

KPC 132-04
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 15th SEPTEMBER 2026
HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM, PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE, ARMS LANE, KEDINGTON

Present: Cllr Ann Naylor (Chair)
 Cllr Jeffery Potter (Vice-Chair)
 Cllr Terry Wheeler
 Cllr Ross Standeven
 Cllr Dean Willett
 Cllr Jeanette Kilpatrick
 Cllr Ann Bellamy

In attendance: John Boxall (Parish Clerk)

Also in attendance: Suffolk County Councillor Luke O'Brien. West Suffolk Councillor Marion Rushbrook. Parishioners Mrs Diane Potter, Mrs Annette Brooker and AN Other. A member of the public.

ACTIONS

1. Acknowledge agenda items of interest to members of the public present.

A member of the public declared an interest in agenda item 11.6.
 Mrs Brooker declared an interest in agenda item 3.

2. Welcome, Apologies and Resignations.

Chair welcomed everyone present.

There were no apologies.

Clerk advised that on Monday 24th August 2026 Cllr Griffin resigned from her position as a Kedington Parish Councillor. Clerk advised Electoral Services at West Suffolk Council of her resignation that day and they sent the Clerk a "Notice of Vacancy in Office of Councillor". Clerk placed this on the Parish Council website and noticeboards that day. It was removed earlier today following expiry of the 14 days' notification period.

Clerk advised that Cllr Griffin's Parish Council email account has been disabled by NicomIT.

Chair thanked Cllr Griffin on behalf of the Parish Council for the time and work she put into the role.

Clerk advised that the Council, members of the public and press may audio record, film, photograph or broadcast the meeting, when the press and public are not lawfully excluded. Any member of the public who attends the meeting is advised that the Parish Council cannot control 3rd party recordings. The Parish Council will audio record the meeting and the recording will be deleted following approval of the minutes at the next meeting.

3. To receive a written application for the office of Parish Councillor and to co-opt a candidate to fill an existing vacancy.

Chair advised that the Parish Council had received a written application for co-option from Annette Brooker and that all Parish Councillors had received a copy of it.

There were no comments or questions from Councillors.

Clerk confirmed that Annette meets the conditions of being a Councillor (Local Government Act 1972 s.79) and is not disqualified from being so (Local Government Act 1972 s.80) and would be happy to complete training, for example the Suffolk Association of Local Council's Councillor Basics two session course at a cost of £35 +VAT for each course. Annette has also confirmed she would be happy to have a Kedington Parish Council email account.

The Councillors subsequently agreed unanimously to co-opt Annette as a Parish Councillor and the Chair welcomed her to the Parish Council.

Clerk confirmed that paperwork relevant to this meeting had been sent to Cllr Brooker prior to the meeting.

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Consent to Summons forms for Cllr Brooker were signed in the meeting.

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Potter and seconded by Cllr Kilpatrick to approve payment in due course of £70.00 plus VAT in total for the Councillor Basics two session course. The resolution was unanimously agreed.

Clerk

Clerk advised this can be paid in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 s.111.

4. **To receive members' declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests in accordance with the Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct and/or with regard to Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and to receive any applications for dispensations on agenda items.**
None declared.

5. **Councillors who were present to agree as a true record the minutes of the Meeting of Kedington Parish Council held on 14th July 2026.**
Councillors confirmed that they had received a copy of the draft minutes and had read them.

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Bellamy and seconded by Cllr Willett to agree the draft minutes of the Meeting of Kedington Parish Council held on 14th July 2026 as a true record. The resolution was unanimously agreed.

Chair signed the minutes after the meeting.

Chair brought forward agenda item 11.6 (see below).

6. **Receive visitor's reports and reports from District and County Councillors.**

Cllr O'Brien advised that the Government has put the Local Government Reorganisation plans on hold for Suffolk.

Cllr O'Brien advised there was an emergency meeting at Great Wratting last week about the Forest City development with Shriv Malik. Cllr O'Brien's party, Reform UK, are against the development.

Cllr O'Brien advised he's helping a few other parishes with speeding issues along with Matthew Fox (Suffolk County Council Highways). Chair advised she's attending a Chair's meeting that has this on the agenda.

Clerk advised the Speed Indicator Device is currently on the B1061 as you enter Kedington from the Calford Green direction.

Cllr Rushbrook reminded there are funds available in the Locality Budget.

Cllr Rushbrook advised that with regards to the Local Government Reorganisation, as far as the District Councillors are aware their elections are next year.

Cllr Rushbrook advised that with regards to the Forest City development, if we take our eyes off this it could happen. The development corporation wouldn't have to go through planning and they are talking to the Government and Suffolk County Council about it.

7. Receive accounting statements and any other financial reports and agree any necessary action.

7.1 Review and agree accounting statements.

Chair confirmed that Councillors had received the relevant documents.

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Naylor and seconded by Cllr Potter to agree the Bank Reconciliation, the Payments and Receipts List, the Net Position by Cost Centre and Code report and the Reserves Balance report (ANNEX 1). The resolution was unanimously agreed.

ANNEX 1

7.2 Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/2026.

Clerk confirmed that Councillors had received Section 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return from the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn LLP, this being their Report and Certificate for the year ending 31st March 2026 (ANNEX 2).

ANNEX 2

Clerk confirmed that it was published on the Parish Council's website and placed on the notice boards on 3rd September 2026.

Clerk confirmed that Councillors had received the "Notice of conclusion of audit" (ANNEX 3) which details the rights of inspection in line with the statutory requirements. This was also published on the Parish Council's website and placed on the notice boards on 3rd September 2026.

ANNEX 3

Clerk advised that when the relevant statute and regulations were amended in 2014 and 2015, they did not include a requirement for the length of time for which the "Notice" must be published. The previous statute required 14 days; but it is now up to the authority to make this decision. Clerk plans to remove the "Notice" on Thursday 17th September 2026 when he removes this meeting's agenda and the Section 3.

Clerk advised that the "except for" matter raised in part 2 of the external auditor's Report and Certificate advises that the Parish Council "has disclosed that it made proper provision during the year 2025/26 for the exercise of public rights, by answering 'Yes' to Section 1, Assertion 4. However, as reported by the internal auditor, we are aware that the notice regarding the period for the exercise of public rights was not published before the start of the period, therefore the smaller authority should have answered 'No' to this Assertion."

Clerk advised this relates to the matter discussed at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 19th May 2026 with regards to the Notice for the Exercise of Public Rights 2024-25 having an incorrect date on it. The date of announcement should have been 2nd June 2025 or earlier, not 3rd June 2025.

Clerk advised that the external auditor found no other matters affecting their opinion to draw to the attention of the Parish Council.

Clerk advised he emailed Trevor Brown, the Internal Auditor, to update him of the outcome of the External Audit and he has replied saying "Please convey to the Council that the mention of this minor issue in the PKF report should not distract from recognising the exceptionally high standard of work you and Councillors achieved for the Council throughout the year."

The Internal Auditor also advised in his Audit Report that "By examination of the 2025/26 accounts and supporting documentation it was confirmed that the Clerk, in the role as the Council's Responsible Financial Officer, continued to undertake the administration of the Council's financial affairs to a high standard and produced financial management information to enable the Council to make well-informed decisions."

7.3 Ratify payment of £378.00 to PKF Littlejohn for reviewing the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Standeven and seconded by Cllr Willett to ratify this payment. The resolution was unanimously agreed.

7.4 Employers' Liability Insurance renewal.

Clerk advised that the Parish Council's Employers' Liability Insurance is due for renewal with Zurich Insurance on 1st October 2026. Clerk advised that this is the third year of a 3-year Long Term Agreement that was approved at the meeting on 17th September 2024.

The renewal premium is £1,751.35 including Insurance Premium Tax, the net is £1,563.71.

Clerk advised payment can be made in accordance with Local Government Act 2000 s.101.

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Willett and seconded by Cllr Kilpatrick to make the payment to Zurich Insurance. The resolution was unanimously agreed.

Clerk

7.5 Ratify payment of £9.70 to Councillor Naylor for squash and biscuits for children attending the Sports and Activities Day.

Clerk advised that on Monday 3rd August 2026 Cllr Naylor bought squash and biscuits totalling £9.70 for children attending the Sports and Activities Day the following day. This payment was refunded to Cllr Naylor on Thursday 6th August 2026 in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19.

Chair thanked Cllr Rushbrook who supplied fruit for the children.

Thanks also to Cllr Naylor, Cllr Willett and parishioner Mr Russell Cannon for paying for ice creams for the children.

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Brooker to ratify this payment. The resolution was unanimously agreed.

7.6 Approve payment of Clerk's expenses for March 2026 to September 2026.

Clerk advised that his expenses amount to £36.55 (ANNEX 4).

ANNEX 4

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Naylor to agree this payment. The resolution was unanimously agreed.

Clerk

7.7 Donation to the Poppy Appeal and provision of a Wreath for the Remembrance Day service.

Clerk advised that the Poppy Appeal organisers, Roger and Sue Cornwell, apply to the Royal British Legion head office for a number of wreaths for organisations within the Parish that will want one. They obtain the wreaths for free on the assumption that a donation will be made for the wreath to the Poppy Appeal. Marion Farrant has confirmed that a wreath has been ordered for the Parish Council and she'll drop it off to the Clerk when it's received.

As a Parish Council we have always supported this and made a donation to obtain a wreath for the Chair or a representative of the Council to lay at the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial. Last year the Parish Council donated £100.00.

Clerk advised that this year we have a £100.00 budget for the Poppy Appeal and that Section 138B of the Local Government Act 1972 allows a local authority in England to support such an event.

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Naylor to make a payment of £100.00 to the Poppy Appeal. The resolution was unanimously agreed.

Clerk

7.8 Ratify payment of £50.00 to Kevin Betts for disposal of deceased Muntjac deer on the Cut.

Chair advised this happened on a Sunday. She and the Clerk were unable to get anyone out to it but Kevin Betts assisted her to dispose of it and they agreed to pay him £50.00.

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Standeven and seconded by Cllr Potter to ratify this payment. The resolution was unanimously agreed.

7.9 Ratify payment of £9.99 to Cllr Potter for his purchase of a USB memory stick.

Cllr Potter advised this was for Parish Council business as he needed to provide a member of the public with a file.

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Kilpatrick and seconded by Cllr Willett to ratify this payment. The resolution was unanimously agreed.

8. Grants.

8.1. Uptakes.

Clerk advised there were none.

8.2. Applications.

a. Haverhill Community First Responders.

Following a discussion amongst Councillors a resolution was put forward by Cllr Naylor and seconded by Cllr Brooker to grant £1,000.00 to the Haverhill Community First Responders. The resolution was agreed by a 5-3 majority.

Clerk

b. 2nd Kedington Rangers.

Following a discussion amongst Councillors a resolution was put forward by Cllr Standeven and seconded by Cllr Kilpatrick to grant £350.00 to the 2nd Kedington Rangers. The resolution was agreed by a 7-1 majority.

Clerk

9. Clerk's report.

9.1 Leasing the land owned by Kedington Parish Council that runs between Silver Street and Silver Street Park update.

Clerk reminded Councillors that at the July meeting a resolution was passed to pay half the legal fees for a lease and that former Cllr Griffin advised she would discuss this with her husband Bradley Griffin.

Bradley has since advised that the only way he can see a 50/50 split of the costs being fair would be for himself and the Parish Council to agree on the terms separately, with those agreed terms then being passed through the Parish Council to solicitors for a lease to be drafted and shared. Once the terms have been agreed and the lease is signed, the costs could then be distributed accordingly.

Following a discussion amongst Councillors it was agreed the Clerk will put together terms to be agreed before then instructing solicitors.

Clerk

9.2 Submitting a proposal to Suffolk County Council as part of its Bus Service Improvement Plan 2 update.

Clerk advised he has been in contact with Simon Barnett at Suffolk County Council and has asked what the results of the review were. Mr Barnett has advised that the ongoing inflation of fuel costs has meant that none of the operators has been willing to accept a lower level of funding this far. Passenger numbers are still going in the right direction for most of the contracts though and he's hopeful they will reach that stage at some point.

9.3 Clerk/RFO Performance Development Review.

Chair moved agenda item 9.3 back to be dealt with at the same time as agenda item 15.

9.4 Renewal of Royal British Legion Hall as an Asset of Community Value update.

Clerk reminded Councillors that this had been agreed and that there was an eight-week period during which the Royal British Legion could request a review of the decision.

Clerk advised this eight-week period has now passed and he's heard nothing.

9.5 Local Government Reorganisation update.

This was mentioned at agenda item 6.

Clerk advised that local elections are expected to proceed in May 2027.

10. Play Equipment.

10.1 Receive monthly play park inspection reports and agree any necessary action.

Chair confirmed that Councillors had received the reports.

Cllr Wheeler advised that the report keeps mentioning that the gate going into the enclosed children's play area on Old School Field closes too quickly. He will adjust this.

Clerk advised that Kevin Betts has also tightened the auto lock on the pedestrian entrance gate at the main entrance. Clerk has thanked Kevin for this.

11. Environmental/Grounds Maintenance matters.

11.1 Discuss quote to trim the hedge of Old School Field.

Clerk advised that MD Landscapes have previously trimmed both sides of the hedge on the Mill Road and School Road sides and also the overhanging tree branches between the main entrance gate and the Old School House Cottages entrance.

They have also trimmed back the hedge/trees on the Old School Field sides that run parallel to the Cut and that back onto the Old School House Cottages.

They have quoted £355.00 +VAT to do it again this year.

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Standeven to agree the above quote. The resolution was unanimously agreed.

Clerk

It was agreed the Clerk will prepare a contract for agreement for this for the future.

Clerk

11.2 Claimed Public Footpaths in Kedington update.

Clerk advised that the Public Inquiry took place on Tuesday 25th August 2026.

Clerk advised that on 7th September 2026 the Inspector, who is appointed by the Secretary Of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, decided that the Definitive Map Modification Orders made on 8th January 2024 to add Kedington footpaths 32 and 33 to the definitive map as public footpaths should be confirmed. This can be appealed.

11.3 Cutting the growth on the east side of the Cut to manage it as a wildflower meadow update.

Clerk advised that he sent an email to MD Landscapes that contained the text from the draft minutes of the July meeting regarding the work required by the Council. Clerk also met with them and they subsequently quoted £150.00 +VAT per cut to cut the east side of the Cut twice a year.

This quote was agreed by the Chair and the Clerk in order for MD Landscapes to be able to cut the Cut as soon as they could.

The Cut was cut on Tuesday 1st September 2026 and the invoice was received yesterday.

Clerk asked Councillors to ratify the quote acceptance and agree making the payment to MD Landscapes.

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Naylor and seconded by Cllr Wheeler to ratify the quote acceptance and to agree making the payment to MD Landscapes. The resolution was unanimously agreed.

Clerk

11.4 Ratify quote to repair fencing at the northern end of the west bank of the Cut.

Chair advised she noticed a piece of wood was damaged as you enter the Cut from Mill Road. It was quite dangerous as it's right on the bridge and she advised the Clerk.

Clerk advised that taking into account recent issues with open water users the Chair and he felt it was urgent to repair the fence. The fence is near the weir at the bottom of a slope and although the top rail was okay the middle rail was snapped in half and the bottom rail wasn't very good at all.

Clerk contacted MD Landscapes for a quote to replace the two rails and to install metal mesh on the fence, the same as that on the fencing adjacent to Mill Road itself, being livestock fencing.

MD Landscapes quoted £100.00 +VAT and this was approved by the Chair and Clerk.

The work was completed on 8th September 2026 and the invoice was received.

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Willett to ratify the quote acceptance and to agree making the payment to MD Landscapes. The resolution was unanimously agreed.

Clerk

11.5 Discuss quote to clear a surface water drain at the rear of Old School House Cottages.

On Monday 8th September 2026 the Chair and Clerk viewed a surface water drain in the tree and undergrowth area at the rear of Old School House Cottages, next to the track from Old School Field to the Cut. The pipework to this allows water to drain underground from School Road into the undergrowth. The channel that allows the water to come from the surface pipework opening needs a channel digging/reinstating from it to allow the rain water to flow into the undergrowth.

Clerk met with Trevor Pharaoh from MD Landscapes yesterday and he quoted £100.00 +VAT to carry out this work.

Trevor later contacted the Clerk and suggested also placing wooden gravel boards on the sides of the channel. Trevor quoted a total of £120.00 +VAT to carry out all of the work.

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Kilpatrick to accept the quote for £120.00 +VAT to carry out all of the work. The resolution was unanimously agreed.

Clerk

11.6 Discuss an application to grant permission to a member of the public to undertake Environment Agency-authorised crayfish trapping on any land, riverbank, riverbed or fishing rights which are owned, controlled or lawfully managed by Kedington Parish Council within the geographical limits of his valid Environment Agency authorisation(s), subject to compliance with all applicable Environment Agency conditions and other legal requirements.

The Clerk advised that with regards to ownership and responsibilities of land in Kedington:-

1. Kedington Parish Council holds the Freehold Title SK23237 of the Silver Street Park and is the riparian owner of the abutting watercourse, the River Stour. This includes certain rights and duties, including ownership of the land up to the centre of the watercourse.
2. Kedington Parish Council holds the Freehold Title SK358660 of the Great Meadow as Custodian Trustee of the Kedington Community Association and therefore has the custody and care of relevant documents but cannot make business, financial, or operational decisions about the property.
3. Kedington Parish Council has a Licence agreement with The Trustees of E H Vestey's Marriage Settlement (aka Thurlow Estates) to maintain The Cut and Watermill Field. The licence states fishing rights are to be withheld to The Trustees of E H Vestey's Marriage Settlement.

Clerk advised he has been in contact with Thurlow Estates asking them to let him know how they wish us to proceed if The member of the public wishes to make an application to trap crayfish. However, the Estate Director is away until after this meeting and so no decision can be made as to how to deal with any request to trap crayfish on the Cut or Watermill Field until their return.

Therefore this application relates to Silver Street Park and the abutting watercourse, the River Stour.

Chair invited the member of the public to make his application allowing him 5 minutes to do so in accordance with Standing Orders.

The member of the public confirmed he would like to make an application for permission to trap American crayfish on Silver Street Park. He advised that if the application isn't agreed he would like to know the reasons why.

Councillors then asked the member of the public questions.

The member of the public confirmed that he is already trapping crayfish at Silver Street Park. The member of the public denied that he needed the landowner's permission despite it being pointed out to him by a Councillor that the Environment Agency permit application process ends with a declaration that land owner's permission is required.

The member of the public was asked why he wants to trap crayfish. He replied he'd been working on this for about three years, been in touch with the Environment Agency, mainly involved with Sudbury and Long Melford fishing angling club. He advised that when he looked through legislation and everything else, the area at Sturmer where the sign for the cattery is, was absolutely infested with American crayfish. It was part of the consultation that took place and that's why he decided to do it because he saw there was a little bit of a niche in the market. Originally he was just going to do it for himself but as things have gone on he has decided to do it more for commercial reasons.

The member of the public advised that once he's trapped the crayfish he kills them and then takes them home. He boils the crayfish, takes their claws and tails off and freezes them because he hopes to make some sort of like pickled crayfish tails. Regarding the bodies, he dries these and crushes them and they're used to make boilies.

The member of the public confirmed that the trapping is under commercial but he's not actually "commercial commercial". He has applied for a commercial permit so that if he wants to go that far he can, which is what he's going to do.

The member of the public confirmed that when he puts the traps in the river, he leaves them unattended.

The member of the public confirmed that he has no public liability insurance but he is looking into it because the people that own "this" (the Great Meadow) have asked him about that as well. He advised that because of what his intentions are now he has also contacted the Environment Agency to ask that from the centre of (undecipherable) Cambridge, for a 30 mile radius, he has permission for all the rivers. So he's really looking into public liability at the moment.

A Councillor commented that this is essential because of the risk, particularly to children. The Councillor is aware that children have been talking about the crayfish traps and commented that if a child gets caught in a trap and drowns, the member of the public would be liable.

A Councillor asked the member of the public why the traps are there now as he doesn't have permission to do so. The member of the public said that they're not there now, they've not been there for a couple of weeks.

A Councillor commented that from reading the Kennet Report (ANNEX 5) it would seem that trapping crayfish is not helping the situation at all and the Councillor finds it difficult to understand why the Environment Agency issue permits. The member of the public confirmed he has about 150 permits at the moment, one per trap, they have to be attached to the trap.

A Councillor asked the member of the public if he has landowner's permission for those 150 permits. The member of the public replied he hasn't, not yet.

The member of the public stated it's very ambiguous about getting the landowner's permission; in theory it is only between us if that makes sense, it's nothing to do with the Environment Agency.

A Councillor stated they completely disagree with that. They restated that the Environment Agency permit application process ends with a declaration that land owner's permission is required.

A Councillor commented that if crayfish are to be removed then they should all be removed not just the larger ones that get caught in the traps.

Cllr Naylor advised the Councillors that on 24th July 2026 she inspected crayfish traps placed along the riverbank at Silver Street Park following a report from a member of the public. The traps were positioned and maintained in a way that created safety, legal and environmental concerns.

Cllr Naylor raised concerns about public safety hazards, especially young children being inquisitive, there being brightly coloured ropes and visible equipment that would be highly likely to attract their attention. The area is routinely used by families, including during the school holiday period when child footfall is significantly higher. Children may attempt to pull on loose ropes, investigate the equipment, or step closer to the riverbank to see what the traps contain. This creates a foreseeable risk of a child losing balance, falling down the bank or entering the water. Silver Street Park should be a safe area enjoyed by everyone; young children, older residents, families, dog walkers, individuals with mobility or disability challenges, regular users who rely on unobstructed footpaths.

Cllr Naylor advised that crayfish also present a direct hazard. They have large, powerful claws capable of pinching and causing injury. A child attempting to handle or look inside a trap could easily be bitten or clawed, resulting in cuts, bruising, or significant distress. The combination of unsecured equipment, unsupervised traps, and the presence of live crayfish increases the likelihood of accidental interaction and injury.

Cllr Naylor advised these spaces must remain safe, predictable, and free from avoidable hazards. The introduction of ropes, nets, traps and unauthorised equipment directly undermines that expectation. Such items create visual and physical obstructions along the riverbank, drawing attention and increasing the likelihood of accidental interaction. Coupled with the lack of supervision and the extended periods during which the traps are left unattended, in some cases probably in excess of 24 hours, these risks are further heightened. Unattended equipment in a public, family-used area makes accidental contact by children both foreseeable and preventable.

Cllr Naylor advised that rivers are dangerous environments and the River Stour is no exception. It experiences sudden rises in water level due to unpredictable rainfall and sections of the bank can become unstable or slippery without warning. Introducing additional hazards such as unsecured ropes or visible trapping equipment increases the chance of a child or adult losing balance, falling down the bank, or entering fast-moving water. In combination, these factors demonstrate that the placement and management of the traps creates an avoidable and unacceptable risk within a public space that should remain safe for all users, particularly children.

Cllr Naylor advised that she recently came across a discarded net and line on the grass area of Silver Street Park, bearing the member of the public's trapper identification number.

Abandoned equipment of this kind presents a serious biosecurity risk, as contaminated nets can contribute to the spread of crayfish plague, a highly infectious disease that devastates native species. Discarded ropes and nets can also pose direct dangers to wildlife, including entanglement risks for birds, small mammals, and other animals that use the Park and river corridor.

Cllr Naylor raised concerns about the environmental risks, in particular ropes and nets pose entanglement risks to waterfowl and small mammals and the equipment disrupts wildlife behaviour along the river corridor.

Cllr Naylor advised she could find no evidence that the current crayfish trapping activity is reducing or controlling the population of non-native crayfish.

Cllr Naylor raised concerns about the unauthorised CCTV signage claiming "CCTV recording in progress". This being a breach of UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Cllr Naylor advised that as the riparian owner, the Parish Council must ensure activities on the water course do not create avoidable hazards.

Cllr Naylor advised that no permission was requested of or granted by the Parish Council. Environment Agency tags clearly state landowner consent is required. The member of the public continued trapping after being asked by Cllr Potter to remove his traps. Additional traps appeared afterwards, indicating deliberate non-compliance.

Cllr Naylor advised that signs at both entrances to Silver Street Park state that all concerns regarding park management should be directed to Kedington Parish Council. This removes any ambiguity about who must be contacted before installing equipment or undertaking river-related activity.

In conclusion Cllr Naylor advised this trapping activity was unauthorised, unsafe, and non-compliant with Environment Agency conditions and data protection law. It poses risks to residents, children and wildlife and totally disregarded Kedington Parish Council's authority as the landowner.

Cllr Naylor advised that an incident report was submitted to the Environment Agency and that yesterday, 14th September 2026, the Environment Agency confirmed that their investigation remains ongoing and there is no formal resolution at present.

Cllr Naylor stated she was against giving permission to the member of the public.

A Councillor asked if, with regards to aspects around safety, is there time or opportunity for the member of the public to submit a risk assessment to evidence how he could mitigate those and also what is the position around our decision when we are clearly waiting for the Environment Agency to give more information.

Cllr Naylor advised she does not know if the Environment Agency will give confirmation or not of the ongoing position and/or conclusion of the investigation.

A Councillor commented that is separate to this request, this request is just for the landowner's permission. The Environment Agency outcome doesn't make any difference to the Council's decision. The Environment Agency permit application process makes it clear that land owner's permission is required.

A Councillor commented that if the Environment Agency think it's good thing to do then that may change the Parish Council's view.

The member of the public advised that in the pumping station area at Sturmer he has trapped five crayfish. He found out from local residents that someone who trapped there for a very long time had a restaurant, and the crayfish are now all near enough gone. He also has information to say that the Environment Agency has performed tests. He has contacted them

to say he's not trapping very many crayfish and asked what they'd done. They replied that he's using the wrong bait, which he said he isn't. The member of the public believes this proves that by trapping this does remove the American cray fish.

A parishioner commented that the member of the public should not have been trapping without landowner's permission and that with regards to the safety aspect, he has no public liability and shouldn't be allowed to do anything until it's all done properly if it's agreed in the end. The member of the public agreed with this.

A parishioner asked how the member of the public ensured it's only crayfish that go into his nets, can other species go in them. The member of the public advised he removed and released a perch from one of his nets earlier today. He advised there is nothing to say you're not allowed to catch other fish and then you need to release them.

A Councillor commented that if the traps are left unattended there is a risk to children. Silver Street Park is a busy public park and the member of the public has admitted he has no public liability insurance. The issue for this meeting is quite a simple one, if the member of the public gets public liability insurance, the Environment Agency can finish their investigation and decide that that's the thing to do, then the member of the public can return and apply for Council's permission again. But as far as tonight's concerned it is a fairly straight forward issue.

Following this discussion, a resolution was put forward by Cllr Naylor and seconded by Cllr Willett that Kedington Parish Council does not grant permission for the member of the public to undertake crayfish trapping on Silver Street Park, Kedington, nor the River Stour abutting the Silver Street Park as discussed. The resolution was agreed 7-0 with one abstention.

The member of the public asked if he can appeal the resolution and was advised by the Chair that he can't.

Clerk advised that one of the things the member of the public has asked is if permission is not granted, is that a temporary or permanent refusal. Chair advised it is a permanent refusal at the moment.

The member of the public left the meeting at 1934 hrs.

12. Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture matters.

12.1 Work required in accordance with Cllr Wheeler's Street Furniture Report of 2026 update.

Clerk reminded Councillors that at our meeting on 16th June 2026 they discussed a quote of £120.00 +VAT from Hightech Window Cleaning to clean the eight grit bins and two dog poo bins identified on Cllr Wheeler's report and decided to review this in three month's time.

Clerk has confirmed with Hightech Window Cleaning that the quote remains the same.

Following a discussion amongst Councillors a resolution was put forward by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Potter to review this in one months' time and that in the meantime Councillors would view the grit bins and dog poo bins. The resolution was unanimously agreed.

All
Councillors

12.2 Discuss application to place a litter bin on Silver Street Park.

Clerk advised he had received a request from a parishioner to place another litter bin in Silver Street Park on one of the bridges at the School Road entrance. Clerk advised the bridges are not part of the Silver Street Park that is owned by the Parish Council but a bin could be placed nearby.

Clerk advised he has contacted the West Suffolk Council Enforcement and Education Manager who has confirmed they are currently at capacity on their collection round and could

not accept any new bins. Clerk has also asked if an existing bin could be moved and one could as long it can be accessed by their vehicle.

Clerk advised there are three bins on the Park.

Clerk advised a new bin would cost £539.00 +VAT plus installation.

Chair advised that there is a group of voluntary litter pickers of which she is one and they do cover that area now.

Clerk advised that the village cleaner does partially empty bins if he finds them full.

Following a discussion amongst Councillors it was agreed that three bins on the Park was sufficient and a resolution was put forward by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Bellamy to not place another bin on Silver Street Park. The resolution was unanimously agreed.

Clerk

13. Any other reports and on-going matters.

13.1 Children's Sports and Activities Day update.

Clerk advised that there were two cancellations due to illness, one the day before and one on the morning. Clerk managed to fill one of those places so 47 children attended the Day.

Thanks already given to Cllr Rushbrook who supplied fruit for the children and to Cllrs Naylor and Willett and parishioner Mr Russell Cannon for paying for ice creams for the children.

Clerk thanked members of Prestige Sports whilst they were packing away, for providing another amazing Day for the children. Cllr Naylor also posted a thank you on Facebook.

One parent emailed later on the day thanking everyone for organising the day saying her child had the best time and that it's really appreciated that the Parish Council does this for the children.

Clerk advised that payment of £648.00 including VAT was made to Prestige Sports on 21st August 2026 from the Donations budget in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s.19

13.2 Family Christmas Event.

Clerk advised that Magic Olly has quoted £325.00 inc VAT for two hours of entertainment and normally asks for a deposit of either £50.00 or £100.00.

Following a discussion amongst Councillors a resolution was put forward by Cllr Standeven and seconded by Cllr Willett to book Magic Olly and to pay a £50.00 deposit. The resolution was unanimously agreed.

Clerk

14. Housing/Planning.

14.1 Planning applications for discussion at meeting.

- a. **DC/26/1249/HH - 18 The Orchard, Kedington - Householder planning application - single storey front porch extension.**

Following a discussion amongst Councillors there were no objections to this application.

Clerk

14.2 Planning applications observations conveyed by the Parish Council.

- a. **DC/26/1016/FUL - 23 Haverhill Road, Kedington - Planning application - one self-build dwelling with access.**

Clerk advised that following an email sent to Councillors from the Chair on 20th July 2026 and in accordance with the resolution made at the meeting on 20th December 2022 agenda item 14.1, in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 s101, no objections were submitted to the Planning Officer on 3rd August 2026.

14.3 Planning applications decisions received from the District Council.

- a. **DC/26/0667/FUL - 30 Haverhill Road, Kedington - Planning application - one detached building for use as cat grooming studio (use class E - commercial, business and service).**

Clerk advised this application was approved on 14th July 2026.

15. National Salary Award for 2026/2027.

Chair advised that the Clerk's Performance Development Review was conducted by herself and Cllr Potter on Friday 11th September 2026. The Clerk's performance was deemed to have been to a very high standard with no issues and in her opinion an increase from Spinal Column Point 31 to Spinal Column Point 32 is justified. Cllr Potter advised that in local government such an increase would happen unless the standard of performance was poor, which he said is certainly not applicable in this case.

Clerk advised that in August 2026 the National Joint Council for Local Government Services reached an agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027. Employers are encouraged to implement this pay award as swiftly as possible and it should be applied retrospectively from 1st April 2026. The terms of that agreement are that with effect from 1st April 2026 there is an increase of 3.3% on National Joint Council spinal column pay points.

Clerk advised he is currently paid £21.65 per hour at Spinal Column Point 31. This pay award equates to an increase at this Spinal Column Point to £22.37 per hour.

Clerk

Clerk further advised that from 1st April 2026 to 31st August 2026 he has been paid £15,155.00 gross. Clerk advised that an increase of 3.3% to £22.37 per hour increases that by £504.00 to £15,659.00. Therefore, Clerk is due back pay of £504.00 gross that can be paid in his next salary payment on 30th September 2026.

Clerk

Following a discussion amongst Councillors a resolution was put forward by Cllr Naylor and seconded by Cllr Brooker to agree a salary increase to £22.94 per hour at Spinal Column Point 32 as of 1st October 2026. The resolution was unanimously agreed.

Clerk

Clerk advised that these payments can be made in accordance with Local Government Act 1972 s.112.

16. Date and location of next Parish Council meeting.

Clerk advised the next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 20th October 2026 at 7pm in the Parish Council Office Meeting Room.

The meeting closed at 9:07 p.m.

Signed..... Date.....

ANNEX 1

11 September 2026 (2026-2027)

Kedington Parish Council

Prepared by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)

Approved by: _____ Date: _____
Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)

A	Bank Reconciliation at 11/09/2026		
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2026		87,457.46
	ADD Receipts 01/04/2026 - 11/09/2026		94,022.27
	SUBTRACT Payments 01/04/2026 - 11/09/2026		181,479.73
			38,806.58
	Cash in Hand 11/09/2026 (per Cash Book)		142,673.15
B	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 11/09/2026	0.00	
	Natwest Bank - Kedington Parish 11/09/2026	82,037.78	
	Barclays - Kedington Parish Council 11/09/2026	60,635.37	
			142,673.15
	Less unrepresented payments		
			142,673.15
	Plus unrepresented receipts		
	Adjusted Bank Balance		142,673.15
	A = B Checks out OK		

Kedington Parish Council
PAYMENTS & RECEIPTS LIST

11 September 2026 (2026-2027)

Voucher	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
39	Asset Maintenance	13/07/2026	KPC 132-02 16-6-26	Barclays - Kedington		Payment - Computer service	Nicom IT Services Ltd	S	-58.33	-11.67	-70.00
40	Clerk Salary	31/07/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26 & KPC 1	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Wages John Boxall	John Boxall Clerk	Z	-2,266.16		-2,266.16
41	Village Cleaner Salary	31/07/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26 & KPC 1	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Wages Dennis Brown	Dennis Brownlow Village Cl	Z	-162.76		-162.76
42	Telephone and Broadband	31/07/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Telephone and Broad	Onecom Ltd	S	-77.56	-15.51	-93.07
44	Grounds, Contract A (Inc Church)	31/07/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Grass cutting	M D Landscapes (Anglia) L	S	-742.56	-148.51	-891.07
43	Office Cleaning	31/07/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Office cleaning	Ana Lopes	Z	-19.00		-19.00
44	Grounds, Contract B (Old School F)	31/07/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Grass cutting	M D Landscapes (Anglia) L	S	-75.86	-15.17	-91.03
44	Grounds, Contract E (Great Meadow)	31/07/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Grass cutting	M D Landscapes (Anglia) L	S	-121.38	-24.28	-145.66
44	Grounds, Contract D (Calford Green)	31/07/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Grass cutting	M D Landscapes (Anglia) L	S	-45.52	-9.10	-54.62
45	Grounds - Strimming	31/07/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Strimming	M D Landscapes (Anglia) L	S	-336.00	-67.20	-403.20
47	Clerks and Councilor Training	04/08/2026	KPC 131-11 21-4-26	Barclays - Kedington		Payment - SALC Training	Suffolk Association of Local	S	-35.00	-7.00	-42.00
48	Clerks and Councilor Training	04/08/2026	KPC 131-11 21-4-26	Barclays - Kedington		Payment - SALC Training	Suffolk Association of Local	S	-35.00	-7.00	-42.00
46	Tree Maintenance	04/08/2026	KPC 132-03 14-7-26	Barclays - Kedington		Payment - Tree maintenance	RMS Tree Services	Z	-670.00		-670.00
49	Contingencies / Sundries	06/08/2026	KPC 132-04 15-9-26	Barclays - Kedington		Payment - Sports and Activities	Ann Naylor	Z	-9.70		-9.70
50	Grounds - Extras	17/08/2026	KPC 131-04 16-9-25 & KPC 1	Barclays - Kedington		Payment - Grounds maintenance	M D Landscapes (Anglia) L	S	-50.00	-10.00	-60.00
50	Grounds - Extras	17/08/2026	KPC 131-04 16-9-25 & KPC 1	Barclays - Kedington		Payment - Grounds maintenance	M D Landscapes (Anglia) L	S	-200.00	-40.00	-240.00
51	Donations	21/08/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26	Barclays - Kedington		Payment - Sports and Activities	Prestige Sports	S	-540.00	-108.00	-648.00
52	Office Cleaning	24/08/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Office cleaning	Ana Lopes	Z	-19.00		-19.00
54	Clerk Salary	28/08/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26 & KPC 1	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Wages John Boxall	John Boxall Clerk	Z	-2,266.16		-2,266.16
55	Village Cleaner Salary	28/08/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26 & KPC 1	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Wages Dennis Brown	Dennis Brownlow Village Cl	Z	-162.76		-162.76
53	Telephone and Broadband	28/08/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Telephone and Broad	Onecom Ltd	S	-77.56	-15.51	-93.07
57	Website	01/09/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Website	Suffolk.Cloud	Z	-120.00		-120.00
56	Grounds - Extras	01/09/2026	KPC 132-04 15-9-26	Barclays - Kedington		Payment - Grounds maintenance	Kevin Betts	Z	-50.00		-50.00
58	Grounds, Contract A (Inc Church)	03/09/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Grass cutting	M D Landscapes (Anglia) L	S	-742.56	-148.51	-891.07
58	Grounds, Contract B (Old School F)	03/09/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Grass cutting	M D Landscapes (Anglia) L	S	-75.86	-15.17	-91.03
58	Grounds, Contract E (Great Meadow)	03/09/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Grass cutting	M D Landscapes (Anglia) L	S	-121.38	-24.28	-145.66
58	Grounds, Contract D (Calford Green)	03/09/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Grass cutting	M D Landscapes (Anglia) L	S	-45.52	-9.10	-54.62
59	Grounds - Strimming	03/09/2026	KPC 131-08 20-1-26	Barclays - Kedington	Routine Payment/I	Payment - Strimming	M D Landscapes (Anglia) L	S	-336.00	-67.20	-403.20
60	External Audit	03/09/2026	KPC 128-07 20-12-22 & KPC	Barclays - Kedington		Payment - External Auditor	PKF Littlejohn LLP	S	-315.00	-63.00	-378.00
61	Contingencies / Sundries	07/09/2026	KPC 132-04 15-9-26	Barclays - Kedington		Payment - Refund	Jeff Potter	Z	-9.99		-9.99
Total									-9,786.62	-806.21	-10,592.83

11 September 2026 (2026-2027)

Kedington Parish Council
Net Position by Cost Centre and Code - All Cost Centres and Codes

Cost Centre Name

Administration		Receipts		Payments		Current Balance	
Code	Title	Bal. B/Fwd.	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
7	Clerks Expenses				60.00	35.15	24.85
8	Councillors Expenses				50.00		50.00
9	Clerks and Councillor Trail				100.00	140.00	-40.00
10	Insurance				1,650.00		1,650.00
11	Scribe Accounts Software				561.60		561.60
16	Website				144.00	120.00	24.00
38	NALC & SALC Subscriptio				700.00	694.76	5.24
50	Dropbox				79.90		79.90
54	Internal Audit				380.00	380.00	
55	Electricity				450.00		450.00
56	Telephone and Broadband				850.00	363.95	486.05
58	Stationery				350.00	106.67	243.33
60	Email				250.00		250.00
61	Office Cleaning				250.00	95.00	155.00
67	Shared office costs with K				360.00	360.00	
72	TV Licence				182.00		182.00
73	Portable Appliance Testing				150.00		150.00
75	ICO Data Protection Fee				63.00		63.00
76	Suffolk Local History Reco				15.00		15.00
77	External Audit				315.00	315.00	
					6,980.60	£2,610.63	4,349.97

Asset Register

<u>Asset Register</u>			<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>		<u>Current Balance</u>
<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
39	Community Asset						
40	Infrastructure Asset						
41	Vehicle, Plant, Furniture E						

Earmarked Reserves

Earmarked Reserves		Receipts		Payments		Current Balance
Code	Title	Bal. B/Fwd.	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
						Budget
48	War Memorial	4,000.00				4,000.00
49	Recreation Equipment	10,000.00				10,000.00
63	Legal Fees	3,770.00				3,770.00
64	Training	300.00				300.00
71	Elections	2,918.09				2,918.09
80	Local Government Reorga			1,000.00		1,000.00
		£20,888.09		£1,000.00		21,888.09

General Parish Requirements

<u>General Parish Requirements</u>			<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>		<u>Current Balance</u>
<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
30	Contingencies / Sundries				500.00	37.69	462.31
46	Asset Maintenance				2,000.00	1,222.33	777.67
59	Mole Control				980.00	980.00	
78	Family Christmas Event				400.00		400.00
					3,880.00	£2,240.02	1,639.98

General Reserves

<u>General Reserves</u>			<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>		<u>Current Balance</u>
<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
45	Reserve	64,728.63		-112.32		4,566.62	60,049.69
		64,728.63		£-112.32		£4,698.82	60,049.89

Grants and Donations

<u>Grants and Donations</u>			<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>		<u>Current Balance</u>
<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
36	Grants - Sec 137				6,500.00	1,278.40	5,221.60
51	Poppy Appeal - Sec 138B				120.00		120.00

Current Balance = Balance B/Fwd - (Receipt Budget - Actual Receipt) + (Payment Budget - Actual Payments)

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11 September 2026 (2026-2027)

Kedington Parish Council
Net Position by Cost Centre and Code - All Cost Centres and Codes

Cost Centre Name						
74 Donations	540.00			540.00		
	£540.00		8,820.00	£1,818.40		5,341.80
HMRC VAT						
<u>Code Title</u>	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>		<u>Current Balance</u>
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
44 Reclaimed VAT			112.32			112.32
			£112.32			112.32
Local Government Reorganisation						
<u>Code Title</u>	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>		<u>Current Balance</u>
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
79 Local Government Reorga			-1,000.00	1,000.00		
			£-1,000.00	1,000.00		
PRECEPT						
<u>Code Title</u>	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>		<u>Current Balance</u>
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
43 Precept			91,704.00			91,704.00
			£91,704.00			91,704.00
Salary						
<u>Code Title</u>	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>		<u>Current Balance</u>
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
1 Clerk Salary				38,089.80	13,625.32	24,464.48
3 Village Cleaner Salary				2,540.32	1,035.60	1,504.72
4 National Insurance Contrib				5,000.00	1,176.30	3,823.70
				45,630.12	£16,837.22	28,792.90
Village Maintenance						
<u>Code Title</u>	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>		<u>Current Balance</u>
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
20 Grounds, Contract A (Inc C				8,910.72	3,712.80	5,197.92
21 Grounds, Contract B (Old I				910.35	379.30	531.05
22 Grounds, Contract E (Gret				1,456.56	606.90	849.66
23 Grounds, Contract D (Calf				546.21	227.60	318.61
25 Grounds - Extras				2,000.00	300.00	1,700.00
26 Grounds - Strimming				2,688.00	2,016.00	672.00
28 Equipment New				2,000.00	83.95	1,916.05
31 Recreation Equipment				2,000.00		2,000.00
33 Tree Maintenance				500.00	670.00	-170.00
35 Dog Bin Emptying				6,800.00	1,632.04	4,967.96
68 The Cut Peppercorn Rent				1.00		1.00
				27,812.84	£8,828.68	17,884.26
NET TOTAL	£88,268.72		£91,704.00	91,703.48	£38,701.38	232,862.80

Current Balance = Balance B/Fwd - (Receipt Budget - Actual Receipt) + (Payment Budget - Actual Payments)

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11 September 2026 (2026-2027)

Kedington Parish Council
Reserves Balance
2026-2027

<u>Reserve</u>	<u>OpeningBalance</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Spend</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>CurrentBalance</u>
Capital					
General Reserves	64,728.63		4,566.62	-112.32	60,049.69
Total Capital	64,728.63		4,566.62	-112.32	60,049.69
Earmarked					
Recreation Equipment	10,000.00				10,000.00
War Memorial	4,000.00				4,000.00
Legal Fees	3,770.00				3,770.00
Training	300.00				300.00
Elections	2,918.09				2,918.09
Local Government Reorganisati		1,000.00			1,000.00
Total Earmarked	20,988.09	1,000.00			21,988.09
TOTAL RESERVE	85,716.72	1,000.00	4,566.62	-112.32	82,037.78
GENERAL FUND					60,635.37
TOTAL FUNDS					142,673.15

ANNEX 2

Section 3 – External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2025/26

In respect of **Kedington Parish Council – SF0223**

1 Respective responsibilities of the auditor and the authority

Our responsibility as auditors to complete a **limited assurance review** is set out by the National Audit Office (NAO). A limited assurance review is **not a full statutory audit**, it does not constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and hence it **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would. The UK Government has determined that a lower level of assurance than that provided by a full statutory audit is appropriate for those local public bodies with the lowest levels of spending.

Under a limited assurance review, the auditor is responsible for reviewing Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with NAO Auditor Guidance Note 02 (AGN 02) as issued by the NAO on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General. AGN 02 is available from the NAO website – <https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/guidance-and-information-for-auditors/>

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2026; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

2 External auditor's limited assurance opinion 2025/26

Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with *Proper Practices* and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The smaller authority has disclosed that it made proper provision during the year 2025/26 for the exercise of public rights, by answering 'Yes' to Section 1, Assertion 4. However, as reported by the internal auditor, we are aware that the notice regarding the period for the exercise of public rights was not published before the start of the period, therefore the smaller authority should have answered 'No' to this Assertion.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

None

3 External auditor certificate 2025/26

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2026.

External Auditor Name

PKF LITTLEJOHN LLP

External Auditor Signature

PKF Littlejohn LLP

Date

30/08/2026

ANNEX 3

Kedington Parish Council

Notice of conclusion of audit

Annual Governance & Accountability Return for the year ended 31st March 2026

Sections 20(2) and 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014

Section 16 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/234)

1. The audit of accounts for Kedington Parish Council for the year ended 31 March 2026 has been completed and the accounts have been published.
2. The Annual Governance & Accountability Return including the auditor's certificate and opinion is available for inspection and copying by any local government elector of the area of Kedington Parish Council on application to:

Mr John Boxall
Kedington Parish Council
c/o Village Stores
17 Silver Street
Kedington
Haverhill
Suffolk
CB9 7QG
Tel: 01440 708577
Email: clerk@kedingtonpc.org.uk

By appointment only between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

3. Copies will be provided to any local government elector of the area on payment of £0.20 pence for each copy of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return.

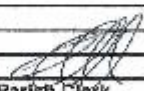
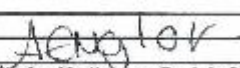
Announcement made by: **Mr John Boxall**
Clerk to Kedington Parish Council

Date of announcement: **3rd September 2026**

ANNEX 4

KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK'S MILEAGE & EXPENSES

DATE	PURPOSE OF JOURNEY	MILES	CAR PARK	EXPENSES
31/3/26	Notices of SCC Election to noticeboards	3.00		
2/4/26	PC Agenda removed from noticeboards	3.00		
10/4/26	Notices of SCC Election from noticeboards	3.00		
17/4/26	PC Agenda and Annual Parish Meeting Agenda to noticeboards	3.00		
23/4/26	PC Agenda removed from noticeboards	3.00		
30/4/26	Annual Parish Meeting Agenda removed from noticeboards	3.00		
15/5/26	PC Agenda to noticeboards	3.00		
21/5/26	PC Agenda removed from noticeboards	3.00		
4/6/26	Notice of the exercise of public rights noticeboards	3.00		
12/6/26	PC Agenda to noticeboards	3.00		
18/6/26	PC Agenda removed from noticeboards	3.00		
1/7/26	NicomIT to drop off tower for service	8.00		
2/7/26	NicomIT to collect tower	8.00		
7/7/26	Remove Sports and Activities Day poster from noticeboards	3.00		
10/7/26	PC Agenda to noticeboards	3.00		
16/7/26	PC Agenda and Notice of the exercise of public rights removed from noticeboards	3.00		
24/8/26	Notice of Vacancy re Cllr Griffin to noticeboards	3.00		
3/9/26	Notice Of Conclusion Of Audit & AGAR Sec 3 to notice boards	3.00		
11/9/26	PC Agenda to noticeboards	3.00		
	Total miles	87.00		
	from 1/4/26 = 0.55 pence per mile =	36.85		
	Car park =	0.00		
	Expenses =			0.00
	30p less for 31/3/26			-0.30
	Total claim =			36.55
	Signed: 			
	Parish Clerk			
	Signed: 			
	Chair - Kedington Parish Council			

ANNEX 5



Action for the River Kennet

Position Statement on American Signal Crayfish

Background

American Signal crayfish were deliberately introduced to the UK in the 1970's to be farmed as a food source. They rapidly escaped or were released with devastating consequences for our native white clawed crayfish in UK rivers.

Signal crayfish carry a disease known as crayfish plague, which is 100% lethal to the native white-clawed.

Even signal crayfish free of the disease tend to outcompete their native counterparts over time. Studies show that invasive American Signal Crayfish impact every level of the ecosystem in rivers, from river bed algae to the apex predators. Their impact is huge and this is a salutary lesson in well intentioned schemes having unintended consequences.

ARK's experience

In the Kennet and Pang catchments there are no longer any native white clawed crayfish to our knowledge, but American Signal Crayfish are ubiquitous. They cause serious bank erosion by burrowing into banks and are voracious eaters. Their impact is particularly problematic for coarse fish which lay eggs in summer when crayfish are most active. American Signal Crayfish also eat invertebrate larva, small fish and each other.

We see ample evidence of otters eating crayfish and this seems to have become a major part of their diet, which is positive and probably relieves pressure on fish stocks.

ARK ran an informal experiment of concerted trapping in a short stretch of river in 2008 and found that although trapping gradually reduced the size of individual crayfish the overall volume remained more or less the same, there appeared to be a temporary dip in population which recovered after a year. There have been no successful crayfish eradication by trapping.

Patric
Chairman
Hon. Treasurer
Walter Resource Advisor
Ecological Advisor
Executive Committee
Director

Lord Kennet
Richard Clarke (Trustee)
Martin Gibson (Trustee)
John Lawson
Peter Murren, John Hounslow
Sam Marshall, Rob Storr, David Hill, John Lawson, Judy Pitts
Charlotte Hitchmough

Registered charity no.: 1120725 www.riverkennet.org email: charlotte@riverkennet.org

A study in 2020¹ confirms that:

1. trapping is ineffective for crayfish population control.
2. less than 2.5% of all the signal crayfish recorded were large enough to be caught in conventional traps.
3. this species reaches breeding age before they're "trappable" size, so populations can still reproduce and proliferate despite best efforts to trap them.
4. large signal crayfish have been shown to cannibalise and eat small crayfish, so removing these larger cannibals with traps could inadvertently allow the population to expand.

ARK's view

In the Kennet the white clawed crayfish appears now to be extinct.

Trapping American Signal Crayfish won't remove them from the ecosystem and may inadvertently cause a population boom.

Traps pose a risk to local wildlife, particularly water voles

A commercial trapping business will only take the larger crayfish, which represent only a few percent of the total population.

Letting the population stabilise naturally is probably most effective approach.

We are not opposed to commercial trapping, but are concerned at the risk presented by well meaning members of the public setting their own traps.

We don't support statements that crayfish trapping will bring ecological benefit.

Charlotte Hitchmough 12.07.24

¹ (A novel 'triple drawdown' method highlights deficiencies in invasive alien crayfish survey and control techniques

Daniel D. A. Chadwick, Eleri G. Pritchard, Paul Bradley, Carl D. Sayer, Michael A. Chadwick, Lawrence J. B. Eagle, Jan C. Armechier

First published: 12 October 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2054.13758>