

# KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Kenton Victory Hall on Wednesday 8 January 2025 at 7.30pm

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### Present

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

### Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk) and 2 members of the public

#### 250108.01 Apologies for Absence

- District Cllr Taylor

#### 250108.02 Casual Vacancy

This item was deferred.

#### 250108.03 Open Forum

None

#### 250108.04 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

#### 250108.05 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 November 2024. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

#### 250108.06 Reports

##### 6.1 Police Report and Community Speedwatch

In the period 1 – 31 December 2024, there were two recorded offences in Kenton: 1 x domestic and 1 x non-dwelling burglary. It was agreed to follow up with PCSO Bunce whether any action has been taken with regard to the pavement parking at St Annes.

##### 6.2 County Councillor's Report

No report

##### 6.3 District Councillor's Report

No report

##### 6.4 Volunteer Flood Warden's Report

Robert Neill advised that he has reported the blocked gullies outside the school and up Mamhead Road but these have not yet been unblocked. He also considered that the old Sandbags at properties around the village centre should now be removed/replaced.

On behalf of a resident, Cllr Bryant reported that the brook is not flowing under the bridge, confirming the need for Powderham to dredge the section of brook for which they are responsible. It was agreed that the clerk should write to the Estate and ask for an update on their dredging programme.

##### 6.5 Kenton Nature and Green Spaces (KN&GS)

Cllr Calderwood gave the following report on behalf of KN&GS:

KN&GS held a community event in late November which concluded the group's first 6 months. There was a great turnout/a successful event with a community walk, mulled wine

and nibbles at the Rodean afterwards.

The focus has been to build momentum by meeting 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of the month, with a focus on Harmony Meadow (HM). We are looking to tweak timings and possible days to ensure suitable for most people in the group (i.e. new start time agreed to 10.30am instead of 11.30am).

At the end of the year, local tree surgeon Charlie Bradford kindly dumped wood chippings at the Allotment site for KN&GS to use (use of space agreed with Tony McGuire).

The allotment team asked if our group would be interested in supporting the Sensory Garden at the Allotment site with weeding from February onwards. We are looking at monthly weeding sessions (however in general, we are cautious of taking on maintenance work, as we may/may not be able to keep up).

Teignbridge Wildlife Warden scheme has invited our group to their Introductory Meet at the end of January.

A quotation has been received from Charlie Bradford to help take ash-die-back trees from Harmony Meadow. After discussion, the Council agreed that these trees should be surveyed as part of the Parish Council's tree survey before any work is carried out.

Starting up a core group at HM - meet this coming weekend, 12<sup>th</sup> January.

Opening up to the wider community for a session at HM the weekend 18/19 Jan – day TBC.

The KN&GS page on Kenton Parish Council's website has been populated with KN&GS details. It was requested that the photos provided are linked. The clerk will speak to the website host about this. The group were advised that Facebook rather than the website would be the best forum for rolling news and updates.

Snowdrops to be lifted from a local resident and replanted at Harmony Meadow.

Funding from Our Green Future: from the £500 - birdboxes, hedgehog home and path maintenance has been done. Items outstanding are picnic bench, bulbs and revamping the notice board (~£400).

The Group were advised that the free Landmark tree is due to be delivered to the Chair on 20 January.

## 6.6 Action Reports

Cllr Hare reported that a group of practically-minded volunteers have come together to carry out any flood related actions in the village (such as unblocking drains, clearing paths etc). The group will be known as the Red Barrows. The removal of the sandbags would be something the group could carry out on behalf of residents if a way of disposing of the sand can be found. The clerk will contact TDC for their advice about disposal.

A more technical group will also be looking into and reporting flood danger areas in the village. This will be headed up by Andy Bowker and Cllr Hare. The group will look at the 'bigger picture' in terms of the wider flood prevention issue and will make recommendations to other agencies including DCC, EA and Powderham Estate.

## 250108.07 Finance and Governance

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

7.2 Members discussed and agreed the budget and precept for 2025/26. It was noted that the 2024/25 budget had been increased to provide funds for the repairs to Brook Path. It was agreed that whilst this figure could be reduced for 2025/26, it was still necessary to include a sum for future repairs to Brook Path and a sum towards the repairs and maintenance of the play area. It was agreed that a sum of £29,707 would be demanded (44% decrease on the figure demanded in 2024/25).

#### **250108.08 Planning**

##### **9.1 New planning applications/appeals**

None

##### **9.2 Decisions**

None

#### **250108.09 Slittercombe Pumping Station**

Members discussed the issues with the pumping station on Slittercombe Lane. It is understood that South West Water have the right to discharge sewage into the brook from the pumping station during heavy rain. However, the pumping station has failed on about four occasions during 2024 resulting in sewage coming up into Combe Cottage in Slittercombe Lane. The road has been closed on these occasions while tankers take away the waste; this has taken between four and five hours on each occasion.

It has also been noted that a trailer generator has been recently parked inside the pumping station grounds. Members were very concerned that if the pumps ever fail or lose power, sewage would presumably back up and flood into nearby properties. This may have happened in the flood of September 2023 but was not followed up.

It is understood that the residents of Combe Cottage have been in regular contact with SWW. However, it was agreed that the Parish Council should write to SWW itself to find out directly what its long-term plans for the pumping station are and to seek some assurance. This is very much a health and safety matter for residents.

#### **250108.10 Village Inspection Checklist**

Members carried out an inspection of the village. Various actions were agreed:

- Telephone kiosk looks shabby and needs repainting – Cllr Calderwood to speak to a resident who may volunteer to carry this out
- Some trees need pruning on the Triangle – Cllr Calderwood to do
- Information board on Triangle needs updating (including the relocation of the school) – Kenton Past and Present to be approached about this
- Metal railings around war memorial need repainting – Peter White to be asked
- Bus shelter at rear of the Rodean needs revarnishing – Peter White to be asked
- Some branches need trimming and pampas needs attention on East Town Lane – Cllrs Blount, Calderwood and Hare to do
- No cycling sign missing at Pear Tree Close bridge – clerk to contact DCC
- Trees belonging to TDC on Brook Path need attention – TDC to be contacted
- Spring on gate at the entrance to Brook Path needs removing
- Cemetery noticeboard – information needs updating – Clerk to do
- Vegetation behind the South Town bus shelter needs trimming – Cllr Calderwood to do

#### **250108.11 Emergency Action Plan**

Members reviewed the Emergency Action Plan. It was agreed to update the contact details of the Community Emergency Co-ordinators on page 2.

**250108.12 Allotments**

Members noted that Powderham Estate is keen to support KVA's request for a storage container. However, it has been requested that they consider greater efforts to blend this in, such as wooden cladding or same height level fencing erected around the container, to make it feel more like a shed, and less like a storage facility. KVA has agreed to comply with this request and is now awaiting formal written approval from the Estate before proceeding.

**250108.10 Playing Field & Hard Court**

It was noted that the Ivy Education Trust has not yet installed gates at the widened entrance to the relocated school. It was also noted that no work has been carried out to make safe the perimeter fence.

Some notes compiled by the parish flood warden following an inspection of the brook from the car park in the village centre to the ford beyond Ford Farm have been emailed to the Trust with a request that the issues contained therein are given the Trust's attention.

Having received no response, it agreed that all matters need to be followed up with Jonathan Lasker.

**250108.11 Highways and Footpaths**

*Residents are encouraged to report all potholes:*

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

None

**240108.13 Correspondence**

None

**240108.14 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

**240108.15 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 12 February 2025 at 7.30pm.

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**Chairman**

**8 January 2025****Item 7:****Expenditure**

<b>Payment type</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Standing Order	Clerk's salary & disbursements	December & January	£1221.24
Direct Debit	HMRC	PAYE Q3	£55
Online	Plant Tech	Grass cutting – November & December	£960
Online	The Clifford Estate	Village Christmas tree	£120
Online	Vision ICT	Website hosting	£258

**Income (8 November 2024 – 3 January 2025)**

<b>Date received</b>	<b>Received from</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
December	Cemetery reservations	Cemetery	£945

**Bank Balance at 3 January 2025**

<b>Current account</b>	£69,653.15
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