

KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 18th May 2017

Present: 7 Parish Councillors (Cllrs Britton, Thompson, Blount, Appleton, Maguire-Walker and Randall), District/County Cllr Connett, guest speakers (Annette German, Iain Beaumont, Ann Bond, Mike Adams, Jane Frewin, Ian Fulcher) and 34 members of the public.

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Chris Thompson (Parish Council Chairman)

180517.01 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. He also welcomed the meeting's speakers and outlined the agenda for the evening. He congratulated Cllr Connett on his recent re-election as County Councillor.

180517.02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

180517.03 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman introduced the Parish Councillors and clerk and proceeded to give the following report:

The council continues to work well together and the mix of our interests and skills helps our understanding of the issues going on in the village. This year has been pretty busy, with a number of projects completed, others underway and some new problems arising. Whilst we are working on these projects to maintain and enhance the village, we also recognise the enormous help given by individuals and organisations in the village, who give so much of their own time and money to keep the village 'Devon's Finest'. I would particularly like to thank Gwyn Williams who is often called upon by the Parish Council to carry out a range of repairs which he happily carries out at on a voluntary basis.

I'll start with some new problems we will have to grapple with this coming year. Firstly, the lych gate at the cemetery needs some repairs requiring a skilled carpenter and a supply of oak to match the existing material. We have had difficulty finding both of these but hope to get repairs underway soon. Also at the cemetery, the paths need to be dug out and repaired with fresh chippings. We have applied for a grant to cover this cost and are awaiting the outcome. Thirdly, and more seriously, we have noticed that the wall along Brook Path from the main road as far as Victoria Close has become undermined and this has been confirmed in a preliminary survey by Teignbridge District Council. If the damage is relatively minor, underpinning will cost £15 –20k, but if it is more serious and the wall needs rebuilding, this could cost £40-50k. We have some funds in our budget for Brook Path upkeep, but nothing like these costs. TDC are investigating possible grants for us and we will proceed according to their advice.

On a more positive note, a project in progress is the installation of 2 cardiac defibrillators, one outside the Victory Hall here and the second in the now disused telephone box in the village car park. I would like to thank Linda Edwards, who has very kindly donated the cost of one of these defibs in memory of her husband. I would also like to thank Mike Dunn for his valuable advice in dealing with BT to take over the box for the sum of £1. Cllr Steve Cowell is organising a work party to repaint the box and we hope installation of both defibs will be completed soon. We will organise some short training sessions in using them and hope as many people as possible will attend. They are pretty

foolproof in operation but there is no substitute for proper training. I also want to alert everyone to a Quiz in the Dolphin on Thursday June 1st to raise funds for the defibrillators and the ongoing costs – please try to attend if you possibly can.

Finally, the projects we have completed this year. The outdoor table tennis table has been installed on the playing field and the credit for this is down to the fundraising group but I would like to thank Mike Taylor for undertaking the groundworks. Also on the playing fields, the youth shelter has been repaired and the lease has been transferred to us, so it is now our responsibility. We successfully obtained a grant from the Elector Fund to replace some of the sports fittings on the hard court, such as the football nets and the basketball hoops, and these have now been installed. Finally, we have commissioned a new website, which has recently gone live using the same website address as the previous site- www.kentondevon.org.uk. This has all the statutory information the Council is required to make public and much more about information about Council and local matters, such as the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The new site will be much easier for us to keep up to date and I encourage everyone to take a look at it.

I hope this has given you an insight into what we have been doing over the past year. Please speak to me or any of the Councillors if you have any questions at all and remember that the monthly Parish Council meetings are public and open to any Parishioner to attend, and the agenda and minutes are on the noticeboard outside the village carpark.

180517.04 FINANCE REPORT

The Clerk gave a summary of the Parish Council's finances:

The Parish Council has two main sources of income – the precept and the cemetery. This year the Parish Council made no increase to its precept and demanded a sum of £14,550. Translating this...this means that the actual annual cost per household was £31.60 for the average Band D property. You may be interested to hear that this compares rather favourably to Kenton's neighbours where the Parish Council element of the council tax bill for a Band D property was £50.23 in Starcross, £75.19 in Kenn and £82.76 in Exminster.

The Parish Council's other source of income is the cemetery. It never feels quite right reporting how much income the cemetery has generated but it does represent quite a significant proportion of income for the Parish Council which helps with its ongoing maintenance costs. This year, it has produced an income of £4,710 compared with £1,805 last year. This is the final resting place of many and is a lovely quiet space to reflect. It is therefore important to the Parish Council that it is maintained to a high standard. In fact around 15% of the precept is used to cut the grass and keep it looking tidy. We have Peter White to thank for this. Chris has also mentioned the upcoming costs of repairing the lych gate and whilst we have secured a £500 grant towards these costs, this will cover only a fraction of the total. We have also applied to Rural Aid for a grant for the improvements to the cemetery paths but again, due to the popularity of that funding pot, it is likely that if we are successful, we will only receive a portion of the total costs which are not insignificant. It is not essential that we do the paths but it would be a significant enhancement to the cemetery which the Parish Council would like to do if financially possible.

So from the total income of just under £20,000, the Parish Council budgets almost 60% for salaries, administration and subscriptions, insurance, meeting room hire, training and audit fees.

This year, the Parish Council has also spent £750 on a new Parish Council website. Due to recent changes in the law, increasingly more information relating to the Parish Council has to be made available online. The Parish Council therefore felt that it was appropriate to have its own dedicated site which it can update itself to ensure everything is current as is now required by law. The site is clear and simple to navigate and is where agendas and minutes are uploaded, audit information is

available, details of councillors can be found and the Council's policies and governance documents are listed. In addition, there is a useful links page which lists organisations in the parish which can then be linked to their own information. Information about the emerging Neighbourhood Plan can also be found on the site. If you haven't already, please have a look at the site www.kentondevon.org.uk – or if you google *Kenton Parish Council* it's at the top of the list.

The Parish Council obtained a grant from the Elector Fund of £955 which it spent on purchasing some new equipment for the hard court including new basketball hoops, football goals and nets and relining the hard court. This was achieved following consultation with the younger people in the village and improvements they wanted to see at the hard court. The Parish Council has also spent just over £700 on safety matting for under the swings which was a requirement following the annual inspection of the play area. Repairs to the changing room will also be starting fairly soon. The materials will be funded by the Parish Council but fingers crossed the actual work will be undertaken by a group of volunteers in the village.

You will also be aware if you visit the sports field that there is now an outside table tennis table. This was instigated by parishioners and funded entirely from grants and community fundraising.

The Council also continues to maintain and improve services for the benefit of the community. For example, it continues to subsidise Kenton Village Allotments which is a great facility for the parish. The Parish Council also continues to invest in the security of the car park and funds regular security patrols. And as the owner of the car park, the Parish Council is also responsible for maintenance of the trees and repairs to the street lights. Even the small job of replacing a bulb in one of the lights recently cost the Parish Council £90.

Finally, the Parish Council has the power to award small grants to other organisations in the parish. If any community group wishes to apply to the Parish Council for a small grant to help with a particular project then please let us know. A total of £500 has been made available.

180517.05 DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr Connett thanked the meeting for their support in the recent elections and for the congratulations received at the start of the meeting.

He advised that in the past 12 months, the double yellow lines have been installed to protect the junctions at Warborough Hill and Higher Down. Potholes have been repaired and sunken drain covers have been reported and actions are progressing. Shallow skid marks on Exeter Hill have also been reported. Repairs have been undertaken to repair a slab and fill a hole on Penhayes steps. Finally, Teignbridge District Council is responsible for clearing the brook annually but likely to need a reminder.

180517.06 'DEVON'S FINEST LIVING VILLAGE'

Ann Bond – Kenton Past and Present

Ann Bond informed the meeting that Kenton Past and Present has been running for 10 years. Its main interest is the historic aspect of the parish. Other talks are also arranged. They meet every other month downstairs in Kenton Victory Hall. There is a programme of events for 2017 (full details can be found on www.kentondevon.org.uk)

- 18th January - A short AGM followed by Charlie Courtenay who will be talking about *The Courtenay Cartulary - a medieval treasure in the Powderham archive*.
- 15th March - Peter Mason of the Lustleigh Society *Life on Dartmoor in the First World War*.
- 17th May - Presentation by Colin Vosper on *The story of Harry Hems, the Exeter Sculptor*
- 21st June - Dr Nicole Baur on Exminster Hospital - *Remembering the Mental Hospital*.

- 19th July - Summer visit to the *Devon and Exeter Institution*, 7 Cathedral Close, Exeter.
- 20th September - Hugh Meller - *The Country Houses of Devon*
- 15th November - Shelley Tobin - *Killerton Costume Collection*.

The group is also involved in ongoing research projects, for example, the effect of WW1 on the village. An exhibition was held in 2014 which coincided with the centenary of the outbreak of WW1. The next phase involves looking at the Roll of Service and the next exhibition in October will give KPP the opportunity to share where it has got to with that project. Will also be looking at what life was like for those on the homefront. A third event will be held in June 2019 and timed to coincide with the 100 year anniversary of the Treaty of Versailles. The completed Roll of Service and how life changed after the war will be exhibited.

KPP is happy to welcome new members. Details on how to join can be found on www.kentondevon.org.uk

Local Listings Project

Ann Bond informed the meeting that the feedback received from last year's Annual Parish Meeting was positive. The purpose of the project is to give local communities the ability to say what is important to it. Support is being given by TDC's Heritage officer though it has to be driven by the parish. More details next year.

Mike Adams – Captain of the Bellringers

Informed the meeting that the bellringers are the oldest founded group in the village – founded in 1747. Monday night is practice night and they are keen to recruit new people. They also ring in Powderham and Exminster. He advised that the bellringers raised £24,000 in 2000 to refurbish the bells. The money was raised by the bellringers and the community.

Annette German – Dementia Friendly Village

Advised that this week is Dementia Awareness week. The group is aligned with Dementia Friendly Action Alliance and the Alzheimer's Society. The group began with £2400 which was awarded by the Elector Fund and a further £100 from Lord Devon. Annette advised that she attended a 'champion' training course and can now run awareness sessions. She thanked the church for allowing them to use the church. The aims of the group are to create understanding, break down barriers and establish community support. There are now 10 on the steering group. A Reflections café runs monthly and everyone is welcome. There is a different theme each month. Research is being carried out to enable them to apply for funding in the future. They have donated three dementia friendly clocks and dementia friendly toilet signs. The future? Research will continue to look at the impact the group is having. The internet is being introduced into the church to enable them to show archive films. Annette advised that she has made 78 dementia friends and further sessions have been arranged for 3 June at 11am in the Church and 29 June at 7pm in the Church for those interested in receiving the awareness training.

Jane Frewin – Kenton Village Show

Spoke about the Kenton Village Show on Saturday 19 August and the range of categories to enter. Programmes were made available.

Ian Fulcher – Kenton Village Allotments

Informed the meeting that KVA was established in 2007 and a ten year was granted to it by the Parish Council. There are 36 plots being worked. There is also a raised bed and a school plot. Bees are also kept at the allotments. There are some vacancies at the moment with reasonable rents. There is some shared equipment and water is available. KVA tries to have a presence at local events including Harvest festival, May Day etc and an open day is held every year. KVA faces three main challenges: (i) site maintenance, (ii) new members, and (iii) deer. There has been a significant

increase in the damage caused by deer and KVA is currently looking into deer fencing. Finally, Ian talked about the five ways to wellbeing which are connect, be active, take notice, keep learning and give. He believes that having an allotment satisfies each of these.

*****Break for Refreshments*****

180517.07 POWDERHAM SUMMER EVENTS

Iain Beaumont – Powderham Castle Director

A programme of summer events was made available (attached) and discussed.

Of particular concern were the arrangements for the Lockdown festival. The feedback from last year's event will be acted upon including the provision of toilets in the Triangle car park, noise abatement and litter.

180517.06 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Cllr Thompson, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, gave the following report:

To remind everyone, our intention with the Neighbourhood Plan is to prepare a legally binding plan for the next 20 years which will ensure that any housing development in the village is limited to only the numbers and types of housing which we set out in the plan and that any such housing development respects the existing character of the village. It is intended to prevent the kind of market-driven expansion which we have seen in Exminster and in Dawlish.

We also need to remember that a Neighbourhood Plan must be in accord with any adopted Local Plan, which in our case is the Teignbridge Local Plan adopted in May 2014. This defines Kenton as a village appropriate for limited development which meets social and economic needs, protects the rural character and is consistent with the need to minimise travel. In other words, only small-scale housing development is envisaged and our Neighbourhood Plan will reflect this. We already know from the previous consultations we have undertaken that the housing needs in the village are more housing options for young families and first time buyers, downsizing options for older people, affordable housing to rent or buy which is restricted to local people and opportunities for self-build.

So, the steering group has concentrated work on getting information to prepare a housing development policy for inclusion in the plan. A formal assessment of housing needs is an essential precursor, and to this end, we have commissioned 2 housing needs assessments from independent consultants using grants obtained from a Government agency. The first study used published data and the second used a postal questionnaire delivered to all households in the parish. The reports from these are available on the parish website, but I warn you, are a very detailed and complicated read!

In essence, they suggest that 8 affordable homes for rent or to buy will be needed by Kenton residents over the next 5 years. This accords with the current housing waiting list of 7. The number of new market houses suggested is much more variable depending on various factors taken into account, and over the next 5 years, varies from zero to a maximum of 27. The first figure is clearly unrealistic, based on our previous consultations, and the latter figure is based solely on Government projections and takes no account of local factors, so in practice would be considerably less. The steering group thinks that a median figure is more realistic, say 15 over the next 5 years, giving a total 23 new houses over the next 5 years. The reports also confirm our previous consultations on the range and types of houses needed and suggest that homes for rental will be very much a minority.

Finally, the steering group has agreed that we will not advocate particular building sites. Any building development will have to conform to the general policies set out in the plan.

So that is the current position and we are now working to prepare specific policies. We have recently had a workshop, led by TDC's Neighbourhood Planning Officer, to review our aims and objectives and to lay the groundwork for the policies. Much work still to be done and any new volunteers to join the group will be very welcome.

180517.08 OPEN FORUM AND QUESTIONS

A question was asked about the recently adopted telephone kiosk and whether it would stay red. It was confirmed that the kiosk would be repainted using the existing colour. It will house a defibrillator, however, and therefore the signage may change.

A question was asked and brief discussion about broadband in the parish.

180517.09 CLOSE

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

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Cllr Chris Thompson
Chairman