

KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at Victory Hall, Kenton on Wednesday 12 September 2018 at 7.00pm

Present

Cllrs C Thompson (Chairman), D Blount, S Cowell, H Hutchings, J Randall and S Maguire-Walker

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), Peter White (Village Tidyman) and one member of the public

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.00pm.

180912.01 Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Appleton
- PC Rob Harvey & PCSO Adrian Ovrieu
- Sue Craythorne (P3 Co-ordinator)

180912.02 Open Forum

There were no comments from members of the public.

180912.03 Declarations of Interest & Requests for Dispensations

Members were reminded of their responsibility to continually update their Notice of Registerable Interests and 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. Unforeseen requests for a Dispensation to be considered at this point only if there was no way a Councillor would have been aware of such before the meeting.

There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

180912.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members present received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 July 2018. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

180912.05 Police Report

Reported crimes from 14/06/18 – 12/09/18

Kenton (6 crimes)

- Common Assault – Domestic related. Male returned home drunk and had an argument with his wife which escalated. No injuries and wife refused to support police actions. NFA.
- Arson – Parked and unattended vehicle set alight in a private car park accessible from the main road. No CCTV, witnesses or suspects. NFA.
- Harassment – Domestic related. Ex-partner of female contacted her on numerous occasions despite being told not to. Victim only wished to log the matter with police and would not support any further action. See next crime.
- Misuse Public Communications – Domestic related and linked to the above Harassment crime. Due to new government directive two crimes will be recorded where harassment has been a factor in addition to this original offence! This is apparently to ensure harassment is addressed and not overlooked! Still NFA as per wishes of the victim.
- Assault ABH – Passenger on bus ejected by the driver when he started to smoke. Passenger demanded a refund of his fare and struck driver on the arm causing minor bruising. Offence happened off the bus so no CCTV. NFA.
- Common Assault – Drunken, middle-aged couple on a bus acted in a disorderly manner and began drinking alcohol whilst on the bus. The driver seized this off them advising them of the 'no

alcohol' policy. The male suspect later remonstrated and prodded the driver several times with his finger before leaving. No injury caused and not in the public interest to investigate.

Powderham (1 crime)

- Arson – Hay bales set alight in field, believed by fire brigade to have been deliberate. No witnesses or suspects. NFA.

Other matters

Our Community Speed Watch team is haemorrhaging members and desperately needs support from interested parties. If you would like to become a police volunteer, or know someone else who might then please contact me using my email address below.

Please report any suspicious activities, people or vehicles, taking time to write down vehicle registrations and inform the police as it is happening, as opposed to a day or so after. Don't be afraid to use the 999 number if it's appropriate.

The Chairman advised that he had received an email from a parishioner asking everyone in the village to report to the police or Crime Stoppers any suspicious activity in Kenton particularly in the areas of Ford Farm and Slittercombe Lane by the SWW pumping station. There are two individuals from within the village strongly suspected to be selling drugs from these areas and young teenage children are being targeted by them.

180912.06 District/County Councillor's Report

No report.

180912.07 Village Tidyman Report

Peter White reported as follows:

- The stump of the willow tree that was cut down by the bridge in Peartree Close last year is sprouting. It was agreed that the clerk would report this to TDC.
- He has collected the old oak posts and chains from Gwyn Williams and will replace them in the next couple of weeks.
- The stinging nettles on Brook Path need cutting back on the Chi side.
- The yew trees by the front gate at the cemetery need reducing as they are growing over gravestones and the bench. It was agreed that this is a specialist job.
- Street light on Sunnybank is still on as previously reported. Clerk to report to DCC again.
- He has discussed the tree roots growing under the path on the Triangle with the Chairman. It was agreed that no action was necessary.

180912.08 Action List

Members reviewed the action list and noted outstanding actions.

Allotment lease renewal

Members received the Heads of Terms for the renewal of the allotments lease. It was agreed to feedback as follows:

- The Parish Council queries the amount of the proposed increase. It does not accept that it is appropriate to use the RPI to calculate a rent increase. A 31.52% increase is considered excessive and it requests that this is reviewed.
- The Parish Council queries the estimated cost of drafting the lease which it, again, believes is excessive. It was therefore agreed to request a breakdown of the proposed legal costs. This is a very simple lease and the Parish Council do not understand why the legal fees are so high.
- Comparing the proposed Heads of Terms with the current lease, the Parish Council sought clarification on why a number of the tenant's covenants in the existing lease are not included in the proposed lease.

180912.09 Delegate Reports

9.1 Dementia Friendly Village:

Cllr Blount advised that there had been no meeting and there was therefore nothing to report.

9.2 Friends of the Field/Community Forum:

No report.

9.3 Local Listings Project:

No update. Members were advised that a response was awaited from Maureen Pearce, TDC, regarding the draft criteria which TDC were planning to adopt and the weighting to be placed on that criteria. The clerk would continue to chase a response.

9.4 Powderham events

Members received a response from the Safety Advisory Group advising that DCC had granted a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order to the Tom Jones promoter which included a clearway on the A379 between Starcross and Kenton. However, the applicant is not mandated to use it and the Council cannot enforce its use. If it is not used, the rationale for not doing so should be subject to scrutiny. The matter will be raised with the applicant at the debrief meeting.

180912.10 Finance and Governance

10.1 Invoices for payment - it was agreed unanimously that the payments as listed in the supporting documents (attached) be approved and cheques signed.

180912.11 Planning

11.1 New applications/appeals

11.1.1 18/01630/FUL & 18/01804/LBC - Powderham Country Store, Powderham Estate, Powderham
Conversion of derelict barn space to veterinary practice and provision of signage

Members had no objections to this application.

11.1.2 18/01613/LBC - Powderham Castle, Powderham
Widening of the driveway alongside the Country Stores to allow two-way traffic and removal of existing tree to the west of the drive, alterations to the junction of the driveway to allow exit and entrance at this junction, removal of part of boundary wall and two existing trees at junction, relocation of entrance gates and provision of pedestrian crossing point and construction of two signs at entrance

Members had no objections to this application.

11.2 Decisions

11.2.1 18/01231/FUL – Land adjacent to Exeter Lodge, Kenton
Detached garage and store with self-contained annexe

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning permission.

11.2.2 18/01198/FUL – All Saints Church, Kenton
Removal of the existing hand railing on the steps from Church Street and the installation of new hand railings

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning permission.

11.2.3 17/02117/FUL – Chi Restaurant & Bar, Kenton
Conversion of restaurant, bar and guest rooms to nine self-contained apartments together with provision of amenity space and parking

Members noted that TDC has refused to grant planning permission.

11.2.4 18/01833/EXMPTC –Middle Court Hall, Kenton

Re-coppice beech tree

Members noted that TDC has no objections to the tree being pruned.

180912.12 Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman informed members that meetings had been held in August and September. A revised draft plan has been submitted to TDC which has responded with positive and encouraging feedback. Some of the proposed revisions have been incorporated and some additional work has been delegated out to members of the Steering Group focusing on green spaces, views and the addition of more photographs. Once this is complete, the plan will go to the graphics expert and if the group is happy, it will be submitted to TDC as the final draft.

180912.13 Bus Shelters

Members noted that a Rural Aid grant of £4000 has been awarded towards improvement of the bus shelters in South Town. With the contribution from Cllr Connett's locality budgets, the total sum available is £5500. It was agreed that Cllr Hutchings would investigate options and report back at the next meeting.

180912.14 Brook Path

Following concerns raised in the July meeting as to whether the correct section of the Brook Path wall had been repaired, members received the survey from TDC showing that work was undertaken to the section of wall which was leaning and at risk of failure. The area has been surveyed by TDC's Structural Engineer who recommended the extent of the works necessary to alleviate the potential health and safety risks should the wall had collapsed. Members accepted the response from TDC and agreed no further action.

180912.15 Village Inspection

Cllrs Randall, Maguire-Walker and Appleton advised that they had carried out the village inspection and, in addition to matters which the Parish Council was already aware, noted the following:

- The trees for which the Parish Council is responsible need to be surveyed (see item 16)
- Car park signage at entrance – poles need replacing. Members were advised that Peter White is seeking advice on this.
- Some of the trees in the cemetery need trimming/cutting back. This includes the yew trees though it was agreed that these need specialist attention.
- Stinging nettles need trimming along Brook Path and hedge/shrubs need replacing following the Brook Path wall repairs (see item 21.2).
- The information map on the Triangle needs varnishing. The free car park sign needs cleaning or replacing and needs to be more visible.
- The railings around the war memorial are loose and leaning and required repainting. The coping stones are loose and the brickwork is leaning. It was noted that there may be grants available to help with the cost of repairing and restoring war memorials and it was agreed that the clerk would look into this.
- The cemetery paths are mossy and slippery and suckers are growing into grassy areas.
- A tree is growing out of the brook wall. Peter White agreed to look at this.
- The 30mph sign in Mamhead Road near the entrance to Ford Farm has fallen down. Cllr Appleton had offered to repair it.

180912.16 Trees

Following the village inspection, members received a report drafted by Cllr Appleton identifying the trees for which the Parish Council is responsible and proposed actions. It was agreed that quotations should be sought to survey all the trees identified in the report.

180912.17 Car Park

17.1 Members received further correspondence with regard to the tress and bamboo in the car park. It was agreed that advice would be sought from TDC's arboricultural officer.

17.2 With regard to the repairs to the car park wall, it was agreed that, due to the potential cost of repairs, to defer any work until next year so that funds can be allocated in the precept. The Chairman had been advised that the wall was safe and therefore work was not considered urgent.

180912.18 Poppy Wreaths

Cllr Maguire-Walker reported that the RBL do not have a policy for removal of the poppy wreaths but remove them as and when they start looking tatty. After brief discussion, it was agreed that it would be appropriate to remove them when the village Christmas tree is put up.

180912.19 Emergency Plan

This item was deferred until October's meeting.

180912.20 Playing Field/Hard Court

Members received the inspection reports and noted the contents contained therein.

180912.21 Highways & Footpaths

21.1 Members received and noted a report from Sue Craythorne, P3 Co-ordinator.

21.2 Members noted that the nettles along a section of Brook Path need trimming and were unsure whose responsibility this was. Whilst the matter was being resolved, it was agreed to ask Neil Bygrave to trim them. In the meantime, it was agreed to carry out a Land Registry search to try and establish the boundaries.

21.3 The Chairman advised that he had received a complaint about an overgrown holly bush at the top of Warborough Hill which was growing into the highway and affecting visibility. It was agreed that the clerk would report it to DCC.

180912.22 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.

180718.23 Correspondence

23.1 Members received details of the Communities Together Fund (formerly the Elector fund) and noted the requirements to work with another community group or parish. The deadline for applications is 16 January and members agreed to give some thought to possible projects.

23.2 The Chairman advised that a suggestion has been made for a beacon to be lit on the Belvedere for Armistice Day. It was agreed that volunteers to arrange such an event would be sought using the Kenton Facebook page.

23.3 Correspondence was noted regarding a campaign to regain access to the Estuary at the access point adjacent to the Powderham road at the north end of Starcross. Support was requested from both Starcross and Kenton Parish Councils. The clerk advised that a Starcross Parish Councillor would be responding and the clerk would keep members informed of any update.

180718.24 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 12 September 2018 at 7.00pm in Victory Hall.

Part II

[Contains items which may be taken in the absence of the public and press on grounds that exempt information may be disclosed]

180912.25 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Members resolved that the public and press are excluded from the meeting as the item under discussion contains information exempt under Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A Part 1 and Schedule 12 A & Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960 Section 2(1)

180912.26 Complaint

Members received and discussed a complaint and action was agreed.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.05pm.

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Chairman

12 September 2018**Item 10:****Expenditure**

Cheque no	Payee	Details	Amount
000453	PKF Littlejohn	Limited assurance review of the Council's Annual Governance & Accountability Return	£240
000454	Powderham Estate	Half yearly rental for Kenton Allotments	£500
000455	S Hughes	Mileage	£16.20
000456	Richard Grave	Play area inspections (July& August) Repairs (as approved in July)	£60 £142.29
000457	Sandover Associates	Neighbourhood Plan Consultant Fees (first invoice)	£1,768.20
000458	P White	Fuel & oak post for triangle	£31.61
Standing Orders	Salaries	July & August	£1,356.42

Income (14 July – 7 September 2018)

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
14 July 2018	Kenton in Bloom	Plants	£299.14

Bank Balance at 7 September 2018

Current account	£38,678.89
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