

KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Kenton Victory Hall on Wednesday 12 November 2025 at 7.30pm

Present

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

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Taylor, Jonathan Lasker (Ivy Education Trust) and 2 members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Blount at 7.30pm.

251112.01 Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Godwin
- Cllr Hare

251112.02 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.

251112.03 Open Forum

A concern was raised about the speed of traffic through the village. There was a thought that the relocation of the school may prompt additional signage/restrictions. It was noted that Cllrs Taylor and Connett are petitioning for a zebra crossing outside the school in Starcross. Potentially, this could also be done in Kenton.

251112.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 October 2025. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

251112.05 Reports

5.1 Police Report and Community Speedwatch

In the period, 1 – 31 October 2025, there were 3 recorded offences in the Kenton area:

- Violence less serious (male leaving female in fear) x 1
- Violence less serious (assault by beating partner and criminal damage) x 1
- Road traffic collision (slight injury) x 1

5.2 County Councillor's Report

No report

5.3 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Taylor advised that the Estate has cut down some trees at Ford Farm and it looks as though work has been carried out to tidy up the area. He has been contacted by residents about water being taken out of the stream at Slittercombe Lane by the recycling team. They are apparently wetting down the cardboard in order to fit more on the lorry thus reducing the number of trips to Marsh Barton. He has reported this to the Executive member. LGR information has been circulated to the clerk which has been forwarded to members.

It was noted that TDC has removed the weeds from the brook which is appreciated.

5.4 Kenton Primary School update – Jonathan Lasker

Jonathan reported that they are nearly at the end of the disruption with the additions to the temporary accommodation. The main scheme is still in its infancy; once the planning stages have been completed, it is likely to be at least two years before the completion of a permanent building. Nursery accommodation has been received well and school numbers are starting to increase. Unfortunately, there was some vandalism to the old school building over half-term. This has now been made secure. There is a meeting planned with Kenton Parish Lands Trustees to discuss ongoing security. Portakabin has offered to reinstate a basketball court at the far-end of the building and double-mark the existing court for multi-use. This was agreed by members. It was asked whether there was an intention to install some lighting; Jonathan will ask the question. There was a discussion about the existing play equipment and its ongoing maintenance. Eventually, the field will be redeveloped and equipment replaced. In the meantime, the Parish Council will continue to commission the annual ROSPA report and decide whether it is worth replacing any of the equipment in the short-term. It was noted that there are some issues with parents driving up and parking on East Town Lane and sometimes causing an obstruction. Jonathan will ask for a reminder to be sent to parents asking them to be considerate to residents. The Chair also suggested that some additional signage is placed on the main road warning motorists that there is a school.

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

The Flood Warden had no matters to report. He has been keeping an eye on the tree felling at Ford Farm and, in his view, he doesn't think this will negatively affect the brook.

The Kenton Flood Prevention Scheme group has a meeting tomorrow.

5.6 Kenton Nature and Green Spaces

Cllr Calderwood reported that The Harmony Meadow interpretation board has been finalised and has been sent to the printer. The Community Garden is being discussed with a view to asking contractors to help with its clearance and ongoing maintenance. Quotes will be sought. Spring bulbs are being planted in the wild flower meadow and lower triangle. The new owl box has been put up and thank you to Graham Tapper for making it. The dead hedge has started to be created along the lower part of Harmony Meadow. The group is looking at continuing to lay the live hedge around the perimeter. The wildflower area has been fenced off.

5.7 Kenton Pub and Community Group

Cllr Bryant reported that a price has been tentatively agreed with the owner. The next stage is to talk to TDC's planning department. A grant has been secured to carry out the structural survey. The Chair acknowledged the work of the Committee to get to this stage.

5.8 Powderham Concerts 2026

The Chair attended the meeting with Cllr Bryant and circulated the following report:

This really was a resume of the 2025 events and what went wrong and why.

Understandably, most of the concerns involved the parking and traffic management. There were crossed wires between the castle and the promoters regarding the cancellation of the traffic enforcement officers on the wrong day. I raised the point that the resident's parking packs were not available until the day before the concert (in spite of being promised a week before) and then were delivered in a haphazard way whereby people in some roads obtained one in other roads they didn't. Mamhead Road was another pinch point, not helped by two major accidents on the main roads which caused traffic to be re-routed

through the village. Discussions proposed introducing a possible one-way system so that traffic would not get banked up and could flow smoothly through the village. Most if this was covered by Alan Connett's report following the concert.

As regards 2026, plans are in place to encourage the use of bus and train services as was done with the BBC event a few years ago. Parking fees will be increased to discourage the use of private vehicles but there were worries that would merely encourage motorists to use the village roads instead. We have been assured that a new vastly experienced company will be used for 2026 not the one that was employed this year. The Lewis Capaldi event in July is likely to attract about 35,000 visitors so it will be essential for a robust system to be put in place. There are also two other large-scale events planned for the same week.

Another meeting has been planned for 18 March 2026 to review the updated plans.

5.9 Local Government Reorganisation

The Chair attended a Teams meeting attended by over 80 representatives. It was conducted by Stephen Walford and Andy Bates (W Devon & South Hams). The meeting covered much the same ground as the meeting that we had with Cllrs Connett, Taylor and Martin Wrigley MP in Starcross during August. Government has not released many details, so a lot is pure speculation at this stage. Preference seems to be for a 4:5:1 system where Teignbridge will join with Torbay, South Hams and West Devon. Submission has to be completed by 28 November.

Concern was raised that Torbay were hoping to be an independent authority and wouldn't co-operate, however we were assured that they now realise that Torbay would not have the numbers to go it alone and that the 4:5:1 system means that (Plymouth apart) the areas would be more evenly represented.

The current timetable is that the new authorities will commence in May 2027 and run parallel with the existing system for 12 months with the new system taking over entirely from May 2028. There were worries that the dates may be extended in order to coincide with the General Election due in 2028; however, we were assured that the government is determined to complete the reorganisation within the current administration.

Concerns were raised that with fewer representatives and a greater area to cover; councillors would be unable to attend local parish and town council meetings as regularly as they have done in the past. It is hoped that this will not be an issue.

Another consideration is whether the Health Authorities would be moved so that Teignbridge hospital appointments would be directed to Torbay rather than the RD&E in Exeter. The PPG fought this suggestion 20 years ago pointing out that it would be totally impractical for residents of Kenton to travel to Torquay where there is no direct bus route and the time required to make the journey would be greatly increased. A medical officer who was present at the meeting said that there were no plans to change the current situation at present.

The meeting was recorded and a transcript will be circulated to local councils in due course.

251112.06 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 Budget and Precept 2026/27

Members considered and discussed a draft budget for 2026/27. This will be finalised and agreed in January's meeting.

6.3 Data and Digital Compliance

The clerk advised that the Parish Council has purchased a new domain name – www.kentonparishcouncil.gov.uk Members considered some options for a logo design for the new website. It was agreed that the logo should incorporate a view of the Cornish cross and Church from the Triangle.

251112.07 Planning

7.1 New planning applications/appeals

None

7.2 Decisions

7.2.1 25/01455/HOU – Windrush, 15 Lumley Close, Kenton
First floor side extension with alterations

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning permission.

251112.08 Car Park, Triangle, Cemetery and Other Green Spaces

8.1 Community garden and other maintenance

It was agreed to set up a meeting with Plant Tech to discuss the additional maintenance requirements including the community garden, tree work on East Town Lane and cutting back the weeds and overhanging branches on Brook Path.

8.2 EV charging points – car park

A meeting was held in the car park to discuss the location of the charging points. The original site is unsuitable due to the risk of flooding. It has therefore been suggested that the units are installed on the right as you enter the car park. Members agreed this location and the Chair will feed this back.

8.3 Telephone box – quotes for refurbishment

Members considered quotations to refurbish the telephone box in the car park. It was agreed to accept the quotation from Cover Ups for £900 + VAT.

251112.11 Highways & 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 potholes in Church Street are getting worse. These will be reported.

251112.12 Correspondence

None

251112.13 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

251112.14 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 14 January 2026 at 7.30pm.

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Chairman

11 November 2025**Item 6.1:****Expenditure**

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
Standing Order	Salary (Clerk)	November	£554.97
Online	HMRC	PAYE (Q2)	£137.60
Online	Plant Tech	Grass cutting – October	£480
Online	Clerk	Reimbursement for domain registration	£30
Online	Clerk	Mileage Jun-Nov	£97.20
Online	JKE Web Design	25% deposit for new website	£112
Online	Smithy Signs	Interpretation board (KNGS)	£60
Online	A Grahns-Doan	Bulbs	£81.98
Online	D Grahns-Doan	Timber	£14.50
Online	G Tapper	Owl box (KNGS)	£50
DD	Lloyds Bank	Bank service charges (Oct)	£4.25
DD	ICO	Data Protection Licence	£47

Income (4 October – 7 November 2025)

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
October	TDC	Kenton Village Allotments	£487.50
October	Various	Cemetery	£270

Bank Balance at 7 November 2025

Current account	£47,940.99
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