

KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at Victory Hall, Kenton on Wednesday 9 October 2019 at 7.00pm

Present

Cllr Thompson (Chairman), D Appleton, D Blount, H Bright & R Feller

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District/County Cllr Connett, Peter White (Village Tidyman) and 15 members of the public.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.00pm.

191009.01 Apologies for Absence

None

191009.02 Open Forum

5G

A resident expressed concern about the roll out of 5G and the lack of current independent research evidence to say it is safe. He drew the Council's attention to a consultative document which has been sent to local authorities regarding the proposed relaxation of permitted development rights. He requested that the Parish Council looks at what influence it could have at a local level to establish whether it is safe.

A resident also expressed concern about antennae being placed on lamp posts and the impact of living in an environment where electro-magnetic radiation is being emitted.

A friend of a resident spoke about his experience working in schools and the impact of wifi on the emotions of children in schools. He recently attended a conference where scientists claimed that the current levels already have a harmful effect on humanity. 5G is much more powerful. He feared, however, that despite the possible health risks, this is a government roll-out and it is unlikely that the Parish Council would have any influence.

The Chairman advised that all individuals respond to the government consultation. He also highlighted the difficulties reconciling the desire for a mobile phone signal in this parish with the issues being raised this evening.

Cllr Connett advised that DCC's Scrutiny Committee will be arranging a review on the arrangements for 5G; the Cabinet are taking the issue up with Public Health England and seeking what evidence it has etc. Cllr Connett suggested that the Parish Council keeps the issue on its agenda pending further evidence and research.

It was noted that some towns have declared a moratorium and it was suggested that Kenton Parish Council does the same. However, as DCC has no current plans to roll out 5G, it was agreed that the Parish Council would not do this at this stage but would keep the matter under review pending any evidence from Public Health England.

Victory Hall and Pre-School

Representation was made by a member of the badminton group concerned about a recent decision of the Victory Hall Committee to allow the pre-school to increase its hours which means that, without consultation, three community groups are now no longer able to use the hall. The same thing happened a couple of years ago but as the pre-school were unable to fill the slots, two community groups were able to return. At that time, the pre-school intended to explore alternative sites, but it seems that no further progress has been made in this regard. The Victory Hall is supposed to be for the use of the whole parish not just one group and this action is not only breaking up the groups but is breaking up the community as well. It was noted that a number of the Victory Hall Committee have resigned over the matter.

Cllr Connett suggested that the Parish Council could act as a catalyst to try and encourage a new pre-school building.

A parishioner expressed concern about how the older generation have been treated whilst acknowledging the important role played by pre-school in the community.

The Parish Council acknowledged the issues raised and agreed to arrange a meeting with members of the Victory Hall Committee to establish more details and discuss ways in which the matters could be resolved.

Car park trees

A parishioner requested that the Parish Council takes steps to ease/resolve the perennial problem of the nesting rooks in the trees in the village car park. The mess they create is preventing a number of car parking spaces being used. There is also concern about the height of the trees and the overshadowing of adjacent gardens. It was agreed that the Parish Council would take advice from TDC's Arboricultural Officer.

191009.03 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.

The Chairman declared that he is married to an allotment holder and therefore has an interest in item 10.

Cllr Appleton declared that he was married to the Victory Hall bookings clerk and had an interest in item 11.

191009.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 19 September 2019. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

191009.05 Reports

5.1 Police Report

None.

5.2 District/County Councillor's Report

Cllr Connett reported that the gully at the bottom of Penhayes/Brook Path has been reported to DCC.

Complaints were received from residents in Lumley Close about the brightness of the LED lights. As a result, DCC will be replacing them with lower wattage bulbs.

Cllr Connett commented on the lack of communication about the road closure during recent resurfacing works on the A379. The road was not actually closed despite being advertised that it would be. This caused problems with people using public transport etc. Cllr Connett has relayed the issues to DCC. The repainting of the lines should be done within a day of the resurfacing works using temporary traffic lights.

The Chairman informed Cllr Connett that he had received a request for double yellow lines at the bottom of Butts Hill to prevent cars parking there. Cllr Connett advised that if this is the wish of the Parish Council, it could be requested to be added to the annual programme of works for 2021.

5.3 Village Tidyman's Report

Peter White reported as follows:

- What is the situation with regards to the grit bins? The grit bin on Sunny Bank was pushed over on its back probably by the hedge trimming tractor. This has been reported to DCC and they have been and lifted it back up. It was noted that there are only two salt bags inside. It was agreed that Peter would check the contents of all the grit bins and let the clerk know in order for her to advise DCC.
- Are we doing any village weed spraying? The clerk advised that this is carried out twice a year.
- I am concerned how over the recent years the stream that goes under Slittercombe is getting more silted up restricting the flow of the stream. If we have very heavy rain this could cause adjacent properties to flood. The problem seems to be that stream from the pumping station down to the river needs to be cleared of silt and vegetation. Some of the residents have expressed their concern to me. It was agreed to write to Powderham.

5.4 Delegate Reports

5.4.1 Dementia Friendly Village

Cllr Blount reported that the AGM has recently been held and the same officers reappointed. Reflections Café numbers are increasing but it has been noted that it is maybe losing sight of the fact that this was set up for those affected by dementia. The group has spoken with local surgeries and asked that they are informed about people who might benefit from attending.

5.4.2 Community Forum/Playing Field

No report.

191009.06 Finance and Governance

- 6.1 Members received the invoices for payment and it was agreed unanimously that the payments as listed are approved (attached).
- 6.2 Members received a request from the Dolphin Community Pub Society for a small grant of £300 for immediate expenses associated with exploring the option to bid for the pub. It was agreed by members to award the grant. As the group do not have its own bank account, the funds would be held in the Parish Council's account along with the £300 grant awarded by Cllr Connett.

191009.07 Planning

7.1 New applications/appeals:

- 7.1.1 19/01145/FUL – Greenbank House, 2 Castle Gate, Kenton
Two storey side extension

Members had no objections to this application.

- 7.1.2 19/01808/CAN – 7 High Street, Kenton
Reduce height of conifers by 3.5m, fell one bay tree and remove one dead pittosporum

Members had no objections to this application.

7.2 Decisions

- 7.2.1 19/01205/FUL – 1 Penhayes Road, Kenton
Single storey rear extension and first floor extension over existing garage

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning permission

191009.08 Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman reported that the TDC consultation is now closed. Some very kind comments have been received from villagers. Only one or two comments have been raised by TDC. An external examiner has now been appointed and will start on 14 November.

191009.09 Community Right to Bid – Notification of owner intention to sell Kenton Village Shop and Post Office

Members received notification that the owner of Kenton Village Shop and Post Office intends to dispose of this asset and that an interim moratorium period is now in place until 5pm on 11 November 2019 by which time the Parish Council and/or a local community interest group may request in writing to be treated as a potential bidder for the asset which will bring the full moratorium period (6 months) into force.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would express an interest in being considered as a potential bidder thus bringing the full moratorium period into force and giving the community six months from 30 September 2019 to consider its options.

It was further agreed that representatives of the Parish Council meet with the Dolphin Community Pub Society ahead of their next meeting to advise them formally of this and discuss whether the two projects could be joined together in any way.

191009.10 Allotments Lease

Members received the new lease from Powderham Estate's solicitors.

It was noted that there was a recommendation to seek independent legal advice. A quotation was sought by the clerk (estimated at £975 + VAT) and concerns were raised about the cost of this. A quotation was also sought to draft the sub-lease between the Parish Council and Kenton Village Allotments.

In the first instance, it was agreed to send a copy of the head lease to Kenton Village Allotments for their perusal and agreement of the terms which will effectively be transferred to its members in the sub-lease.

It was questioned whether any further steps had been taken to lay the hedge between Harmony Meadows and the Allotments. Cllr Appleton offered to speak to Ian Fulcher (KVA) about this.

191019.11 Victory Hall/Pre-School

This item had been covered in the open forum.

191019.12 Collapsed rendering – Penhayes Care Home

It was noted that a complaint had been received about the collapsed wall rendering at Penhayes Care Home. This has now been cleared from the pavement, however there are ongoing concerns that as this is a Listed Building the owner has an obligation to repair it. It was agreed that this should be reported to TDC's Conservation Officer.

191019.13 Playing Field/Hard Court

Members received the inspection reports and noted the contents contained therein. It was agreed to accept the quotation for £117.45 to remove existing, purchase new and refit climbing holds on the climbing wall.

The puddles near the goal posts would be reported to the school as the field is its responsibility.

191009.14 Highways & Footpaths

It was noted that the hedge on the left from Kenton View to Victory Hall has been cut by a resident. It was noted that ivy has also been cleared from the wall. However, there are now two large piles of ivy which need to be removed. It was agreed to ask TDC if this is something they could help with.

191009.15 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]

The Chairman advised that the cemetery paths work has started and it is hoped to be completed next week.

Core holes have been drilled in the Brook Path walls and a start date is awaited from the tarmac contractor.

Cllr Blount offered to lay the poppy wreath on behalf of the parish at this year's Service of Remembrance.

191009.16 Correspondence

Cllr Appleton reported that a notice has been placed on the notice board about the Powderham events wash-up meeting on 19 November. The clerk advised that the Parish Council had not received a formal invitation to attend this meeting.

191009.17 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 13 November 2019 at 7.00pm.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.20pm.

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Chairman

9 October 2019**Item 6:****Expenditure**

Cheque no	Payee	Details	Amount
000533	Richard Grave	Safety checks (September) + works already approved	£27
000534	S Hughes	Mileage & Postage	£36.16
000535	RBL Poppy Appeal	Poppy wreath	£17
000536	P White	Fuel	£5.49
Standing Orders	Salaries	September	£703.17

Income (13 September – 4 October 2019)

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
12 September 2019	Kenton Village Allotments	Half yearly rental	£375
23 September 2019	Cemetery fees	Cemetery fees	£150
27 September 2019	TDC	Second instalment of precept	£9,422.50
4 October 2019	DCC (Cllr Connett's locality budget)	Grant for Dolphin Pub Community Society	£300

Bank Balance at 4 October 2019

Current account	£47,303.93
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