

KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Kenton Victory Hall on Wednesday 14 June 2023 at 7.00pm

Present

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

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Connett, District Cllr Taylor and 8 members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Blount at 7.00pm.

230614.01 Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Smith
- Peter White (Village Tidyman)

230614.02 Open Forum

Residents wished to discuss the recent anti-social behaviour in the parish. The Chair advised that they would be given an opportunity to speak at item 5.1.1.

230614.03 Declarations of Interest

None were declared and no requests for dispensation were received.

230614.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17 May 2023. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

230614.05 Reports

5.1 Police Report and Community Speedwatch

5.1.1 Anti- social behaviour

The Chair referred to the anti-social behaviour in Kenton which is impacting many of the residents. He advised members of the public that he has been in contact with the anti-social behaviour officer at TDC and he has logged a number of incidents on the police website: rubble from the wall has been thrown at properties on Church Street, food from the food larder has been opened and wasted, bottles have been taken from the bottle bank and smashed on the hard court, jars have been smashed, the goal nets have been removed and dumped on the road and the fasteners put into a waste bin, the bus timetable cabinet has been smashed (now replaced by Stagecoach) and potted plants have been uprooted and laid on people's drives. There have also been road safety concerns with go-karts having been ridden on the main road. It was also reported that a window in the bus shelter has been smashed by something which fired ball bearings. Similarly, a window in Victory Hall has been damaged. There have also been a number of posts on Facebook detailing other incidents including stones being thrown into gardens.

Members of the public present at the meeting also reported incidents which they had been affected by and/or witnessed: persistent ringing of their doorbell, inappropriate

language and swinging on scaffolding. These matters have been reported to the police. They have video footage of some of the incidents. There are also safeguarding concerns for those involved. It was agreed that any evidence together with the names of those thought to be involved should be given to the police so that they can follow it up. The more serious elements should be highlighted.

Cllr Connett advised that he has contact details for the Sector Inspector and offered to write to him, copying in PC Orchard, summarising the community anxiety and triggers for police action. He would also inform Children's Services of the safeguarding concerns.

5.1.2 Community Speedwatch

The clerk reminded members that at the last meeting, the Council had agreed to support the decision of Starcross Parish Council, i.e. that it does not wish to be responsible for the ongoing organisation of the VAS signs process but that it funds, from monies left over from the original funding, a reasonable proportionate share of the insurance costs for the volunteers acting for the SW VAS signs group. However, the VAS group has since advised that it is not possible to operate in this way as the temporary insurance policy is deficient in a number of ways. Starcross Parish Council has therefore agreed to accept the ongoing management and responsibility for the signs and the CSW volunteers operating them in Starcross.

The members of the Kenton Parish Council agreed that it would support Starcross Parish Council's decision and that it would also accept the ongoing management and responsibility for the signs and the CSW volunteers operating them in Kenton. It was also agreed to transfer the balance of the surplus CSW funds (£947.26) to Starcross for it to manage.

5.2 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Connett reminded members that major resurfacing works commence in Starcross next week which will impact Kenton traffic travelling in the direction of Dawlish.

5.3 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Taylor reported that he had spoken to the anti-social behaviour officer at TDC and will continue to follow this up. He has also contacted TDC Estates about the ownership of Parson's Walk. There is nothing further to report at this stage.

5.4 Village Tidyman's Report

Peter White was not at the meeting but sent a written report:

- The two damaged panes in the bus shelter have now been replaced. Polycarbonate panes have been used in place of toughened glass. These have the qualities of toughened glass but were cheaper.
- As requested by the Chair, I have spoken to the resident to cut the hedge between the top of Pitt Hill and St Anne's. They will complete it this week.
- The shrubs on the front of the Triangle have now been pruned and disposed of making it very much safer for drivers going onto the A379.
- Due to the very hot weather grass seeding around parts of the Triangle and Cemetery have been temporarily put on hold.

5.5 Action Report – update on outstanding matters

5.5.1 Wall adjacent to the almshouses

No response has yet been received from TDC.

5.5.2 Allotments lease

Kenton Village Allotments has agreed to form a Co-operative. This means that they they will become a legal entity and will be able to sign the sub-lease. They have suggested some amendments to the heads of terms. It was agreed that these proposals are forwarded to the solicitors and make the necessary amendments, where appropriate. It was agreed that the terms will need to reflect the head lease.

5.5.3 Brook Path Wall

The Chair has met with a contractor regarding repairs to Brook Path. He will prepare a report for the Council's consideration including a separate quote for the removal of the weed. A further quote had also been received and was noted.

230614.06 Finance and Governance

6.1 Payments

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

230614.07 Planning

7.1 New planning applications/appeals

7.1 23/00914/LBC – 11 Oxtou House, Kenton
Retention of patio doors and windows

Members had no objections to this application.

7.2 Decisions

None

230614.08 Car Park and Triangle

8.1 Abandoned vehicles

The clerk advised that she had prepared a notice to be displayed on the vehicle which appears to have been abandoned in the car park. It was agreed that if the car is not removed, steps will be taken to remove it under S41 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. It was also noted that the vehicle was SORN'd and was being stored in the car park without the permission of the Parish Council. If the vehicle is not removed, DVLA will be notified of this.

8.2 Triangle

It was noted that there has been some damage to the stone bollard and railings at the corner of the Triangle and adjacent to the War Memorial. It is believed that this damage was caused by a Wales and West Utilities vehicle which was carrying out repairs to a gas leak.

Once the railings have been repaired, it was agreed that the Council will take steps to have them repainted.

8.3 Trees

The clerk advised that an application to carry out tree works in a Conservation Area has been submitted but not yet validated. TDC has requested an aerial photograph and more detailed site plan; the clerk has asked for confirmation that this is necessary having already submitted a sketch diagram showing the tagged trees. If the work is approved, it will be carried out on 21/22 September.

230614.09 Playing Field & Hard Court

Cllr Smith was not present at the meeting and it was therefore agreed to defer this item until next month.

230614.10 Climate Change Mitigation

The Chair advised that he wrote to Green Spaces about management of the Council's land and has been provided with contact details for ACT with a view to arranging a meeting. However, this does not address the specific issue of how TDC manage its land in Kenton and how this can be done more sensitively. The Chair will follow this up again with TDC.

230614.11 Highways and Footpaths

- 11.1 Members received an email from a resident regarding vehicles ignoring the 'No Entry' signs and exiting Torrington Place on to the main road. The clerk has written to DCC to ask them to cut back any overgrown vegetation obscuring the signs. However, it was thought that this probably wasn't the issue and that people were just short-cutting. This would be a police enforcement matter.
- 11.2 Members noted the upcoming closure of footpath 12 during upcoming Powderham events.
- 11.3 The hedge foliage in South Town is overgrown and needs cutting back. The clerk will write to Powderham Estate.

230614.12 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 discussed police presence in the parish. It was suggested that they might resume their PACT meetings again; these could be tagged on to the coffee mornings in the church.

230614.13 Correspondence

- 13.1 Members received correspondence from the office of Anne Marie Morris asking whether the Parish Council would like to meet with her to discuss any issue. Cllr Smith had previously made some suggestions and it was agreed to confirm these before responding.

230614.14 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 12 July 2023 at 7.00pm.

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Chairman

14 June 2023

Item 7:

Expenditure

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
Standing Order	Salaries	May	£789.52
Online	P White	Bus shelter panes, screws, grass seed, mower fuel	£235.73

Income (11 May – 10 June 2023)

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
1 June	Devon County Council	Annual P3 grant	£80

Bank Balance at 10 June 2023

Current account	£56,437.96
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