

KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Kenton Victory Hall on Wednesday 11 January 2023 at 7.00pm

Present

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

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District/County Cllr Connett and Peter White (Village Tidyman)

The meeting was opened by Cllr Blount at 7.00pm.

230111.01 Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Thompson
- Sue Craythorne (Parish Paths Co-ordinator)

230111.02 Open Forum

No comments.

230111.03 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.

230111.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 November 2022. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

230111.05 Reports

5.1 Police Report

No report as the police are still transitioning to a new IT system.

5.2 District/County Councillor's Report

Cllr Connett advised that he is still very mindful of the condition of the main road. There is a scheme planned to resurface a great extent of it and he understands that this will be done this financial year. In the meantime, he advised that potholes should continue to be reported; Highways should come out and carry out a temporary repair.

TDC is consulting on its budget for next year. It is proposing to increase council tax for Teignbridge by the amount allowed by government which, for a Band D property, is £5.54 for the year. TDC is also proposing to rebate to all eligible households £5.54 for the year. This is to recognise the current financial difficulties facing many households. It is proposed that fees and charges will broadly increase by 5%. The Council is also looking to address its longer-term financial issues by putting in efficiencies and changing the way it works.

On 12 January, TDC will meet to consider the draft Local Plan 2020-2040. At that meeting, TDC will decide whether it will go out to consultation on the final options. Cllr

Connett advised that no significant development is proposed in Kenton.

Cllr Connett was asked about the lack of cats' eyes along the A379; he advised that DCC will not be doing anything about those. He was also asked about the junction at Matford and the absence of a feeder lane to Marsh Barton. Cllr Connett advised that DCC do not own the land on which a feeder land could be created and do not intend to purchase it.

5.3 Village Tidyman's Report

Peter White reported as follows:

- It has been observed that there are two cars in the car park which have not moved for two months. The clerk outlined the process which could be used to remove abandoned vehicles.
- Concrete gully at bottom of Butts Hill needs clearing of vegetation and brambles as it is causing water to run down the road making it unsafe for cyclists and pedestrians. The clerk advised that she would report this.
- The yew trees have been pollarded inside the entrance as requested. The ground around has been prepared by me for seeding when appropriate.
- The yew trees have been resting on the lattice and have caused some deterioration. It and the gate entrance needs treating with special oak preservative - approximate cost of preservative £40 - labour provided free of charge. Members approved this cost.
- An additional 54 trees have been delivered free of charge from The Woodland Trust and will be planted in the cemetery.
- Rev Patrick Parkes is retiring and he has accepted a post in Starcross. He will cease to have responsibility for Kenton and Mamhead from 1 March.

5.4 Dementia Friendly Village

Cllr Blount advised that the group needs to consider three things: (i) the viability of the Reflections Café; (ii) the committee is currently inquorate and (iii) there is currently no one in Kenton living with dementia. If the Reflections Café is wound up, they will need to think about how funds will be distributed. There is also the sensory garden to consider. It may be an option to 'pause' the group rather than winding it up fully. A meeting is being held on Friday; Cllr Blount will report further at the next Parish Council meeting.

5.5 Action Report – update on outstanding matters

5.5.1 Wall adjacent to the almshouses

The clerk advised that TDC's Conservation Officer has left post and there is currently no replacement. There has been no further communication from the Church. With no one willing to take responsibility for the wall, it was suggested and agreed that a local newspaper might be interested in running a story on it.

5.5.2 Allotments lease

Members were advised that Kenton Village Allotments have raised some concerns about the lease and have not yet signed it. It was agreed that a meeting needs to be arranged between members of Kenton Village Allotments and the Parish Council to resolve these concerns. If an agreement can't be reached, members agreed that the allotments would have to be closed as no legal document is in place.

230111.06 Brook Path Wall

6.1 Members noted that, whilst undertaking a routine inspection of the watercourse in Kenton, TDC has identified a section of wall which has become significantly undermined and has significant cracks within it. TDC has carried out emergency, 'without prejudice' repairs to address the undermining.

6.2 Members noted that, following TDC's inspection, it has been agreed between meetings that the Parish Council should commission its own survey of the wall. A report from Lee Ross Associates on its condition was noted. Whilst it is not in danger of collapse, the Parish Council has been advised that it needs some intervention works to maintain its integrity. Dental masonry infill of the voids would also be required. It was therefore agreed to contact TDC for their recommendation on suitable contractors who can be approached for quotations. It was also agreed to ask TDC whether any grants would be available to carry out the works.

230111.07 Highways and Footpaths

Members noted that the Parish Paths Co-Ordinator, Sue Craythorne, has completed and submitted the annual P3 survey to DCC. It was agreed to request a small grant for annual maintenance of the paths in 2023-24 as no specific or viable projects have been identified.

230111.08 Finance and Governance

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

8.3 Members received and discussed the budget proposals for 2023/24.

Various sums of money have been earmarked for the following projects: Hard court resurfacing, car park maintenance, car park wall, elections, war memorial repairs, legal fees (allotments lease), footpath maintenance, community speedwatch and Platinum Jubilee funds (held on behalf of the community). The sums held for these purposes were noted and agreed. Members also discussed Brook Path wall and the play equipment which is in need of replacement. It was agreed that whilst the sums required to repair/replace/maintain these were currently unknown, the amounts would not be insignificant. After discussion and acknowledgement of the Parish Council's responsibility to maintain its assets for the benefit of its parishioners and noting that there was no increase last year, it was agreed that the precept should increase by 5%. A sum of £20,047 would therefore be demanded.

230111.09 Car Park

9.1 Car park wall repairs and maintenance

Cllr Smith advised that, so far, he had received one quotation for repointing the wall. He will continue to source other quotes and would report again at the next meeting.

9.2 Maintenance of shrubs in the village – Cllr Blount advised that he had met with Chris Britton but he was not aware of anyone in the village who might be prepared to sensitively maintain them. It was agreed to leave them to grow for a while and address it again when required. In the meantime, a volunteer may come forward.

9.3 Trees - to note that no advice has been received from TDC's Arboricultural Officer about the reduction of the trees in the car park. It was agreed to chase this up.

230111.10 War Memorial

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

230111.11 Planning

11.1 **New planning applications/appeals**

None

11.2 Decisions

11.2.1 22/02072/HOU – 12 Victoria Close, Kenton

Single storey rear extension; extension of existing north eastern projection to front and roof to include second floor Juliet balcony

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning permission.

11.3 Other planning matters

11.3.1 Members noted that the Teignbridge Proposed Submission Local Plan 2020-2040 is being considered at a meeting of Teignbridge District Council on 12 January 2023. Various reports will be considered and a decision will be made on whether to approve them for a period of at least six weeks public consultation

Relevant reports:

Secretary of State's announcement:

<https://democracy.teignbridge.gov.uk/documents/s16520/Committee%20Report%2012.1.23.pdf>

Teignbridge proposed submission Local Plan 2020 to 2040

<https://democracy.teignbridge.gov.uk/documents/s16526/Full%20Council%20report.pdf>

11.3.2 Members received correspondence from Doddiscombsleigh Parish Council regarding planning and enforcement issues and received an invitation to attend a meeting in the village hall, Christow on 26 January 2023 at 7.30pm with other TDC Parish Councils. It was agreed that Kenton had no issues with the planning and enforcement process and would therefore decline the invitation.

230111.12 Playing Field and Hard Court

An inspector has carried out an inspection of the play equipment and has identified a number of notifiable/high risk findings. After discussion, it was agreed that those pieces of equipment will need to be taped off to prevent use until further advice has been obtained. The clerk will write to the school and notify it of the items for which it is responsible (the perimeter fence adjacent to the hard court and the netball posts). Cllrs Bright and Savill agreed that they would tape off the equipment the next day and put up some 'Do not use' signs. Cllr Smith will continue to seek further advice about repairs and will explore funding options for new equipment.

230111.13 Climate Mitigation

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

230111.14 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 Blount reported that the recently repaired noticeboard is full of water. Cllr Savill offered to contact the contractor to find out what can be done.

230111.15 Correspondence

None

230111.17 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 8 February 2023 at 7.00pm in Victory Hall.

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Chairman

11 January 2023

Item 8:

Expenditure

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
Standing Order	Salaries	November & December	£1960.04
Online	HMRC	PAYE (Q3)	£342.80
Online	N Bygrave	Village maintenance	£225
Online	Outdoor Wooden Garden Furniture Ltd	Bin store (Community larder)	£235.14
Online	The Clifford Estate Co Ltd	Village Christmas Tree	£80
Online	P White	Fuel	£7.49
Online	S Bradford	Pruning of yew trees in the cemetery & removal of dead conifer in car park	£285

Income (5 November 2022 - 6 January 2023)

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
7 November 2022	Kenton Britain in Bloom	Reimbursement for plants	£553.65
21 December 2022	Cemetery	Cemetery	£150

Bank Balance at 6 January 2023

Current account	£48,399.02
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