

KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Kenton Victory Hall on Wednesday 14 January 2026 at 7.30pm

Present

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

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Taylor and 5 members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Blount at 7.30pm.

260114.01 Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Godwin
- Cllr Calderwood
- County Cllr Connett

260114.02 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.

260114.03 Open Forum

A resident raised concerns about the proposed revised location for the EV charging units in the village car park, as discussed in November's meeting at item 8.2. In particular, those concerns related to:

- Flood risk - the whole of the car park is in a flood risk zone
- The proximity to the boundary of her property. Research carried out advises that public rapid charging units should not be sited in residential areas and should be at least 7.5m away from neighbouring properties
- Noise - additional vehicle/people movement and noise generated by the cooling process of the units themselves
- Increased fire risk of EV charging units
- Adjacent buildings are Grade 2 listed - any fire could spread through the entire terrace imposing a high risk to residents and their properties
- Pedestrian safety - the earmarked spaces are close to the entrance of the car park and are tricky to manoeuvre in and out of

For these reasons, the proposed location of the units is unacceptable to her.

Members noted the concerns and agreed that they were very valid. After discussion, it was agreed that the Chair would flag these issues and investigate alternative locations with the supplier. He believed that the submission of a second planning application was imminent. This process could potentially be paused, however, whilst alternative locations are considered. It was acknowledged that the number of alternative locations was limited and would likely have to involve discussions with other landowners (such as Victory Hall and Powderham Farm Shop).

A resident was concerned that there may be a broken waste pipe under the road as you enter the Orchard Estate and the highway appears to be sinking. Members were unclear about the source of the problem and it was agreed to report it to Highways for investigation.

260114.04 Ratification of Minutes

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

260114.05 Reports

5.1 Police Report and Community Speedwatch

In the period, 1 – 31 December 2025, there was 1 recorded offence in the Kenton area:

- Sexual offences (sextortion)

5.2 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Connett was unable to attend the meeting.

5.3 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Taylor reported that TDC is currently running an online budget survey to assist with the budget-setting process (closes 2 February). A council tax rise of 2.99% is proposed. In December, the government announced its first multi-year local government finance settlement in a decade which provides funding allocations for local councils for the next three financial years. This will provide greater certainty for long-term planning. At the Executive meeting last week, there was confirmation that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme will be renewed. Cllr Taylor will forward to the clerk a full timetable for the LGR process for circulation to members. Finally, he announced that TDC is in the top 10 in the country for recycling.

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

Robert has notified DCC that the gullies opposite the Rodean are blocked. No action has yet been taken.

He also advised that he has tried to make contact with a resident to follow up an email sent to the Parish Council about discharge into the brook from upstream of Kenton village. Members were unclear where the discharge could be coming from as the culvert was clear at the old school and under the A379. Peter White advised that there are two underground tanks which hold water and gradually discharge it into the stream. One was built c. 5 years ago behind the pumping station (holding tank). Also, when the Estate was built, the builders put in a horizontal concrete pipe through the estate from Pear Tree Close. There is a manhole in the lawn of 5 Pear Tree Close and he suggested that South West Water is asked to inspect it and check that it is not full of sludge. It might be that mud etc is being released into the brook from this pipe.

5.6 Kenton Nature and Green Spaces

No report.

5.7 Kenton Pub and Community Group

A grant of almost £10k has been received which will cover the cost of various surveys and the planning application etc. An Eco Survey is being carried out tomorrow. Plans are being drawn up for both sections of the building. Some more fundraising events are being planned for the coming months and will be advertised locally.

260114.06 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. After discussion, the budget was agreed and a sum of £31,995 would be demanded (5% increase on last year).

6.3 Data and Digital Compliance

The new website has been designed and is awaiting some images to be supplied by a local resident before it goes live. Cllr Hare would also look at images he has on file which might also be suitable. Members are also to supply images of themselves for the members' information page.

260114.07 Planning

7.1 New planning applications/appeals

7.1.1 25/01925/FUL – Oak Barn, Kenton

Erection of a car port with gymnasium above with balcony

Members had no objections to this application.

7.2 Decisions

None

260114.08 Car Park, Triangle, Cemetery and Other Green Spaces

8.1 Community garden and other maintenance

A quote has been received from Plant Tech for the additional maintenance work around the village. It was noted that some of the work was a one-off cost whilst other work is to be carried out more regularly. For clarity, it was agreed to ask Plant Tech to incorporate the new work into their existing contract and provide a quote for the monthly cost and itemise the one-off costs separately. It was also agreed that Plant Tech should be asked to clear away the litter etc from the bin at the back of the cemetery.

8.2 War Memorial

Members considered a quote from Cover Ups for £850 + VAT to paint the railings. This was agreed.

8.3 Review of Cemetery Fees

Members reviewed and agreed to increase the schedule of fees by just over 10%. This was to reflect the increased cost of ongoing maintenance and the fact that the fees have not been reviewed since September 2023.

260114.09 Annual Village Inspection

This will be carried out by those members available on a Saturday afternoon – proposed dates to be circulated by the Chair.

260114.10 Highways & Footpaths

Residents are encouraged to report all potholes:

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

The clerk advised that Kenton has a new Neighbourhood Highway Officer – Rhys Andrews. Having offered to meet with the Council, it was agreed that the clerk would arrange a date for the Chair and Flood Warden to meet with him to discuss the current issues.

260114.11 Correspondence

11.1 Members considered a letter from a resident asking for the Council's views about the annual Primrose Rally on 8 February. The Council had not been notified or consulted about the event so had been unaware of it taking place. With very little detail, members were unable to comment further.

- 260114.12 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]

It was noted that there was a problem with the rope walk at the play area. It was agreed that Cllr Bryant would contact the supplier to ask whether they would be able to correct the problem.

Cllr Savill wished to acknowledge the work of the Clerk and Chair and thanked them for their ongoing support and efforts to keep the Council functioning well.

- 260114.14 Date of Next Meeting**
The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 11 February 2026 at 7.30pm.

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Chairman

14 January 2026**Item 6.1:****Expenditure**

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
Standing Order	Salary (Clerk)	December & January	£1109.54
DD	Lloyds Bank	Bank service charges (Nov)	£4.67
Online	Plant Tech	Grass cutting – Nov & Dec	£960
Online	Kenton Victory Hall	Hall hire – 2026 (10 meetings @ £24 per meeting)	£240
Online	Cover Ups	Refurbishment of telephone box (now defibrillator kiosk)	£1080

Income (8 November 2025 – 9 January 2026)

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
None			

Bank Balance at 9 January 2026

Current account	£45,872.87
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