

KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held in Kenton Victory Hall on Wednesday 14 May 2025 at 7.30pm

Present

Councillor D Blount (Chair), H Bright, A Bryant, S Godwin, J Hare & K Savill

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Taylor, Derry Tydeman (Powderham Estate), Jonathan Lasker (Ivy Education Trust) and 9 members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Blount at 7.30pm.

250514.01 Election of Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Savill, seconded by Cllr Bryant and agreed unanimously that Cllr Blount is re-elected Chair.

250514.02 Election of Vice Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Blount, seconded by Cllr Bright and agreed unanimously that Cllr Bryant is elected Vice Chair.

250514.03 Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Calderwood
- County Cllr Connett

250514.04 Declarations of Interest

All members were 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. None were declared

No requests for dispensation were received.

250514.05 Open Forum

A resident asked whether the basketball hoops can be reinstated on the hard court. The Chair advised that this would be discussed under the Playing Field and Hard Court item (item 8) when Jonathan Lasker from the Ivy Education Trust provides an update.

The same resident expressed concern about the process for installing yellow lines. She recently heard that a single yellow line is to be painted outside the Almshouses. Given that some residents had objected to double yellow lines, she was disappointed that those residents hadn't been consulted again or informed directly about the installation of a single yellow line. District Cllr Taylor explained that whilst the initial consultation related to double yellow lines, it was suggested at a HATOC (Highways and Traffic Orders Committee) that a single yellow line might be more appropriate to allow vehicles to park in the evening. There is no requirement for DCC to write to individual residents and they are able to reduce the level of restriction (i.e. double yellow lines to single yellow line) without further consultation.

Derry Tydeman advised that he was present to listen to any concerns relating to hedges etc. Next month, he will attend again with the event organisers for the Duran Duran concert. This will be the only considerably large event for Powderham with an estimated 17000 people attending and will have a highways impact. The Chair advised that one of the Council members had trimmed the foliage around the bus shelter near the Powderham Shop but this should be the

responsibility of the Estate. He is aware of the issue; the Lodge is a residential property, however, and therefore it is the tenant's responsibility to maintain it.

The Chair advised that any residents wishing to speak about planning applications may do so at that item on the agenda (item 9).

250514.06 Ratification of Minutes

6.1 Members received the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9 April 2025. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

6.2 Members received the minutes of Parish Council meetings held on 9 April 2025. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

240514.07 Roles and Responsibilities

It was noted that responsibilities would be shared across the whole Council. These include Finance, Planning, Playing Field/Hard Court and all Council-owned spaces. It was agreed, however, that Cllr Blount would continue as the guardian of the defibrillators, carrying out the weekly checks and reporting to the Ambulance Service. He will also keep a watching eye over the car park including monitoring the sandbag store and recycling banks. Roles will be allocated for specific projects as they arise.

250514.08 Playing Field and Hard Court

It was noted that the Council had received a Memorandum of Understanding setting out arrangements between the Ivy Education Trust and the Parish Council whilst the temporary school is sited on the playing field and until the construction of the permanent school.

One of the main concerns is community access to the hard court. Jonathan Lasker referred to discussions at the last meeting about what was reasonable from an operational point of view and what is reasonable for the community to have access to. He recalled that the main holiday periods would be reasonable but if access was required during the half-term holidays, this could also be looked at. It is a question of finding an appropriate balance.

There are possible plans to erect a hall behind the temporary building which would require excavation work during the summer holidays and would further restrict access for the community. This work has not yet been approved but will be confirmed by 11 June.

A question was asked about whether the old school site could be used as a space for basketball hoops. Jonathan advised that this would be unlikely.

A suggestion was made to rotate the fence to separate the hard court and school to provide independent space for the community. Jonathan advised that he would seek advice from the projects team to see if this is feasible.

Derry Tydeman also advised that Powderham has a tennis court which could be used by the community by prior arrangement.

It was agreed that the Memorandum of Understanding would not be signed this evening until further details had been confirmed including whether a hall is going to be constructed over the summer holidays and also whether repositioning the existing fence would be feasible.

In terms of repair/replacement of play equipment, it was agreed that it does not make financial sense to expend money on equipment at this time when it is likely that it will have to be removed and replaced when a new school is built. It is likely that the entire field will be

redesigned and redeveloped with facilities repositioned. A clearer understanding of the longer-term plans is likely to be known in 3-4 months.

It was noted that the alarm at the school keeps going off. Whilst it was hoped that the issue has now been resolved. Jonathan's contact details would be shared with Cllr Bryant in case there are future issues.

250514.09 Planning

9.1 New planning applications/appeals

9.1.1 25/00563/HOU & 25/00564/LBC – Hanningfields, Warborough Hill, Kenton Rear extension and alterations to existing property

Written and verbal representations were made to the Council objecting to this planning application. After discussion, members agreed to object to the application on the following grounds:

- The overbearing and overshadowing impact on neighbouring properties
- The development would result in a loss of light for neighbouring properties
- The impact of the development on a Listed Building and adjacent Listed Buildings to which it is attached

9.1.2 25/00734/CAN – The Triangle, Kenton To fell a Kanzan Cherry and prune neighbouring Cherry and Golden Wych Elm

It was noted that this application has been submitted by the Parish Council in response to advice given in the tree survey.

9.1.3 25/00632/TPO – All Saints House, Torrington Place, Kenton Norway Spruce - T15 - Removal of two limbs overhanging neighbouring property

Members had no objections to this application.

9.2 Decisions

11.2.1 21/01343/FUL – Oak Barn, Kenton Erection of stable building comprising of 5 loose boxes, tack room and feed store, erection of store building and change of use of land for sand school

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional consent.

250514.10 Reports

10.1 Police Report and Community Speedwatch

No police report was received.

The clerk advised that a 'Speedwatch' session was held in Kenton this month. 20 vehicles were caught going over the speed limit. One vehicle was found travelling at more than double the speed limit.

10.2 County Councillor's Report

No report.

10.3 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Taylor reported a quiet month at Teignbridge. He was pleased to report that Cllr Connett has been re-elected to represent the Exminster & Haldon division on Devon County Council.

10.4 Volunteer Flood Warden's Report

Robert Neill reported that it has now been two months since he reported the blocked drains in Mamhead Road. Cllr Connett has been following it up but without success as yet. Robert will continue to pursue this.

10.5 Kenton Flood Prevention Scheme

Cllr Hare reported as follows:

- A KPC Flood Group comprising professionals with flood risk scheme experience as well as select KPC councillors has been formed to support KPC consider flood risk to the village and catchment.
- The flood group includes members with professional experience related to flood modelling and flood risk assessment, hydrogeology, catchment management and geotechnical engineering.
- Key members of the flood group are unavailable until approximately June due to other commitments. Unfortunately, this has delayed the flood group's activities.
- The flood group note Cllr Connett's feedback from the DCC flood team (March KPC meeting) that the DCC flood team is close to completing flood modelling and will soon be considering options for the flood risk reduction in the catchment. The KPC flood group would like to positively engage with DCC to discuss the scheme options in due course.
- The flood group notes a response from Powderham re the planting of trees was received (circa March). The KPC flood group would like to positively engage with Powderham to discuss the scheme options in due course. Derry Tydeman advised that Powderham remains open to discuss this further and suggested that the group contacts him to arrange a meeting.

10.6 Kenton Nature and Green Spaces

Annette provided the meeting with the following written and verbal update:

The 10 donated shrubs at the Community Garden are doing well and being watered by the team until settled, in cooperation with the Red Barrows. Many thanks to Chris Britton for donating these.

The contractor has removed brambles etc from the Community Garden.

'Kenton benches' have been made by Red Barrows & placed out; 2 in Harmony Meadow & 1 at Peartree Close (near the willow trees/brook).

The weeds at the copse at Harmony Meadow have been cut back by the 'Red Barrows' in a traditional way by scythe. This kept the noise level low to respect the birds/animals nesting.

The landmark tree is doing well (after initial nibble of top) and is developing small green leaves.

Work is in progress to get the content/image for the interpretation board together (photo, design/graphic, printing etc). Again, likely to be in cooperation with the Red Barrows.

Budget: After costs for the 3 'Kenton benches' (£188) from 'Our Green Future' grant, there is £162 to spend on Jane's memorial bench & the interpretation board. KPC's chair has confirmed that the parish has set aside £1230 for KN&GS (repurposing of funds from a community group that folded).

A Facebook & newsletter update planned shortly. In the meantime, three pieces of news:

- Two blue tits live in one of our new bird boxes

- Exminster Green Spaces is inviting to their 'Celebrate Nature' event on 23 May at 5pm. All welcome.
- Discussions with Cofton Holidays re donation of a picnic bench (likely to need a bit of sprucing up).

10.7 Kenton Pub and Community Group

Cllr Hare reported that the group is meeting every Tuesday. There are ten enthusiastic members on the Committee and there is a lot of motivation for the project. It is hoped to receive surveys on the The Dolphin Inn over the next couple of weeks but the main focus is to raise finance. Various fund-raising events have been held and are planned. Details of these events are publicised locally and on social media. The group has until the end of July to put in a bid for the building after which it is likely to be auctioned.

10.8 Defibrillators

The Chair advised that Webnos is retiring their legacy system so he has had to reregister the Car Park defibrillator with The Circuit. It makes sense that all defibrillators will now be on the same register but all the procedures will be revised.

10.9 Action Reports

None

250514.11 Review of Policies and Governance Documents

- 11.1 Members received and adopted updated Model Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, as proposed.
- 11.2 Members reviewed the Assets Register. It was agreed to removed the Youth Shelter from the list as this had been demolished when the temporary school was put up.
- 11.3 No changes were required to other governance documents.

250514.12 Finance and Governance

12.1 Payments

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

12.2 Audit 2024/25

- 12.2.1 Members received and noted the year-end bank reconciliation.
- 12.2.2 Members received the internal audit report and noted that no issues had been raised. It was agreed that this Council is confident that the internal audit arrangements provide excellent reassurance for the public that the financial systems are robust and fit for purpose and to continue with the appointment of Lee Accounting (South West) Ltd as the Internal Auditor to the Parish Council.
- 12.2.3 Members received Section 1 of the Annual Return (Annual Governance Statement 2024/25). It was agreed to approve Section 2 of the Annual Return and authorise the Chair and Clerk/RFO to sign it.
- 12.2.4 Members received Section 2 of the Annual Return (Accounting Statements 2024/25). It was agreed to approve Section 2 of the Annual Return and authorise the Chair and Clerk/RFO to sign it.

12.3 Insurance

Members received a quotation for insurance for £1080.08 which was accepted. (This is the third year of a 3-year LTA).

250514.13 Car Park, Triangle, Cemetery and Other Green Spaces

The Chair thanked Peter White for voluntarily replacing the oak posts around the Triangle. He also thanked Cllr Calderwood for painting the war memorial railings and clearing the weeds around it in advance of VE Day making it look most attractive.

- 13.1 Members received a request from The Rodean to host a small event with drinks and music on the Triangle over the August Bank Holiday weekend. This was approved. It was also agreed that they could site their benches on the Triangle over the spring, summer and early autumn.
- 13.2 It was noted that Plant Tech has cleared the brambles and overgrowth on the Parish Garden for an additional cost of £250 + VAT.
- 13.3 A resident has suggested that the large tulip tree on the land at East Town Lane might need trimming/pruning as it has started to block the sun from some of the houses on East Town Lane. They are also concerned that the roots could start going growing into pipes etc. It was agreed that members would have a look at the tree with a view to agreeing a way forward.

250514.14 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 the rubbish does not appear to have been cleared on land off Chiverstone Lane despite having been reported to TDC. Derry Tydeman offered to have a look in case the rubbish is on Powderham land.

250514.15 Correspondence

None

250514.16 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

250514.17 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 11 June 2025 at 7.30pm.

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Chairman

15 May 2025**Item 12:****Expenditure**

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
Standing Order	Salary	May	£540.88
Online	Clerk	Travel (June 2024 - May 2025 – 10 meetings + 2 visits to the cemetery) 432 miles @ 45p per mile	£194.40
Online	Lee Accounting (South West) Ltd	Internal audit of accounts	£240
Online	Plant Tech	Grass cutting – April	£480
Online	DALC	Annual subscription	£423.18
Online	R Calderwood	Paint and brushes	£57.46
Online	P White	Oak posts (Triangle)	£134.40
Online	D Grahns-Doan	Benches (KN&GS)	£188
Online	Enerveo	Car park lights	£3731.98
Online	AJG Community Schemes	Annual insurance renewal	£1080.08

Income (5 April – 9 May 2025)

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
April	Various	Cemetery	£580
April	TDC	First instalment of the precept	£14853.50
April	HMRC	VAT126 reclaim 2024/25	£1021.72

Bank Balance at 9 May 2025

Current account	£46,353.48
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