

# KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Zoom on Wednesday 10 February 2021 at 7.00pm

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### Present

Cllr Thompson (Chairman), D Blount, H Bright & G Dare

### Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk) and three members of the public

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.00pm.

### 210210.01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

- Cllr Appleton
- County/District Cllr Connett
- Peter White

### 210210.02 Open Forum

There were no comments from members of the public. The applicants of 21/00308/HOU – Little Court, Mamhead Road, Kenton - advised that they were present to answer any questions members may have regarding their planning application to be considered at item 7.

### 210210.03 Declarations of Interest & Requests for Dispensations

Members were reminded of their responsibility to continually update their Notice of Registerable Interests and invited to state whether they have any interest in the items to be discussed during this meeting in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct.

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

### 210210.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 13 January 2021. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

### 210210.05 Reports

#### 5.1 Police Report for Kenton, Powderham and Starcross

Reported crimes from 01/01/2021-31/01/2021

#### Starcross/Kenton (9 crimes)

- Harassment without violence x4
- Theft x1
- Common Assault x2
- Public Order x1
- Malicious Communications x1

#### Powderham (0 crimes)

### **Other matters**

Please report any suspicious persons/activities and record vehicle registration details if used. Please contact the police on 999 if the incident is happening there and then, or by 101 (emailing is quicker) if it is historic.

PACT meetings will hopefully resume soon, subject to Government lockdown guidance. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021, times TBC (*please see parish social media page for details*).

This month we are looking to 'target' local poaching issues/rural wildlife crime in and around the area. If you see anything suspicious, please report as soon as possible. Any information would be greatly appreciated to assist with our plans moving forward.

Community Speed Watch is currently on hold due to the current lockdown. This will naturally resume when restrictions ease.

## **5.2 District/County Councillor's Report**

CLlr Connett gave his apologies and sent the following report:

### **Devon County Council**

The County Council will set its budget later this month. Currently, it is planning to cut the highways budget by £307,000. Using an industry average, that's the equivalent of up to 5,700 potholes going unfilled. The County's share of the Council Tax is likely to increase by the permitted 2% plus up to an additional 3% for the Government approved premium towards the costs of social care.

### **Highways drainage expenditure**

Concerned by the continuing issues across the area with highways drainage, I asked Devon County Council how much it had budgeted to spend on highways drainage and how much it had actually spent in the eight years to last February. The approved budget over that period was £59 million. The actual spend was £51 million. As you'll appreciate, our local highways teams work within the actual budgets allocated to their service.

### **Teignbridge District Council**

Teignbridge sets its budget on 22 February. Council Tax for the district council is likely to rise by the £5 a year limit permitted by Government. Teignbridge Council retains 9% of the Council Tax collected. The bulk, around 78% goes to Devon County Council, then the Police, Fire Service and parish/town councils. The Garden Waste service is likely to see an increase this year of £5. The first rise in two years. Teignbridge's income has been dramatically affected by the economic impact of Covid, so reserves are being used the balance the budget this year and next. Key priorities are investment in modern council houses (the first in around 25 years), climate change and promoting economic recovery.

### **A379 surfacing**

The A379 outside the Victory Hall was initially 'made safe' and then a bigger patch repair undertaken. The County Council is planning a bigger scheme to resurface the road from the Hall through to South Town, at which time the timing loop for the traffic lights will also be repaired, I am told. Witcombe Lane was closed today and contractors were undertaking a number of patch repairs.

### **Kenton speed camera**

I continue to chase progress on getting the camera housing straightened so it looks as

though it could be used. It is frustrating that it has been left so long and clearly cannot be used. It would help discourage speeding if drivers thought it was or could be used.

### **Fly-tipping**

Local residents have kindly let me know about various fly tipping and this has been reported to Teignbridge Council: The 'waste' appeared to be animal bones/carcase close to the junction of Mamhead Road with the road from Starcross to Mamhead. Environmental Health were notified and if thought to be the result of poaching, will advise the police.

### **Weight Limit sign on the A379**

The Kenn/Kennford Weight Limit sign on the A379 on the Kenton side of the Kenn Lane junction has been clouted on a couple of occasions. Highways have made safe by laying it on its side. A replacement/repair has been ordered.

### **Community Grant**

I have used the last of my Teignbridge Councillors Community Fund to offer a grant of £220 to the Kenton Victory Hall. Similar was provided to Starcross and Mamhead.

## **5.3 Village Tidyman's Report**

Members received the following written report:

- I have spoken to Alan Brook re the repair to the Rocking Horse and he is waiting for the better weather before commencing the work
- The road sweeping in the village has been very poor since the beginning of the year. They came out once several weeks ago as requested and did the Mamhead Road but not the rest of the village as can be seen
- I see that from the last minutes that the rubbish issue in South Town was discussed. However, when I came past on Tuesday there is a lot still stacked up at the back of the car park.
- Work at the cemetery is continuing in preparing the land for the replacement hedge trees, but due to the weather conditions it is slowing things down

## **5.4 Delegate Reports**

### **5.4.1 Dementia Friendly Village**

Cllr Blount advised that, for various reasons, three officers are retiring and it is therefore necessary to recruit new members. There is an AGM on 13 February and there will hopefully be more to report next month.

### **5.4.2 Community Forum/Playing Field**

No report.

### **5.4.3 Climate Emergency**

No report.

## **210210.06 Finance and Governance**

- 6.1 Members received the invoices for payment and it was agreed unanimously that the payments as listed are approved (attached).
- 6.2 Members received and noted advice from DALC regarding meetings after 6 May (as it stands, government have no current plans to extend the regulations permitting councils to meet remotely). Members agreed that the Council should see how this issue progresses over the coming weeks.

## **210210.07 Planning**

### **7.1 New applications/appeals:**

- 7.1.1 21/00308/HOU – Little Court, Mamhead Road, Kenton  
Formation of new detached outbuilding/garage with workshop

Members discussed this application with the applicants and questions were asked to confirm details of the application. Concerns of members related to the height of the ridge height which will overtop the wall by just under 1 metre, the increased footprint compared to the previous application (20/00640) and the impact the proposal would have on the Conservation Area. [Kenton's Neighbourhood Plan states that the development should preserve and enhance the Conservation Area and make a positive contribution to the significance of heritage assets and their setting].

It was agreed to object to the proposal on the above grounds. A more detailed response would be compiled after the meeting for submission to Teignbridge District Council.

### **7.2 Decisions:**

- 7.2.1 21/00022/HOU – 4 Manor Gardens, Kenton  
New porch

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning permission.

## **210210.08 Kenton Village Allotments**

Members received a proposal to share the cost with Kenton Village Allotments of providing temporary screening of the cemetery along the allotments boundary and an application from KVA for a small grant of £150 to help fund the cost of their share. Members were advised that the quoted cost including VAT is £441.51. After brief discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would share the cost with KVA and that it would grant £150 to KVA as a contribution towards their share.

## **210210.09 Cemetery and Harmony Meadow**

9.1 Members reviewed the cemetery fees. It was noted that Kenton's fees are still very reasonable compared with other cemeteries and it was agreed that the fees should be increased to help with ongoing and rising maintenance costs.

9.2 Members noted that the memorial trees in Harmony Meadow have now been identified and a plaque erected next to each of them. With Sue Davis stepping back from looking after Harmony Meadow, it was agreed to ask Peter White to monitor the area and report any necessary work to the Parish Council.

## **210210.10 Post Office**

Members received formal notification from the Post Office advising residents of the closure of Kenton Post Office from 30 January 2021. The Chairman understood that the Post Office is going to meet the manager of Powderham Farm Shop to see what was required to move the service. A parishioner has offered to pay £8,000 to fund the cost of moving the Post Office to the Farm Shop. Cllr Connett has also offered a contribution of £1,100 from his community fund.

## **210210.11 PACT meetings**

It was noted from PC Orchard's reports that PACT meetings are expected to resume when government restrictions are lifted. It was agreed that whilst these were supported by the Parish

Council, it would be for the police to arrange and organise these meetings independently of the Parish Council.

**210210.12 Playing Field/Hard Court**

There were no matters to discuss. It was noted that South West Water has dug up the road and installed some new pipes.

**210210.13 Highways & Footpaths**

13.1 Members noted correspondence and advice from DCC Building Control who has inspected the wall and advised that it is the responsibility of the Parish Council and that remedial works are required. Given its proximity to the brook embankment and culvert structure, it was agreed that it should be assessed by a structural engineer. It was agreed to approach TDC and ask whether the Parish Council could commission one of its engineers to assess it and advise the Parish Council accordingly.

It was noted that the ironmongery on the gate has not been replaced but a loop has been attached so that users can close the gate securely. Once repairs to the wall have been carried out, the gate post and gate can be replaced.

**210210.14 Members' items for information or general discussion, for inclusion on future agendas and/or items requiring urgent attention**

*[Members were reminded that they have not received the statutory notice of this business to be transacted and should therefore recognise that any decision made may be taken to be unlawful if challenged in the future]*

None

**210210.15 Correspondence**

None

**210210.16 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 10 March 2021 at 7.00pm on Zoom.

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**Chairman**

**10 February 2021**

Item 6:

**Expenditure**

| <b>Cheque no</b> | <b>Payee</b>  | <b>Details</b>     | <b>Amount</b> |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Standing Order   | Salaries      | December & January | £718.80       |
| Online           | Richard Grave | Playpark repairs   | £229          |

**Income (8 January – 6 February 2021)**

| <b>Date received</b> | <b>Received from</b> | <b>Details</b> | <b>Amount</b> |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| January              | Various              | Cemetery fees  | £250          |

**Bank Balance at 6 February 2021**

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| <b>Current account</b> | £46,722.52 |
|------------------------|------------|