Kingston Annual Parish Meeting
Minutes of Meeting Held at 7.30pm on 26th May 2026

Present

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

Simon Draper (SDr) Pat Draper (PD) Linda Washington (LW)
Peter Reynolds (PR) Jill Coleman (JCo) Peter Stokes (PS)
Paul Wright (PW) Donal O'Donnell (DO) Susanne Stokes (SS)
Linda Rimmer (LR) Melissa Alexander (MA)

Apologies - Keith Tan (KT)

Meeting commenced at 7.37pm

Paul Wheeler welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. Chair of Parish Council's Report - Appendix A

We have continued to work on a programme of asset maintenance in the village - work has been undertaken to bring the Orchard and Playpark up to standard. It is envisaged that the current set of works will be completed by the end of 2026.

The Parish Council continues to monitor developments in respect of local government re-organisation plans. This will create a unitary authority to replace the current system of District and County councils. We are not yet aware what the final structure will be but are continuing to monitor developments closely and will advise when we know more.

The Parish Council also continues to monitor developments of the Cambridge Growth Corporation - it is thought this organisation will replace the greater Cambridge Partnership and the Cambridge Growth Company who currently oversee this area. Again, we await details of a timescale for these changes and will advise when we know more.

The condition of roads in and around Kingston continues to cause concern. The Parish Council regularly reports issues concerning pot-holes etc however remedial works appear to be slow. The parish council will continue to work on drainage within the village.

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 will continue to apply to have Kingston included in this scheme.

Full details provided in Appendix A.

2. **Transport Report - Appendix B**

JC advised that the No 18 bus service provided by Whippet appears to have improved compared with the previous years. We are however 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.

EWR – we continue to monitor communications from EWR. A new group has been set up recently to represent several villages in the area which will be affected by the EWR development. Although Kingston is not directly in the proposed path of the train route it is envisaged that we could be affected by increased traffic and road closures during development therefore membership of this group is helpful to keep the parish council up to date with developments in coming years.

Full details provided in Appendix B.

3, Clerk's Report - Appendix C

SD reported that KPC's funds were healthy at present but that costs, particularly grounds maintenance and other village asset repair costs which 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.

SD reported that two grants were made in the current financial year - one for £850.00 to cover the cost of churchyard maintenance and the other for £500.00 to contribute towards the installation of bollards at the top of Cranes Lane to discourage hare coursing vehicles which have been an issue this year. Our bank balance is healthy at a level of £ 20838.40 which is an decrease from last year's figure of £ 21225.35 but not significant. We do however have to be mindful that the parish council has not paid a full annual clerk salary for some time now which has helped keep funds at a healthy level.

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.

We are currently in conversation regarding the cost of the unmetered street lighting in the village and hope to know more soon. These three streets are on an unmetered supply and we are currently in conversation with the provider to find out how they intend to charge for use.

Full details provided in Appendix C.

4. **District Councillor's Report - Appendix D**

Our District Councillor Tumi Hawkins has retired following her decision not to stand for re-election recently. We would like to thank Tumi for all her hard work over the years as she has been a much-appreciated councillor who has helped at many parish council meetings here in Kingston.

Mr Jeffries has been elected as our new District Councillor - he will be invited to meet the Paish Council at our meeting in July 2026.

Details of Tumi's annual report are provided in Appendix D.

5. County Councillor's Report

Nothing to report

6. Kingston Village Hall Management Committee Report - Appendix E

PS thanked the committee, volunteers and friends for all their help over the past year in running the village hall.

Chris Reid has carried out major works to ensure that ownership of the village hall is properly registered as a charity organisation. His efforts are much appreciated.

Solar panels have been installed to the village hall roof and are helping to reduce costs. The village hall committee is also able to sell back unused electricity to Southwest Electric which helps with other costs involved in running the village hall.

PS also asked people in the village to consider volunteering to help with the running of the village hall. The committee is formed of 9 people and many are getting older therefore it would be appreciated if some of the younger people in the village might consider getting involved.

Full details provide in Appendix E

7. Kingston Poor Charity - Appendix F

DD reported that the Kingston Poor Charity is financially sound and the income this year was £5786.86. The charity paid donations totalling £2250.00 this year - this figure was larger than previous years as the charity helped more people with the increased cost of living costs that have arisen this year.

Land Registry has confirmed ownership of the land administered by the charity - this has taken five years and it is good news that the work is now completed.

DD mentioned that the tenants who rent the charity's land and provide income for the charity wish to sign a new rental agreement for a further five years which is good news. This will maintain a healthy income stream. There will however be a cost to set up a new tenancy agreement which will have to be covered from funds - this will occur in coming months.

The tenant has also paid a deposit of £3000.00 to rent the land - if the tenant ever gives us the lease this amount will need to be repaid by the charity.

Full details are provided in Appendix F

8. Parochial Church Council - Appendix G

The PCC has three new members this year which is good news to help spread the workload. A new rector has also been appointed to the area recently and has started many new clubs and activities with a focus on youth involvement.

A new parish priest will also be starting shortly and will take up residence in Bourn from 21st June which is good news. He will meet the church members in Kingston in coming weeks.

Church funds are currently challenged as the current year has a deficit of £6000.00 per annum when comparing running costs of the church with annual income. This has resulted from a decrease in regular contributions by direct debit and standing order over several years.

There are several fund-raising events planned this year to help tackle this deficit:-

Two concerts later in the year

A gift day and afternoon tea which will be held at the church.

It is hoped that the topic of direct debit/standing order regular donation can be considered in the future as currently support of this fund-raising method is low.

Full details provided in Appendix G.

9. Open Forum

It was suggested that investment returns on funds held within the parish should be considered by the various organisations over the coming year to ensure that they are obtaining a good rate of interest.

PW thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting finished at 8:49pm.

Minutes reference: 20262605

Signed: *Paul Wheeler*……..

Date: 23 June 2026……..

Chairs Report for Kingston Annual Parish Meeting

26th May 2026

Welcome to the Kingston Annual Parish Meeting (KAPM) of 2026. 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.

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

Personnel

This year, Keith Tan has been co-opted onto the KPC.

Planning Applications

We have received, and where required, responded to 19 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, 8 Highway Fault Reports have been submitted. Of these, 2 are in progress. These relate to the broken rainwater drain on Cranes Lane and the blocked rainwater drain grill on the Green. Both, as per last year, are currently being assessed by the County Council Cyclical Highways Maintenance and Management.

The remaining 6 are requests for the repairs to our road surfaces in various locations within the village. These remain unactioned as of the beginning of May 2026.

Parish Land

Land Registration.

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

Village Grass Cutting and Hedgerow Maintenance.

The Contractor used in 2025 has been retained for 2026. Weather conditions will dictate the frequency and timing of the required activities.

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

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

The position along Cranes Lane has now been established, with residents responsible for maintaining ditches and the KPC cutting the verges on behalf of the County Council.

Play Park.

The planned work for 2025 has been completed. Further activity will be undertaken at the end of this Year. The objective is to return the area to the standard set by the Parish Council originators and to formulate plans to maintain those standards.

The Orchard.

Work has commenced to return the area to the standard set by the Parish Council originators. This is scheduled for completion by the Winter of 2026.

20 MPH Road speed restrictions.

A further 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. The outcome will be known in October 2026.

The overall mantra of the KPC for 2025 and 2026 has been, and is, one of a "Watching Brief".

Miscellaneous.

The KPC continues to monitor :

East West Rail(EWR).

Abolition of District and County Councils with the introduction of Unitary Authorities.

Activities of the Cambridge Growth Company.

Creation of a Cambridge Development Corporation.

Conclusion.

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

As always we are looking to increase the number of Parish Councillors to assist us on the way forward, so please feel free to volunteer.

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

Paul Wheeler
Chair of Kingston Parish Council

Transport Report

Kingston Number 18 Bus Service

I am continuing to monitor the bus service in Kingston provided by Whippet. The outcome over the past year has been patchy. There are periods when everything seems to be running fairly smoothly, but then there are times when things fall apart. We still have the issue of unnecessary Road Ahead Closed signs appearing on the B1046 at the entrance to Kingston to contend with, but at least Whippet now seems to be aware that on most occasions this relates to the road between Kingston and the Eversdens and not to Kingston itself, so we do not automatically lose our bus service. Also, the existence of an 18A service (which does not run through Kingston) alongside the main no. 18 service seems to cause confusion for passengers and drivers alike, such that we have observed that the no. 18 has occasionally 'skipped' Kingston when it should not have done so.

The recent spate of roadworks and road closures in the local area revealed how fragile the whole system is, and how difficult it is to get reliable and up to date information.

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 (sometimes) gives advance warning of problems and cancellations https://x.com/GoWhippet

There is a "MyBusTrip" app produced in conjunction with Cambridgeshire County Council, giving "real-time information", for Android and iPhone users. Whippet also has its own app "Whippet Bus" which does the same. In my experience, neither of these apps are as reliable as I would have expected.

A further option is to go online and use the bus tracker on the Whippet website which can help to show where the buses actually are https://www.whippetbus.co.uk/bus-tracker/

Please do continue to contact me with any problems or comments on the bus service, so that I can follow these up with Whippet and get explanations.

Bus Franchising

I reported last year that this initiative of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to give more power to the local authority over our bus services had been approved in principle by the previous mayor in February 2025. As far as I know this scheme is still being worked on, although it is not expected to be brought into operation until some time in 2028.

East West Rail (“EWR”)

Kingston Parish Council recently joined the South Cambridgeshire Rail Group which is a loose association of parishes in the local area, and through this group we have attended meetings with the leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council Bridget Smith and with our local Mayor Paul Bristow. 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 (there are no details of what might be involved yet, but we want to be prepared).

EWR currently has a public non statutory consultation underway, running from 14 April to 9 June 2026. Anyone can add their views to this https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/t/EWR2026/ The consultation focuses primarily on the design details of stations and similar infrastructure, but there is one question for “other feedback” where comments concerning the route, the construction period, and other points could be made if wanted. This is likely to be the last public consultation before EWR applies to the government for a Development Consent Order to proceed with construction.

Julie Conder
13th May 2026

APPENDIX C

Kingston Annual Parish Meeting

Clerk's Report – 26 May 2026

I have attached a summary of income and expenditure for the year 2025/6 and will now highlight a few items from this.

1. Grass and Hedge cutting

James Wakeling will continue to provide Grass cutting services to the village. We continue to receive a payment from the County Council for the cutting of grass verges within the village and also from Mrs Heyman for cutting an area of grass owned by her that adjoins Field Row.

2. Grants

Two grants were made to the Parochial Church Council in the financial year 2025/26 - an amount of £850.00 for churchyard maintenance and an amount of £500.00 to South Sea Farm as a contribute towards the erection of metal bollards at the top of Cranes Lane to help discourage Hare Coursing in the village. An amount of £859.54 was also made in respect of annual Parish Magazine costs.
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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. Miki Ellar acts as our editor and does a wonderful job collating information each month about local events being held throughout the parish.

4. Bank Balances

Our total bank balances as at the end of the year stood at £20838.40 This represents a slight decrease on last year's figure of £21225.35 but still represents a healthy reserve. We do however have two items where costs relating to the last financial year are yet to be finalised. The first relates to the cost of street lighting as we are in discussion with our supplier ESPO on the charging procedure for our unmetered electric street lighting supply. We hope this will be resolved in coming months. The second relates to the cost of the cleaning the village bus shelter for the year 25/26. Once details have been received costs will be processed in the usual way.

Although our reserves are healthy, we do face several repair bills for works that will be required in time to items of equipment in the village play park. We have also not paid a parish clerk's annual salary this year as the role has been covered on a voluntary basis.

5. Audit of accounts

Our formalities for the audit for the 2025/26 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.

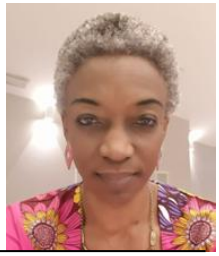
Parish Clerk
15 May 2026

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL - FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2025/26

2025/26 £		***2024/25*** £
INCOME		
13,095	Precept	*11,718*
422	Grasscutting	*305*
589	Interest earned	*622*
60	Allotment rent	*60*
884	VAT reclaim for previous years	*849*
15,050	**Total**	***13,554***
EXPENDITURE		
300	Insurance	*300*
105	Audit fees	*80*
3,453	Grass and hedge cutting	*3,570*
0	Clerk's salary	*497*
95	Footpath lighting	*129*
450	Subscriptions	*705*
1,350	Grants	*1,350*
1,288	Village Hall improvement project	*1,288*
6,084	Asset maintenance	*2,215*
859	Parish magazine	*709*
215	Miscellaneous	*423*
1,238	VAT (reclaimable)	*885*
15,437	**Total**	***12,151***
INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURE		
-387		***1,403***
BANK BALANCE AT 31 Mar		
20,838	**Total**	***21,225***
-387	Change last year to this year	*1,403*

APPENDIX D

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward Councillor's Annual Report – 2026



Caldecote Ward comprising the Parishes of Bourn, Caldecote, Childerley, Kingston, Little Gransden & Longstowe

1. Introduction

This municipal year 2025/26 has been quite a busy one and this report covers the last 12 months of activities by South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) and Councillors.

2. Governance

South Cambridgeshire District Council is in Liberal Democrats administration. The statutory services provided are: Waste Collection & Recycling, Planning (these two are shared services with Cambridge City but we host them), Housing, Environmental Health, Licensing, Licensing, Council Tax Collection, Benefits and Business Development &Support, and Community Services.

We adopted the new corporate plan that has been shaped by feedback from residents in our communities. The priority areas we identified are:

- **Healthy and Supported Communities (HSC)** – We want to create a district where people feel safe, supported, and confident in their communities. Together, we'll focus on what delivers for residents, enabling healthier, more independent lives for everyone.
- **Sustainable Homes and Vibrant Places (SHVP)** – We want to help people live near their work, shops, schools, leisure, and healthcare, with affordable and reliable public transport.
- **Being Green To Our Core (GTOC)** – We will consistently promote a cleaner, greener, zero carbon future for our communities. We aim to safeguard and enhance the natural world for future generations and help our communities do the same as we strive to be among the most sustainable places to live and work in the country.
- **Helping Businesses To Thrive in South Cambridgeshire (HBT)** – We will support local businesses as they start up and grow and as we transition towards a sustainable economy. Working with partners we are helping our residents develop the skills they need to take full advantage of local opportunities.
- **Financially Secure and Fit For The Future (FSFF) -** We will make it easier for residents to engage with our services and democratic processes. We will make smart financial decisions to safeguard our services for the future and invest in our staff to ensure they remain equipped to deliver for our district's needs.

You can read the full details on our new website at https://www.scambs.gov.uk/our-corporate-plan

This is the final year of the current District Council Administration, with Elections due on 7th May 2026, giving you a democratic right to vote for the people you want to represent you. This is the last election of SCDC as we know it, as Local Government Reorganisation is moving to a Unitary Authority style within the next two years.

My time is taken up with case work resolving issues for individuals who have issues with some of the services we provide, and that remains confidential. Also by my ongoing responsibility as the Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, Development Management and Strategic Sites and Building Control (3Cs shared service). I served as a member of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee (CEAC), the SCDC Planning Committee and the Joint Development Management Committee (JDMC) – for sites that span boundaries of both SCDC and Cambridge City.

Local Government Reorganisation LGR

The council has spent a great deal of time during the last year dealing with government requirements for a Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). This is the Government's plan to merge two-level County and District councils across the country into a single layer of unitary councils. In November 2025, the principal authorities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough submitted their proposals for what those new councils should look like. The Government consultation ends on 26th March 2026 and decisions expected to be announced latest summer. The consultation website is at https://bit.ly/LGR-Consult-2026.

The four proposals are:

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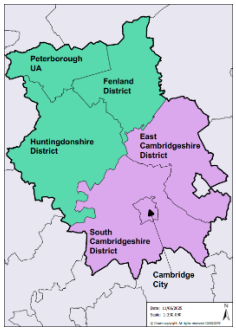
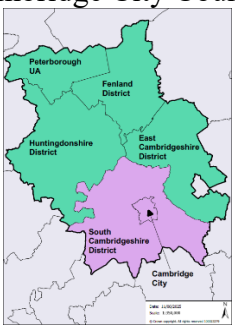
<td>Option A: Submitted by Cambridgeshire County Council

</td>
<td>Option B: Submitted by South Cambs DC, East Cambs DC, Cambridge City Council

</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Option D: Submitted by Peterborough City Council and Fenland District Council
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<td>Option E: Submitted by Huntingdonshire DC
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SCDC submitted Option B and I recommend watching this video at https://bit.ly/LGR-OptionB to find out the reasoning behind this. Elections will take place in May 2027 into the shadow councils, giving them a year to prepare ready to start operating in May 2028.

Development Corporation for Greater Cambridge (GCDevCo)

The Government says that Greater Cambridge is essentially the UK's powerhouse, high-octane mix of world-class research and "the next big thing" in tech and life sciences. It wants to turbo-charge the growth and is proposing to create a "centrally led **urban** development corporation" (GCDevCo). Government also wants to take away planning powers from GCSPS – for plan making and for determining applications over a certain size. The government consultation ends on 1st April 2026, details on their website at https://bit.ly/DevCo-GreaterCambs. It is ironic that at the time when the GCSPS is nationally recognised as the best planning authority in the country in 2025, the Government is trying to decimate it. Claiming to deliver growth in a **largely rural area** is an oxymoron.

Majority of the DevCo members will be "professionals" appointed by the Secretary of State, rather than local politicians, reducing democratic accountability to the lowest level ever.

I have expressed my strong opposition to the power grab, and both SCDC and Cambridge City are opposed to this power grab and held extraordinary council meetings on 17th and 19th March respectively to agree their formal responses to the Government. I urge everyone to respond too.

3. Sustainable Homes and Vibrant Places

New Council Homes

We recognise that everyone deserves a high-quality, safe, and affordable place to live. When the current administration came to power in 2018, the council was building about 35 new council houses each year. Furthermore, because of 'right to buy' sales its portfolio was shrinking so the period 2013 to 2018 saw a net reduction of 99 council houses.

Since 2018 the current administration has nearly quadrupled the rate of council house building. This year, at the time of writing, at least 120 new council homes had been completed across the district and by the end of the financial year, we will have delivered 139 new council homes. This is something the administration is very proud of - developing affordable housing in our district, responding to resident requirements as quickly as possible.

Affordable Housing Delivery

Affordable housing is generally delivered by housing associations, often through S106 schemes especially on major sites. The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) recently published by the GC Shared Planning Service shows that 2024-2025 2,265 new homes were completed across Greater Cambridge, the highest since 2011. Of these 1,735 new homes were in South Cambridgeshire, of which 424 were affordable homes.

Work has begun on building out the SCIP development next to South Cambs Hall in Cambourne. SCIP is the South Cambridgeshire Investment Partnership (SCIP) with The Hill Group. The project will build 256 new low-carbon Passivhaus principles homes of which 40% (102) will be affordable comprising 72 for rent and 30 for shared ownership.

We are well into a programme of upgrading the thermal efficiency of our existing council housing stock using grant funding from Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund to bring them up to EPC Band C which will result in a significant reduction in energy running costs for tenants.

Bringing Empty Homes Back into Use

A major milestone has been reached in tackling long-term empty homes in South Cambridgeshire, with 75 properties brought back into use in the last three years. This was achieved by appointing an Empty Homes Officer in 2022. To find out more about our work bringing empty homes back into use visit our webpage at https://www.scambs.gov.uk/housing/empty-homes.

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

Planning and Placemaking

Multi -award Winning Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS)

South Cambs hosts the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service (GCSPS), the joint planning service for both SCDC and Cambridge City. As the Cabinet Member responsible for the Service, it was pleasing to see the focussed transformation work over the years (from 2018 when we took over administration) result in the service winning three prestigious awards in 2025.

(1) The **Royal Town Planning Institute**'s national Local Planning Authority of the Year 2025
(2) The Planning Award for 'Planning for the Natural Environment',
(3) The **TET (ThorntonEducationTrust)** Inspire Future Generations Award for 'Best Local Authority in Youth Engagement' 2025.

The service has come a long way and hopefully will continue to provide this level of service when the councils transform to a new unitary authority and if/when the proposed Development Corporation is established.

Emerging Draft Joint Local Plan

Work is much advanced on the joint local plan with Cambridge City that should determine how our district is developed over the period 2025-2045 (DevCo permitting). The recently concluded consultation on the Reg18 stage showed strong community engagement with over 4500 responses gained from over 80 events online and offline. These comments are now being compiled and analysed. The proposals will go through normal process with members to finalise the version to go to final Reg 19 stage. This will then come out for final public consultation in the summer and subsequently submitted to MHCLG by the deadline of December 2026. More information at https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/.

Current Local Plan and Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)

The AMR is a requirement by Government and is a report tracking how well Greater Cambridge is delivering its current adopted Local Plans. The report is for the 2024-2025 municipal year and highlights include:

- 7,000+ applications handled
- 9,900 homes approved
- 2,264 homes completed — highest since 2011 – 1735 in South Cambs
- 687 affordable homes - 424 in South Cambs (part of total)
- 62,000 sqm employment space completed - 51,956 in South Cambs
- 408,000 sqm approved

Planning News

The Five-Year Housing Land Supply (with Cambridge City) is 5.6 years for the period 2026-31.

The GCSPS has also won £800,000 of Government Prop Tech funding & Digital Planning Improvement fund for work on our digital transformation in planning to enable residents engage more easily and for continuous improvement in providing the services to business and residents.

A new more accessible website was launched at https://greatercambridgeplanning.org/

Liaison Forum

The Bourn Airfield and Cambourne Community Liaison Forum was created to discuss and circulate

information regarding the continued development of the growth sites along the A428 corridor and are open to the public. These have proven useful especially as Bourn Quarter has grown with Phases 1 and 2, and Bourn Airfield new owners Greycoat have begun to work on the site. It has been an honour chairing these meetings.

Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

This SPD is a guide for Section 106 agreements, explaining how existing policy is applied in a clearer way. It gives developers, communities, parish councils and decision-makers a shared understanding of what's expected. That helps planning applications move more smoothly and reduces long, drawn-out negotiations.

4. Helping Businesses To Thrive in South Cambridgeshire

The Business team is doing a lot of work to support local businesses (specifically SMEs) to grow, which will help local communities thrive, bringing jobs and opportunities into our villages.

The team continues to work closely with local businesses, stallholders, traders and event organisers to run markets across the district. It benefits residents and communities by being able to shop locally. One of these is the Gransdens Farmers Market that takes place in Little Gransden Village Hall. The full list available at https://visitsouthcambs.co.uk/see-do/markets/

South Cambs Christmas Market

South Cambridgeshire District Council hosted its indoor Christmas Market for the fourth year running. The festive extravaganza usually has around 100 stalls from local independent small businesses and market stallholders.

Visit South Cambs Website

The VisitSouthCambs website at https://visitsouthcambs.co.uk/ is increasingly popular with small businesses advertising and used by visitors to the area to see what's available to do in the district.

South Cambs Business Newsletter

The Business Newsletter is available and anyone can signu for business support, news and information. More information at https://www.scambs.gov.uk/business

5. Healthy and Supported Communities

We are making more and more of our services available online and launched our new website with much improved accessibility. SAM – the webchat help has been very useful.

Our commercial investments are successfully bringing increasing income to the Council enabling us to provide more facilities. One example is the recently completed Unity Centre at Northstowe. The construction combines Passive House principles (low operational carbon) with low lifecycle carbon materials to deliver a net zero design. The building has been leased to the Northstowe Town Council who are now the operators of this impressive new facility. Doors will open to the public from 30 March.

We are also providing targeted health and wellbeing support for vulnerable residents and ensuring our staff have the training to respond appropriately to safeguarding issues.

Mobile Wardens scheme

SCDC continues to support the Mobile Wardens Scheme, which offers support and assistance for older people. This allows them to continue to live independently at home by providing daily contact (Monday to Friday) either by a personal visit or by a telephone call, to ensure a sense of security and wellbeing. SCDC has set out a funding programme which will enable mobile warden schemes to become more financially independent, hopefully securing their long-term viability across the district.

Homes for Ukraine scheme and Newsletter

Sadly, it's now been four years since the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, and many Ukrainians are still unable to safely return home. South Cambridgeshire continues to support Ukrainian guests. There are 104 Ukrainian guests being hosted in South Cambridgeshire, being hosted by 75 households. Many have moved on to private rented accommodation in the UK. In total 1,009 people have arrived in South Cambridgeshire under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. South Cambs provides a regular newsletter for Ukrainian guests living in our district.

Cabinet and Town / Parish Council Liaison

Cabinet holds meetings with parish councils, to share information relevant to communities and give opportunity to parish councillors to raise issues of concern directly to the administration.

Cost of Living Support

With many residents still facing financial pressures, the Council will continue providing its comprehensive cost-of-living support package. A budget of £449,000 is set aside to help residents through the next two years through schemes such as emergency food and energy support, workshops, budgeting and debt advice, white goods and furniture for vulnerable people and laptops with digital training.

Town and Parish Council Liaison Officer

The council continues to employ a Town and Parish Council Liaison Officer – Jack Bullimore – who has acted as a point of contact for parish councils over the last year. Alongside your district councillors, please look out for contacts from him.

6. Being Green To Our Core

We are making major progress on the Council's Being Green to Our Core priority.

Food Waste Collection

Greater Cambridge Shared Waste started rolling out weekly collections of food waste in parts of South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City from this January 2026. It will be extended to all parts of Greater Cambridge by the end of the year. All households will receive a letter with full details a few weeks before the service begins in their area to help ensure they are prepared. In addition, before their new collections begin, households will receive a new outdoor caddy to put out for collection at the kerbside with their wheelie bins.

Zero Carbon Communities Grant and Newsletter

Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme is very popular and been running for seven years.

Grants up to £19,500 are available to parish councils and community groups in the district. The current scheme has a pot of £152,000 opening Monday 25 May 2026 and closing on Friday 24 July 2026. Those interested in applying for a ZCC grant can join a workshop. More details on the council website https://www.scambs.gov.uk/news/council-pledges-more-money-for-zero-carbon-communities-grants

The quarterly Zero Carbon Communities (ZCC) newsletter gives local people in South Cambridgeshire support and advice about the climate emergency. Also contains information about all the council's various environmental projects. If you're not already signed up, please sign up today at https://bit.ly/ZCCNewsletter

Climate and Nature Strategy

The Council has also just adopted a new unified Climate and Nature Strategy which brings together all of our climate change and nature recovery work. It's a really exciting document and well worth a read. It is on the council website at https://bit.ly/SCDCClimateNatureStrategy

Solar Energy Park Construction

Construction has begun on a pioneering renewable energy solar park to power the growing fleet of electric bin lorries for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire. Due for completion by end of 2026, it is expected to supply 59% of the Waterbeach depot's total energy needs and achieve over 40% biodiversity net gain through measures such as wildflower planting and new hedgerows to create a haven for local wildlife. More details at https://bit.ly/SolarEnergyPark.

7. Financially Secure and Fit For The Future

Financial Position and Budget

At the Council's budget meeting, members approved its business plan and budget for the coming financial year. 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

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

This doesn't include the police, fire, parish council or Mayor's precepts which are not set by SCDC but are collected by the council. 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 seen, South Cambridgeshire charges slightly more than Huntingdonshire DC, but significantly less than both Cambridge CC and Fenland DCs.

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. Our

core spending power is being cut by over £5 million over the next 3 years, thanks to the Government's "fair funding review 2.0" which is hurting councils in rural areas like ours. That drop is the equivalent to 15% of our core spending power.

As a result of the government's funding changes, we are increasingly reliant on council tax. In this budget - council tax represents 35% of our core spending power. Come 2028/29 - council tax will represent 47% of our core spending power.

We have council tax relief offering up to 100% relief from council tax for those residents who need it most. Even with the rise, South Cambridgeshire would remain among the lowest-taxing district councils in the country.

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Grants

Support for residents remains central. The strong financial position means we continue to be able to offer grants to our communities. The Council will provide £900,000 over three years in Service Support Grants for voluntary and community groups, alongside extra funding to prevent homelessness.

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.

Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT)

Another proud initiative is the LIFT scheme, which was made permanent in the last year. The LIFT software interrogates the council's databases to identify residents living in South Cambridgeshire who are missing out on benefits that they are entitled to claim. A two-year apprentice role has been added to the scheme to make the most of the LIFT programme. It's already done fantastic work for residents – helping over 1,000 residents so far to secure more than £4 million in benefits for local households.

Support Grant funding

South Cambs District Council has committed Service Support Grant funding of £300,000 a year to local community groups to underpin the delivery of services to support people with their mental health, independent living, advice services, and to help residents through the cost-of-living crisis. The Service Support Grant funding has almost doubled compared to the previous budget, made possible by prudent management of the council's finances and a recognition of the acute need for these services.

8. Community Issues

Bourn Airfield Development

This development now has new owners – Greycoat. It's a joint venture with Greycoat Real Estate, Oaktree Capital and Homes England. They team have been engaging well with the communities, attending the Liaison Forum meetings. They are hoping to get the first residents moving in 2027.

East West Rail (EWR)
Finally this year, EWR have started communicating better. I was pleased that EWR finally decided to listen to me, your parish representatives and MP and decided to use a mined tunnel (not cut-and-cover) underneath A428, Bourn Airfield and Highfields Caldecote. Years of banging on to them about the potential damage to our communities finally paid off.

Elections 2026

Elections are fast approaching for both district and parish councils. Postal vote registration is now only valid for 3 years, so I recommend postal voters check immediately at https://www.gov.uk/how-to-vote/postal-voting. Below is a summary of the election timetable.

Publication of Notice of Election	Monday 30 March 2026
Receipt of Nominations	4:00 pm Thursday 9 April 2026
Last Date for Voting Registration	Monday 20 April 2026
Receipt of Postal Vote Applications	5:00 pm Tuesday 21 April 2026
Last day for Voter Authority Certificates	5:00 pm Tuesday 28 April 2026
Receipt of Proxy Vote Applications	5:00 pm Tuesday 28 April 2026
Receipt of Emergency Proxy Vote Applications	5:00 pm Thursday 7 May 2026
Day of Poll	7:00 am to 10:00 pm Thursday 7 May 2026

Full details on the council website at https://www.scambs.gov.uk/elections/elections-2026

As always, I encourage everyone to register and use their democratic right to vote on 7th May 2026 in the very last elections for South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Retiring from Active Politics

Last but by no means least is the news that I am retiring from active politics and will not be standing in the May 2026 elections. I have been the District Councillor for Caldecote Ward since May 2010, Caldecote parish councillor from 2006 to 2010 and again 2017 to 2022. It has been a lifetime honour to represent and serve the communities of Caldecote, Childerley, Bourn, Kingston, Longstowe and Little Gransden (and previously Toft 2010-2018). Thank you to everyone for your support and encouragement over these sixteen (16) years. I wish you all well and hope you continue to enjoy living in our much-loved villages.

9. Casework

I am still your councillor till the end of the municipal year on 6th May 2026. If you need my assistance in the meantime, please contact me in one of the usual ways, details in the box below.

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
26 March 2026

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

KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chairman's report to the Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 26 May 2026

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 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 has put 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). The CIO has also been registered with Barclay's Bank and, finally, our new title to the Village Hall has been confirmed by the Land Registry. All this takes time and effort and we are grateful to Chris for giving both.

The Parish Council continue to give us valuable support and I thank Paul Wheeler for looking after the car park.

The BBQ was well attended and I would like to thank the Clear family for letting us use the grounds of South Sea House and the many who helped with ticket sales, food and the bar. The Quiz and Chips was a sell-out and we are grateful to Katherine and Mark Stalham for presenting it. The Christmas Fair did not go ahead this year, but Femke organised a Jingle and Mingle and Father Christmas.

Simon Draper has organised several successful art and music events and also runs the Kingston Music Club. John Easy and family help fill the hall on the combined pub and pizza nights.

We have continued to put a lot of effort into looking at potential savings to our running costs. Our solar panels are functioning well, so that our electricity costs relate mainly to the daily standing charge. Moreover, our sales back to the grid have netted £780, which is a significant contribution to our funds. 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.

ACRE invited Sarah and me to join their register of mentors for halls and community centres that are in difficulty. We had short training course with mock questions, but have not been called upon so far.

We are grateful to Rachel for restarting our programme of winter talks that had lapsed for some years. Her talk on small museums was followed by Mark Nicholls on Guy Fawkes and me on Borneo. All were well attended and the feedback is that these should continue.

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.

Lettings are going well, with the Karate Club back on Fridays, and we are also picking up hirers from Toft, now the Methodist church hall has closed. We advertise the hall locally and nationally on several websites, but have availability in our calendar for more lettings.

We must also continue to impress on the village that we are a primarily 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 Nights and art exhibitions, we will provide support and, possibly, some equipment. 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. Our major planned expenditure in 2026 is painting the exterior woodwork and we are also replacing the HDMI lead to the projector in the hope of removing the glitches that some users are experiencing.

Looking forward into the rest of 2026 and 2027 as not much more can be done on the cost side, we probably need to raise more in terms of regular Hall revenue to get the accounts back to a decent surplus position, considering expected further inflation rises. Options we are considering are running more events, including for example restarting the Christmas fair, raising hall rental charges, looking for more rentals and raising pub prices.

Paul Wright

Kingston Poors' Land Charity

Annual Report 2026

	Deposits	Payments	Balance
Brought Forward			**£13,312.75**
Community Account	£5,681.60	£2,250.00	£8,379.09
Premium Account	£105.24	£00.00	£8,770.52
Total	**£5,786.86**	**£2,250.00**	**£17,149.61**

The Charity's income last year was £5,786.86. This was lower than the previous year, due to the inclusion of the payment of rental arrears in the last accounting year. All rental payments are now up to date.

We paid out a total of £2,250.00. This is higher than last year and is the highest annual amount the charity has ever paid out. This is due to an increase in individual payments made. These payments were book grants to two school leavers and 7 payments to families in need.

Income is down but expenditure has increased.

The total balance held by the Charity on 31st March was £17,149.61. This sum includes a £3,000 deposit which we hold on behalf of the tenant.

The registration of the Charity Land, which we applied for in 2022, has now come through. The Charity Land is registered in the names of the existing trustees and needs to be changed every time new trustees are appointed.

It is now 5 years since the current tenancy agreement with PAUS began. The agreement provided for a break clause after 5 years for a review. This was completed in March so the tenancy agreement now applies for a further 5 years.

Peter Reynolds and Donal O'Donnell

Trustees, Kingston Poors' Land Charity.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS AND SAINT ANDREW, KINGSTON – 31st MARCH 2025 – 1st APRIL 2026

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)
Revd Geoff Dodgson (GD, Safeguarding Officer)
Janet Clear (JC)
Linda Rimmer (LR)
Peter Reynolds (Secretary, PR)
Revd Matt Philips (MP, Team Rector) from October 2025
Christine Allison (CA)
Monica O'Donnell (M O'D)
Lee Steele (LS)

Parochial Church Council Meetings were held four times**:** on 23.04.25, following the APCM; on 22.07.25; on 06.10.25; and on 19.01.26.

3. **The following were the principal matters dealt with by the PCC March 2025 – March 2026:**

(i) Fund raising to 31.12.25: £1.688 (Kingston Wood Open Garden on 29th June raised £1,572 for General Purposes Fund and Harvest Tea 11.10.25 raised £116).
(ii) Donations to charities: £104 to Help for Heroes (from 2024 Remembrance) and £50 to Cambs Historic Churches Trust.
(iii) Maintaining public worship: Family Worship each month; monthly Holy Communion reinstated from January 2026. Harvest Festival 11.10.25 (with Harvest Tea); Remembrance Service 09.11.25; Christmas Carol Service 21.12.25, and Christmas Eve service.
(iv) One Baptism: Kit Williams 05.10.25.
(v) Annual inspection of fabric; fire extinguisher inspection by Morgan Fire Protection 19.02.26 (£120).
(vi) Repair of damaged clavinova by Millers - cost £265.
(vii) PCC Membership: three new members elected at APCM 23.04.25: CA, M O'D, JC.
(viii) Appointment of Revd Matthew Philips as new Team Rector (instituted 01.09.25). NP had represented Kingston in deliberations with the Archdeacon and the Papworth Team.
(ix) Safeguarding: adoption of Action Plan.
(x) Presentation at Kingston Wood Manor to Kay Forsythe of water colour.
(xi) Registration of PCC members as trustees of Endowment Fund with Eden Tree Investment.
(xii) Calor Gas new contract 02.04.25 and inspection of gas tank and pipework.
(xiii) Lightning conductor – DAC advice and one estimate received.
(xiv) Additional names added to board of rectors. Cost £360 (paid from Restoration Fund).
(xv) Review of funding and advertising for Parish and Church Magazine.

4. **Finances to 31.12.2025**

The main regular sources of funding for the church have been donations by standing orders and income from the Endowment Fund. Grants totalling £1,989 were received with thanks from the Parish Council towards the upkeep of the churchyard (cost £1,130) 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 2025 for the General Purposes Account as £12,337 (£65,201in 2024) and expenditure £18,145 (£63,629 in 2024), with a deficit of income over expenditure of minus £5,808 (+ £1,572 in 2024). Dividends from the Endowment Fund to 31.12.25 were £2,553 (£2,399 in 2024). Gift Aid tax refunds on donations amounted to £1,503 (£4,265 in 2024). The accounts were inspected by the Team Treasurer Simon Fordham 10.04.26.

Balances

Fund	31.12.25	31.12.2024	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.12.2021
General	£4,454	£10,262	£8,689	£9,651	£8,610
Restoration	£29,157	£28,190	£29,522	£45,694	£26,029
Todd Fund	£842	£827	£811	£796	£786
Endowment valuation	£64,154	£60,417	£59,368	£57,043	£63,740

The Parish Ministry Share was £9,438 (£7,024 in 2024) and Kingston's Team contribution was unchanged from 2024 at £1,899.

5. **The Electoral Roll** A new Electoral Roll was drawn up on 30.05.25 as required under the Church Representation Rules: there were 20 registered electors. (Now 19, following death of Michael le Q Herbert in February 2026.)

6. **Attendance at services**

Average Sunday attendances

Service	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
H. C.	7	6	5	6	6	5	5	4	5	0	0
E. P.	6	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
F. S.	14	10	10	10	10	11	5	5	7	6	7

Attendance at the major festivals

Festival	**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
Easter	33	39	23	42	38	0	25	30	29	30	37
Harvest	26	17	32	27	21	20	12	12	15	15	20
Carol Service	[52]	[45]	36	35	35	0	15	15	21	43	30
Chrstmas Eve/Day	47	41	20	35	20	16	3	17	14	16	14
Total	**158**	**142**	**111**	**139**	**114**	**36**	**55**	**74**	**79**	**104**	**101**

The monthly services of Holy Communion were suspended from April 2024 (resumed January 2026). Attendance at Family Service was stable but remained very low.

Signed……Chairperson