

# KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Kenton Victory Hall on Wednesday 12 July 2023 at 7.00pm

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### Present

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

### Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Taylor, Peter White (Village Tidyman) and 2 members of the public

**The meeting was opened by Cllr Blount at 7.00pm.**

### 230712.01 Apologies for Absence

- Sue Craythorne (Footpaths coordinator)

### 230712.02 Open Forum

A resident commented that the hedge on the corner of East Town Lane and Orchard Way is overgrown and needs trimming back as it is impeding the pavement. It was agreed to write to the owners of those properties and ask them to address it. It was also agreed to include a general notice in the next edition of the newsletter reminding residents of their responsibility to trim their hedges which are adjacent to pavements and the highway.

The footpath between St Annes and the top of Pitt Hill was very overgrown but the owners responsible for this have now trimmed this back.

### 230712.03 Declarations of Interest

None were declared and no requests for dispensation were received.

### 230712.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 June 2023. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

### 230712.05 Reports

#### 5.1 Police Report and Community Speedwatch

##### 5.1.1 Community Speedwatch

It was noted that a VAS sign has been operating in Kenton for about a week.

##### 5.1.2 Anti- social behaviour

A report has been received from the police advising that the families of the youngsters involved in the recent anti-social behaviour have been visited. Their parents were not aware of the issues caused by them. Strong words of advice have been given to those involved and they have taken responsibility and are remorseful for their actions. Safeguarding measures have also been applied. The police have also spoken to the developers of the Dolphin Inn and Fifields Construction regarding the recent anti-social behaviour and safety concerns. Warning signage has been put in place to prevent any further issues. Neighbours who have been affected have also been spoken to. The youngsters involved have each written letters of apology and, as requested, these were read out in the meeting.

The Chair advised that he was not aware of any further incidents since this visit.

He thanked County Cllr Connett for his intervention; there was little action by the police until he wrote to Inspector Phelps. He also thanked District Cllr Taylor and Gary Wilson (TDC's ASB and Safeguarding Officer) for their assistance in this matter.

## 5.2 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Connett was not present.

## 5.3 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Taylor seconded the Chair's thanks to the police and all those involved in resolving the recent anti-social behaviour. He was sure that the boys' letters of apology would be well-received in Kenton.

He has assisted a resident with a query about solar panels in a Conservation Area. He was also pleased to report that Marsh Barton Station is now open.

## 5.4 Village Tidyman's Report

Peter White reported as follows:

- The section of grass bank on Brook Path for which the Parish Council is responsible has been cut
- The shrub adjacent to the war memorial needs to be trimmed. Not only does it obscure the war memorial, it is beginning to reach the overhead cables. Peter offered to reduce this to railing height with members' agreement. This was approved.
- The damaged glass in bus shelter has been replaced
- Weeds are growing in the gutters and need spraying. It is particularly bad in Orchard Way and East Town Lane. It was agreed to ask TDC to spray them.
- War memorial railings need painting; the chain post also needs replacing
- The gully on Butts Hill has still not been cleared DCC; the clerk agreed to follow this up again with DCC
- The gate fastening on Brook Path has been fixed

## 5.5 Action Report – update on outstanding matters

### 5.5.1 Wall adjacent to the almshouses

No response has yet been received from TDC. District Cllr Taylor offered to follow this up with TDC officers as well as the Executive Member.

### 5.5.2 Allotments lease

The clerk advised that the solicitors are aware of the changes that Kenton Village Allotments wish to make but no response has yet been received from them. The clerk will continue to chase.

### 5.5.3 Brook Path Wall

The weed in the brook has now gone, presumably cleared by TDC. A report and quote is still awaited from a contractor about repairs to the pointing etc.

## 230712.06 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).

## **230712.07 Planning**

### **7.1 New planning applications/appeals**

7.1 23/01103/HOU – 1 High Street, Kenton

Reconstruction of existing garage attached to 8 Torrington Place, Kenton

Members had no objections to this application.

### **7.2 Decisions**

None

## **230712.08 Car Park and Triangle**

### **8.1 Abandoned vehicles**

There is still an issue with vehicles contravening the rules of the car park. Currently, there is a SORN'd vehicle with no MOT. The owner has already been advised that it will be reported to DVLA if it is not removed. As the vehicle has now returned, members asked the clerk to report it to DVLA as the Parish Council has not given permission for a SORN'd vehicle to be stored in the car park.

### **8.2 Damaged bollard and railings**

These have been reported to Wales and West Utilities and a response is awaited.

### **8.3 Trees**

The clerk advised that the application to carry out tree works in a Conservation Area has not yet been validated as TDC have been very busy. The work is due to be carried out 21/22 September.

## **230712.09 Playing Field & Hard Court**

Cllr Smith advised that he had already explored all avenues for grant funding to no avail. The Parish Council has received a quote for £14,895 for repairs and replacement of equipment which has been identified in the inspection report as medium or high risk. There are no other companies willing to repair it and previous quotes for replacement have been in excess of £40,000.

After discussion, it was agreed to accept this quotation for repairs.

## **230712.10 Climate Change Mitigation**

The Chair advised that David Appleton has chased for an update on points which have previously been raised, including:

- Parking Enforcement – this will be administered electronically by Gamma
- Conservation Area considerations – Gamma will seek advice from the Planning Authority on signage and connectivity requirements in order to comply
- Connection points – David Appleton has suggested that there is a need for both CCS and Type 2 charge points (ideally all type 2 and 22KW) and has put this request forward

The Parish Council now looks forward to receiving confirmation of these points and a timeline for installation.

The Chair will speak to Chris Britton about The Triangle and whether anything can be done to enhance the wildlife.

## **230712.11 Highways and Footpaths**

11.1 Members discussed the lack of hedge cutting in the parish, including the lane outside High House and South Town. It was agreed to contact Powderham Estate and ask that these are cut.

11.2 Members received and noted a report from Sue Craythorne, P3 co-ordinator:

'I had complaints about the Brook path beyond Slittercombe Lane and also FP10 which links the top of Slittercombe Lane with the Brook Path near the river bridge. However, the DCC contractor has recently done a good job of clearing both paths. They usually do this in late June or early July.

I have received undeserved thanks from a couple of residents, who think that I ensured it was done! I had alerted DCC, but am sure that the work was on the contractor's contract already.

I would also like to publicly thank the few dog walkers who I have happened to meet, who take secateurs out with them and snip back overhanging brambles, ivy and nettles along the Brook path. I will put a note in the newsletter to that effect.'

11.3 Members received an email from a resident disputing the ownership and responsibility for a hedge following a verbal request by the Chair to cut back the overgrown foliage from the bank alongside Shalissam and Brook Path. Evidence of ownership has been requested before work is carried out. After a discussion, it was acknowledged that Land Registry documents do not always show the exact boundary line. However, it was agreed that an approach to Western Power and BT about receipt of wayleave payments might help identify the owner of the land.

**230712.12 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]*

None

**230712.13 Correspondence**

None

**230712.14 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 13 September 2023 at 7.00pm.

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**Chairman**

**12 July 2023**

**Item 6:**

**Expenditure**

<b>Payment type</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Standing Order	Salaries	June	£805.92
Online	HMRC	PAYE	£223
Online	S Hughes	Mileage (April-July)	£64.80
Online	D Ledger	Defibrillator training	£100

**Income (11 June – 5 July 2023)**

<b>Date received</b>	<b>Received from</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
June	Various	Cemetery fees	£580

**Bank Balance at 5 July 2023**

<b>Current account</b>	£53,028.85
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