

# KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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### Present

Councillor D Blount (Chair), A Bryant, J Hare & K Savill

### Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Connett, District Cllr Taylor and 2 members of the public

**The meeting was opened by Cllr Blount at 7.30pm.**

#### **251008.01 Apologies for Absence**

- Cllr Godwin
- Cllr Calderwood
- Cllr Bright

#### **251008.02 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.

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

#### **251008.03 Open Forum**

A resident advised that on three recent occasions she had swept up windscreen glass from the highway. In particular, there was a significant amount on the junction of Orchard Way and Exeter Hill.

#### **251008.04 Ratification of Minutes**

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10 September 2025. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

#### **251008.05 Reports**

##### **5.1 Police Report and Community Speedwatch**

No report

##### **5.2 County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Connett reported that parents had reported to him that the school coach had started parking in Orchard Way. This has hopefully been resolved and it should now be parking in the designated bus stop. It was also noted that parents are parking opposite the turning into East Town Lane and all the way up East Town Lane. The Chair confirmed that he has raised this with Jonathan Lasker (Ivy Education Trust).

The following update regarding the continuing work to assess and reduce flood risk in the village from DCC was provided:

*'Kenton is one of our high priority catchments and we have been working closely with our consultants, WSP to build a hydraulic model of the catchment that simulates the flood flows within the village. This has taken longer than anticipated due to the complexities of the interactions of multiple sources of flood waters (surface water and watercourse flooding) and some very catchment specific mechanisms (water building behind gates that*

*then burst open of example). But we now have a model that we will be using it to test options to reduce the risk in the village. Options currently being considered primarily include upstream storage or improving conveyance through larger culverts.*

*If one of these options proves to be beneficial through the model testing, then we will have to determine whether its economically viable in line with DEFRA's funding rules for flood prevention works, Flood Defence Grant in Aid. A challenge we have here is that these funding rules are changing from April the 1<sup>st</sup> 2026, and as yet DEFRA/Environment Agency (who administer the funding) have not released the new process or procedures around this. Historically under the current arrangement more rural locations, such as Kenton have struggled to attract the required level of funding to support works. If affordability is achievable then we will have to obtain the necessary permissions with any landowners that are impacted by their installation before proceeding with a business case and detailed design.*

*If we fail to identify an effective scheme or one that is affordable, then another option would be to consider Property Level Flood Resilience (PFR) measures. These items, such as flood doors, gates, non-return valves and air brick covers reduced the possibility of water ingress into a property living space, however the wider flooding issues on local roads and gardens would not be resolved. These would also require funding from DEFRA and are subject to strict rules around this.*

*We will continue with the options testing in the model for the remainder of this financial year in line with our other high priority catchments and in anticipation of news coming from the EA about the new funding mechanism, in the hope that its favourable for smaller rural catchments such as Kenton.*

*We will update the Parish Council in the New Year once the way forward becomes clearer.'*

Cllr Connett also confirmed that Penhayes steps have now been cleared of vegetation.

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

Cllr Taylor advised that discussions about Local Government Reorganisation continue with new model options continuing to be put forward. Whilst Parish Councils have not been directly consulted, there is nothing to stop Parish Councils from writing directly to the Secretary of State giving their view.

He also noted that the Parish Council's request for the planning application at Hanningfields (25/01334/HOU & 25/01335/LBC) to be determined by the Planning Committee has been refused. However, he believed that the request had brought the Parish Council's concerns to the direct attention of the planning officer.

### **5.4 Volunteer Flood Warden's Report & Kenton Flood Prevention Scheme**

The Flood Warden had no matters to report.

### **5.5 Kenton Nature and Green Spaces**

No report

### **5.6 Kenton Pub and Community Group**

Cllr Hare advised that a new purchase price for the pub building has not yet been agreed but it is currently being negotiated. Plans will then need to be drawn up for both buildings.

### **5.7 Action Reports**

With regards to the Flood Reduction Scheme referred to in County Cllr's report, it was agreed that the Parish Council should seek a further update at the end of February if it had not heard anything by then.

## **251008.06 Finance and Governance**

### **6.1 Payments**

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

### **6.2 Data and Digital Compliance**

The clerk advised that there is a new requirement for Parish Councils, introduced in the 2025 Practitioners Guide, that requires them to demonstrate robust governance over digital presence and data management to ensure compliance with UK GDPR and data protection laws. This includes having proper IT policies, using secure council-owned email domains, meeting website accessibility standards and managing personal data lawfully, safely and securely. The clerk advised that she would be working through the requirements in time for the end of this financial year.

Whilst the Parish Council already has a council-owned email domain which would comply with the new requirements (.org.uk), the preference would be to have a .gov.uk domain, and for each Councillor to have a dedicated council-owned email address for professionalism, security and compliance with GDPR. This was agreed. In order to achieve this most cost effectively, it was agreed to purchase a new .gov.uk domain from 20i at a cost of £25, to instruct JKE Web Design to build a new .gov.uk website for £450 which would include a year's free hosting and email accounts for all Councillors. This would be cheaper than paying for add-ons to the existing host.

## **251008.07 Planning**

### **7.1 New planning applications/appeals**

None

### **7.2 Decisions**

None

### **7.3 Other Planning Matters**

7.3.1 25/01334/HOU & 25/01335/LBC – Hanningfields, Warborough Hill, Kenton  
Rear extension and alterations to existing property

Members note that the planning officer does not consider the Parish Council's reason for call-in to be valid or sufficiently detailed and therefore a decision will be made by the planning officer and not the Planning Committee.

## **251008.08 Car Park, Triangle, Cemetery and Other Green Spaces**

### **8.1 Community garden maintenance**

No updates from KN&GS - agreed to defer until next month

### **8.2 Tree management – East Town Lane**

It was agreed to seek quotations to crown raise the tulip tree.

### **8.3 Telephone box – quote for refurbishment**

The Chair advised that he is still awaiting quotes - agreed to defer until next month

### **8.4 Design and quotes for a sign at the entrance to the cemetery saying 'Welcome to Kenton Cemetery and Harmony Meadow'**

Design and quotes not yet received - agreed to defer until next month

## **251008.09 Playing Field and Hard Court**

### **9.1 Update on the school**

The Chair advised that he had requested an update from Jonathan Lasker on the school

development and excavation work to help the Council make decisions about/justify any additional spend. Jonathan replied that the final phase of the project will be installed during the October half-term. The main work will be the complex crane work needed to install the new hall. This is expected to take four days and is likely to cause disruption due to the size of the vehicles needed. There will then be three weeks of internal work aiming for a completion date of 17 November. After this, the site will be cleared and they will be able to focus on making the site accessible to the community again. Relating to the school rebuilding project, it is his understanding that the project will have an impact on all areas of the current field with any provision likely to be removed, relocated and replaced. He still doesn't have a clear time-line when the project will start but his best guess is that nothing will happen on the ground for at least 12 months whilst he remains hopeful that it will be no longer than 24 months. Jonathan has agreed to attend next month's meeting.

#### 9.2 Broken bench and repair of the cradle swings

The Chair advised that the quotation received last month has not yet been split and, in view of the update above, it was agreed to defer this item until next month.

#### **251008.10 Service of Remembrance**

The Chair advised that he had been invited to read the Roll of Honour; Cllr Savill offered to lay the wreath.

#### **251008.11 Highways & Footpaths**

*Residents are encouraged to report all potholes:*

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

11.1 To consider any requests for non-contentious parking restrictions/double yellow lines  
There were no requests.

11.2 It was noted that the Fish and Chip Van is parking on double yellow lines and a sign has been put up on the adjacent telegraph pole informing residents that they will be there every Wednesday. Whilst the Parish Council does not have the power to enforce the parking restriction, the Chair will try and speak with them and advise them to park in safer location without parking restrictions.

#### **251008.12 Correspondence**

12.1 Invitation to attend Powderham Community Events Forum at the Castle on 5 November at 6.00pm. It was agreed that the Chair and Cllr Bryant will attend.

#### **251008.13 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]*

None

#### **251008.14 Date of Next Meeting**

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

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**Chairman**

## **8 October 2025**

### **Item 6.1:**

#### **Expenditure**

| <b>Payment type</b> | <b>Payee</b>     | <b>Details</b>                               | <b>Amount</b> |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Standing Order      | Salary (Clerk)   | October                                      | £554.77       |
| Online              | Plant Tech       | Grass cutting – September                    | £480          |
| Online              | RBL              | Poppy wreath                                 | £25           |
| Online              | Powderham Estate | Half yearly rental Kenton Village Allotments | £650          |
| Online              | A Bryant         | Seeds (Harmony Meadow)                       | £12.95        |
| DD                  | Lloyds Bank      | Bank service charges (Sept)                  | £4.67         |

#### **Income (5 September - 3 October 2025)**

| <b>Date received</b> | <b>Received from</b> | <b>Details</b>               | <b>Amount</b> |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| September            | TDC                  | Second instalment of precept | £14,853.50    |

#### **Bank Balance at 4 September 2025**

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| <b>Current account</b> | £49,090.26 |
|------------------------|------------|