPC, has been submitted for one parcel of land within the Orchard.

Hare Coursing.

As a result of the Hare Coursing incidents within the Parish, approval has been sought and granted by the County Council Footpath Office for the installation of steel bollards on the Bridleway along Wimpole Way and some of the surrounding Footpaths. The costs an installation are being covered by the Landowners effected.

Village Grass Cutting and Hedgerow Maintenance.

A new Contractor for the Village Grass Cutting and Hedgerow Maintenance has been identified, with a flexible activity schedule. This will form the basis of the activities required in 2026.

Yearly clearance of ditches within the Village boundary as a result of Riparian ownership.

A joint funded arrangement has been established with Crawshaws of The Old Farmhouse, to cover the management of the ditch and gullies opposite The Green.

The KPC will self-fund the management of the ditches and gullies along Church Lane and Bourn Road.

The position along Cranes Lane is subject to Land Searches by CCDRT which are on-going.

Play Park.

Rectification of the 2024 Inspection Report Findings for the Play Park were completed.

The 2025 Report has now been received with additional Findings. These are to be evaluated in due course.

20 MPH Road speed restrictions.

A request has been submitted to South Cambridgeshire County Council(SCCC) for funding to cover the introduction of a 20 MPH Road speed within the Village.

East West Rail (EWR).

The KPC continues a watching brief on EWR.

Conclusion.

The KPC continues to strive to maintain, and improve upon past standards, at the same time as keeping the Rural setting of the Village. This is what Residents have mentioned more than anything.

To do so now, requires more than willing hands, as we need to move to outsourcing more activities.

To achieve this, we are looking to increase the number of Parish Councillors to assist us on the way forward.

“To help you, we need your help.”

Information on Parish matters can be found on the village website at https://kingstonvillage.org.uk and in the Parish Magazine.

Paul Wheeler
Chairman
Kingston Parish Council

Appendix C

Transport Report

Kingston Number 18 Bus Service

I am continuing to monitor the bus service in Kingston provided by Whippet, so please do let me know of your experiences using it, both good and bad.

A revised timetable introduced at the end of last year reinstated a few of our services. So although we still don't have a bus running in the evenings or on a Sunday, we do have a frequency of about one an hour the rest of the time, which is excellent for a village of our size. The national government initiative that started in 2023 to encourage bus use with the provision of £2 single fares is continuing to operate. There is also a Tiger Bus Pass scheme offering £1 fares for those under 25.

The current timetable for our route is available on the Whippet website https://www.whippetbus.co.uk/times/1818a/18/

and similar information is available here http://www.cambridgeshirebus.info/

Whippet has a feed on X (formerly Twitter) which gives advance warning of problems and cancellations https://x.com/GoWhippet

There is also a "MyBusTrip" app produced in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council, giving "real-time information", for Android and iPhone users.

Bus Franchising

This is an initiative of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, to give more power to the local authority over our bus services. The plans were approved in principle by the previous mayor in February 2025 and It is expected that the scheme will still go ahead under the new mayor, but we wait to find out more details.

East West Rail ("EWR")

The project is progressing. Local communities in South Cambridgeshire are continuing to make strenuous attempts to persuade EWR to reconsider the southern route and work on a northern route that would create a 'traffic corridor' with the A428. Realistically however there is little indication that EWR will change their minds.

Kingston Parish Council continues to attend meetings and participate in consultations. Our goal is to keep ourselves informed, and in particular to highlight our concerns about what might happen during the construction period. This is likely to last for several years and is likely to involve local traffic disruption, diversions and noise, which will have an impact on journeys throughout the local area. It may also disrupt bus services and school buses (no details of what might be involved yet, but we want to be prepared).

Julie Conder
Kingston Parish Councillor 15th May 2025

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Appendix D

Open Spaces Report for the Annual Parish Meeting, May 2025

Rights of Way

Thanks must once again go to the landowners and others who have ensured that paths are well signposted and ditches well maintained. At the time of writing, all official routes are passable; work is promised to improve the steps across the ditch half-way along Footpath 11. The blight of hare coursing has moved some landowners to enhance gates and fences, and may also be met by the installation of other removal barriers to vehicular traffic on some bridleways, in agreement with the County Council.

Winter work has again ensured that the permissive path by the old railway bridge site on the B1046 remains open to cyclists and pedestrians. Work to refresh road markings at the centre of the village has been budgeted for by the Highways Department this year.

Grass Cutting

The mowing of grass greens and verges around the village is now in the hands of a new contractor, incurring a modest increase in cost but with pleasing, promising results to date.

Potholes

The ravages of winter once again left stretches of our roads in a poor state. Potholes and instances of damage to verges in the parish have as usual been logged on the County Council's Highways Reporting Tool, and the more threatening potholes have periodically been patched up. Such problems are of course county wide, indeed nationwide, and we can but press for our proportionate share in any remedial work.

Hedges and Trees

Several householders have arranged remedial tree work on their properties. The Council has committed to a survey of trees growing on communal spaces, which will help to prioritise necessary conservation and replacement schedules over the next few years.

The Play Area

The equipment, fencing, gate and grounds continue to be inspected weekly, to identify and address problems resulting from insidious wear and tear. In the past year, the Chair has overseen welcome work to refresh the goalposts and nets, while mowing of the Play Area has of course been included in the new grass cutting schedule.

Speed Limits and Parking

Noting the steady increase in traffic borne by our local highways, and the absence of pavements, the Council remains committed to pursuing a 20mph speed limit through the centre of the village, covering stretches currently restricted to 30mph. In the annual competition for funding our case continues to be trumped by those made by more populous,

busier villages, but Kingston's application has received much thought, and is by no means the weakest. We hope that our turn will come around before too long.

The Sweards

Once again, some necessary stile and fencing repairs have been undertaken on the Sweards, with fallen branches removed in early spring. The Bourn Brook on this stretch is free from problematic blockages.

Street Signs

Attempts have again been made to clean some of our more worn street signs. While the County Council might be willing to replace older signs, they are likely to offer us plastic 'black on white' replacements not necessarily in keeping with the quality or design of existing signage. We sense that most villagers might prefer something 'better', which would of course incur parish expenditure. The situation continues to be monitored.

Information on visitor parking in the centre of the village has been promulgated more clearly, through additional signage and adjustments to the website. We hope that these moves will help reduce the number of visitors choosing to park on verges and along our narrower roads.

Drainage

The grip on the right side of the Green south of Green Ley has again been dug out, and a second grip cut to the same ditch now carries more of the water running down this road. Water still pools in several locations during heavy downpours, causing temporary annoyance to vehicle and pedestrian alike, but it can be noted that the pooling does clear reasonably swiftly when the rain stops. The Parish Council again wish to record thanks to all those residents who have cleared and maintained ditches on and alongside their properties.

Investigations continue into deficiencies prompting longstanding drainage issues around the crossroads. It is hoped that necessary work can be identified and carried out before too long.

Litter

Incidents of fly tipping are reported promptly to the County Council. Litter is cleared from the verges and ditches on the three roads leading out of the village centre, on something approaching a monthly schedule. Safety considerations limit more sporadic attempts to clear the B1046 verges.

Registration of Parish Land

Continuing a process undertaken in respect of the Village Green some years ago, the Council has recently approached the Land Registry to register its ownership of the northern section of the Orchard. In the absence of title deeds, our case rests on documentation of our administration of and care for this plot, found for example in parish council and parish meeting minutes going back many decades. It is hoped that the Land Registry will formally accept our case in the near future. We note in passing that the purchase of the southern portion of the Orchard in 1994 was duly registered in line with current practice.
Mark Nicholls

E

Appendix E

Kingston Parish Council - Annual Parish Meeting Clerk's Report-15 May 2025

I have attached a summary of income and expenditure for the year 2024/2025 and will now highlight a few items from this.

1.Grass and Hedge Cutting

We have appointed a new gardening contractor this year - James Wakeling. We continue to receive a payment from the County Council for the cutting of grass verges within the village and also from Mrs Heyrnan for cutting an area of grass owned by her that adjoins Field Row.

2.Grants

Two grants were made in the financial year 2024/25 - an amount of E850.00 to the Parochial Church Council for churchyard maintenance and an amount of E500.OO to the Village Hall Management Committee as a contribution towards the installation of solar panels.

3 Communication

The Parish Council uses the magazine to disseminate information to residents. The magazine continues to be delivered to all households in the parish free of charge. The Parish Council made a contribution of €708.97 towards the cost of the magazine.

Miki Ellar acts as our editor and continues to do a wonderful job collating information each month about local events being held throughout the parish. We also have the village email system operated by Peter Stokes and the village WhatsApp system to pass on details of events to everyone in the village — if you would like your details added to either of these please contact the parish clerk at clerk@kingstonvillage.org.uk who can arrange for this to happen.

4.Bank Balances

Our total bank balances as at the end of the year stood at E21225.00 This represents an increase on last year's figure of E 19822.00 and represents a healthy reserve.

Although our reserves are healthy, we do however face a repair bill for works to some of the play equipment in the village play park. We are currently researching the costs of these works and envisage that money will have to be taken from parish council reserves to fund this.

4. Audit of accounts

Our formalities for the audit for the 2024/25 financial year are complete. The internal auditor has completed his report. Anybody may request to inspect the Parish Council accounts and other documentation. Results of the audit are published in the usual way.

Parish Clerk

15 May 2025

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL - FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2024/25

2024/25 £		***2023/24*** £
INCOME		
11,718	Precept	*10,892*
305	Grasscutting	*311*
622	Interest earned	*416*
60	Allotment rent	*60*
849	VAT reclaim for previous years	*1,230*
13,554	**Total**	***12,909***
EXPENDITURE		
300	Insurance	*449*
80	Audit fees	*75*
3,570	Grass and hedge cutting	*2,805*
497	Clerk's salary	*2,467*
129	Footpath lighting	*85*
705	Subscriptions	*460*
1,350	Grants	*850*
1,288	Village Hall improvement project	*1,288*
2,215	Asset maintenance	*594*
709	Parish magazine	*670*
423	Miscellaneous	*1,126*
885	VAT (reclaimable)	*848*
12,151	**Total**	***11,717***
INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURE		
1,403		***1,192***
BANK BALANCE AT 31 Mar		
21,225	**Total**	***19,822***
1,403	Change last year to this year	*1,192*

Kingston Parish Council

Financial report 31 March 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	3,570	(656)	2 invs Buchans (E968); lawnmower hire; new contractor autumn & spring cuts
Grass and Hedge cutting Income	(311)	(305)	(6)	Fasnacloich and County Council
Insurance	467	300	167	New insurer
Clerks sala	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		PWLB 2 of 2 tranches paid
Audit fees	78	80	(2)	
Village asset maintenance	1 ,035	2,21 5	(1,180)	Defibrillator pads; bus shelter cleaning 2yrs; RoSPA inspection; tree surgery; MetroRod; goalposts; verge posts; ditches (net of receipt); playground maintenance• arkin si ns
Subscriptions	569	705	(136)	Paid: ico; CAPALC 2yrs; one.com; ACRE• Parish Online
Parish Magazine	862	709	153	
Foot ath li htin	353	129	224	New su lier
Miscellaneous and expenses	1 ,ooo	423	577	allotments rent paid to SCDC; village hall hire• bank char es •ob ad
Income other than precept	(488)	(682)	194	interest; allotments
Total	11,718	10,279	1,439	

Bank balances	Current account:	556
	Deposit account:	20,669
At 31 March 2025		**21,225**

see below

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		(10,279)	
Other items:	Precept income	11,718	
	VAT refund received	849	For financial year 2023-24
	VAT incurred on net expenditure 2024-25	(885)	To be recovered
At 31 March 2025		21,225	As above

Appendix F

Thank You to Caldecote Ward

Caldecote Ward of South Cambridgeshire District Council
includes the villages of Caldecote, Childerley, Bourn,



Kingston,
Longstowe and Little Gransden

Thank you to all the residents of the ward, and especially to
the parish councillors and community groups across the ward

for your continuing support and trust. Also for working with me
to solve issues of concern that arose during the last year in
each community.

It is a pleasure to serve you, as I've been doing since May
2010 when you first elected me, and subsequently in 2014,
2018 and 2022.

As we look back at the last year, I encourage us to look



forward to the next one as we build on our successes.

South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC)

A new website launched in March 2025 at **https://www.scambs.gov.uk/** includes information and contacts for the services of SCDC which include:

• Planning (shared service with Cambridge City Council)

• Benefits

• Bins (Waste collection & Recycling - shared service with Cambridge City Council)

• Climate & Environment

• Community & People

• Cost of Living Support

• Council tax collection & support

• Business support and development

• Health & Wellbeing

• Environmental Health



• Housing

• Licensing

South Cambridgeshire District Council

Some of our recent success stories

It's good to have this opportunity to look back at 2024-25, to celebrate and recognise the key moments of success and development we've seen over the past year.

- We've delivered nearly 400 new Council homes since April 2020.
- As a Council we've invested in the LIFT software, which is allowing us to target our cost-of-living support and reach the most vulnerable people in our district.
- We have supported numerous markets around the district and now have 14 markets that run regularly throughout the year. This includes our own Christmas Market, which has hosted 240 traders since 2021 and attracts up to 1,500 visitors annually.
- We have reduced emissions from our operations and estate by 22% from 2018/19 levels.

South Cambridgeshire District Council



Some of our recent success stories

• We've provided funding to help communities respond to the climate and ecological emergencies, including £625,000 through our Zero Carbon Communities grants.

• In late 2024 we launched 'SAM', our artificial intelligence website assistant. In its first 25 days it received 1,152 requests - of which 87% were successfully responded to.

• We have supported 1,785 people with cost-of-living assistance.

• We have supported 937 guests through the Homes for Ukraine scheme - among the highest in the country for a District Council.

• We've delivered the Temporary Community Centre and Sports Pavilion at Northstowe. Plans have also

been approved for Northstowe's Permanent Community Centre and building work has already begun.
• We allocated Government grants to support local businesses, communities and the local economy, including £876,000 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund and £200,000 to help

Appendix G

KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman's report to the Annual Parish Meeting on 27 May2025

I think the hall is currently in good shape in terms of its condition, finances and lettings. I would like to express my thanks to Peter, our unofficial clerk of works, to Miki and her team of helpers for the Coffee Mornings and to Chris for keeping our accounts in good order and managing the bar. Sarah, our secretary, continues to manage lettings without a hitch and I would also like to thank Jill for regularly checking the condition of the hall between lettings.

Chris is also putting a lot of effort into finalising our CIO status. With the help of ACRE's CIO consultant, Louise Beaton, the Charity Commission has registered the merger of KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL (274947) with KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL (1197094) on 21 January 2025. The CIO has also been registered with Barclay's Bank and, finally, our new title to the Village Hall now has to be lodged with the Land Registry. All this takes time and effort and we are grateful to Chris for giving both.

As you are aware, a number of planned village events, not just those connected to the Village Hall, were cancelled this year mainly because of lack of support. Meanwhile, more casual, drop-in events such as pub evening, coffee morning and art and music nights continue to flourish. The Quiz and Chips was also a sell-out. Therefore, we need to look critically at our traditional main fundraising events, notably the BBQ and Christmas Fair, to examine how they might be refocused or replaced.

We have put a lot of effort this year into looking at potential savings in our running costs. In September we installed solar panels and batteries with the aid of a £9,300 South Cambs Zero Carbon Communities Grant. We are grateful to the Parish Council for contributing £500, while we put in another £500 from our own reserves. Once an agreement has been set up with our supplier to sell surplus to the grid (this is not a simple process), we should have enough to cover our daily standing charge, plus providing a small income. Cleaning costs had risen to a point where they were out of proportion to our letting income and Peter Stokes, after much searching, has found a local cleaner who will halve our costs. Finally, we have cancelled our film licence as there has been no use made of it, but we can still screen live events through our BBC licence.

In the small hall the position of the TV attracts reflections from the windows which makes daytime viewing difficult. We have now mounted the TV on a flexible arm so that it can be tilted or directed down the hall to maximise the number of viewers. With a summer of sport coming up, Keith Tan and Jill Coleman will keep an eye on main events and notify the village through WhatsApp and email that they will be screened in the hall.

We do need a new generation of committee members (trustees) to begin to shadow the key posts of chair, secretary, treasurer and clerk of works. Apart from that of the treasurer, those posts are held by people of advanced years and this is not sustainable. Without these key posts filled the hall would have to close, as has happened elsewhere in the county.

We could do with more lettings and we should examine ways to advertise the hall more widely. We must also continue to impress on the village that we are a management, not a social committee. We need to get the message across that if people have a good idea for a club, such as Music Night and Table Tennis, we will provide support, and possibly some equipment. The installation of picture rail for art exhibitions is another good example. Another possibility is the creation of a social sub-committee to take on the planning and management of social events.

Finally, we must be mindful that we have had a considerable windfall income from South Cambs during lockdown. We have used this to invest in solar panels, screen and projector and fuel saving controls for the boiler. From now on we must concentrate on getting returns from our investments and move to a position where our income from lettings and fund raising covers our outgoings. We must also

conserve our capital reserves for planned and unforeseen maintenance in the coming decade when the public purse for grants may not be as generous as it has been.

Appendix H
Kingston Poors' Land Charity

Annual Report 2025

	Deposits	Payments	Balance
Brought Forward			**£8586.62**
Community Account	£6,766.62	£1,850.00	£4,947.47
Premium Account	£109.51	£00.00	£8,665.28
Total	**£6,876.13**	**£1,850.00**	**£13,312.75**

The Charity's income last year was £6876.13. This was larger than normal. This was partially due to the tenant now paying the full annual rent of £4,500 and also due to arrears of rent from the previous year being paid in this year's account.

We paid out a total of £1,850. These payments were book grants to two school leavers and 7 payments to families in need.

The total balance held by the Charity is now £13,312.75. This sum includes a £3,000 deposit which we hold on behalf of the tenant. The Charity has now recovered the amount spent on legal fees due to the change in tenancy in 2021 and the reserve fund has been re-established. The Charity is now in a secure financial position.

Peter Reynolds and Donal O'Donnell

Trustees

Kingston Poors' Land Charity.