

KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting 13th April 2022

Present: 5 Parish Councillors (Cllrs C Thompson, D Blount, H Bright, K Savill and D Smith), PC Orchard, PCSO Bunce and 7 members of the public

Clerk: Suzanna Hughes

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Chris Thompson (Parish Council Chairman).

APM220413.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- County/District Connett

APM220413.02 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

During the pandemic, Parish Council meetings were conducted over Zoom. Routine matters were affected to some extent including the maintenance of the play equipment and the horticultural maintenance of the cemetery and the Triangle but we have since caught up. There were some more urgent problems that were dealt with during this period. A large branch fell on to two cars in the car park – one belonging to a parishioner and one belonging to a visitor from Manchester. Fortunately, there was not too much damage and it was covered by insurance. The wall at the village entrance to Brook Path began to seriously deteriorate over the pandemic. Fortunately, we managed to find a brick layer who did a fine job reinstating it. More recently, we have removed the condemned rocking horse from the playing field and have replaced it with a brand new one. A parishioner has taken the old body parts and hopes to restore and reinstate it somewhere else in the village. Over the coming year, we hope to start work on two projects in the village centre. Firstly renovating the car park wall and secondly repairing the collapsing the wall at the lower end of Parson's walk. Both require specialist builders and we have not yet been able to resolve the question of ownership of the Parson's walk which is a major stumbling block.

I hope that you have been satisfied with our work and continue to support our endeavours. I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their support and assistance and the clerk for her excellent administration and advice and all of those who have contributed to our work. I would particularly like to thank Lewis Widdicombe for the work he has done in helping Peter White in tidying up the top boundary in the cemetery and planting new trees along the border.

APM220413.03 FINANCE

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council's accounts are being audited this month and, as a requirement of the audit framework, all the accounts and audit documents will be published on Kenton's website, www.kentondevon.org.uk, once they have been approved by the Parish Council in May.

APM220413.04 OPEN FORUM AND QUESTIONS

A parishioner sought clarification on whether the work on Parson's walk was dependent on establishing ownership. The Chairman advised that it was a question of who would be financing the repairs. Currently, there were discussions with Powderham, the Church and TDC but responsibility had not yet been established. As far as the Parish Council is aware, it is not responsible for the path or wall. Cllr Connett has done a lot of work on the history

of this path and the Parish Council is convinced from this that the land on which the path is built used to belong to the church and would have therefore transferred to TDC when they took over the responsibility for the closed churchyard. TDC strongly reject this and say they have no responsibility for it whatsoever. Powderham Estate are involved because the cottages down below are theirs and any failure of the wall would impact those cottages. They have an interest but they, likewise, claim not to own the wall. The Parish Council therefore has no answers at the moment. The repairs will need to be carried out by specialist contractors and it is likely to be a significant cost. In the meantime, if the wall becomes dangerous either the Parish Council or TDC will have to take some action.

A question was asked about plans for the Dolphin. Cllr Smith advised that planning permission is going to be refused; its future is therefore unknown. It was suggested that a brewery may be interested in it. The meeting was advised that whilst the Community Benefit Society still exists, the owner of the pub has the right to do what he wants with it making the situation quite difficult.

A question was asked about the future of the Post Office service. It had been planned to put this in the Powderham Farm Shop but this has now been withdrawn. Representations have been made to the Post Office but no progress has been made.

A parishioner stated that it has been 3-4 years since the Parish Council declared a Climate Emergency and she was interested to hear how about progress to install electric charging points in the car park and any other plans which the Parish Council had to reduce its carbon footprint. The Chairman advised that the charging points will still be going ahead and are being organised by the body that DCC appointed to deliver them. It is understood that they would be installed by the end of this calendar year. At the moment there are no other initiatives on board.

A parishioner asked whether the community was doing anything to help support refugees. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council has not been asked to take forward such a project but if there was a motion, it would be happy to debate it.

APM220413.05

CLOSE

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.25pm.

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Cllr Chris Thompson
Chairman