

KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Kenton Victory Hall on Wednesday 11 June 2025 at 7.30pm

Present

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

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Connett, District Cllr Taylor and 6 members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Blount at 7.30pm.

250611.01 Apologies for Absence

- Robert Neill (Volunteer Flood Warden)

250611.02 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

Cllr Godwin declared an interest in item 5.1 as her property would be impacted by the installation of yellow lines.

Cllr Savill declared an interest in item 5.2 as his property borders Witcombe Lane.

250611.03 Open Forum

A question was asked about the vegetation along Brook Path. The Chair advised that this has now been cut and the stream has been cleared. Also the path adjacent to Kenton View is overgrown. It is the landowners' responsibility to cut this back.

The Chair advised that he would open the meeting to allow members of the public to comment on matters relating to the proposed yellow line outside the almshouses and the hedge at Witcombe Lane.

Cllr Calderwood advised that there is problem with rats around the barns at Ford Farm Court which are being encouraged by animal feed being left out in and around the barns owned by Powderham. It also seems that the rats are being poisoned and birds and other animals are then feeding on the poisoned rats. The Management Committee has written to Powderham but if there is no response it might be that it will become a public health issue and therefore a matter for the Council to become involved in.

250611.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 May 2025. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

250612.05 Highways

Residents are encouraged to report all potholes:

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

5.1 Yellow line outside the Almshouses

The Chair invited an open discussion about the proposed yellow line outside the Almshouses. Residents expressed concern about a reduction in parking in the centre of the

village. County Cllr Connett reminded the meeting that it was in September 2023 when the Parish Council asked for the double lines to be extended by 20m to stop obstructive parking and to make the flow of traffic around the Triangle easier. The process has now run and, having listened to residents' concerns, an order was agreed for a single yellow line to allow parking in the evening. Cllr Connett advised that if the Parish Council no longer wants the yellow line, it needs to decide this evening to request that DCC revoke the decision. Other solutions were discussed to restrict larger vehicles and improve the flow of traffic. Cllr Connett warned, however, that DCC does not have the finance to impose weight restrictions or install new signage and that members need to be mindful of this if they decide to request that the parking restriction is revoked. After consideration, members agreed to request that DCC does not go ahead with the yellow line.

5.2 Hedge overhanging Witcombe Lane

The Chair invited residents to express their concerns about the hedge on Witcombe Lane which is restricting the width of the carriageway. Cllr Savill advised that residents of Lumley Close, whose hedges at the rear border Witcombe Lane, all have their hedges cut on an annual basis.

After brief discussion, the Chair advised that County Cllr Connett has lodged a report, noting concerns that the hedges are wide and narrowing the width of the carriageway affecting cars and, for example, vans and motorhomes. He has identified the area of concern as from the Warboro Hill junction to Pear Tree Cottage. DCC will now attend and assess the situation and take such action as they deem appropriate. If action is considered necessary, this will likely be asking the owners of the hedges to cut it back in the first instance.

It was noted that this issue was also raised in June/July 2023 and at that time the county Highways officer advised the growth was not severe enough for the county to become involved.

If there are residents who wish to record their concerns about the width of the hedge, they can do so directly via the webpage:

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

5.3 Other

The Chair advised that District/County Council contractors have cleared all the weeds along the brook. A resident has also cut the hedge along Brook Path. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to him.

250612.06 Reports

6.1 Police Report and Community Speedwatch

In the period 1 – 31 May 2025 there were eight recorded offences in the Kenton area:

- 1 x drunk in charge of a motor vehicle
- 1 x blackmail (via dating app)
- 1 x possession of offensive weapon
- 1 x criminal damage
- 1 x ASB nuisance (youths causing a nuisance)
- 1 x criminal damage to vehicle
- 1 x drug driving
- 1 x possession of drugs

6.2 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Connett advised that the works by National Grid on the A379 in Starcross are likely to continue for the rest of the week. There were five failures on the LV cable which National

Grid are working on. These are temporary repairs and they will need to come back. He has asked County about the management of traffic through Starcross but there is no easy answer to this. A resident expressed ongoing concern about speed of traffic through the village. Cllr Connett advised that if residents take the number plate of a motorcycle/vehicle perceived to be speeding, Cllr Connett will pass this on to the police who would be able to give the owner words of advice.

6.3 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Taylor advised that the Councillors' Community Fund is open again for applications and groups requiring funding for small community projects are invited to apply.

6.4 Volunteer Flood Warden's Report & Kenton Flood Prevention Scheme

Highways have still not cleared various blocked gullies in the village so he has emailed Cllr Connett for help.

6.5 Kenton Nature and Green Spaces

Cllr Calderwood advised that all is looking good. He made the following points:

- Cllr Hare is taking some photographs for the interpretation board
- KN&GS is looking to involve the school in a small nature project in September
- Looking at ways to make the Harmony Meadow paths less weedy
- The community garden needs to be watered regularly. Volunteers for this would be appreciated.
- A quote for £48 has been received from New Leaf for a bird feeder. Dan Grahns-Doan has agreed to secure this. A concern was raised about how this might encourage rats. The concern was noted.
- The group is planning to draft a Green Action Plan

6.6 Kenton Pub and Community Group

Cllr Hare advised that there are a number of fundraising events being held this weekend. The group has had a positive, on-site meeting with the owner of The Dolphin Inn and everything seems to be moving in the right direction. They will be asking the village to support them through a share offer very soon. The group is meeting every Tuesday and there is a lot of positive activity.

6.7 Action Reports

None

250611.07 Finance and Governance

7.1 Payments

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

250611.08 Planning

8.1 New planning applications/appeals

- 8.1.1 25/00837/FUL & 25/00838/LBC – 12 Oxtan House, Kenton
Alterations to approved fencing

Members had no objections to this application.

- 8.1.2 25/00723/FUL – Kenton Village Car Park
Installation of one 50kW electric vehicle charge point in Kenton Village Car Park

Members support this application.

- 8.1.3 25/00876/CLDE – The Gardens, The Triangle, Kenton
Certificate of Lawfulness for existing porch

Members had no comments relating to this application.

- 8.1.4 25/00854/LBC – Leslie House, Kenton
Installation of new gas boiler, flue and associated works

Members had no objections to this application.

- 8.1.5 25/00809/CAN – Court Hall, Mamhead Road, Kenton
Single Boundary Copper Beech (*Fagus sylvatica f.purpurea*) overhanging
Mamhead Rd and opposite Jayd Cottage - To lift the crown overhanging Road and
Jayd Cottage Garden/Drive by 3m to 4m through the removal of branches at main
trunks

Members had no objections to this application.

8.2 Decisions

There were no decisions to report.

250611.09 Playing Field and Hard Court

There has been no further progress since the last meeting. The Chair will follow matters up with Jonathan Lasker.

250611.10 Car Park, Triangle, Cemetery and Other Green Spaces

The Chair advised that he, Cllr Bryant and Cllr Savill have looked at the trees on East Town Lane and have spoken to the resident who raised concerns about their size. These had not been included in the latest tree survey. It was therefore agreed to have them surveyed and seek advice about ongoing management.

250611.11 Correspondence

11.1 Members received an invitation to attend the Teignbridge Parish and Town Council Planning Forum on 16 June.

11.2 Members received an email from Kenton Parish Lands Trust seeking new trustees to manage the old school premises. The Chair suggested that if anyone is interested, they should get in touch with Rob Rand.

250611.12 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]

Comments were made about the maintenance responsibilities of Powderham Estate. These include the overgrown footpath at South Town, clearing the brook from Slittercombe down to the River Kenn, the overgrown vegetation around the bus shelter at the Powderham entrance and overgrown trees impacting East Town Cottages. It was agreed that a list should be compiled and sent to the Earl of Devon for his attention and action.

250611.13 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 9 July 2025 at 7.30pm.

.....
Chairman

11 June 2025**Item 6.1:****Expenditure**

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
Standing Order	Salary (Clerk)	June	£540.88
Online	Plant Tech	Grass cutting – May	£480
Online	Plant Tech	Pruning shrubs and removal of arisings - Parish garden	£300
Online	Kenton Victory Hall	Hire of the hall – Kenton Pub and Community Group (3 meetings)	£72
Online	C Britton (Kenton in Bloom)	Plants	£556.47
Online	Vision ICT	Generic email address – clerk@kentondevon.org.uk	£22
DD	Lloyds Bank	Bank service charges	£4.25

Income (10 May – 6 June 2025)

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
May/June	Various	Cemetery	£425
May	Kenton in Bloom	Contribution towards plants	£463.72

Bank Balance at 6 June 2025

Current account	£39,611.10
------------------------	------------