

# KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Kenton Victory Hall on Wednesday 9 April 2025 at 7.30pm

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### Present

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

### Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Connett, District Cllr Taylor, Jonathan Lasker (Ivy Education Trust) and 9 members of the public

#### 250409.01 Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Hare
- Robert Neill (Volunteer Flood Warden)

#### 250409.02 Open Forum

There were no comments.

#### 250409.03 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

#### 250409.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 March 2025. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

#### 250409.05 Reports

##### 5.1 Police Report and Community Speedwatch

None

##### 5.2 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Connett updated the meeting on the EV chargers. DCC's EV team has been chasing Gamma and have escalated matters to try and resolve the issue. There has been a payment issue with the planning application fee but this is hoped to be resolved shortly.

He has received an email from a resident concerned about traffic speed coming into the village and that the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) doesn't always appear to be working. The Chair advised that the Community Speedwatch Team move these around so they are not always in the same location.

In response to a request from a representative of the Parents Association to move the 'school children' signs which currently all relate to the location of the old school, he has been informed that DCC will, in time, put up new signs. However, they will not be able to move the location of the light-controlled crossing. Where it is currently sited serves a variety of purposes and the cost of moving it is in the region of £100,000. He will ask DCC whether they would consider installing a zebra crossing at the Orchard Way junction across the main road on the basis that this will be much cheaper. The cost is in the region of £20k.

It was noted that South West Water has applied for a road closure to complete utility works on Slittercombe Lane in July and that DCC might wish to coordinate with them so that they can carry out some drainage improvement work at the same time. Cllr Connett offered to contact the Highways Officer with this suggestion.

### **5.3 District Councillor's Report**

The District Council is moving away from naming streets after people. It will still be possible to name streets after people who are recorded on local war memorials.

### **5.4 Volunteer Flood Warden & Kenton Flood Prevention Scheme (KFPS)**

No reports.

### **5.5 Kenton Nature and Green Spaces (KN&GS)**

Cllr Calderwood reported that the shrubs have been planted in the community garden. He thanked Dan Doan who has made the benches for Harmony Meadow; these will be installed soon. The Chair is going to meet with Plant Tech to discuss the clearance of the brambles on the community garden.

### **5.6 Action Reports**

None

## **250409.06 Finance and Governance**

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

## **250409.07 Playing Field & Hard Court**

The Chair invited Jonathan Lasker, representing the Ivy Education Trust, to update the meeting about the school. Firstly, he thanked the Parish Council and wider community for supporting the relocation of the temporary school.

There have been some initial meetings with the architects and designers regarding the new, permanent school. There is also some work being undertaken regarding the planning consent and the work associated in achieving this including survey work, ecology etc.

The main issue that he would like to resolve is to understand what needs to be done in terms of access for the community to the hard court and how focused do they need to be to make this accessible for the community over the next couple of years. There are issues with the condition of the storage shed and there needs to be an adjustment in the lease in terms of rent. A formal relationship is desired to give the Parish Council and community some certainty.

There was a discussion about the play equipment. It was noted that the Trust has carried out its own safety inspection of the equipment in addition to the inspection commissioned by the Parish Council. The cradle swing has been taken down because the cross-beam was rotten. The climbing wall has also deteriorated. The Parents Association would also like the monkey bars moved from the old school to the playing field. There was a discussion about the ongoing management and responsibility for the play equipment given that the school are currently using the equipment as well as the community. A quote has been obtained to remove and replace the existing swing and replace the timbers and secure loose climbing handles on the climbing wall. Jonathan agreed that the Trust would be able to contribute 50% of these costs. Two further quotes would be required and these would be obtained by the Parish Council.

A question was asked about the old school building. This is leased to the Trust by Kenton Parish Lands. The Willow block is not part of the lease agreement. This sits on land belonging to Devon County Council. The two areas will therefore be managed independently of one another. The culvert marks the boundary between these pieces of land. As part of the reinstatement works, the main contractor did a drain survey and nothing was flagged to the Trust that the culvert was a cause of the flood. It would seem that there is a much broader issue in terms of flood management. It is likely that within 12 months, the old school house will have transferred back to Kenton Parish Lands and the aspiration is that it becomes a community asset that can be made use of.

Returning to the hard court, it was agreed that the community can have access during the school holidays. Jonathan will give thought to what is a reasonable way to achieve this. An on-site meeting has been arranged for 29 April at which this can be further discussed.

## **250409.08 Planning**

### **8.1 New planning applications/appeals**

None

### **8.2 Decisions**

#### **8.2.1 25/00192/LBC – 3 Ford Farm Court, Mamhead Road, Kenton**

Removal of flue, replacement of the skylights and replacement of uPVC windows with timber windows

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional Listed Building Consent.

#### **8.2.2 25/00123/LBC – 1 Court Hall, Mamhead Road, Kenton**

Strengthening works to internal partition walls

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional Listed Building Consent

## **250409.09 Kenton Pub & Community Group**

A survey has been circulated to the community (closing date 14 April). The results of the survey will be collated and a meeting has been arranged for 15 April to agree a way forward. The group will be seeking to understand what TDC will allow them to do with it should they take ownership of the building and, from the results of the survey, analyse what the community wants the building to become. The group will then need to raise the cash or seek commitment for the cash and putting in a bid by 31 July.

## **250409.10 Tree Report and Village Maintenance**

10.1 Members received the tree survey. It was recommended that a Kanzon cherry tree on the Triangle is felled and replaced and the overhanging branches of adjacent trees are cut back. Cllr Calderwood advised that he knew a tree surgeon who might be able to complete this work voluntarily. He would ask him to have a look and/or seek quotes.

10.2 Members received and discussed a quotation for £3109.98 + VAT from Enerveo to upgrade the six lights in the car park with new LED units. Efforts have also been made to obtain additional quotes but to no avail. After discussion, it was agreed that it was important that the car park is well-lit from a security and safety point of view and therefore the quote should be accepted.

10.3 Peter White advised that some of the oak posts around the Triangle are rotting. He offered to replace these as a volunteer. The Parish Council agreed to the cost of purchasing the posts (approximate total £60-80).

The railings around the war memorial also need repainting and the memorial itself is in need of cleaning. Cllr Calderwood agreed to co-ordinate this.

## **250409.11 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 noted that there has been some fly-tipping on Chiverstone Lane. The clerk will report this to TDC. Loose branches near the top of Exeter Hill near High Barn wall have also been reported to TDC.

Potholes have been reported though some do not meet the criteria for repair. The clerk advised

that the Parish Council could join the Community Road Warden Scheme should it want to fill its own potholes or carry out other minor repairs.

It was noted that the yellow lines have not yet been painted outside the Almshouses. When the car park is full, and particularly since the relocation of the school, vehicles are parking there and causing an obstruction. A 'No Entry' sign at the Rodean entrance to the Triangle would make sense. The Chair offered to write to Cllr Connett suggesting this.

**250409.12 Correspondence**

None

**240409.13 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 clerk advised that it is a requirement for the Parish Council to have a generic email account hosted on an authority-owned domain. It was agreed to contact Vision ICT to arrange this. There will be a cost of £20 per year for clerk@kentondevon.org.uk.

**240409.14 Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 14 May 2025.

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**Chairman**

**9 APRIL 2025****Item 6:****Expenditure**

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
Standing Order	Clerk's salary & disbursements	April	£545.28
Online	HMRC	PAYE (Q4)	£26.00
Online	Plant Tech	Grass cutting – March	£480
Online	Dartforest Trees	Tree inspection and report	£714
DD	Lloyds Bank	Monthly bank charge (Community Account)	£5.09

**Income (9 March – 4 April 2025)**

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
March	Cemetery	Cemetery	£175
March	Kenton Village Allotments	Half yearly rental	£487.50

**Bank Balance at 4 April 2025**

<b>Current account</b>	£31,398.39
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