

KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Kenton Victory Hall on Wednesday 9 November 2022 at 7.00pm

Present

Councillor D Blount (Chair), H Bright, K Savill and D Smith

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk) and two members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Blount at 7.00pm.

221109.01 Resignation of Chair and Election of New Chair and Vice Chair

Members received and noted the resignation of Cllr Thompson as Chair of the Parish Council so that he can spend more time with his family. He will continue as a member of the Council until the elections in May.

It was agreed to send Cllr Thompson a letter of thanks for all he has done as Chair and, in particular, the significant role he played in driving the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Blount was unanimously elected as Chairman and Cllr Bright as Vice Chairman until the elections in May.

221109.02 Apologies for Absence

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

221109.03 Open Forum

Two residents informed members that they would like to initiate a community larder in the parish and requested that a small space in the village car park next to the defibrillator is used. It will effectively be a cupboard where donated food can be left for those in need to use. It will be left unlocked and monitored a couple of times a week. Members supported the idea and suggested that it is trialed for 6 months. It was also suggested that a small grant is awarded by the Parish Council to allow the purchase of the 'larder'. It was agreed that the residents research a suitable container and advise the Parish Council of the cost.

221109.04 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.

221109.05 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28 September 2022. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

221109.06 Reports

6.1 Police Report

PC Orchard provided a crime report for the period 1 – 31 October 2022 for Starcross and Kenton. 9 crimes were reported and 13 incidents recorded.

Members also received the monthly newsletter/gazette, the Community Speed Watch report and rural monthly theme posters in relation to Farm machinery and livestock theft.

6.2 District/County Councillor's Report

Members noted that Cllr Connett has decided not to stand for re-election in the District Council elections in May to enable him to pursue new adventures. It was agreed to write to Cllr Connett and thank him for representing Kenton as the District Councillor for the last 28 years and for everything he has achieved for the parish.

6.3 Village Tidyman's Report

Peter White reported as follows:

- The path through to the compost area from shed in the cemetery has now been gritted and completed. This is a vast improvement.
- I have drawn up a future layout of the new plots - at least a further 14 plots have been created
- I have trimmed back bushes on Triangle giving far better visibility for drivers when exiting onto A379 from Triangle opposite the telephone box
- The chain support post around Triangle has been replaced

6.4 Dementia Friendly Village

Cllr Blount advised that the group currently has very few members. A piece has been written for the newsletter seeking support and the church has also been asked to help spread the word.

6.5 Action Report – update on outstanding matter

6.5.1 Wall adjacent to the almshouses

The clerk advised that she has written to TDC's Conservation Officer but has received an automated response advising that she is out of the office until further notice and will reply on her return.

6.5.2 Allotments lease

The clerk advised that Kenton Village Allotments has not yet signed and returned the lease. The clerk would follow this up by contacting Ian Fulcher and George Maycock.

221109.07 Finance and Governance

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

7.2 Members noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has reached an agreement on the new rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2022. Employees' salaries will be backdated accordingly.

7.3 Members received and discussed the initial budget proposals for 2023/24. It was agreed that members would give their consideration to the proposals for further discussion and agreement in January's meeting.

221109.08 Planning

8.1 New planning applications/appeals

None

8.2 Decisions

8.2.1 22/0269/HOU – The Dairy, Oxton Barns, Kenton Single storey front extension

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning permission.

221109.09 Car Park

9.1 Car park wall – after a discussion, Cllr Smith offered to seek three quotations for repairs to the whole wall. In the meantime, Cllr Smith offered to speak to a local contractor about a more immediate repair to the sections where stones have recently fallen out.

9.2 Maintenance of the shrubs in the village – the Chairman advised that he has emailed Chris Britton for some advice and he is happy to meet with him next week to discuss.

221109.10 Triangle

Members reviewed the arrangements for the placement of benches by the Rodean on the Triangle. It was agreed to write to the Rodean advising that the Parish Council anticipates that no benches will be sited on the Triangle during the winter months but that it would be happy to review the situation again next spring.

In response to correspondence from a resident, it was confirmed that there is no licence agreement between the Rodean and the Parish Council and it is believed that there is no legal requirement for one. It was agreed that complaints about noise or infringement of privacy need to be directed to Teignbridge District Council's Environmental Health department. An assessment would need to be completed to determine whether the noise levels are acceptable and/or there has been an infringement of your privacy.

The Rodean applied to have their license indefinitely varied during Covid to allow the sale of alcohol on the Triangle. Any concerns about this would need to be directed to TDC as the Licensing Authority.

The Parish Council believes that activity has been scaled back significantly since the easing of the pandemic and feels that the Rodean has tried to position the benches as sensitively as possible so as not to impact neighbouring properties. The Triangle is an open space and the public are welcome to congregate and chat there. The Parish Council is also still keen to help local businesses and provide an opportunity for parishioners to meet and socialise when appropriate.

221109.11 Defibrillators

Cllr Blount reported that the software update has been completed and the battery has been replaced. He reported that he was unhappy that, when it was returned, the case was scuffed but this doesn't affect its functionality. He will look at arranging some training in the spring.

221109.12 Playing Field and Hard Court

Cllr Smith will carry out an inspection check at the weekend. The clerk advised that the annual ROSPA inspection has been delayed but hoped that it would be carried out soon.

Cllr Smith advised that he will continue to explore funding for new equipment.

221109.13 Climate Emergency

At the last meeting, it was suggested to the Council that it looks at some wildflower planting to encourage wildlife. Cllr Blount advised that he will speak to Chris Britton and would report back at the next meeting.

Following an appeal in the newsletter for volunteers to come forward to form a group to try and mitigate ecological impact in the parish, the clerk advised that no one had been in touch.

221109.14 Highways & Footpaths

14.1 Members noted that the request for additional signage to reduce speed of traffic on Oxton Lane/Chiverstone Lane/top of High Street has been refused due to lack of funding.

14.2 The clerk advised that she had emailed the Highways Officer about whole road closures and the inconvenience caused by lengthy diversions (as raised in the last meeting). This has been forwarded to the Bridge department for a response as the specific query related to the closure of both carriageways on Bridge Road in the evenings.

14.3 Cllr Blount is liaising with a resident about a suitable latch for the gate on Brook Path. The resident is happy to install it.

221109.15 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

221109.16 Correspondence

16.1 Members received information about the Tidy Teignbridge Local Area Clean-Up Fund 2023-24 (deadline for applications 30 January 2023)

221109.17 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 11 January 2023 at 7.00pm in Victory Hall.

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Chairman

9 November 2022

Item 7:

Expenditure

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
Standing Order	Salaries	September & October	£1485.68
Online	RBL	Poppy wreath	£20
Online	Wel Medical Ltd	Replacement battery for defibrillator	£192
Online	S Hughes	Mileage	£37.81
Online	P White	Fuel, chippings, grass seed	£104.81
DD	ICO	Data Protection Licence	£35

Income (23 September – 4 November 2022)

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
26 September 2022	Cemetery	Cemetery	£250
30 September 2022	TDC	2 nd instalment of precept	£9432

Bank Balance at 4 November 2022

Current account	£50,524.56
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