

Kirtling and Upend Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Meeting held on
Monday 23rd February 2026
at 7pm

Present: R Staunton (Chair), Cllr J Kiteley, Cllr R Rickcord, Cllr M Campbell,
Cllr A Sharp, Mrs. L Brent (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr J Lay and Cllr J Edge

260223/01	Chairman's welcome and acceptance of apologies Chair accepted apologies from Cllr J Lay and Cllr J Edge	
260223/02	To receive any declarations of interest None declared.	
260223/03	Public Forum Rights of way Mrs Kay Wadey attended the meeting and restated the concern first raised at the 26 January meeting regarding the recent ploughing of several fields owned by the Fairhaven Estate and the erection of notices on the land. The Estate's Land Agent Kit Longstaff has since advised that the ploughing and the notices are unrelated. Some land is being returned to arable use following the end of environmental schemes, while the notices were erected by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) after the Estate submitted routine Section 31 deposits. He confirmed that the definitive source for public rights of way information is the CCC Public Rights of Way Officer. Kat Barnes, Definitive Map Officer at CCC, has confirmed that the notices were erected by the Definitive Map Team in relation to a landowner deposit submitted under Section 31(6) of the Highways Act 1980 and Section 15A(1) of the Commons Act 2006. A Section 31(6) deposit protects land from presumed dedication as a public right of way and must be renewed every 20 years. Since the previous meeting, definitive public rights of way maps for the Parish have been printed by the Parish Council and will be displayed on public noticeboards for residents' reference. Any resident wishing to dispute these rights of way should contact Ms Barnes direct Planning Application Reference: 26/00032/FUL Officer: Charlotte Sage Parish: Kirtling Location: Land Southwest Of Willow Cottage Upend Suffolk Proposal: Erection of stables and associated stores and wash bay. Construction of a fenced outdoor arena with secure gated entrances and associated works. Installation of	

a surface water drainage grid, associated infrastructure and solar lighting. creation of new vehicular access with gate.

The Parish Council considered the above application. Prior to the meeting, Councillors reviewed written representations from residents, including correspondence from:

- Mrs Louise Sargent (23 Feb 2026)
- Mrs Bella Maxwell (22 Feb 2026, with attachments)
- Mrs Jacqui Henderson (20 Feb 2026)
- Mrs Sheila Raye (18 Feb 2026, with attachments)
- Emily and Simon Davies (17 Feb 2026)

Several residents attended, along with the Applicants and owners of Willow Cottage, Dr Burley and Mr Michael Curtis.

During the Public Forum, both Applicants and neighbours addressed the Council. No objections were raised to the principle of a modest domestic stable for two horses. However, several material concerns were voiced and recorded

1. Scale of Proposed Development

Residents questioned whether the size of the stable block and arena is proportionate to domestic use.

2. Drainage and Flood Risk

Concerns were raised about existing drainage issues and potential increased surface water run-off affecting neighbouring property.

3. Lighting and Dark Skies

Given the area's dark sky character and being a conservation area, residents expressed concern about potential light pollution.

4. Access and Highway Safety

Concern was expressed that no detailed access design has been submitted. The applicants have apparently been advised by the Highways department that should be submitted later. Neighbours would like to see full drawings and a safety assessment, with conditions ensuring the conservation area's character is preserved.

5. Potential for Future Commercial Use

Residents noted that the scale of the facility could enable commercial equestrian use in future. A condition restricting use to private, non-commercial purposes on the property would be helpful.

6. Landscaping and Spoil Management

The proposal is likely to generate significant excavated spoil. The council noted that no landscaping or disposal plan has been provided.

The Council noted residents' concerns that future owners might not honour current assurances made by the Applicants. Appropriate conditions would therefore provide necessary long-term safeguards. It was felt that constructive collaboration between parties remains possible.

	<p>The Parish Council resolved that it does not object in principle to a modest domestic stable for two horses. However, the concerns raised by neighbouring residents were considered material and of sufficient significance to warrant formal representation.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Parish Council agreed to write to the Local Planning Authority requesting that it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek further information where details within the application are incomplete or unclear; and • Impose conditions necessary to safeguard neighbouring amenity, protect the conservation area, and prevent any future intensification or commercial use of the proposed equestrian facilities. 	
260223/04	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2026 Agreed as a true record.</p>	
260223/05	<p>Matters arising from previous meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C229 Malting End, Kirtling -Carriage way patching will be taking place on 25 Feb • Bus Shelter bases – placement now agreed, order to be placed. • Village Speed limits – ordered and will be delivered by the end of this financial year. • Woodditton/Kirtling Rd - Forestry Commission say it is the responsibility of CCC Highways. Chair chased and has been recorded by CCC for action • Resignation of Cllr J Dennis. The Parish Council expressed their sincere thanks to John Dennis for his dedicated service and the time he has given to our community. His commitment, steady support, and willingness to contribute have been greatly appreciated. The Council extends its best wishes to him for every success in the future. • Resignation of Parish Clerk, L Brent An advert will be published this week. 	
260223/06	<p>Election of New Parish Councillor The Parish Council unanimously elected Mrs Jane Feron to serve as a Parish Councillor. Mrs Feron has been a resident of Kirtling for over ten years and brings valuable local knowledge and experience to the Council.</p>	
260223/07	<p>Planning Councillors noted the following application and decisions:</p> <p>Reference: 26/00160/SCOPE Application date: 9 Feb 26 Applicant – Anglian Water Proposal – Scoping opinion – Cambridge to Rede Pipeline Scheme</p> <p>APPEAL DECISION - 25/00760/FUL / 25/00032/REFAPP Woodditton View Woodditton Road Appeal: dismissed</p> <p>APPEAL DECISION - 24/00462/LBC and 24/00461/FUL - Oak Farmhouse, Woodditton Road, Kirtling CB8 9PG circulated by email on 11 Feb 2026</p>	

260223/08	<p>Footpaths & watercourses See earlier discussion</p>	
260223/09	<p>To note correspondence received</p> <p>Proposed Cambridge to Rede pipeline – letter received from Lucy White of Anglian Water dated 23 Jan 26 There is a series of public consultation events in March. These sessions will give the community the opportunity to engage directly with our project team, review plans and maps, discuss timelines, ask questions, and share their views in person.</p> <p>All parish residents are very welcome to attend any of the events listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 4 March Burrough Green Reading Room, Bradley Road, Newmarket CB8 9NH • Wednesday 11 March Virtual (Microsoft Teams) • Thursday 19 March Wickhambrook Memorial Social Centre, Cemetery Road, Newmarket CB8 8XP • Wednesday 25 March Saint Andrew’s Centre, School Hill, Histon, Cambridge CB24 9JE <p>More information, including times and how to register for the events, is available on our website.</p> <p>CCC</p> <p>Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough – Attend their public webinar at which leaders and representatives from all three councils will talk more about the options and specifically their preferred option B proposal: Option B for Everybody - Friday, 6 March 5-6pm Please click the link to register your interest in attending.</p> <p>20MPH Funding 2026/27 Applications - Applicants are now able to make applications until 17:00PM on Friday 27th March 2026. 20mph Funding - Cambridgeshire County Council</p> <p>ECDC</p> <p>CONSULTATION: Rural Settlement List 2026/27 – feedback deadline Fri 6 March</p> <p>Draft Operational Services Committee Minutes - The draft minutes of the Operational Services Committee held on Monday 26 January 2026 have been published on the website: Operational Services Committee 26/01/2026 East Cambridgeshire District Council</p> <p>The minutes will be agreed at the next meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>The Decision List for yesterday’s Licensing Committee meeting has been published online and is available via the link below: Licensing Committee 11/02/2026 East Cambridgeshire District Council</p>	

	<p>Finance & Assets Committee 29.01.26 - Decision List</p> <p>The Decision List for the meeting of the Finance and Assets Committee held on 29 January 2026 has been published on the Council’s website at the link below.</p> <p>Finance & Assets Decision List</p>	
--	---	--

260223/10	<p>Finance matters</p> <p>The following expenditure was authorised:</p> <p>2 Feb Go Cardless Scribe £28.80 10 Feb Communicorp £15.50 10 Feb Village Hall Charity £156.72 16 Feb CALPAC inv 5641 £35 16 Feb CALPAC Inv 5644 £35 17 Feb Bank Service Charges £4.25 Total: £275.27</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Bank balances as at 23 Feb 26 noted</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Community Account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2926.72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Current Account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£51929.02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£54855.02</td> </tr> </table>	Bank balances as at 23 Feb 26 noted		Community Account	£2926.72	Current Account	£51929.02	Total	£54855.02
Bank balances as at 23 Feb 26 noted									
Community Account	£2926.72								
Current Account	£51929.02								
Total	£54855.02								
260223/11	<p>Councillors’ Forum</p> <p>Cllr Alan Sharp was in attendance.</p> <p>The following main points were made</p> <p>LGR – The consultation ends on 26th March. The final decision is likely to come before Parliament before the summer recess.</p> <p>The Transport committee meets next week</p> <p>Bus Services A review of local bus routes is currently in progress. The council is considering a shift toward more demand-responsive services, as several existing routes have per-passenger costs that are no longer sustainable. There is interest in extending certain services to include end stops at Addenbrooke’s and Tesco, though any expansion will depend on demonstrated customer demand.</p> <p>Tiger Pass The Tiger Pass is currently not financially sustainable. While uptake has been strong in Cambridge and Peterborough, a more balanced approach is needed to ensure viability in rural areas where usage is significantly lower.</p> <p>Planning A recent application has been submitted in Burwell for the installation of 200 solar battery units. Policy makes it increasingly challenging for local authorities to refuse such proposals, regardless of the locations</p>								

	<p>suggested by applicants. The council will continue to assess each case carefully to ensure that local considerations are fully taken into account.</p> <p>Budget A full meeting of the Council is scheduled for next week. It is proposed that there will be a 0% increase in Council Tax, maintaining the current rate for residents. However, ECDC is expected to introduce an increase due to ongoing budgetary pressures and the need to ensure financial sustainability.</p> <p>Forest City 1</p> <p>Cllr Alan Sharp reported that he has recently become aware of this matter via social media; however, no formal submission has been made to the Planning Department at this time. He will raise the issue with Nick Timothy, MP for West Suffolk during their next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Jonny Edge’s February report is below.</p>
260223/12	To confirm date of the next meeting as Monday 30 th March 2026 at 7pm.

Lisa Brent (Clerk)
Email: clerk@kirtlingandupend.co.uk

.....
Chair - R Staunton

.....
Date

Appendix 1

Cllr Jonny Edge

Cllr Jonny Edge
MONTHLY REPORT – FEBRUARY 2026

FULL COUNCIL

The full council will meet on Tuesday 10 February, to vote on the budget and business plan for 2026/27 to 2028/29. It will also consider recommendations from the council's Constitution & Ethics Committee, to allow an unlimited number of motions to Full Council meetings, compensated by shorter motions and shorter speeches.

STRATEGY RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE

Business plan and budget

The Strategy Resources & Performance Committee met on Thursday 29 January to receive the views of council committees on the council's draft budget.

In response to the Children & Young People Committee, the Strategy Resources & Performance Committee agreed to amend the draft budget to provide an additional £1 million to support families following the Government's withdrawal of the Household Support Fund which has enabled the provision of supermarket food vouchers during school holidays for eligible children.

The council's Highways & Transport Committee expressed the ambition to be able to add £20 million to the road maintenance budget in 2027/28, as well as in 2026/27; for which that sum is already in the proposed budget.

Local government reorganisation

The Government continues to state that it will launch its seven-week consultation this month on the options for local government reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with its final decision announced in summer.

A statement from a minister has however indicated that the timetable by which the new unitary councils will be up and running in Spring 2028 is 'the most ambitious'.

ADULTS & HEALTH

Joseph Rank Hospice

A private donation has enabled the hospice in Cambridge to remain open for a further year, following public outcry. The future beyond that is uncertain.

NHS dental services in Cambridgeshire

The County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee has delivered the following six recommendations to the Integrated Care Board (ICB) following its scrutiny of NHS dental provision in Cambridgeshire, requesting a response by 27 February.

- a. Acknowledges the challenges, but urges the ICB to be more ambitious in relation to the provision of NHS dental services in Cambridgeshire.
- b. Urges more transparency locally around the allocation and delivery of extra capacity for urgent Government funded dental appointments to build public confidence and trust.
- c. Expressed serious concerns about the distance some residents must travel to access NHS dental services, welcoming commitments to collect more data.
- d. Encourages and supports pilot projects exploring a hub approach through co-location of dental services with GP practices to provide wraparound care to the community. They would like more information on where and when these might be introduced.
- e. Expressed disappointment at the failure to take concrete steps towards establishing an undergraduate dental training school in the East of England. Urging the new Central East ICB to champion this endeavour seeing the considerable benefits on offer.
- f. Expressed some concern about the level of underspend on dental provision and whether money being clawed back is used as efficiently and productively as possible.

Integrated Care Board cost reduction and reconfigurations

The Committee met Jan Thomas, the Chief Executive of the new Central East ICB, and Kate Vaughton, the new ICB's Executive Director for Neighbourhood Health, Place and Partnership, about the implications for Cambridgeshire of the

cost reductions required of existing ICBs and their reconfiguration into new ICBs serving a much larger population across a significantly wider geographical area.

The Committee made a number of recommendations on this, including;

- a. Expressing concern structural issues and changes are in danger of crowding out service improvements that both the health service and local authority partners want to see, urging board members at the new Central East ICB to guard against this.
- b. Acknowledging the assertion that the ICB will need to focus resources on the areas of most need. In return, the public and its elected representatives want to see openness and transparency when services will be changed, reduced or no longer provided, even though this may sometimes lead to difficult conversations.

The committee expressed concerns about the security of patients' personal and medical data following the award of a contract to Palantir to create a data platform for the NHS, given that Palantir's expertise is surveillance software including for ICE in the USA. The ICB has committed to provide a response.

East of England ambulance service performance

The East of England Ambulance Service has written to the council's Health Scrutiny Committee to update councillors on its performance, including shortened response times, and reduced handover times at hospitals.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Holiday supermarket vouchers

The Government are withdrawing a scheme (Household Support Fund) that allowed all families eligible for Free School Meals to receive £15 per child per week during the school holidays. The county council had topped up the Government's funding last year, as they has already made reductions to the fund. In January, the Children & Young People's Committee requested an additional £1m to make sure that eligible families do not face a cliff edge at the end of March. In the future, the poorest families will be able to access support through the new Crisis Resilience Fund to make sure their children to not go hungry in the holidays, but this will not go far enough and will leave many families. As well as support this transition with £2.7 million in funding, the County Council will campaign Government to rethink their decision on this.

Education health and care plans (EHCPs)

The council invested an additional £780,000 last autumn to increase capacity across the Education Health & Care Plan process for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, including assessments, casework and reviews, helping to improve the timeliness and therefore the number of plans completed within the twenty-week target. We were pleased to hear from officers that this is having a positive effect enabling more children to receive their assessments in good time.

Special needs and disabilities (SEND) funding campaign

Cambridgeshire County Council is backing a campaign by a group named f40 calling for increased and fairer education funding and sweeping reforms to solve the crisis in special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Publication of a Schools White Paper, setting out Government's plans for education and reforms to SEND, was expected last year but is still being delayed.

The County Council is urging Government to ensure expected reforms are powerful enough to solve the crisis and are backed by sufficient funding to enable schools to implement them.

Based on initial allocations for 2026/27, published by the Department for Education in December, Cambridgeshire will receive £6,465 per pupil for the 'Schools Block' of education funding. This places Cambridgeshire 128th out of all 151 local education authorities.

The deficit the county council faces in spending on children with high needs is forecast to be around £94 million by the end of March this year, rising to around £200 million by the end of the following two years, placing the council at severe financial risk. This position is shared by around a hundred other councils.

Across the country demand for SEND support continues to outstrip funding, with the lowest funded local authority area currently receiving less than a third of the SEND funding that the highest funded council receives. This is unsustainable.

It has been estimated that local authorities in England will have accumulated a collective SEND deficit of £6 billion by April this year. Without significant reform, this figure will continue to grow. The County Councils

Network, representing county councils across the country, estimates the shortfall could pass £13 billion nationally by March 2028.

HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

Potholes

The council has significantly increased the number of highways crews dealing with both temporary and permanent fixes to the potholes on Cambridgeshire's roads. Normally eight crews and two dragon patchers are available across the county; now there are thirty crews and three dragon patchers out repairing potholes. This will significantly increase the number of repairs attended to each week.

In the winter, a lot more road defects and potholes form due to wet and freezing weather causing those worn areas of road and pavement surfaces to break up.

Since 2023/24, the amount of capital funding spent on highway maintenance in Cambridgeshire has increased by £35 million, from £24 million to £59 million. The Council allocated more than £73 million for highways maintenance in 2025/26, adding £20 million to the amount provided by Government, and expects to do so again this coming year.

£2.1 million works begin on peat soil affected roads

Three large scale projects to rebuild and repair over 3.5 kilometres of peat soil affected roads in the north of Cambridgeshire have started.

Over the last year, eleven kilometres of peat soil affected roads were reconstructed or resurfaced at a cost of £5.5 million. Further large-scale reconstruction or resurfacing works are due across other peat soil affected roads in 2026. The maintenance programme for 2026/27 is due to be put to the Highways & Transport Committee next month, once the council's budget for the year has been set.

NEWS FROM THE COMBINED AUTHORITY

Bus cuts

Thirty-five bus routes across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, are hanging by a thread as the Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough seeks to cut half a million pounds from local bus services.

At last month's Combined Authority Transport Committee, the Chair of the County Council's Highways & Transport Committee successfully stood out against the immediate removal of four routes and insisted that there should be appropriate engagement with residents and parishes on proposals affecting contracted bus services.

Cllr Jonny Edge, 07974 348141, jonny.edge@cambridgeshire.gov.uk