

Kidlington Parish Council Newsletter 2025



You are invited to attend Kidlington's Annual P.C. Meeting

Venue: Easter Hall

Date: Thursday, 31 April 2025

Time: 7.00 PM

Refreshments will be provided.

This meeting is a great opportunity for Kidlington residents.

Ask questions directly to councillors.

Learn about the Council's recent activities.

Find out how your money is being invested in the community.

Have a chance to talk to some of our community groups.

If you have any questions you would like to raise during the meeting, please contact the Clerk in advance:

clerk@kidlington-cs.nhs.uk Phone: 01865 337143

Key Dates for Your Diary

St Mary's Parish Volunteer Week (2025)

First Saturday of every month

Kidlington Salsa Day

Saturday, 16 July 2025

Kidlington Panto Night

Wednesday, 3 November 2025

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday, 9 November 2025

Christmas Lights Switch-On

Thursday, 27 November 2025

Check out the New Parish Zoo Trail!

Explore the exciting new trail that has been added, along with brand new benches and informative boards to enhance your experience. Don't miss this fantastic addition!



Sarah Kearney – New Clerk to Kidlington Parish Council

Kidlington Parish Council welcome Sarah Kearney as its new Clerk. Sarah brings extensive experience in local government, having previously served as Clerk to Westbury, Withdon St Mary, and Shipdon Church & Throppe Parish Cn. With 20 years in the leisure industry as a Centre Manager at Kidlington & Bedford Leisure Centres, Sarah brings a wealth of operational and community engagement.

As Clerk, Sarah will manage council meetings, finances, and governance, ensuring efficient service for Kidlington's residents. She looks forward to working with the community and council members to enhance local services.



Interested in Having an Allotment?

Would you like to grow your fresh fruit and vegetables?

Why not contact Kidlington Parish Council to check for available spaces at our beautiful allotments?

Get in touch today to start your gardening journey!

community@kidlington-cs.nhs.uk



Edward Hill School has great fun visiting our allotments, talking with everyone, and seeing plots. This will now become a regular event, allowing for additional visits and providing children with the opportunity to learn more about our fruits and vegetables. If you would like your school to be involved, please contact community@kidlington-cs.nhs.uk

Stay Connected and Get Involved!

Be part of the change in Kidlington. Whether it's volunteering, participating in events, or staying informed, your involvement makes a difference!

Your Council Tax

Killingdon Parish Council has requested a precept of £880,285.00 for the year April 2025 to March 2026. This means an average band D property in Killingdon pays a £174.00 per year for the services we provide for the community. You can see how we spend that money in a chart below. Council tax is collected by your local District Council in help aid for services in your community.

Source: Killingdon 2024-25 Precept



A New Look for Killingdon High Street

Exciting improvements are coming to Killingdon Village Shopping Area, thanks to a grant incentive by Cherwell District Council.

The refurbishment will include:

- Installation of new bollards along the street
- Benches for additional seating
- Resurfacing of the pavement for surroundings
- Waterproofing of the walls for the community shelter



Watch out for these improvements happening soon!

Bulby West Solar Farm Update

The proposed Bulby West Solar Farm would be the biggest Solar Farm in Europe. It would be built in a field of sites West of Killingdon and North and South of Woodstock, all on farmland mainly in the Green Belt. It owned by the Birmingham establishment would occupy a total 1400 hectares area, greater than Heathrow Airport. Only a small part would be in Killingdon proper, at the North-West corner of the field.

Killingdon Parish Council has adopted a climate emergency statement, and we fully recognise that alternative renewable energy is vital. However, we oppose the current scale and location of the proposal.

By 2050 the area around Oxford will be heavily developed, largely in existing Green Belt. The Solar Farm cover more parts of the Green Belt in the same area and change the landscape significantly. Even if it affected us much directly, it would seriously reduce the attractiveness of the adjacent countryside.

Solar Farms are inefficient except generating green energy, rather any serious need place north area where they damage the environment. There is no evident direct benefits for residents; alternatives can also be located elsewhere. Because the location of the project, permission for all have to go directly central government, probably within the next few months, and they will proceed whatever local authorities may do.

As the decision lies with the central government, we're supporting neighbouring parish councils to ensure the project goes ahead, financial benefits for residents are secured.

Killingdon Parish Council has been year-over-year awarded the Christmas LED lights.

And additional costs are now switching them on to mark special occasions throughout the year.

Key dates include: Remembrance Day, St Patrick's Day, Remembrance Day and more.

Keep an eye out as the lights brighten Killingdon to celebrate these events.

Grants for Local Organisations

This year, we've proudly awarded grants to:

- Clean Street 100
- Volunteer Driver Service, 100
- Big Sing 2023
- Cherwell CofE 100% discount on refuse from 5 local distribution
- Killingdon Recreational Trust, 100
- Killingdon Football Club, 100 for funding to meet FA regulations

Wild Kidlington Project Update: Habitat Creation in Kidlington

A huge thank you to Kidlington Wildlife Group for their efforts this winter! Thanks to their hard work (and the mud and drizzle), we now have:
A new hedgehog at Park Hill
A young oak tree on Lyne Road Green

Wild Kidlington - Continued

We're excited to announce that Kidlington Parish Council is funding Wild Kidlington to continue green space enhancements across the Parish. Plus, Cherwell District Council will support the engagement side of the project allowing us to run more nature and wellbeing activities over the next year.

Here's to a bright and busy spring and summer outdoors!

KPC Community Report

Since the Spring of 2024, we have worked to promote, create, and care for initiatives that focus on community involvement and enhancements. These involve our green spaces, activities to encourage sustainability, our playgrounds and sports clubs, our community events, and our 2023 grants to local organisations.



Environmental support and green spaces

A grant from Cherwell District Council helping us make growing spaces more accessible for all to enjoy, not growing fruit and vegetables. We rely on and support all volunteers who give so much time to make these so visible and productive. They are great examples of how we depend on the natural world for our wellbeing as a community.

We continue to adapt or develop green spaces and corridors across the village with the key aims of encouraging biodiversity and increasing accessibility. We also support Kidlington Tree Group whose activities focus on nature recovery and sustainability, and which has recently been recognised as an officially registered Community Group (CNG). Congratulations!

ACE is currently collaborating with Kidlington Parish Council on ongoing projects – stay tuned for updates as these initiatives progress.

At ACE Training, we are passionate about equipping the next generation of construction professionals with the skills and experience they need to thrive. As a Specialist Construction Centre, we offer Apprenticeship and Pre-apprenticeship training which not only prepares them for a successful career but also leaves a lasting, positive impression on our local community. Under supervision, our learners take on small builds that benefit schools, nurseries, and community spaces. Recent projects have included bespoke animal house kitchens, planters, outdoor benches, and benchwork projects for walks. These experiences help our learners grow into skilled construction workers while back to the area they live and train in. If you have a community project with a support, get in touch.

info@acetraining.co.uk
www.acetraining.co.uk



Litter picking isn't just about tidying up – it's a powerful way to enhance our environment and promote sustainability.



Let's make Kidlington litter free! Please help join our Councillor lead group litter picking and help

[we keep it clean](https://www.kidlington.gov.uk) [Community @ kidlington.gov.uk](https://www.kidlington.gov.uk)

Exeter Hall Welcomes Back

Citizens Advice

Every Monday from the 7th April

Parish News

Local Banking @ Exeter Hall
BANGLAY Every Tuesday & Thursday
from 10.30am
LLCOC Every Wednesday @ 10.30am

Information centre @ Exeter Hall
Mon, wed & Fri 10am-12.30pm

Good Neighbour Scheme @ Exeter Hall
Mon, Wed & Fri 10am-12.30pm

Seated Exercise FREE activity – Thurs
term time only
11.30-12.30 @ The Pavilion, Exeter College

Kollington Table Tennis for Adults & children
Thursdays 5pm - 8pm - The Pavilion
for more information
tbl.tennis@collington.gov.uk

Environmental Initiatives & Green Spaces

We've worked closely with **Wild Colchester** in Kollington to improve green spaces, including:
Coronation Garden enhancements
New projects at Asell Close and The Pheasants

Lavender borders in Walls Way
Knee-high fencing and flowering shrubs at Blenheim Hall/Blenheim Rd junction

St Mary's Field remains an important environmental asset, attracting visitors and wildlife lovers. Look out for new signage this year and improved pathways to increase accessibility.

Growing Spaces

Some fantastic work has been done over the last few years in making Kollington's green spaces better for people and wildlife. The Parish Coun Growing Spaces project continues to build on this and develop garden up around Kollington for all to enjoy. It also offers opportunities to get involve growing food and more together. Thanks to generous funding from the CL District Council the community garden site at Park Hill Recreation Ground being further developed, and accessible planters are being installed outside Exeter Hall. For more info, contact Rufus@collington.gov.uk or through the Parish Council offices.



Flood Wardens Needed – Can You Help?

Colchester County Council seeking volunteer Community Flood Wardens in Kollington to help identify and manage flood risks.

Duties include:

- Monitoring blocked drains and ditches
- Reporting obstructions in rivers or watercourses
- Keeping the community informed about flood risks

Full training provided – no set hours required!

To volunteer, contact floodmanagement@colchester.gov.uk



Exciting News! Parkhill Refurbishment Coming!

We're thrilled to announce the upcoming transformation of Parkhill.

The refurbishment will include:

- Brand new playground equipment for children of all ages
- Beautiful planters to enhance the green space
- Comfortable benches for relaxation and enjoyment
- Improrved open spaces for the community to enjoy

Watch out for these exciting changes happening later this year!

A message from the Chair of the Parish Council, Councillor Lesley McLean

There are times when a year can almost seem endless, however, it seems only a few moments ago that I was

elected Chair of Kellingingham Parish Council, and my word what a year it has been! This is very much a time of flux for our area, and we are all aware that change is coming.

Extensive housing development will be coming forward and there is further expansion of Oxford Technology Park and the Airport, along with the proposed Stadium which should come in planning later this year.

As part of planning for these changes, we have been reviewing our role and what we want to achieve for our residents. This has included confirming our aims and objectives and a strategy for attaining them, engaging with the other parishes to work cooperatively across the development sites, and establishing mechanisms for influence across all levels to gain the best outcomes for our residents, this will continue throughout the development process.

The Stadium

As you will be aware Kellingingham Parish Council originally remained neutral on the issue of the stadium. We know this proposal divides opinion in Kellingingham, but whether you are a supporter of the stadium or not, there are some key unanswered questions, particularly around travel and transport, parking, flood mitigation, and the impact of proposed road closures, and we are continuing to pressure all those concerned to provide clear and emphatic answers to our questions and to advocate for Kellingingham as a whole.

Appl's are coming along!

Floodings:

Drainage/Infrastructure highlighted the vulnerability of our infrastructure, and we are now meeting

Exeter Hall Venue **HM** Multi-functional community building located close to the centre of the village on

Oxford Road. Comprises a large performance hall with a stage, catering kitchen, and licensed area.

Have two smaller rooms available for hire and ample parking

Available to **Parties** **Weddings** **Meetings** **Funeral reception** **Chorale** **Corporate Hire**
Discard as much more

[For more information about our services visit our website **01392 844444** or email **info@exeterhallvenue.co.uk**](#)

Automatic Number Plate Recognition system (ANPR) to enforce parking restrictions on the High Way. Over the past 2 years, the council has been pursuing the option of an ANPR system to enforce long-standing widely ignored parking restrictions on the High Street. This will replace the many bollards which have never been properly since it was installed some time ago.

The bollard relies on a camera link to a remote monitoring station and there have been long term problems with technology and staffing which have led to the bollard mostly remaining ignored. The new system will allow staff to automatically log the number plate of any unauthorised vehicles entering the area and issue a fine the required manner. Any vehicles that require legitimate access will be able to apply for exemption in what is a seamless process.

The new system has now been approved by OCC with funding made available and should hopefully be in place within the next few months. There is likely to be 'light touch' enforcement for the first few months where no warning letters will be issued, but after that, any unauthorised vehicles will be subject to a penalty notice.

ANPR system is also presently being considered for Exeter Hall, given the **ongoing** issues on site.

Meet Your Councillors



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