

# KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Kenton Victory Hall on Wednesday 8 June 2022 at 7.00pm

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### Present

Councillors D Blount (Chairman for this meeting), H Bright, K Savill & D Smith

### Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), Fuad Al-Tawil + 2 observers (Action on Climate in Teignbridge), Peter White (Village Tidyman) and two members of the public

**The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.00pm.**

### 220608.01 Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Thompson
- County/District Cllr Connett

### 220608.02 Open Forum

There were no comments from members of the public.

### 220608.03 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.

### 220608.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 May 2022. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

### 220608.05 Climate Emergency

The Chairman introduced Fuad Al-Tawil (ACT) to speak to the Parish Council about possible ways by which it can help to mitigate climate change.

David Appleton advised that when he was Parish Councillor the Council signed the Declaration of Climate Emergency and began developing a policy around how it might address the issue, eg. decarbonising the equipment. Drafting the policy, however, highlighted the difficulty working out how the Parish Council could actively make a difference. Planning matters and COVID then took over.

The Chairman advised that David Appleton had secured funding to install EV charging points in the village car park and these are scheduled to be installed soon.

Fuad gave a summary of the role of ACT (Action on Climate in Teignbridge). It was formed following TDC's Declaration of Climate Emergency in 2019 and the target that was then set to be carbon zero across the district by 2025. ACT was formed to support this goal. They are volunteer organisation which focuses on tackling both the Climate Emergency and the Ecological

Emergency and many online tools have been set up to help with this - <https://actionclimateteignbridge.org/> They are a reactive group so if help is needed, you must ask.

Fuad emphasised that people want to help but they are unsure what to do and do not have the information or knowledge to assess whether what they are doing is beneficial to the climate. Electric cars and electrical equipment are a classic example. Work out how much energy is being used by these devices and then compare with the petrol version. The tools to calculate your own carbon footprint is available on the website - <https://actionclimateteignbridge.org/index.php/carbon-calculator/> People are encouraged to use the carbon footprint tracker to help calculate the impact they are having and what they can do to favourably influence this.

People generally want quicker and easier solutions but sometimes the messaging can be wrong. Cost also needs to be considered from cradle to grave.

Things that will reduce emissions without the need for further analysis ('safe' actions):

- Consume less (don't fall for the sales/discount trap unless it is essential)
- Reuse, repurpose, recycle and share things you only use occasionally, they could make great presents
- Buy local (ideally made/grown locally), everything, food, goods, services
- Eat seasonally and grow your own food
- Eat less red meat, avoid imported meat
- Use a microwave and induction hob where possible, avoid ovens especially agas that run all the time
- Travel less in your car and fly less often
- Use public transport, walk or cycle
- Buy green electricity/gas, where this is 100% from renewables
- Heat only the area you need, set this to the lowest temperature to remain comfortable
- Improve your home's insulation and ventilation, get impartial advice
- Move your investments to low Carbon businesses

Fuad advised that the cause of climate change is the concentration of greenhouse gases which have risen. It is the physical burning of locked carbon and releasing it as CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere; 75% of carbon in the atmosphere is caused by the burning of fossil fuels.

Fuad emphasised that people should be asked to emit less carbon as asking people to consume less carbon is harder to achieve. To achieve carbon zero by 2030 means halving emissions over the next five years.

Key questions:

- What are my emissions?
- How much to I need to bring them down by? (Carbon budget) (approx. 10% annually)
- How do I achieve this? (see easy solutions above)

Fuad also spoke about the Wildlife Warden Scheme – a volunteer scheme to help with the recovery of wildlife in the parish. The threats to the ecology are caused by (i) loss of habitat (ii) poisoning (use of chemicals) and (iii) climate change. In contrast, the only threat to climate change is carbon in the atmosphere. For more information, contact the Wildlife Warden Scheme Co-ordinator Flavio Winkler Ford - [Flavio@actionclimateteignbridge.org](mailto:Flavio@actionclimateteignbridge.org)

How does the Parish Council spread the message?

Encourage the formation of a volunteer group in the parish who can focus on this. Parish Councillors can also help spread the word and talk to others to work out their carbon footprint and converting this tool into action. The majority of the population have a desire to help but not enough of a desire to do it effectively. Action on Climate in Teignbridge (ACT) has started a new community-based carbon cutting project designed to promote activities within Teignbridge that can actively help people to reduce their carbon footprint. ACT has appointed Peta Howell to coordinate this project and recruit volunteer Carbon Cutters, as well as collaborate with other climate groups in Teignbridge to create an information hub and share ideas and initiatives - [facebook.com/groups/actcarboncutters](https://facebook.com/groups/actcarboncutters)

Summary of initial steps the Parish Council could take:

- Look at the way it manages its land which would mitigate the ecological impact (encourage wildflowers, management of shrub border in the car park, leave the grass to grow longer in particular areas)
- Advertise for volunteers who will lead and spread the message
- Seek a wildlife warden
- Councillors to calculate their carbon footprint and speak to residents about doing the same
- Speak to and educate residents
- Promote the easy and safe actions (above) which people can take immediately
- Review the Council's policy and start putting it into action
- Speak to other Parish Councils about the actions and steps they have taken
- Arrange carbon cutters workshop
- Standing item on Parish Council agendas

The Chairman thanked Fuad for attending the meeting which Councillors found both interesting and informative.

## **220608.06 Finance and Governance**

6.1 Members received the invoices for payment and it was agreed unanimously that the payments as listed are approved (attached).

## **220608.07 Reports**

### **7.1 Police Report**

PC Orchard provided a crime report for the period 1 – 31 May 2022 for Starcross and Kenton. 7 crimes were reported and 18 incidents recorded.

Members also received the monthly newsletter/gazette and community speedwatch report.

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

Cllr Connett was not present.

### **7.3 Village Tidyman's Report**

Peter White reported as follows:

- Warborough Hill has been re-gritted (NB. white line at the top is covered over)
- I have purchased wood for replacement chain posts on The Triangle at a cost of £60
- The hatched yellow box outside the entrance to Powderham Castle has now been painted

## 7.4 Delegate Reports

### 7.4.1 Dementia Friendly Village

Cllr Blount reported that the Reflections Café will take place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June and will feature Coronation related memories. The café is open to all villagers. Rev Patrick Parkes attended the last committee meeting and is hoping to help to encourage members of the church with the running of the group. Originally this was supposed to be a joint enterprise between the church and the committee but gradually all church members have dwindled away.

## 7.5 Action Report – update on outstanding matters

### 7.5.1 Kenton Village Allotments Lease

The clerk advised that KVA has requested to see a copy of the lease before signature. A response is awaited.

### 7.5.2 Wall adjacent to the almshouses

The Bishop's office has responded and the Archdeacon of Exeter will be in touch soon to arrange a meeting.

## 220608.08 Car Park and Cemetery

- 8.1 Members received a quote of £145 from Stuart Bradford for the removal and disposal of the dead conifer in the car park. This quote was accepted.
- 8.2 Cllr Thompson has not yet received a quotation for the repointing of the car park wall but will chase this up over the coming month.
- 8.3 Members received a quote of £175 from Stuart Bradford to reduce the yew bushes at either side of the cemetery entrance. He has advised that they may look very bare to begin with; the best time to carry out the work is early spring. It was agreed to accept the quotation and ask Stuart to book the work in for next spring.
- 8.4 Further to the discussion at item 5 and the steps which the Parish Council can begin to take to mitigate climate change, members were asked to consider rearranging the strimming of the shrubs in the car park until after they have finished flowering. This will increase biodiversity by encouraging bees and other wildlife whilst the shrubs are flowering. Members were also asked that the Philadelphus is not strimmed at all this year to encourage flowering next year. Members agreed to the requests and the clerk would inform the contractor.

## 220608.09 Highways & Footpaths

The following issues were reported:

- The hedge along the main road in South Town has not yet been trimmed back by Powderham. It was agreed that the clerk will remind them of this.
- The noisy drain cover in South Town has still not been repaired despite being reassured by Highways that this would be carried out a couple of weeks ago
- The traffic lights in South Town are not changing as regularly as they used to. It was suspected that one of the sensors may be damaged. It was agreed to inform Highways.

## 220608.10 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]*

Members were advised that it is hoped that the Post Office will be up and running in the Powderham Farm Shop by the middle of June.

**220608.11 Correspondence**

None

**220608.12 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 13 July 2022 at 7.00pm in Victory Hall.

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**Chairman**

## **8 June 2022**

### **Item 6:**

#### **Expenditure**

<b>Payment type</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Standing Order	Salaries	May	£735.52
Online	Michael Howard Butchers	Hog roast	£1020
Online	Community Heartbeat Trust	Defibrillator pads	£60
Online	P White	Wood for Triangle posts	£60

#### **Income (7 May – 4 June 2022)**

<b>Date received</b>	<b>Received from</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
May	HMRC	VAT reclaim	£819.45
May	DCC	P3 grant	£1000
May	Cemetery fees	Cemetery fees	£300
June	Jubilee	Hog roast ticket sales	£1184

#### **Bank Balance at 4 June 2022**

<b>Current account</b>	£46,379.03
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- **Balance of sum being held on behalf of the community for Queen's Jubilee - £747.92**