

KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Kenton Victory Hall on Wednesday 10 July 2024 at 7.30pm

Present

Councillor D Blount (Chairman), H Bright, J Hare & K Savill

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Connett, District Cllr Taylor and 3 members of the public

240710.01 Apologies for Absence

None

240710.02 Open Forum

A resident expressed ongoing concern about the speed of traffic through the village.

240710.03 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

240710.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 May 2024. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

[The meeting held on 12 June was not quorate.]

240710.05 Reports

5.1 Police Report and Community Speedwatch

In the period, 1 – 30 June 2024, there were 6 recorded offences in Kenton:

- Violence less serious (road rage) x 1
- Blackmail x 1
- Criminal damage x 1
- Dog bite x 1
- Fraud/forgery x 1
- Violence less serious (neighbour issue) x 1

5.2 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Connett advised that he has once again taken up the issue of the mud slide on Kenton Hill. He is still trying to seek clarification about responsibility for the bank.

He has asked Highways to trim back the overgrown vegetation along the A379 and has also asked Powderham to trim back their section also.

He met with DCC's Chief Executive earlier in the week and he has no reason to believe anything other than the County are going to carry out the repairs to Brook Path as planned. He has also heard from Meg Booth (DCC's Director of Climate Change, Environment & Transport) who has confirmed that she needs to get the financials signed off so that the works orders can be issued to the contractors. This should be sorted by the end of this week. The lead time is 2-3 weeks and the contractor is effectively waiting to start.

5.3 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Taylor advised that he has just attended a production of Treasure Island by Kenton Primary School which was very enjoyable.

He expressed that he was very pleased that Martin Wrigley has been elected as the MP for Newton Abbot.

He advised that the Councillor Community Fund has been reopened and he will now start processing the two applications he received from local groups prior to the election.

5.4 Volunteer Flood Warden's Report

No report

5.5 Action Reports

None

240710.06 Brook Path

The Chair advised that Parish Council representatives have now attended three meetings with DCC and noted that the parish was fortunate to have had assistance from DCC and TDC. Recently, however, communication has been poor and the Parish Council is unclear about the details of the scheme and the actions expected of the Parish Council. At the last on-site meeting with engineers, the Parish Council had been asked to complete various actions, the majority of which it does not feel qualified to do. Reservations were expressed to the engineers but to date, there has been no further communication or clarification from DCC.

Andy Bowker also expressed concern that there has been no communication between DCC and the riparian landowners who will be directly affected by the proposed works. DCC had also agreed to arrange a village meeting to explain the plans to villagers but this has not yet been organised. There has also been no further clarification about how the works are to be financed. He was also concerned that the drawings which have been shared are only preliminary drawings and are not detailed enough, particularly for those riparian owners whose gardens are affected.

Cllr Connett suggested that he speaks to Meg Booth to seek clarification on these matters.

240710.07 Planning

7.1 New planning applications/appeals

None

7.2 Decisions

7.1.1 [24/00817/LBC – 1 Court Hall, Mamhead Road, Kenton](#)

Refurbishment works to include installation of a concrete slab and reinstatement of timber floor joists

Members noted that TDC has granted Listed Building Consent.

7.1.2 24/00131/LBC – Kenton Primary School, Mamhead Road, Kenton

Restoration of the entrance door and internal works

Members noted that TDC has granted Listed Building Consent.

240710.08 Finance and Governance

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

240710.09 Car Park, Triangle & Cemetery

Members' concerns about the recent maintenance of the hedges in the car park were noted. Unfortunately, the hedges have been cut back further than was expected and has therefore had a negative impact on the wildlife and biodiversity. The Council agreed that the contractor will need clearer instruction before carrying out this work again in the future. This communication might be something which could be included within the remit of the Climate and Biodiversity Working Group (see item 10).

The Triangle and cemetery are both looking neat and tidy.

240710.10 Climate and Biodiversity

The Chair reported that he has spoken to Anette Grahns-Doan who has agreed to pilot a scheme. She has got together a group of 10-12 people and has started to put together a working document and gain a better understanding of the land for which the Parish Council is responsible. The Chair has suggested that to keep a line of communication open between the Working Group and Parish Council, they might nominate one of the group to join the Parish Council and be the Council's representative.

Anette intends to meet with Jeremy Pyne (Green Spaces Group, Exminster) and representatives of Kenton in Bloom to gain a good understanding of what is required and what can be done.

A start-up meeting will be held on 31 July with a view to running these fortnightly to begin with.

The Chair will update the Parish Council in September's meeting.

240710.11 Playing Field & Hard Court

There were no further updates regarding the temporary relocation of the school to the playing fields. The Chair agreed to contact Jonathan Lasker (Ivy Education Trust) for an update.

240612.12 Highways and Footpaths

Residents are encouraged to report all potholes:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/>

The Chair asked Cllr Connett about the double yellow lines outside the Rodean. He advised that the programme has been paused for 12 months but the painting of the lines would be carried out next year.

A resident has complained about the overgrown hedges on Witcombe Lane at the rear of Lumley Close. Cllr Savill is in the process of speaking to residents about this who are willing to cut their hedges back but not during the bird-nesting season. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

Cllr Connett has written to Powderham and Penhayes about their overgrown hedge. The clerk advised that she has also written but has had no response.

It was noted that there are a lot of nettles between the bottom of the Penhayes steps to the bridge into Pear Tree Close. Maintenance of this could be something which is added to the village maintenance contract unless a volunteer is able to strim them.

The hedge from the playing field gate along East Town Lane has still not been cut. This is the responsibility of the school and they are aware that it needs to be done. It is planned that this will be completed at the same time as the repairs to the fencing at the rear of the hard court. The Chair will send an email to Jonathan Lasker (Ivy Education Trust) requesting an update.

240710.13 Correspondence

None

240710.14 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]

None

240710.15 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 11 September 2024 at 7.30pm.

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Chairman

10 July 2024

Item 8:

Expenditure

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
Standing Order	Salaries	June & July	£1057.64
Online	Plant Tech	Grass cutting – May & June	£960
Online	HMRC	(PAYE Q1)	£13.80

Income (3 May – 5 July 2024)

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
13 May 2024	Kenton in Bloom	Reimbursement for plants	£614.72
June	Various	Cemetery	£270

Bank Balance at 5 July 2024

Current account	£47,010.66
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