

# **Kirtling and Upend Parish Council**

## **Annual Parish Meeting**

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on

**Tuesday 27th May 2025**

**at 6.30pm**

- 1 Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Richard Staunton welcomed everyone present.
- 2 12 attendees. No apologies received
- 3 Reports were received from the following:

### **Kirtling and Upend Parish Council**

Cllr Staunton referred to an information 'meet and greet' meeting held in September 2023 where 3 areas for development were identified by residents.

1. To make the village more attractive and safer
2. Road safety
3. An area of community

A grant had been spend on spring bulbs and that the daffodils this year had been very much admired and appreciated.

The council had taken action to help residents and road users to feel safe. The commissioned speed analysis and research supports extending the 30mph limit on the Malting End Road and perhaps introducing a 40mph buffer zone and the Parish Council had submitted a second application for 2 vehicle activated speed signs to be sited within the village boundary to calm speeding traffic as it goes through.

The cutting of verges was also extended to improve safety for pedestrians.

The first phase of installation of fitness and play equipment has been completed with the installation of 7 pieces of community equipment. The Parish Council has budgeted to spend around £20,000 this current financial year with the purchase of entry signs at the village boundaries and wooden bus shelters.

## **County & District Council**

Cllr Alan Sharp submitted his annual report – see appendix 1 for full report

Cllr Jonny Edge introduced himself at our new County Councillor. He is also Vice Chair of the Children and Young People Committee and a member of the Highways and Transport Committee.

## **Village Hall Charity**

Stuart Vause reported on behalf of the Village Hall Charity. Please see appendix 2 for full report.

## **Kirtling and Upend Residents' Group**

Sarah Hellowell, Chair of the Kirtling and Upend Residents' Group submitted a report. Please see appendix 3 for full report

## **Parochial Church Council**

Wendy Mendham delivered a report from the Revd Dr Naomi Wormell, Vicar of Kirtling. Please see appendix 4 for full report. Mrs Mendham also advised that restorative work would start on the walls and windows of the church in June and due to health and safety considerations, the church would be locked until the work has been completed.

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

Wendy Mendham delivered a report about Neighbourhood Watch in the village. Please see appendix 5 for full report.

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## **Public Forum**

It was felt that the problem of litter spoilt the look of the village and suggested that we needed more litter bins and signs around to village to discourage this. It was also suggested that residents be advised not to put black bags out so early on collection days as these were often attacked by wildlife. Residents should also be encouraged not to put food waste in black bags but in the green bin.

It was felt that residents either did not understand and/or were not complying with the current system and that more communication and guidance on this was needed. It was noted that a new bin system would be introduced next year and that a black bin would replace black bags.

Problems with communication with villagers were identified. Information was available from the parish council website and was posted on Facebook but it was acknowledged that not everyone accesses these. It was suggested that we have a regular collaborative newsletter and Cllr Staunton felt the council should prioritize next month's meeting to have a look at our communication strategy. It was also noted that the council had a new website at [kirtlingandupend.co.uk](http://kirtlingandupend.co.uk) but that there were some elements which still needed updating or correcting.

The problem of potholes and damage to verges by large vehicles was discussed.

- 4            The date for the next meeting is confirmed as Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 6.30pm

Sally Foister (Clerk)  
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.....  
Chair

.....  
Date

## **East Cambridgeshire District Council/ Cambridgeshire County Council Report – Kirtling Annual Report April 2025**

### **County Council**

This year, the County has encountered several issues, and my report provides a summary of the key points relevant to Kirtling residents.

### **Highways**

#### **Swaffham Heath Rd/A 1303 Crossroads**

After four years of waiting, the new staggered junction was opened towards the end of 2024. I am aware of one accident since, involving a motor cyclist and a car. We just need to keep vigilant and ensure that the safety of all road users is paramount.

### **Capital Maintenance of roads programme**

The County Council has introduced a new system for the major resurfacing works which uses a scoring matrix to assess the roads most in need of major work.

That sounds a good idea, but I believe that the scoring matrix is very biased towards urban areas, leaving an unlevel playing field.

The normal pothole repairs come out of the revenue budget, but there needs to be better workmanship on those repairs than currently is the case.

### **LHI Application**

Supported the Parish Council in their successful Local Highways Improvement application, which means that the 30mph will be extended along Malting End.

### **Mill Road Bridge**

Back in October 2024, the Highways & Transport Committee voted to restrict Mill Road bridge in Cambridge to taxis, buses, and blue badge holders.

I am opposed to this scheme, as no account of the effect on side roads off Mill Road, such as Tennison Road and Coleridge Road, together with the extra traffic created on Cherry Hinton Road and Coldhams Lane was considered.

### **Highways Weedkilling**

Our group opposed the Council's decision in 2023 to stop chemical weedkilling to save money.

I believed this to be a false economy and in 2024, the County Council were forced to reintroduce the chemical weedkilling, due to the state that it left our roads in.

Parishes and areas were able to continue without chemical weedkilling, which Cambridge City decided not to use. The state of roads such as Trumpington Road shows this to be an incorrect policy.

## **Busways – Cambridge to Cambourne and CSET**

The Council voted to proceed with the busway from Cambourne to Cambridge going through an ancient orchard in Coton at a cost of £200m, as well as another busway going into Addenbrookes going over open countryside and the Gog Magog Hills at a cost of £162m.

I opposed both of those schemes, as there are much cheaper on-road solutions, which do not carve open our countryside.

## **Council Reorganisation**

The County Council held a special meeting on 18th March to agree the Council's response to the Government's Council reorganisation, which Government requested for 21st March, with East Cambridgeshire District Council meeting on 20th March.

The response to Government consisted of a joint letter from all of the Councils within Peterborough and Cambridgeshire excluding Fenland.

The response was very much a holding response and Government are stating that the final decision from the councils is sent by 28th November and if the tier 2 authorities, i.e. District Councils cannot agree, then the County Council makes the decision.

Whilst I agree that there was a need for a reorganisation, this has been imposed by Government with little discussion and no opportunity for residents to comment.

## **Buses**

The mayor, as his last act before announcing that he was not standing for election, decided to implement franchising. I have huge concerns on how this will be financed and could cause a huge financial burden on residents for many years to come.

The extra buses promised as part of the precept increase in 2024 had to go out to tender again, with it looking likely that those services will happen sometime during the summer, a year after residents were paying for them.

## **Education**

The County Council is currently spending £25m on taxis to transport pupils around the County. Whilst a lot of the costs is unavoidable, I have raised concerns in the Education Committee about those costs and how we need to reduce them.

The availability of school places is another issue, as seen in Cambridge, where several secondary schools are full to new pupils, causing those school with places, such as Bottisham Village College, to take those pupils, with pupils having a longer than desired journey to school.

It is a difficult balancing act, but there is a need to take a look at the location and capacity of schools around the County.

## **Kingsway Solar**

Kingsway Solar is a proposed 3,700-acre solar farm, which will encircle West Wratting and Weston Colville, whilst taking the resulting electricity ten miles on pylons across the countryside to the Burwell substation.

I spoke as the local member at the Environment & Green Investment Committee at County Council to express my concerns about the proposed application.

The application is in totally the wrong position, and I will continue to push for a decision that thinks about residents rather than those of opportunistic applicants.

## **East Cambridgeshire District Council**

### **Waste Services**

The system of collection will change from April 2026 to a four-bin system of different sizes.

Part of this has been determined by Government legislation, which demands that general waste is put in a bin, rather than the bag system that ECDC uses and the weekly collection of food waste, which currently goes into the green bin.

More details will be shared of these changes later in the year to prepare residents.

### **Council Tax – Nil Increase**

For the eleventh year running, the ECDC portion of the Council tax bill has been frozen and this is managed with no external borrowing, which is a testament to the way that the Council's finances are managed.

### **Planning**

The planning team have had a year of challenges, and a reshaping of the department has been undertaken to make it more responsive and less bureaucratic.

### **East Cambs Trading Company (ECTC)**

The wholly owned trading company (ECTC) continues to perform to a high standard.

The grounds maintenance team continues to win new contracts and recently won a major academy trust contract, not on price, but on service.

Ely Market continues to thrive with a waiting list of traders wanting to join it.

Palace Green Homes continues to build good quality homes, including £100k homes and a good percentage of affordable homes, whilst contributing back over £6m in saved costs to the council over the life of the Company.

Alan Sharp

## Appendix 2

### Kirtling Village Hall

#### Report to Parish Council May 27<sup>th</sup> 2025

The Management Committee manages the Village Hall on behalf of the Parish Council and has 3 main areas of responsibility :

1. Maintenance-safety ,general upkeep and fitness for purpose (clean etc)
2. Administration-finances, lettings and insurance
3. Promotion and Cost Control-new lettings and efficiency

**Maintenance**-during 24/25 fitted new Infra Red heaters which can be controlled remotely to help with cost saving and achieve better safety standard as current heaters were a fire hazard. Cost circa £5k and funded by MC from cash reserves.

PAT (portable appliance testing)undertaken on annual basis to ensure compliance and safety throughout building, together with update on Fire Procedures and its notification to hirers.

**Administration**-insurance undertaken for hall at an annual cost of £1k(possibly some duplication with PC and separate conversation to take place).

In terms of lettings the annual income is static at £5k-£6k and this has become a prime concern for the MC as it means that ,although we are a non profit organisation, we are barely covering our running costs which in round figures are £5k made up of the following main areas:

Insurance £1k  
Cleaning £1.5k  
Energy £1.5k  
Water £0.4k  
Other £0.6k

**Promotion and Cost Control**-initiatives have been taken to firstly ,organise income generating events ie Quiz Nights (which generated £300),secondly to attract a regular hirer eg Yoga class which we achieved but lack of support from village means this will probably get cancelled and thirdly VE Day coffee morning to also help promote the hall only 18 turned up. So generating income is difficult.

This has placed more pressure on cost control and energy was our prime concern so applied for Grant from ECDC supporting their Net Zero Village campaign ,we were successful with our submission in February and were awarded £11950 to install Solar Power and battery storage. This was installed in early May with the objective of recovering 85-90% of electricity costs.

## **Appendix 3**

### **Report from The Kirtling and Upend Residents' Group**

Over the past few years, due to personal commitments and changes in circumstances for many of our committee members, the group has been largely dormant.

The remaining members are no longer in a position to undertake active projects or initiatives, therefore, our primary activity at present is the maintenance of our Facebook page. We continue to administer this platform to help keep the village informed of relevant news, events and businesses within the local area.

Sarah Hellowell

Chair

Kirtling and Upend Residents' Group

19/05/2025

## **Appendix 4**

### **A report from the Ecclesiastical Parish of Kirtling to its little sibling, the civil parish.**

Kirtling All Saints' Church holds worship services (nearly) every Sunday at 9am (on the rare "fifth Sunday" of the month, the morning service rotates round the parishes of Cheveley, Ashley, Woodditton and Kirtling); Kirtling All Saints' also holds services at the major feasts and festivals of the Christian year.

Everyone who lives in Kirtling or Upend has a right to seek Christian baptism, weddings and funerals in the church. All are welcome to attend worship services, and all baptised people who live within the ecclesiastical parish of Kirtling (with Upend) are welcome to apply for inclusion on the church electoral roll.

All Saints' Church also holds a number of social and fundraising events in the year, including providing teas for Kirtling Tower Open Gardens, and an annual "Friends Day Lecture". This year the Friends Day will be held on the afternoon on Saturday 4th October with a tea and a lecture on Mediaeval Misericords. Anyone wishing to join the Friends could contact the Vicar in the first instance. The Friends exist to support the fabric of the church. The church is mediaeval, and, whilst it is in a generally good state of repair, the combined effects of anno domini and gravity mean that there is always some work to do. Churches do not receive money from the government or any other source, and are dependent on charitable giving and the generosity of friends, visitors, and charities for the upkeep of the building. Whilst grants are available, they are rarely available for whichever piece of work we want to undertake (e.g., grants for roofs are available when we need to work on foundations, grants for foundations are available when we need to work on stonework, etc., etc.)

We are fortunate to have an open and active church in Kirtling, not every village is so fortunate. If the presence of a church matters to you, please think about going onto the electoral roll and joining us for worship.

The Revd Dr Naomi Wormell, Vicar of Kirtling.

## **Appendix 5**

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

NHW is a National organisation, split into regional areas and further divided by volunteer coordinators, for those who don't know I am the one for Kirtling – Upend has their own.

37 houses have signed to receive both local and National information relating to crimes, general information and awareness of vulnerable people which I forward via email.

Kirtling fortunately is a quiet village and we do not have issues affecting larger communities. It's population is a mix of people working from home, commuters – often leaving early and returning late, families with school children and elderly, some have been here most of their lives.

I would appreciate any feedback that would enhance NHW and bring cohesiveness to the village, I am sure we could bring in more of 'village life'

Thank you  
Wendy Mendham  
May 27<sup>th</sup> 2025