

Kirtling and Upend Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Meeting held on
Monday 26th January 2026
at 7pm

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

Apologies: Cllr J Lay and Cllr A Sharp

260126/01	Chairman's welcome and acceptance of apologies Chair accepted apologies from Cllr J Lay and Cllr A Sharp	
260126/02	To receive any declarations of interest None declared.	
260126/03	Public Forum Mrs Kay Wadey attended the meeting and raised concerns regarding the recent ploughing of several fields owned by the Fairhaven Estate and the erection of notices on the land. She reported that she had been in correspondence with Kat Barnes, Definitive Map Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC). Mrs Barnes 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. Members noted that a Section 31(6) deposit enables a landowner to protect land from presumed dedication as a public right of way. The deposit (statement and subsequent declaration) must be renewed every 20 years to remain valid. Under Section 15A(1), public use of the land cannot be counted towards an application to register the land as a Town or Village Green from the date of deposit, subject to a one-year grace period for any application. It was further noted that the deposit does not affect any existing recorded Public Rights of Way, as shown on the My Cambridgeshire map, but prevents the recording of any additional rights of way over the affected land. There was discussion regarding which mapping resource the Estate may have relied upon. Members noted that Ordnance Survey, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), and an older Parish Council map show variations in the recorded public rights of way. Mrs Wadey expressed concern about the potential loss of the former cricket pitch and the current playing field should they not appear on the relevant maps. Members advised that use of the former cricket pitch ceased some years ago. In respect of the current playing field, it was confirmed that the	Action: Chair to write to the Fairhaven Estate Manager.

	<p>Parish Council holds a lease for the land and therefore has established rights of use.</p> <p>Since the meeting the Land Agent for the Fairhaven Estate has responded that the ploughing of land and the erection of notices are coincidental. Some land is being returned to arable production following the end of environmental schemes. The notices were erected by CCC following the Estate's routine submission of Section 31 deposits. He advised that the definitive source for public rights of way information is the CCC Public Rights of Way Officer.</p>	
260126/04	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2025 Agreed as a true record.</p>	
260126/05	<p>Matters arising from previous meeting Cllrs expressed their wish to progress a number of outstanding projects, including the installation of village gates, bus shelters and amendments to village speed limits. It was noted that the speed limit changes have been approved and are awaiting scheduling of the works.</p> <p>Cllr Jonny Edge kindly offered to liaise with relevant officers at the County Council to help expedite progress and clarify outstanding matters, including whether any further permissions are required in certain instances.</p>	
260126/06	<p>Planning Councillors noted the following application and decision:</p> <p>25/00321/FUL – Provision of Double Garage and hardstanding Innisfree Bradley Road Kirtling Newmarket Suffolk CB8 9JB</p> <p>25/00371/FUL To build a purpose-built Wildlife Veterinary Hospital including residential facilities Land Off Water Lane Long Acre Kirtling Suffolk Decision: Refused</p>	
260126/08	<p>Footpaths & watercourses See earlier discussion x</p>	
260126/09	<p>Receipt of the following correspondence was noted.</p> <p>Parishioners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email from Christien Ellis re: positioning of the new terminal signs on Woodditton Road – An installation date is awaited 	

ECDC

Draft Minutes of the Council meeting held on Thursday 20 November 2025 have been published online and are available via the link below:

[Full Council 20/11/2025 | East Cambridgeshire District Council](#)

- Finance & Assets Committee 27.11.25
- The Decision List for the meeting of the Finance and Assets Committee held on 27 November 2025 has been published on the Council's website at the link below.
- [Finance & Assets Decision List](#)

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Public Spaces Protection Order Vehicle Related Anti-Social Behaviour

The Council is seeking the views of the public and community representatives on the proposal to implement Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to address Vehicle Related Anti-Social Behaviour.

On 17 November 2025, the Council approved the draft PSPO; and approved the proposals for public consultation on the draft PSPO. The Committee documents (agenda item 7) are located [here](#). The draft PSPO Vehicle Related Anti-Social Behaviour is located [here](#).

Consultation will commence on 12 January 2026, and close on 16 February 2026 and will be accessible on the council's [website](#) and available to view at the East Cambridgeshire District Council Offices at The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB7 4EE.

East Cambs Parish Council Conference - East Cambs Parish Conference will take place on Thursday 12 February 2026 at The Beeches, Isleham.

[Finance & Assets Committee](#) on Thursday 29 January 2026 at 4:30 pm

[Operational Services Committee](#) on Monday 26 January 2026 at 4:30 pm

Rural Settlement List 2025/26 Consultation 8 December 2025 - 8 March 2026

Audit Committee Decision list has been published online and is available via the link below: [Audit Committee 20/01/2026 East Cambridgeshire District Council](#)

CALPAC

MHCLG announcement on local elections in LGR areas – see attached letter

Royal Garden Party – CAPALC has been allocated 4 tickets (4 tickets means 2 pairs) for Tuesday 12th May 2026. The deadline for submission to the office is Monday, 16 February

CCC

Cambridgeshire County Council has now published the finalised version of the proposal it will be submitting to Government – “Two councils, One fairer future” (also known as Option A) – and an accompanying media release.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option A submission • LGR Background • News Release 																		
260126/10	<p>Finance matters The following expenditure was authorised:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">VILLAGEHALLCHARITY</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£30</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">SERVICE CHARGES</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£4.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">GOCARDLESS SCRIBE-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£28.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">SERVICE CHARGES</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£4.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">GOCARDLESS SCRIBE-</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£28.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£96.10</td> </tr> </table> <p>Bank balances as at 26 Jan 26 noted</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Community Account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3201.99</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Current Account</td> <td style="text-align: right;">51905.56</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£55107.55</td> </tr> </table>	VILLAGEHALLCHARITY	£30	SERVICE CHARGES	£4.25	GOCARDLESS SCRIBE-	£28.8	SERVICE CHARGES	£4.25	GOCARDLESS SCRIBE-	£28.8	Total	£96.10	Community Account	3201.99	Current Account	51905.56	Total	£55107.55
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260126/15	<p>Councillors' Forum</p> <p>Cllr Edge's January and February update can be found appended below</p> <p>Key Points to be Noted:</p> <p>The primary focus is the budget for the next financial year. The funding settlement for Cambridgeshire requires improvement. While significant campaigning has taken place, the position is not as severe as anticipated, enabling additional protection of highways funding.</p> <p>The majority of available funding will be directed towards children's services, particularly children in care, reflecting high levels of deprivation across the county. Priority is being given to protecting essential services for children and the elderly.</p> <p>The budget will be presented for approval at the Full Council meeting on 10 February.</p> <p>Highways: The current 10-year contract is concluding. Performance of contractors has been below expectation; however, due to the LGR, new contracts will not be commissioned at this stage. Ongoing works are being closely monitored. Cllr Edge encouraged members to report any potholes observed.</p> <p>Cllr James Lay's Parish Council Chair meeting will be held on 12 March</p> <p>Cllr Alan Sharps report is appended below</p>																		

260126/16	Clerks report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Precept claim of two payments of £6348.97 has been submitted. • Hedge and verge – Hutchinsons will be asked to provide a quote for both. • Playground maintenance – a provider has been found and inspect/report • 20 fruit trees have been planted. • Defib - Cllr Rickcord confirmed that the batteries and pads were fine. - • Register of Interest Forms were signed by each Cllr.
260126/17	To confirm date of the next meeting as Monday 23 rd February 2026 at 7pm.

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

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Chair - R Staunton

.....
Date

Appendix 1

Cllr Jonny Edge

MONTHLY REPORT – Feb 2026

As we progress through winter, many will be navigating the cost of living as their fuel bills increase - *please refer back to my previous articles for advice and support*. This is also the worst time of the year for our roads as weather conditions add to existing road quality. There have understandably been many news programmes on this, as well as a new government rating system placing Cambridgeshire along with most areas as 'amber'. The drive of the council administration is to move Cambridgeshire back to a preventative, rather than a reactive state and within the scoring system we are 'green' on the funding we are putting in to achieve this. The funding gap is though still considerable, so it will take a bit of time to move and we along with other areas continue to push government for better funding.

For those wanting a wider understanding on this, please refer to

<https://substack.com/home/post/p178301363>

What can I do?

Although we have a council officer inspecting our roads weekly, please don't assume they can identify ever last pothole. If you see a concern on roads or pavements, please use the 'Report It' site to make sure it is not missed. This only takes a few minutes, but be sure to take a photo and capture the location.

<https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/en-gb> Kingsway

A new targeted consultation is open until 4 February, which I will continue to engage with in support of our local environment and communities <https://kingswaysolarfarm.co.uk/> **Public health strategic plan**

The plan for the next five years outlines how the council will help to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and ensure people receive the support they need; including offering the best start in life, making Cambridgeshire a healthy place to live and work, addressing complex needs, and prioritising the prevention of ill-health.

Some of the key areas of work led by Public Health will include:

1. Mobilising the Healthy Schools service to deliver health improvement education and interventions for school-aged children and young people.
2. Working with partners and planners to improve road safety, increase active travel, and improve access to services for rural communities.
3. Equipping professionals and the public with the skills and knowledge to prevent suicide and improve suicide bereavement support services.
4. Addressing barriers to employment and developing workplace programmes to engage employers and increase access to work across the county, targeting areas with high levels of low pay and low skilled jobs.
5. Developing an alcohol harm prevention strategy and strengthening prevention and early support.

Please do continue to message me with any issues you may need my help with.

Appendix 2 Cllr Jonny Edge

MONTHLY REPORT – Jan 2026 FULL COUNCIL

The full council met on Tuesday 16 December, to receive annual reports from the Health & Wellbeing Board and Integrated Care Partnership; the Audit & Accounts Committee; and the Pension Fund Board and Committee.

The council also agreed to

1. Appoint a councillor 'member champion' to advocate for local care leavers.
2. Work with district and parish councils and the Combined Authority to determine overall management and delivery arrangements for all bus infrastructure, including clarifying responsibility for the management and commissioning of advertising on bus infrastructure assets (bus shelters).

3. Ask Cambridgeshire Culture (a delegated Board of the council's Children & Young People Committee) to develop a culture and arts strategy for the County Council, serving children as well as adults.
4. Support the UK rejoining the European Single Market at the earliest practical opportunity; and ask the Combined Authority to assess the ongoing impacts of Brexit on the Cambridgeshire economy, develop a local action plan to seize opportunities from re-engagement with Europe, and explore ways the Council can support those most affected by the challenges arising from Brexit.
5. Bring to Highways & Transport Committee a policy for design of new busways which allows for immediate modification during the delivery stage if safety requirements alter during dialogue with the regulator.

STRATEGY RESOURCES & PERFORMANCE Business plan and budget

The Committee met in December to consider the development of the Council's business plan and budget for 2026/27.

The County Council must set a legal budget to deliver public services for Cambridgeshire, including social care, highways, education, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), waste disposal, public health, child protection, libraries and community services.

The draft business plan and budget discussed at committee sets out the latest financial position for the year ahead (2026/27). Demand for council services is growing as people live longer, often with multiple long-term conditions that need support from health and social care, and more children and young people are being identified with special educational needs and mental health needs.

Nearly two thirds of the County Council's spending go toward social care, while other major areas of spending include Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), home to school transport, and highways maintenance.

Since 2019, the council has experienced

- 122% increase in the costs of providing home to school transport
- 76% increase in learning disability related care costs
- 50% increase in the costs of providing care for older people • 42% increase in the costs of supporting children with SEND
- 99% increase in the costs of supporting children in care.

For the current financial year (2025/26) these pressures are resulting in a forecast overspend of about £10M and a deficit for SEND costs of nearly £100M.

For 2026/27 insufficient Government funding means that once again difficult decisions will be needed. The Council has had to identify £40M in savings or extra income for the year ahead. At the time the committee met, £6.4M of this gap remained to be found. The gap must be closed completely by the time the Council sets its final business plan and budget in February.

Budget timetable

The draft business plan and budget proposals for 2026/27 will be scrutinised by the council's committees at their meetings in January. Any feedback will be presented to the Strategy, Resources & Performance Committee on 29 January. At that meeting councillors will also consider the results of the second phase of the council's budget consultation survey and the detail of the Local Government Finance Settlement from Government announced in December, before making final recommendations to the Full Council on 10 February.

ADULTS & HEALTH Public health strategic plan

The Committee has endorsed key areas of work the council's Public Health team will focus on over the next five years to deliver priorities set out in the Public Health Strategic Plan 2025/30.

The plan outlines how the council will help to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and ensure people receive the support they need; including offering the best start in life, making Cambridgeshire a healthy place to live and work, addressing complex needs, and prioritising the prevention of ill-health.

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Smoking cessation

In 2024/25, Cambridgeshire met the national ambition to treat five per cent of smokers annually, with 5.02 per cent of smokers setting a quit date in 2024/25. This compares to 4.18 per cent in 2023/24 and 3.38 per cent in 2022/23.

ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT Park & Ride solar panels help to power Addenbrooke's

Solar panels at Babraham Road Park & Ride have been connected to the grid and creating green electricity to power electric vehicles and Addenbrooke's Hospital. A private wire link the panels to the hospital, allowing the two sites to mutually supply electricity to each other.

The scheme powers 35 new EV charging points at the Park & Ride, plus lighting and CCTV at the site. Surplus energy is sent to the hospital; or if the panels are not generating enough energy for the Park & Ride, it is supplied by the hospital.

Cambridgeshire Digital Inclusion Directory

The Cambridgeshire Digital Inclusion Directory is a practical guide designed to help residents get online, access devices, and build essential digital skills. Developed by Cambridge Online, Connecting Cambridgeshire, and Cambridge City Council, the directory features trusted local organisations offering free support with digital access, equipment, and training. Residents are encouraged to pick up a printed copy from libraries or community hubs, or download it at

<https://www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/about/help-to-getonline/digital-inclusion-directory-2025/>

HIGHWAYS Local Highway Improvements

A reminder that applications for the 2026/2027 LHI round close at 5:00PM on Friday 16 January. See [Applying for a Local Highway Improvement \(LHI\)](#) web page. These applications will then be assigned to an officer and open feasibility conversations with the council dependent on whether they are complex or non-complex. Application received after the deadline will not be considered for the 2026/27 cycle.

Winter gritting

The winter service has been in operation since 1 November and will continue until 15 April. Several days of continuous low temperatures triggered treatment of secondary gritting routes on Friday 2 January. Gritting information including maps of primary and secondary gritting routes at

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-andparking/roads-and-pathways/gritting-roads-cycleways-and-paths>

NEWS FROM THE COMBINED AUTHORITY Tiger Pass

The Combined Authority has had to turn to Cambridgeshire County Council to secure the future of the Tiger Pass until the end of March 2027. The pass is of huge benefit to many families, enabling young people to travel by bus for £1 per journey. The Mayor is calling on cash-strapped Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council to fund the shortfall.

The future of the Tiger Pass beyond March 2027 remains uncertain, however. The Government's intention is to remove the national fare cap from April 2027, which will increase the cost of the subsidy for each Tiger Pass ticket sold.

It is also important to remember that a Tiger Pass is only useful where there are buses to use it on; and many of our rural areas of Cambridgeshire have few if any buses.

Report from Cllr Alan Sharp

East Cambridgeshire District Council Report – January 2026

Things are starting to get back to normal after the Christmas break.

Budget

We are currently looking at the budget and council tax for 26/27.

Despite a more than difficult settlement from Government, we continue to work on a budget that will be fair for residents.

I will update next month, when the figures are publicly available.

Kingsway Solar

A targeted consultation has commenced running until 4th February and I will continue to keep my opposition to the proposals.

Buses Review

The Combined Authority Transport Committee, which I am a member of, met on Wednesday 15th to discuss the issue around maintaining services and which ones to continue to support.

A proposal has come forward to change the 901/2/3/4 which go around the villages south of Cambridge, with two new services which would go direct to Addenbrookes or to Haverhill.

Engagement will take place over the coming months, and I will inform residents and want to get some proper engagement and encourage good usage of these new services.

Alan Sharp

East Cambridgeshire District Councillor