

KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Kenton Victory Hall on Wednesday 11 February 2026 at 7.30pm

Present

Councillor A Bryant (Chair for this meeting), H Bright, A Bryant, R Calderwood & J Hare

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Connett, Sue Craythorne (Parish Paths Co-ordinator), Robert Neill (Volunteer Flood Warden) and 4 members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Bryant at 7.30pm.

260211.01 Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Blount
- Cllr Savill
- District Cllr Taylor

260211.02 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.

260211.03 Open Forum

The Chair of Kenton Parish Lands Trust advised that she was attending in order to give the Parish Council an update regarding the building which is no longer being used by Kenton Primary School. The Trust is responsible for the administration of the building. It is set up under a Trust and the beneficiaries are solely responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of Kenton Church. Records go back to 1550 when it was known as the Church House. It became a school in 1813. The school has been unable to return following the floods and it is now its intention to terminate the lease once the building has been restored. The Trustees are now looking to the future of the property and they will be consulting with residents about this.

A resident asked whether there had been any updates since the last meeting about the EV charging points and whether there had been a discussion with the provider about their proposed location. Cllr Bryant advised that there has been an exchange of emails and the provider believes that the concerns raised at the last meeting are all surmountable. He believes that a planning application will be submitted and, at that point, residents will be able to comment. The resident maintained that they were not opposed to charging points per se, it was the proposed location in the car park which they were objecting to. It was agreed that this would be added to next month's agenda. In the meantime, County Cllr Connett offered to go back to DCC officers to find out the rules/criteria and how they have consulted with residents in terms of location of the charging points. The scheme is not intended to be contentious or cause irritation to neighbours.

260211.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 January 2026. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

260211.05 Reports

5.1 Police Report and Community Speedwatch

In the period, 1 – 31 January 2026, there was 1 recorded offence in the Kenton area:

- Drug offences x 1 (possession of drugs)

5.2 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Connett was pleased to see that the Brook has withstood the amount of rain seen this winter. However, there are concerns in the village about sewage in the water. Martin Wrigley MP has been extremely helpful in contacting South West Water and getting some answers. It is recommended that the Parish Council gets involved by writing to SWW about the infrastructure and their apparent denial that any such infrastructure exists for which they are responsible.

The roads are in a poor state. The demand for pothole repairs in Devon is currently outstripping capacity. Currently, they are focusing on the more significant issues.

He advised the Parish Council that the 7-week consultation on the five options for Local Government Reorganisation is now open.

Cllr Calderwood raised a concern about the amount of litter on the roads. Cllr Connett advised that litter picking is TDC's responsibility. Each location is risk assessed to determine whether it is safe enough to litter pick. He also advised that TDC does support community litter picking groups and would provide the necessary equipment.

5.3 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Taylor sent the following written report:

Other than steady progress on the budget (further to public survey and Overview and Scrutiny comments and late amendments to funding from Government) the only other item to report upon is last week's response from MHCLG regarding the start of the statutory consultation period on the 5 proposals for LGR from DCC, Torbay, Exeter and Plymouth - and the 2 proposals from the remaining Districts/Boroughs (4/5/1 & 4/5/1+).

This consultation is open to all those interested in the proposals, including local residents, town and parish councils, businesses, and the voluntary sector. As also noted at Annex C, principle authorities (such as Teignbridge DC) are not being called upon to comment on their own proposals, but they can comment on other proposals that affect their area.

[Proposals for local government reorganisation in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay - GOV.UK](#)

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

Robert reported that he had attended meeting alongside Cllrs Blount and Bryant and the new highways officer covering Kenton, Rhys Andrews. Following this, the various blocked gullies have now been cleared. They discussed the failure of the Slittercombe pumping station on 27 January. This is a public health issue which needs to be progressed. The capacity of the pump seems to be inadequate and it frequently cuts out. A meeting with South West Water is necessary (to be attended by Parish Council, Martin Wrigley MP and District Gary Taylor). This was agreed. Robert will provide contact details to the clerk.

Cllr Bryant observed that the road appears to be collapsing on Slittercombe Lane. This will be reported.

A resident asked whether the Parish Council had received the report from DCC which had been promised in the New Year regarding the implementation of a flood reduction scheme for the parish. It was confirmed that nothing yet had been received but would be followed up.

5.6 **Kenton Nature and Green Spaces**

CLlr Calderwood advised that a group has been focusing on hedging (live and dead). Residents are encouraged to visit and enjoy the tranquil space at Harmony Meadow. Spring flowers are on their way. The interpretation board outlines the memorial trees and their species.

5.7 **Kenton Pub and Community Group**

CLlr Bryant reported that the group is on the cusp of submitting a planning application. They are currently awaiting a flood report.

260211.06 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 **Digital and Data Compliance – Assertion 10 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return**

6.2.1 The clerk advised that the new website is now live –
www.kentonparishcouncil.gov.uk

All members have also been issued with a new email address to use for Parish Council business.

6.2.2 Members received and adopted an IT policy which incorporates a ‘Bring Your Own Device’ policy.

6.2.3 Members received and adopted a Data Protection Policy. This should be read alongside the Parish Council’s existing Retention of Documents Policy & Retention Schedule.

6.2.4 Members received and noted the data audit.

Together, these policies and documents support compliance with Assertion 10 – Digital and Data Compliance.

6.3 **Small Grant application**

Members received an application from the Westbank Patient Participation Group to assist with the cost of running numerous events over the summer of 2026 with the aim to further enhance communication, strengthen social connections and broaden patient access to health and social care. The events will culminate in a celebratory gathering which will be held for the community at the Victory Hall in October.

It was agreed to grant a sum of £150 as it was agreed that the events would be accessible and of benefit to Kenton residents. The funds would be held in the Parish Council’s account until required as they do not have a bank account.

260211.07 Planning

7.1 **New planning applications/appeals**

None

7.2 Decisions

7.2.1 25/01925/FUL – Oak Barn, Kenton

Erection of a car port with gymnasium above with balcony

Members had no objections to this application.

260211.08 Car Park, Triangle, Cemetery and Other Green Spaces

8.1 Chris Britton has agreed to take down the dead rowan tree on the Triangle following confirmation from TDC that it is exempt from Conservation Area approval. It was agreed to ask Plant Tech for a quote to remove the roots of both this tree and the cherry tree which was taken down last year. New trees are to be planted in their place.

8.2 Village Maintenance quote – deferred until next month.

260211.09 Playing Field & Equipment

The rope walk has required some minor repairs – tightening bolts and replacing the caps. This has now been completed.

Cllr Blount has written to Jonathan Lasker (Ivy Education Trust) requesting a sign for the new school.

260211.10 Annual Village Inspection

The inspection has been completed and details are being collated for discussion next month.

260211.11 Slittercombe Lane Sewage Spillage

As discussed earlier, it was agreed that the Parish Council would write to South West Water requesting a meeting. Robert Neill advised that some preparatory work should be undertaken in advance of the meeting to assess the capacity and effectiveness of the pumping station etc. Robert Neill offered to help assist with the drafting of a letter incorporating all salient points

260211.12 Emergency Action Plan

It was agreed that some minor changes were required and contact details updated. The updated document will be added to the next agenda for approval.

260211.13 Highways & Footpaths

Residents are encouraged to report all potholes:

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

Matters observed on the village inspection have been reported to Highways, in particular Butts Hill and steps leading to Sunnybank.

Sue Craythorne (P3 coordinator) advised that she is in the process of completing the annual survey of the footpaths as required by the P3 scheme. All paths will pass the inspection this year. There have been some changes to the scheme and parishes will now routinely receive £30 per mile of footpaths. Kenton has 3.1 miles. Additional funding can be applied for if particular works are required. She also advised that she intends to step down from the role once another volunteer comes forward.

260211.14 Correspondence

14.1 Members received an invitation to attend a Local Leaders' Event – 6pm on 26 February. (*Microsoft Teams*). Cllrs Blount and Bryant will attend.

14.2 Local Government Reorganisation will be included on the agenda next month so that members have the opportunity to comment on the five proposals.

260211.15 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]

None

260211.16 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 11 March 2026 at 7.30pm.

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Chairman

11 February 2026

Item 6.1:

Expenditure

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
Standing Order	Salary (Clerk)	February	£554.77
DD	HMRC	PAYE Q3	£112.90
DD	Lloyds Bank	Bank service charges (Dec)	£4.25
Online	Plant Tech	Grass cutting – Jan	£480
Online	JKE Web Design	New website (final payment)	£405

Income (10 January – 6 February 2026)

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
February	Cemetery	Purchase of cremation plot	£350

Bank Balance at 6 February 2026

Current account	£43,270.95
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