

KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Kenton Victory Hall on Wednesday 28 September 2022 at 7.00pm

Present

Councillor D Blount (Chairman for this meeting), H Bright, K Savill and D Smith

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), Peter White (Village Tidyman) and two members of the public

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.00pm.

220928.01 Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Thompson
- County/District Cllr Connett

220928.02 Open Forum

A concern was raised about the simultaneous closure of the two bridges on Bridge Road in the evening whilst works are carried out resulting in traffic being diverted through Exeter in order to return to Kenton. It was agreed to write to Highways and suggest that one carriageway is left open so that drivers are not negatively impacted. Cllr Blount added that the same will be happening in Kenton when the resurfacing works take place. Cllr Smith confirmed that this was probably a cost issue as it is cheaper to close both carriageways at the same time and carry out the required works rather than closing them one at a time.

A concern was raised about the unreliability of the number 2 bus. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the clerk should write to Stagecoach lodging a formal complaint.

220928.03 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.

220928.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 July 2022. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

220928.05 Reports

5.1 Police Report

No report.

5.2 District/County Councillor's Report

Cllr Connett was not present but advised that he had been working on trying to get the speed camera replaced outside the entrance to Powderham Estate.

5.3 Village Tidyman's Report

Peter White reported as follows:

- The rubbish collections are out of line with the scheduled dates week after week leaving bins exposed to the elements and animals
- Lewis Withacombe and I have now cleared and seeded the area between the steps and the shed creating a further 12 spaces on a second row for interment of ashes. They have also created a gravelled path to the rubbish area but will need to purchase some more chippings to complete the path.
- Nothing has been done about the road surface on Butts Hill. The clerk agreed to report this again to DCC.

5.4 Dementia Friendly Village

Cllr Blount advised that he nothing to report. The group is still looking to attract more v visitors to the Reflections Café.

5.6 Action Report – update on outstanding matters

5.6.1 Kenton Village Allotments Lease

The clerk signed the lease which was witnessed by Cllr Blount. The clerk advised that a copy had also been sent to Kenton Village Allotments for signature.

5.6.2 Wall adjacent to the almshouses

The clerk advised that the Archdeacon had not been in touch to arrange a meeting as Promised and there had been no further communication from the church.

After a discussion, it was suggested the Parish Council focuses on the fact that it is a heritage asset in a Conservation Area which is not being maintained. It is thought that if this is the case, TDC has a responsibility to step in. It was agreed that the clerk should write to TDC's Conservation Officer.

220928.06 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 Cllr Smith presented an updated investment strategy for consideration by members. After discussion, it was agreed to keep the existing policy but to look into accounts which might generate a higher level of interest.

220928.07 Planning

7.1 New planning applications/appeals

7.1.1 22/01378/FUL - Chi Restaurant and Bar, Fore Steet, Kenton

Members had no objections to this application.

7.1.2 22/01504/TPO - The Old Vicarage, Torrington Place, Kenton

Fell one beech, reduce SW canopy of one Holm oak by 2-3m where overhanging

Members had no objections to this application.

7.2 Decisions

7.2.1 22/01164/HOU & 22/01165/LBC - Woodpecker Cottage, Road from Exeter Hill to Peacock Cottage, Kenton

Dormer window to front and replacement front porch, change of window to door to south east, associated landscaping, lowering of external ground level to the South corner, re-render external façade with lime render

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning permission.

220928.08 Trees

Members were advised that the last survey was carried out in September 2021. It was agreed that an assessment every two years would be sufficient.

Concerns were expressed about the height of the silver birch trees in the car park. It was agreed to seek advice from TDC's Arboricultural Officer as to whether they should be coppiced.

220928.09 Car Park

9.1 Cllr Thompson is still awaiting an estimate/quotation from a contractor for the repointing of by the car park wall.

9.2 Members discussed the maintenance of shrubs in the village (Rodean and car park). It was agreed that in order to try and combat the biodiversity collapse, it was agreed not to use a contractor next year and review the situation at the end of next year. It was thought that there may be parishioners who may be interested in doing some gentle pruning when appropriate. It was also agreed that Cllr Blount would discuss this further with Chris Britton and Cllr Thompson for further management suggestions.

220928.10 Climate Emergency

The clerk advised that no volunteers have come forward yet following the publication of the article in the parish magazine. An enquiry has been made about the Wildlife Warden Scheme and the clerk has put them in touch with ACT.

A suggestion was put forward that the Parish Council considers looking at spaces in the parish to create bee corridors (like Exeter City Council has done on the Topsham Road). It was thought that the triangular patch of grass at the bottom of Sunnybank by the Old Forge would be a good place to start. It was agreed that this is something which could be explored in the spring.

Another area which could be explored includes the back of the car park. This is an area in deep shade; Cllr Blount will liaise with Chris Britton about the type of planting which might flourish in these conditions.

Peter White advised that an area was deliberately not cut in the cemetery this year and wildflower seeds were spread.

220928.11 Defibrillators

Cllr Blount advised that the WI had recently used the defibrillator (without the Parish Council's permission) in a recent demonstration session and it had been noted that the emergency kit was missing. Cllr Blount advised that he did have a spare emergency kit but it hadn't been supplied with the defibrillator. He will therefore contact the supplier to establish why a kit hadn't been supplied. The WI also mentioned that there is a desire for a further demonstration to be made open to the village. It was therefore agreed that Cllr Blount would contact St John Ambulance to see if this is something they could offer in the Victory Hall.

Cllr Blount advised that there has been a recall notice on the defibrillator. He has booked it in for a software update which means that the defibrillator will be taken away for 3 days from 14 October. There is no cost for this. He would put up a notice advising that there is another defibrillator in the car park. If the battery is found to be low, it will be replaced and the cost charged to the Parish Council.

220928.12 Playing Field and Hard Court

12.1 Cllr Smith reported that he has been in touch with three organisations. One has responded and advised that there is potential for the Parish Council to submit a bid for funding in January. He has also spoken to another body who offers help writing bids for grant funding for play equipment for local authorities. He will follow this up.

12.2 Cllrs Smith and Blount will carry out the inspections and keep a record of the checks.

220928.13 Highways & Footpaths

Cllr Blount advised that a parishioner had purchased a fixing and was prepared to fit it to the gate on Brook Path but a resident was concerned about the clicking sound it would make. It was agreed that Cllr Blount would speak to the concerned resident about an appropriate solution.

The drain outside Kenton View is blocked. The clerk will report this to DCC.

220928.14 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]

Cllr Savill asked whether funds could be used to improve the tap on the Triangle to make it easier to fill watering cans. It was suggested that Cllr Savill makes some enquiries about how this can be achieved and the cost with a view to coming to the next meeting with a costed proposal for consideration.

220928.15 Correspondence

A resident suggested to Cllr Blount the need for a fitness class to be available to parishioners and wondered whether the Parish Council could make a grant available. It was agreed that there are at least three exercise classes already available in the Victory Hall and that parishioners should be encouraged to attend these existing classes.

220928.16 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 9 November 2022 at 7.00pm in Victory Hall.

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Chairman

28 September 2022**Item 6:****Expenditure**

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
Standing Order	Salaries	July & August	£1485.68
Online	HMRC	PAYE (Q2)	£210.60
Online	N Bygrave	September car park and Brook path tidy + 3 x Rodean bed tidy	£331
Online	New Leaf	Plants and flowers	£664.40
Online	Powderham Estate	Half yearly rental of allotments	£650
Online	P Harmsworth	CSW – waterproof coats and caps (expenditure from balance of CSW funds)	£203.59
Online	P White	Weed control, grass seed, tip charges and chippings	£92

Income (9 July – 22 September 2022)

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
22 September 2022	Kenton Village Allotments	Half yearly rental	£487.50
July-Sept 2022	Various	Cemetery	£1200
20 July 2022	Devon County Council	Grant	£250
13 July 2022	Various	Various	£170.20

Bank Balance at 22 September 2022

Current account	£43,849.39
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