

KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Zoom on Wednesday 22 April 2020 at 7.00pm

Present

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

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk) and County/District Cllr Connett

The meeting was opened by the Chairman at 7.00pm.

200422.01 Apologies for Absence

None

200422.02 Open Forum

There were no members of the public present.

200422.03 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.

Cllr Dare declared an interest in item 9.

Cllr Appleton declared an interest in item 10 as an allotment holder.

200422.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 12 February 2020. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

200422.05 Reports

5.1 Police Report

No report.

5.2 District/County Councillor's Report

Cllr Connett reported that TDC has provided £60,000 to local food banks in Exeter, Ashburton and Buckfastleigh. More money has been given to DCC towards community grants. Financial support has also been given to TCVS, Westbank and the Citizens Advice Bureau. As of last Friday, 54% of the government's small business grant fund had been allocated. Cllr Connett commended the refuse services crews who have done a great job collecting the general waste, recycling and garden waste. He informed members that he continues to campaign for improvements to the A379 which is in an appalling state outside the Victory Hall on the Starcross to Exeter carriageway. He also continues to press Highways about the clearance of the drains. Following the landslip at the bottom of Butts Hill where it joins Mamhead Road, he has also requested information about whether the landowner has been contacted to ensure that the land is contained and does not wash into the highway.

5.3 Village Tidyman's Report

Peter White sent the following observations:

- The outside wall on the car park is showing that some stonework is coming loose (near the telephone box)
- I have reported to TDC on Friday last that 5 or 6 black plastic bags have been left under the bus stops on both sides of the road nearest to the Castle entrance on the A379
- Also a tipper type load has been left on the back road from Starcross to Powderham Church in a layby some 200 yards Starcross side of the Sailing Club.

Cllr Connett advised that he has liaised with Teign Housing about the black bags and they are taking action to ensure that any refuse is kept on tenants' land. The waste on Estuary Road has been picked up by TDC. TDC has been informed about the asbestos which has been dumped in a gateway on Witcombe Lane and have asked specialist contractors to remove it.

The Chairman acknowledged Peter's first observation and reminded members that money has been allocated in the budget for repairs to the wall which the Council would start looking at this financial year.

The Chairman also advised that he had asked Peter to cease working around the village until government restrictions are lifted.

5.4 Delegate Reports

5.4.1 Dementia Friendly Village

Cllr Blount reported that the committee remains active and is keeping a sharp look-out for its members to ensure their well-being. Reflections Café meetings have been suspended until further notice in line with government restrictions. The Sensory Garden is now free of weeds and looking really tidy. It is being used frequently and enjoyed by all who sit there. Westbank is offering hot lunches, cooked fresh on site and delivered to homes by volunteers.

5.4.2 Community Forum/Playing Field

Cllr Appleton provided the following update covering the playing field and an update on how the school is operating in the Covid 19 situation:

Playing Field:

The levelling work on the playing field has been suspended due to lockdown. Initially the project team were keen to go ahead as they felt social distancing etc could be observed but then changed their mind after we taped off the play equipment. No new date has been set for this work but we can expect it soon after lockdown is lifted.

School Update:

The headteacher has provided the following around the current position of the school:

Kenton Primary School has remained open during the Covid 19 lockdown, not as a school but as a childcare facility for vulnerable children (those with a named Social Worker and those with an Education, Health and Care Plan - what used to be called a Statement of Educational Need) and the children of Key Workers. As a federation we have closed Kenn C of E Primary School and are using Kenton Primary as the base for the childcare, as Kenton has an extended age range (3 - 11 years), which Kenn does not have, and we can then care for

younger children too. Our Breakfast and After School Clubs are also open for these workers.

Across Kenn and Kenton Primaries we have had the potential of 48 children linked to Key Workers families or who fall into the vulnerable category. Of these, just under half are being cared for at home and are not attending. Each week we have approximately 28 children attending, with the vast majority attending on a part-time basis depending on their parents' shift patterns. So we have an average of about 15 children each day, aged from 3 to 11 years.

Staff are working on a rota basis, with 3 or 4 adults working each day. We still need to cover Health and Safety requirements, such as having a paediatric first aid trained member of staff each day so this is why we have this number.

We are trying to observe social distancing as much as we can but this is not easy when a child has fallen over or when the youngest ones need help with toileting! The children are spread out across 2 classrooms and there is usually a group in the playground too. We are lucky to still have our Forest School teacher working for us, so the children attending get to go to our area of forest at Bickham Farm each week, where spreading out is easy. Drop off and pick up arrangements for parents have changed in order to support this too.

Schools heard that they were being closed at the same time that it was announced to the public, so organising provision was extremely challenging. It does appear to be working well to date. On top of this teachers are providing weekly home learning packs for children not in school. Our priority is for all children to be safe, healthy and happy both during this time and when the country comes out of lockdown and that is our priority in all of our decision-making.

200422.06 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 were informed of and noted the key elements of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020:
 - The Regulations permit the holding of remote meetings (with conditions)
 - Local councils can decide the methods they will use to facilitate the holding of remote meetings. This Council has chosen to hold meetings on Zoom.
 - There is no requirement to hold an annual meeting
 - There is nothing in the Regulations permitting parish meetings to meet remotely. In NALC's view, the current Government guidance means that parish meetings should not take place in person, including the annual meeting of the electors
- 6.3 The clerk advised that the Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 amends the deadline by which the Annual Governance Statement and Statement of Accounts of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return must be published from 30 September 2020 to 30 November 2020. However, she advised that the internal auditor has agreed to carry out the internal audit remotely and that this Council should therefore be able to meet the usual deadlines for publishing the accounts.

200422.07 Planning

7.1 New applications/appeals:

- 7.1.1 20/00132/FUL – 2 Oak Cottage, Oak Farm, Kenton
Stable block including hay store and tack room

Members had no objections to this application.

7.2 Decisions:

None

7.3 Consultation: Teignbridge District Council - Draft Teignbridge Local Plan (Part 1) 2020-40 Deadline for comments is 15 June

Documents can be viewed online at www.teignbridge.gov.uk/localplanreview

It was agreed that Cllr Blount would review the document and give a report at the next meeting with a view to making a collective response before the deadline.

200422.08 Neighbourhood Plan

Members note that the Kenton Neighbourhood Development Plan was accepted at Full Council meeting of Teignbridge District Council on 17 March 2020 and has now been brought into legal force. It now forms part of the statutory Development Plan for Teignbridge District and will be used in the decision-making on planning applications in the parish of Kenton.

It was agreed that the Plan should be reviewed by the Parish Council every two years.

200422.09 The Dolphin Inn

For information only, Cllr Dare reported that he and his brother have purchased The Dolphin Inn at auction on 6 March with the intention of preserving it as a pub. He advised that some development is planned although a pub will be retained. The plans are currently being considered by TDC's Conservation Officer with a view to submitting a full planning application as soon as possible.

200422.10 Allotments Lease

10.1 The Chairman advised that he and Cllr Blount had met with representatives of Kenton Village Allotments to discuss the terms of the sub-lease. The clerk advised that there was not much flexibility as the head lease has already been signed. It was agreed to take legal advice on the sub-lease to protect the Parish Council's position whilst trying to accommodate the requests of Kenton Village Allotments as much as possible.

10.2 The clerk advised that a further quotation was being sought to draft the sub-lease. It was agreed that the clerk should proceed with the cheapest quotation provided she was satisfied with it.

200422.11 Website Accessibility

Members were advised that The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 came into force on 23 September 2018. The purpose of the regulations is to improve the accessibility of public sector websites/mobile apps so they can be used by as many people as possible. They build on existing obligations to disabled people under the Equality Act 2010 and the duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people. Use by as many people as possible could mean people with impaired vision, impaired hearing, cognitive impairments or learning disabilities amongst others.

The Parish Council must comply with the accessibility requirement – the Regulations state that it must make the website accessible by making it perceivable, operable, understandable and robust. It must therefore comply with the international WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility standard.

In addition to complying with the accessibility requirement, a council must also provide an accessibility statement and keep that statement under regular review. The accessibility statement must be provided in an accessible format and published on the Council's website.

The accessibility statement must include:

- an explanation of those parts of the content that are not accessible and the reasons why;
- where appropriate, a description of any accessible alternatives provided;
- a description of, and a link to, a contact form which enables a person to notify the Council of any failure of its website to comply with the accessibility requirement and request details of the information excluded

Vision ICT, as the Council's website host, has quoted £85 to draft and publish the accessibility statement on behalf of the Council. The statement will include appropriate sentences about work that will need to be undertaken in the future. It was agreed to instruct Vision ICT to do this.

200422.12 Climate Change

Cllr Appleton reported that he had attended the Climate Emergency workshop in Dawlish. This was organised by ACT (Action for Climate in Teignbridge) whose purpose is to bring together Town and Parish Councils and look at collectively they can help each other. A toolkit has been produced and is available online. He also advised members that Starcross Parish Council is a little further ahead with its plans to address the climate emergency and he suggested that the two parishes join together to address the subject together. He also suggested that a public meeting is arranged (when government restrictions are lifted) so the community have an opportunity to input and share ideas. It might also be appropriate to form a group within the community which could take this forward on behalf of the Parish Council. Both suggestions met the approval of members.

200422.13 Playing Field/Hard Court

- 13.1 Members received the play inspection report which was last carried out in February. Members also received and accepted a quotation for £22.99 to repair the junior swings.
- 13.2 It was agreed to suspend inspections of the play equipment whilst they park is closed and to resume as soon as government restrictions are lifted.

200422.14 Highways & Footpaths

No new issues were reported. It was noted, however, that the potholes on Chiverstone Lane and on the Cofton corner have been filled. It was also noted that the quality of the highway repair in South Town was of a poor standard.

200422.15 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]

The Chairman, on behalf of all members of the Parish Council, praised the fantastic response of parishioners to the Coronavirus Pandemic and the level of support within the parish to help and protect those who are self-isolating. It was agreed that, at some point, this might be acknowledged by an event in the parish to say thank-you.

Members agreed to review the repairs to and around the war memorial once government restrictions are lifted.

200422.16 Correspondence

None

200422.17 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 13 May 2020 at 7.00pm.

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.00pm.

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Chairman

22 April 2020

Item 6:

Expenditure

Cheque no	Payee	Details	Amount
BACS	Richard Grave	Play area safety checks (February) and cleaning of concrete around table tennis table	£35
BACS	Victory Hall	Hall hire (PC and NHSG) 2019 & 2020	£214.20
BACS	S Hughes	Mileage	£16.20
BACS	P White	Oak sleepers, mower fuel	£99.73
BACS	HMRC	PAYE (Q4)	£199.80
BACS	Powderham Estate	Half yearly allotment rental	£500
Standing Orders	Salaries	Feb/Mar/April	£2109.91

Income (8 February – 31 March 2020)

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
11 March	Various	Cemetery	£100

Bank Balance at 31 March 2020

Current account	£29,770.36
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