Kingston Parish Council (KPC)

Minutes of Meeting Held at 7.30pm on 5h May 2026

Present

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

Meeting commenced at 7.34 pm

1 Apologies

Keith Tan (KT)

2 Approval of Previous Minutes of Parish Council Meetings

Minutes from Meeting on 10th March 2026 were approved and signed by PW.

3 County Councillor Report - nothing to report

4 District Councillor's Report (Appendix A)

The annual report presented by T Hawkins was covered. This report will be used again for the APM meeting that will be held on 26th May 2026.

Matters Ongoing

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

PW advised that the drainage and resilience team are looking at the issues in the village. Mr Andrew Paul, the Cyclical Highways and Maintenance Officer visited the village to discuss the problems we face. It was agreed that:-

1. He will open an order on the system.
2. They will plan to carry out a survey - it is hoped this will occur within a 13 week time scale. Unfortunately, if the case is not dealt with within the 13 week period then the case is closed with no further action taken and we have to re-start the process again which is concerning. PW will continue to monitor the situation.

6. Tree Works - The Orchard (PW)

PW advised that tree work have been completed in the Orchard.

PW plans to organise a general tidy day in the Orchard in coming months and will be advertising within the village for volunteers to help with the work.

7. Update on Land Registry - The Orchard (MN) - nothing to report

8. Open Spaces Report (MN)

MN reported that footpaths are in good shape with paths identified well.

Bridges are in good condition in the Kingston Wood area.

Signage is adequate in most areas.

Footpath 2 leading down to Kingston Pastures has a diversion. Signage shows an alternative route. If the area is developed further it is expected that new signage will be added to make footpaths clearer.

Signage around the Old Wimpole road area works well.

Matters Arising

9. Submission of Annual Accounts/AGAR/Audit (SD)

SD presented the parish council annual accounts for the year ending 31 March 2026. The internal auditor's report was also presented.

The Annual AGAR forms were completed and signed by the Chair and Parish Clerk following discussing with councillors. The official certificate of exemption will now be sent to the Parish Council's external auditor. The annual VAT reclaim forms will also be submitted to the relevant authorities shortly.

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

JC advised that the official period of consultation is currently under way.

JC advised that the local Haslingfield led representative EWR group has submitted questions as part of the consultation. The group asked existing members if they were agreeable for the village of Whittlesford to join the group - they are not on the direct EWR route but are very concerned about the effect of construction traffic during the build process and it's effect upon the village.

Paul Britton (Mayor) has attended a meeting to discuss the topic. Several representatives of local communities including JC attended. He indicated that he was not happy with the chosen route. He also suggested that there were several areas that needed to be looked into more closely.

JC advised that the Number 18 bus route has been affected by several recent road closures. It is hoped that with less building works planned for upcoming months this will be less of an issue going forward.

JC also discussed the topic of whether the 18a bus service could be extended to pass through Kingston which would increase the frequency of the village bus service. Sadly this does not appear to be something that is being actively considered due to the additional time it would add to the existing route.

11. Street Lighting Costs (SD)

SD advised that there are currently 4 months of invoices that are outstanding - we have only been billed for the standing charge element and unfortunately Total Energies/ESPO are unable to find a way to charge for electricity usage on our unmetered street lights. We are in consultation with them regarding this issue but are still awaiting an update from Total Energies on how they intend to charge the village for street lighting.

It was agreed that PW will write to Total Energies and Chris Dodd at ESPO to advise them that we will not be paying the current invoices as they are incomplete and that we await details of how they plan to charge for energy usage going forward.

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

12. Planting of 6 Tress (PW)

PW advised that the six trees are currently planted in his garden and will be planted in autumn at their new location. Prior to their planting, two older trees, which have died, are to be removed. Quotations will be obtained for this work.

It is hoped that work to plant the six trees will be completed by the end of November which will ensure optimal growing conditions for the young trees.

13. APM Update (SD)

SD confirmed that plans are on track for the Annual Parish Meeting which will be held on 26th May 2026 in the village hall. Several reports have already been received and SD will issue reminders for the outstanding ones in the next few days.

14. Zurich Insurance Renewal (SD)

SD confirmed that the parish council's insurance policy has been renewed for the year 2026/27. A copy of the policy schedule will be stored in the clerk's box.

15. Playpark Rota Records (SD)

It was agreed that PW would take over responsibility for the playpark inspection process in advance of SD stepping down as parish clerk.

16. Election of Parish Councillors (SD)

SD apologised for the confusion regarding the election of parish councillors this year.

She has spoken with South Cambs to take responsibility for the error which occurred as it was her first year as parish clerk and she was not aware from emails that existing councillors had to re-apply for their roles. She has confirmed with South Cambs that she will be stepping down as Parish Clerk once the parish councillors have been re-elected therefore this error should not occur again.

Forms for re-election were distributed to councillors for completion. It was agreed that PW will collect all forms and deliver them to south Cambs offices. The period for the submission of forms is 13 May 2026 to 21 May 2026.

Following the closure of the submission period the parish council will be notified whether an election will need to be held. If an election is required it will be held on 18 June 2026.

Once we have been advised that councillors have been re-elected we must arrange an extraordinary meeting to allocated roles and responsibilities within 14 days. This will be arranged by SD following notification of the outcome of the voting nomination period from South Cambs.

17. Set Temporary Delegation Level of invoice Payment Authority for Clerk (SD)

The parish council agreed to delegate permission to pay invoices up to an amount of £500.00 for the period until councillors are re-elected into post.

The Parish Council agreed to pay the following invoices for the following works:-

Grass Cutting Services - James Wakeling - £357.50
LGS Service - Internal Audit Services - £144.00

The parish council agreed that an additional column will be added to table for invoices paid to show when the payment was agreed in principle referencing the date of meeting and minute number.

18. Correspondence - Nothing to Report

19. Invoices Paid

Company	Service	Date Paid	Amount	Paid By	Minute Ref.
CAPALC	Annual Renewal	13 March 2026	214.16	B/P	10 March 2026 - 18
Acacia Tree Surgery	Tree Works Orchard	16 March 2026	2580.00	B/P	10 March 2026 - 8
Parish Online	Annual Renewal	18 March 2026	43.20	B/P	10 March 2026 - 18

Unity Trust	Monthly Service Charge	31 March 2026	7.00	D/D	Covered by existing Bank Contract
Acacia Tree Surgery	Ash Tree Works in Orchard	10 April 2026	480.00	B/P	10 March 2026 - 8
Village Hall Management Committee	Annual Hall Rental Fee	10 April 2026	108.00	B/P	Existing Regular Booking Agreement
Zurich Insurance	Annual Parish Council Insurance	15 April 2026	300.00	B/P	Agreed by email by councillors - 7 April 2026
South Cambs District Council	Annual Village Allotment Charge	23 April 2026	30.00	B/P	Existing Regular Historical Agreement

All invoices were agreed for payment.

20. Bi-monthly Report (JC) Appendix B

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

21. Items for next meeting to be held on 14 July 2026

Auditors comments report - it was decided this would be considered in more depth at the next parish council meeting.

22. A.O.B

Nothing to report

The meeting closed at 9.48pm.

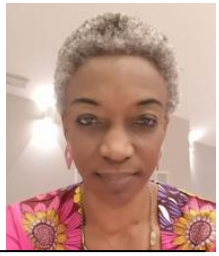
Minutes reference: 20260505

Signed: …….

Date: ……..

APPENDIX A

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

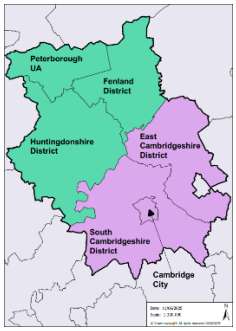
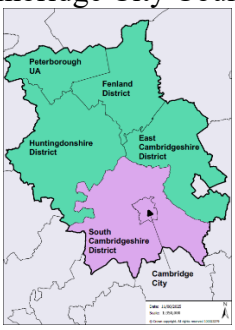
This is the final year of the current District Council Administration, with Elections due on 7th May 2026, giving you a democratic right to vote for the people you want to represent you. This is the last election of SCDC as we know it, as Local Government Reorganisation is moving to a Unitary Authority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

<table>
<tr>
<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
</td>
<td>Option E: Submitted by Huntingdonshire DC
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</tr>
</table>

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 Parish Council

Financial report 30 April 2026

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2026/27 £	Expenditure YTD £	Budget minus expenditure YTD £	Additional Information
Grass and Hedge cutting - Expenditure	4,400		4,400	
Grass and Hedge cutting - Income	(319)		(319)	
Insurance	310	300	10	
Clerk's salary	6,150	0	6,150	
Grants (section 137)	1,166		1,166	
Village Hall upgrade	1,288	644	644	PWLB 1 of 2 tranches paid
Audit fees	108		108	
Village asset maintenance	1,255	400	855	tree surgery;
Subscriptions	589	47	542	ICO
Parish Magazine	850		850	
Footpath lighting	344		344	
Miscellaneous and expenses	1,030	145	885	allotments rent paid to SCDC; bank charges; village hall rental 2025
Income other than precept	(716)		(716)	
Total	**16,455**	**1,536**	**14,919**	

Bank balances	Current account:	708	
	Deposit account:	34,969	
At 30 April 2026		**35,677**	*see below*

Reconciliation of bank balances

Balances brought forward	Current account:	438	
	Deposit account:	20,400	
At 01 April 2026		**20,838**	
Net expenditure as above		(1,536)	
Other items:	Precept income	16,455	
	VAT refund received		
	VAT incurred on net expenditure 2026-27	(80)	To be recovered
At 30 April 2026		**35,677**	*As above*

Expenditure approved not yet spent

Plum tree work T70	from tree survey	475 expected Oct 2026