

KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Kenton Victory Hall on Wednesday 13 November 2024 at 7.30pm

Present

Councillors D Blount (Chairman), H Bright, A Bryant, R Calderwood and K Savill

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Taylor and 6 members of the public

241113.01 Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Hare
- County Cllr Connett

241113.02 Open Forum

A resident advised that he had spoken to Cllr Connett about a crack in the road outside the Dolphin near the pedestrian crossing. It seems to be situated over the stream. Cllr Connett advised that he would have a look at it.

Cars are being parked by a resident in St Annes on the pavement obstructing the pavement for pedestrians. Cllr Blount has informed the police; it was agreed that the clerk would also write to PCSO Bunce to see if any action can be taken.

The benches have been painted and returned to the Triangle.

241113.03 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

241113.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 October 2024. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

241113.05 Reports

5.1 Police Report and Community Speedwatch

No report

5.2 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Connett was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following update:

'I have followed up again this morning with highways regarding the complaint at the last meeting about pavement edges on Church Street etc. The matter was reported by me to highways the day after the last meeting and I recall the highways officer was going to inspect.

Hopefully, the works on Brook Path will be completed very shortly and the path re-opened to the community.

With regard to the non-functioning speed camera which was also raised as an issue at the last meeting - I raised this with Devon County Council who advise that the operators, Vision Zero, have agreed to remove the camera and make good the pavement. I don't though have a timeline for when it will be done.

This is the last meeting before 2025, so may I wish you and all the members of the Parish Council a very happy Christmas and offer my best wishes for the New Year. Thank you for all you and the Parish Council have done in and for the community over the past year. It is greatly appreciated’.

5.3 District Councillor’s Report District Cllr Taylor advised that residents are able to check on the Citizens Advice Teignbridge website whether they are eligible for Pension Credit (<https://citizensadviceteignbridge.org.uk/are-you-eligible-for-pension-credit/>)

He highlighted two consultations which are currently open:

- Proposed changes to the council tax reduction scheme
- The future of public conveniences. This includes those in Starcross.

He advised that he has ‘called in’ a planning application at Mamhead House for the erection and replacement of the boundary fence (241600/FUL). This will be dealt with by the Planning Committee if the planning officer is minded to approve it. Whilst not in this parish, many objections have been received raising concerns about the movement of deer.

He was pleased to see the opening of the temporary school on the playing field.

The Chair commented that for people who might be eligible for Pension Credit, the application process is unduly complicated: 23 pages and 212 questions. He asked that representations are made to the Martin Wrigley MP about simplifying the process.

5.4 Volunteer Flood Warden’s Report

Robert Neill advised that he is not aware of any issues and there are no obstructions in the brook. The Chair asked that the working party keeps an eye on the banks in the village car park. This was previously undertaken by Peter White when he was Village Tidyman.

5.5 Kenton Nature and Green Spaces (KN&GS)

Cllr Calderwood advised that KN&GS has successfully been granted £500 from ‘Our Green Futures’ Some of this has already been spent on bird boxes and a hedgehog home (£100). They are looking to spend a further £150 on a picnic bench, £100 on improving paths, £100 on revamping noticeboards and £50 on bulbs. There is a community event on Sunday 17 November to thank everyone who has been involved so far and promote the work of the group.

There have been a number of volunteering activities so far, including:

- 30 individual visits to Harmony Meadows – cutting back hedges, clearing ivy, putting the bird boxes and hedgehog home up, checking the benches etc
- Litter picks around the village

The group now has a new logo. This will be revealed at the community event on 17 November and a small prize awarded.

The group is keen to get the school involved and they are also enthusiastic.

They are looking to replace the benches at Harmony Meadows. Benches are very expensive to purchase so if anyone in the village can make benches, that would be fantastic.

In the spring, the group will be running a photo competition. They will also be looking at the area on Pear Tree Close with a view to installing some benches. This land is owned by TDC, so permission from them would need to be sought.

There is some hogweed growing in Harmony Meadow. It was agreed that the best course of action will be to dig this up rather than cut it back.

The Parish Council were happy that the residue of funds from Dementia Friendly Village could be used by KN&GS towards the work they are doing (£1232.33).

5.6 Action Reports

None

241113.06 Allotments

Members received a request from Kenton Village Allotments to install a secure shipping container. David Appleton (KVA), informed members that, in April 2024, the allotments suffered a break-in. All sheds were opened and higher value power tools and some of historical value were stolen. This included communal equipment used for site maintenance. The allotment had new trimmers and mowers stolen with a value of £1500. These had recently been purchased for site maintenance.

The crime was reported to the police and advice was provided on how to improve security on the site, which included marking of equipment and either removing items of value or installing a secure store. The secure storage has been reiterated as a necessary requirement from our insurers who now insist on a lockable unit advising that shipping containers are the preferred solution for any insured tools kept on site.

Following the break-in, communal tools are currently kept at the committee members homes and is therefore not accessible to plot holders regularly. This leads to site maintenance, which should be a community endeavour, falling to the committee.

Therefore, the relocation of the equipment on site is fundamental to the long-term management of the allotments.

They are proposing to install a small container in the corner of the existing car-park, which negates the need for further foundations. The container will be 8ft x 10ft x 8ft 6inch high with a double opening door located towards the car-park.

This container will be in line with the existing sheds and whilst slightly higher is located on the lower part of the site, ensuring it is not easily visible from the site entrance. Ideally we will source a second hand container in a green colour or, if not, we will paint the container so that it blends with the environment.

The cost for the container can be covered from existing funds but grant funding will be considered once permissions have been secured.

The Parish Council fully supported the proposal.

The Chair also thanked members of KVA and Sue Davies for their assistance to KN&GS with regard to the work being done at Harmony Meadow.

241113.07 Planning

7.1 New planning applications/appeals

None

7.2 Decisions

None

241113.08 Brook Path

The Chair advised that work along Brook Path is well under way and it is hoped to be reopened to the public in a couple of weeks.

Members received quotations for the erection and installation of safety fencing at the entrance to Brook Path near The Old Bakery. It was agreed to accept the quotation from Ultimat8

Construction (the contractors who are currently undertaking the work on Brook Path). These were the cheapest and they are able to carry out the work immediately. It was agreed to write to Ultimat8 Construction confirming acceptance of the quotation and adding further detail/clarification to their specification to ensure that the works are completed as required.

241113.09 Car Park, Triangle, Cemetery & Village Inspection

A village inspection is still to be done and will be organised over the Christmas break. If any items are identified which require maintenance, these can be included in the budget for next year.

The Chair advised that he keeps an eye on the car park and Triangle and Peter White still keeps an eye on the cemetery. Cllr Calderwood thought that the bank next to the brook may need clearing. It was agreed to remind Plant Tech that leaf clearance is part of their contract.

The Chair advised that the vegetation in the brook along Book Path needs clearing. It was agreed that this could be undertaken by a volunteer group. Cllr Calderwood thought that this might be something that KN&GS may help with.

The Penhayes steps need clearing. These are the responsibility of DCC.

The Chair thought that, in the New Year, it would be wise to follow up with DCC, the Environment Agency and Powderham their long-term plans for flood mitigation in the parish.

241113.10 Playing Field & Hard Court

An inspection report has been completed by Cllr Hare. It was agreed to keep an eye on matters as some timber may need repairing in the near future.

The Chair has written to Jonathan Lasker (Ivy Education Trust) about the need to install a gate at the widened entry to the temporary school to prevent travellers accessing the field and others from using the car park. It was agreed that the clerk should write formally on behalf of the Parish Council. It was also agreed to mention the gap where the fencing has collapsed again and the need for this to be completed.

241113.11 Highways and Footpaths

Residents are encouraged to report all potholes:

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

It was agreed to follow up with Powderham about their plans to dredge the brook from Slittercombe Bridge down to the bridge over the River Kenn. It has previously been thought that this was part of their maintenance plans for 2024.

241113.12 Finance and Governance

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

12.2 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 2024. This equates to an increase of 3.9%. The clerk's salary will be backdated accordingly.

12.3 Members considered a draft budget for 2025/26. It was noted that it had been agreed to increase the precept for 2024/25 by 170% to help cover the cost of repairs to Brook Path. Now that this has been completed, it was agreed that the precept level could be reduced for 2025/26. However, it would be prudent to make an increase to the level demanded in

2023/24 to cover inflation and the ongoing and future cost of maintaining the Parish Council's assets. The budget and precept will be finalised and agreed in January's meeting.

241113.13 Correspondence

None

241113.14 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

241113.15 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 8 January 2025 at 7.30pm.

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Chairman

7 November 2024

Item 6:

Expenditure

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
Standing Order	Clerk's salary & disbursements	November	£528.82
Direct Debit	ICO	Data Protection Licence Renewal	£35
Online	Plant Tech	Grass cutting - October	£480
Online	Defib Store	New defibrillator pads	£58
Online	Webnos	New defibrillator pads	tbc
Online	Kenton Victory Hall	Hall hire - 2025	£240

Income (5 October – 7 November 2024)

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
28 Oct	Co-op	Cemetery	£315
4 Nov	Turn the Tide Teign	Grant for Harmony Meadow	£500

Bank Balance at 7 November 2024

Current account	£70,976.42
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