

KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at Victory Hall, Kenton on Thursday 16 January 2020 at 7.00pm

Present

Cllr Thompson (Chairman), D Appleton, D Blount, H Bright & R Feller

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), Peter White (Village Tidyman), County/District Cllr Connett (from 8.50pm) and 1 member of the public.

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.00pm.

200116.01 Apologies for Absence

- PC Harvey and PCSO Ovreiu

200116.02 Open Forum

There were no comments from the public.

200116.03 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.

There were no declaration of interest or requests for dispensation.

200116.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 13 November 2019. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

200116.05 Reports

5.1 Police Report

Reported crimes from 14/11/19 – 16/1/20:

Kenton (8 crimes)

- Fail To Stop – Cyclist knock off their bike causing damage to the bike. Driver of vehicle failed to stop and report the collision. Driver reported for the offence.
- Assault (ABH) – Domestic related. Drunk male assaulted his partner following a work Christmas party. Male arrested and interviewed. Awaiting decision by CPS in the meantime male is attending AA meetings.
- Criminal Damage x2 – Youth in a residential home has caused damage to items in his bedroom and to a staff member's car. Staff wish youth to be spoken to by police but no further action. Under investigation.
- Assault x2 – Staff at a home for people with special needs have sustained minor injuries when a client 'had an episode'. At the request of staff the client was offered words of advice by police. NFA.
- Make of w/out Payment – Male and female obtained a meal at a restaurant then left without paying. CCTV obtained but parties remain unidentified and are not believed to be local. NFA.

- Harassment/Stalking – Female ended a short relationship but male party will not cease contacting her, despite a previous verbal warning from police. Under investigation.

Powderham (0 crimes)

5.2 District/County Councillor's Report

Cllr Connect reported as follows:

- The heavy rain prior to Christmas highlighted the problems with a number of drains in the village centre area. I asked Devon County Council to send out the drain cleaner, which although should have happened just before Christmas, due to circumstances beyond my control resulted in the arriving in the past week. A number of drains have been cleaned, including those I identified after a 'walking inspection'. However, it's clear there are other drains which need sorting including two at South Town - by Park View and further on towards Starcross on the left.
- A resident raised a query about whether the Teignbridge road sweeper had visited the village recently. It is due again later this month, and I will check the areas swept on the last visit, as the resident suggests some areas may have been missed.
- Devon County Council is consulting on proposals for the Mamhead Road, from Starcross to the A380. The exhibition in Starcross was very well attended. The details and online consultation are available via the Devon County Council website until 5 February and I would encourage everyone to view the proposals and to comment.
- The exhibition was held in Starcross as it linked to another, separate set of proposals for the Strand in the village. I did highlight to Devon County Council that it needed to consult on the Mamhead proposals with Kenton Parish Council and Mamhead Parish Meeting.
- Teignbridge draft budget proposals - Teignbridge is currently consulting on its draft budget proposals. In summary, the council plans to beef-up Planning Enforcement with the addition of an additional planning enforcement officer. To support the council's ambition to be carbon neutral by 2025, it plans to invest in further 'climate change' work and appoint an officer to lead this programme. General fees and charges and car parking will increase. The proposal is to increase Council Tax by £5 a year, taking the average Band D charge to £175.17 for the Teignbridge element. It is proposed that the Rural Aid grant is stopped. However, discussions are being held to see if the scheme can be maintained in a new format. The Councillor Community Fund, currently £1,500 a year for each of the 47 district councillors is proposed to be reduced to £1,000.

5.3 Village Tidyman's Report

Peter White reported as follows:

- The light in the car park at the rear by the silver birch is still not working
- The light in Sunnybank is still on in the daytime
- The manhole cover in Southtown on A379 about 150 metres before the 30 mph sign in the Starcross direction clangs every time a car passes over
- The drains at the junction of Witcombe Lane and St Anne's are still blocked. They catch the rain off the field. Cllr Connett is aware of the issue.
- Concern about the stream being blocked under Slittercombe Lane due to non-clearance of the stream below the pumping station down to the River Kenn has been expressed by adjacent residents. It was agreed to write again to Miles Webber (Powderham Estate) and ask for him to review his decision not to dredge the stream. The excess mud and silt is like quick sand and is a risk to children if they were to fall in it.

- The road sweeper visited Kenton on 6 December and is due again on 20 January. It was noted that they did not cover the whole of the village on their December visit including Pitt Hill to St Annes which is covered in mud.

5.4 Delegate Reports

5.4.1 Dementia Friendly Village

Cllr Blount reported that at the Christmas meeting of the Reflections Café handmade gifts were provided and mince pies enjoyed. There was also a festive quiz. The next Reflections Café is on Saturday 18 January. Annette German is hoping to get things moving with the sensory garden and will be appealing for help once the spring comes.

5.4.2 Defibrillators

A query had been raised by a resident in Starcross about whether the defibrillators in the Kenton are registered. Cllr Blount confirmed that both defibrillators are registered and that he checks them monthly and sends a report to the Ambulance Service.

5.4.2 Community Forum/Playing Field

Cllr Appleton reported that KSPA have raised £6,500 for the levelling of the playing field. Communication about the water pipe running under the field is in hand. They are looking to start the work in the next couple of weeks. The pre-school facility has now started in the school building. They have up to 11 places available and 8 are taken. It currently runs Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with a view to opening all week after Easter.

200116.06 Finance and Governance

- 6.1 Members received the invoices for payment and it was agreed unanimously that the payments as listed are approved (attached).
- 6.2 Members received and considered a grant application for £200 from Oxton Neighbourhood Association for a new sign in Oxton which says 'Please drive carefully through Oxton'. Members were advised that this sum represented half of the cost and the other half would be funded by Oxton Neighbourhood Association. Members agreed to make a grant of £200.
- 6.3 Members received a draft budget for 2020/21. After discussion, it was agreed to accept the budget and increase the precept by 2%. The sum of £19122 would be requested.

Planning

200116.07

7.1 New applications/appeals:

- 7.1.1 19/02569/FUL & 19/02570/LBC – Spring Cottage, Kenton
Replacement rear single storey extension and associated works

Members had no objections to this application.

7.2 Decisions

- 19/01543/OUT – Shambles, Fore Street, Kenton
Outline – three dwellings (all matters reserved for future consideration)

Members noted that TDC has granted outline permission.

200116.08 Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman reported that the Plan has been approved by the independent examiner and accepted by Kenton Parish Council. Teignbridge District Council has now published the date for

the referendum which will be Thursday 13 February 2020. Polling cards have been sent out to all residents eligible to vote. They have published the final version of the plan on their website and the Parish Council will also publish it on its website. A limited number of printed copies will be available from the Post Office.

The working group met to agree publicity for the referendum – we are not allowed to canvass in favour of the plan but will concentrate on publicizing the date and on encouraging residents to read the plan and to vote. Notices will be placed in the parish newsletter, the school newsletter and on the Kenton Facebook page. Banners will be obtained and placed at the Village Hall, the Triangle and another position to be agreed.

200116.09 Village Maintenance

Members received and accepted a quotation from Neil Bygrave for maintenance of the car park, parish garden and East Town Lane for 2020.

The Chairman advised that he had received a verbal offer and quote from Chris Britton to clear and replant the portal at the entrance of the village at South Town. It was agreed that Neil Bygrave should also be given the opportunity to provide a quote for this. The clerk would contact Neil Bygrave.

200116.10 Allotments Lease

Members received a reply from Powderhams's solicitors in response to questions raised last month. It was agreed that the Parish Council would cover the difference in the rent since September 2017 and not pass on any of this cost to Kenton Village Allotments. However, it was agreed that the Parish Council should instruct a solicitor to draft the sub-lease between the Parish Council and Kenton Village Allotments and that Kenton Village Allotments should be approached to share the cost of doing that.

Having accepted the responses from Powderham's solicitors, the Clerk and Chairman signed the lease. Members also approved the legal costs totaling £777.20.

200116.11 Community Right to Bid

It was noted that a public meeting had been held on 13 December to establish whether there was any appetite in the village to form a group with a view to making a bid for the Shop and Post Office. Around 25 residents had attended but there was no interest in forming a Community Interest Company. However, it is understood that Powderham Farm Shop may be interested in incorporating the Post Office within the Farm Shop.

Cllr Blount had circulated a report to members updating them on the progress so far. It was noted that 'The Dolphin Inn Kenton Ltd' is now formally registered as a Community Benefit Society and as such it is hoped that some real progress can now be made towards the campaign to purchase the pub. A query has been raised relating to the requirement to have a business buyer's report and whether the survey which has already been completed satisfies this requirement. If a further report is required, it will cost in the region of £1200 + VAT. As this would have to be paid in advance and reclaimed from the Plunkett Foundation, a question has been asked whether this money could be borrowed from the Parish Council. The clerk advised that she would seek advice on this from DALC.

200116.12 Playing Field/Hard Court

Members received the inspection reports and noted the contents contained therein. Quotations were also received and accepted to weed the edges of the toddler fenced area and the hard court edges and dispose of the arisings for the sum of £63.

200116.13 Highways & Footpaths

13.1 Members discussed the DCC consultation regarding the proposed highways improvement to Mamhead Road from Starcross to A380 and the A379 at Starcross. Members agreed to respond to the consultation with the following observations:

- With regard to the proposals on Mamhead Road, the Parish Council would prefer that large vehicles are restricted from using it altogether. The issue could be resolved by the use of suitably positioned weight restriction signs. Cllr Connett has been campaigning for these for years and they would offer a significantly cheaper and more effective solution to what is being proposed. Stopping large vehicles from using this route altogether would also prevent the same vehicles trying to negotiate Church Street.
- The Parish Council does not believe that the proposals will resolve the congestion and backlog of traffic along the A379 in Starcross and the proposals will only exacerbate the existing problems. A simple traffic light system, as installed in South Town, Kenton, would seem a simpler and more effective solution. This traffic light system is very effective at controlling the traffic at this pinch-point with minimal waiting times.
- As a result of the increased backlog of traffic in Starcross, the Parish Council believes that it will see an increase in traffic using Mamhead Road (passed the cemetery, Ford Farm Court and the school) as a rat-run to avoid traffic on the A379. This is already happening and the Parish Council believes that the proposals will make a growing problem worse.

13.2 Members received the following written report from Sue Craythorne, P3 Co-ordinator:

Once the weather improves, I will be completing the annual survey of the parish public footpaths. Apart from floods and deep mud, I believe they are all in good order, with adequate signage and no blockages. If any parish councillor or member of the public is aware of any problems, please let me know. It is pleasing that the resurfacing of the Brook Path has been completed.

200116.14 Annual Parish Meeting

It was agreed that members would give this some thought and discuss it further next month.

200116.15 Climate Change

Cllr Appleton presented a report to members. In summary, the report stated that the impact of Climate Change on the planet is well documented and the now critical situation requires action from every government, business and individual to make significant changes to our lives to prevent serious irreversible damage to our planet. In light of this, Kenton Parish Council should actively consider the role that it plays and the impact that its decisions may be having in contributing to the problem and where practical make different less environmentally harmful decisions. It was proposed and agreed that Kenton Parish Council considers the issue and actively responds to the Climate Emergency. It was further agreed that Kenton Parish Council becomes a signatory to the Devon Climate Declaration.

200116.16 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.

200116.17 Correspondence

None

200116.18 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 12 February 2020 at 7.00pm.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.08pm.

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Chairman

16 January 2020**Item 6:****Expenditure**

| Cheque no | Payee | Details | Amount |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Online – 19/11/19 | Kenton Victory Hall | Hire of hall – 13/12/19 (+ £50 deposit) | £65.30 |
| Online – 20/12/19 | K Gaydon | Improvements to surface of Brook Path | £6058.26 |
| Online – 20/12/19 | Sandover Associates | Final amendments to the N Plan | £198 |
| Online | Vision ICT | Website hosting and support | £240 |
| 000544 | Richard Grave | Play area safety checks (December) | £tbc |
| 000545 | Clifford Estate Co Ltd | Christmas tree | £72 |
| 000546 | S Hughes | Mileage | £16.20 |
| 000547 | HMRC | PAYE | £199.80 |
| 000548 | P White | Tbc | £tbc |
| 000549 | Plunkett Foundation | Community Right to Bid (paid from grants received) | £550 |
| 000550 | Oxton Neighbourhood Association | £137 grant | £200 |
| 000551 | Ashfords Solicitors | Legal costs associated with the renewal of the Allotments Lease | £777.20 |
| DD | 1&1 Internet | Domain names | £23.98 |
| Standing Orders | Salaries | November & December | £1406.94 |

Income (9 November 2019 – 11 January 2020)

| Date received | Received from | Details | Amount |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Nov/Dec | Various | Cemetery | £725 |

Bank Balance at 11 January 2020

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Current account | £32,881.38 |
|------------------------|------------|

