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Clerk - Mrs Suzanna Hughes LL.B (Hons), 16 Westwood Cleave, Ogwell, Newton Abbot, TQ12 6YE
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**Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
held in Kenton Victory Hall on
Wednesday 8 April 2026 at 7.30pm**

Present

Councillor D Blount (Chair), A Bryant, R Calderwood, Cllr Hare & K Savill

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Taylor and 8 members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Blount at 7.30pm.

260408.01 Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Bright
- County Cllr Connett

260408.02 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.

Cllrs Bryant, Hare and Calderwood declared an interest in item 8.2. It was agreed to grant those Councillors a dispensation to allow them to discuss and vote on the item, otherwise it would impede the transaction of the business as the meeting would be inquorate.

260408.03 Open Forum

None

260408.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11 March 2026. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

260408.05 Reports

5.1 Police Report and Community Speedwatch

No report

5.2 County Councillor's Report

No report

5.3 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Taylor reported that the bottle bank has now been emptied. If there are any further issues, please contact him. The Crisis and Resilience Fund has now been approved at TDC's Executive meeting. This is a new government funding scheme designed to support people facing sudden financial difficulties. It replaces the Household Support Fund, which ended

on 31 March 2026. The fund focuses on targeted support rather than automatic payments, helping people manage immediate crises and improve longer-term financial stability. Low-income households will also be able to access funding to cope with rising heating oil costs as part of the government's support package.

It has now been confirmed by the Planning Inspectorate that the 2020-2040 Teignbridge Local Plan has been found sound subject to a few minor modifications.

Next week, the number 2 bus service will not be going all the way into Dawlish. The road will be closed at around Elm Grove Road for gas works.

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

The Chair reminded members that the Parish Council had requested a meeting with South West Water which had been refused. The Chair advised that he has written to Martin Wrigley MP who is in regular contact with senior officials at SWW and has agreed to raise the Parish Council's concerns with them at the next meeting. It was agreed to wait for a response from Martin Wrigley. It was further agreed that it is important that any meeting takes place on site in Kenton.

5.6 Kenton Nature and Green Spaces

Cllr Calderwood reported that the Community Garden needs regular attention and watering. There is now a rota in place for this. The hedge at Harmony Meadow has been laid and is looking good and the owl box is being used. The path is also coming along well and there are some bulbs and seeds being planted on 19 April.

5.7 Kenton Pub and Community Group

The planning application is being submitted this week. A recent successful quiz event raised some additional funds and a generous donation was received from the garden event at the weekend. More events are being arranged and will hopefully be well attended.

260408.06 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).

260408.07 Planning

7.1 New planning applications/appeal

7.1.1 26/00533/TPO - 7 Staffick Close Kenton

T1 Lime - Remove dead wood and crown reduce in height and crown spread by 1-1.5 metres, due to being old pollards and declining in health

T2 Lime - Remove dead wood and crown reduce in height and crown spread by 1-1.5 metres, due to being old pollards and declining in health

Members had no objections to this application.

7.2 Decisions

7.2.1 26/00480/EXMPTC - Remove dead Yew tree

It was noted that TDC has determined that these works are exempt from Conservation Area approval.

It was necessary to submit details of a suitable replacement tree to TDC before the works to remove the tree could proceed. A section of the car park will also need to be cleared before the tree is felled.

7.2 Decisions

None

260408.08 Car Park, Triangle, Cemetery and Other Green Space

8.1 EV charging points

The Chair reported that a request has been put forward to locate the charging units to the left of the entrance. The suppliers have now asked whether four spaces can be occupied. They have been informed that this is not supported by the Parish Council. A response from the supplier is now awaited.

8.2 Members considered a request from Kenton Pub and Community Group to lease/licence space in the village car park to accommodate recycling bins for The Dolphin Inn (if required).

After discussion, and confirmation that the bins would be within a lockable structure, the request was agreed, in principle. This would allow more usable space in the curtilage of the pub. If the space is required, once the planning application has been determined, parties would need to enter a formal arrangement following a trial period.

8.3 Village Maintenance contract for 2026/27

The clerk advised that this has now been renewed with Plant Tech and additional works will be carried out, as agreed.

8.4 Unauthorised vehicles in car park

There are two vehicles in the car park which have been parked there for some time and are contravening the rules of the car park. It was agreed that, initially, some enquiries would be made with PCSO Bunce before formal action is taken.

260408.09 Playing Field & Equipment

9.1 Changing rooms and Basketball hoop

There was a discussion about the condition of the changing rooms and it was agreed that it is in such a condition that it needs to be dismantled. Access will need to be arranged. It was also agreed to delay a decision about the purchase of a basketball hoop until after the changing rooms have been removed.

It was noted that the facilities are still not accessible to the village as the school continues to keep the gate locked.

260408.10 Annual Village Inspection

Most of the issues have now been addressed or are in the process of being addressed.

The granite post at the corner of the Triangle needs securing and it was agreed that the Red Barrows would look at this. The bus shelter near The Rodean will need revarnishing at some point. The fencing on either side of the cemetery lych gate need some attention. It was agreed that this is something that volunteers might be able to do. The benches may also need some attention. Powderham have taken no action to address the overgrowing vegetation behind the bus shelter near their entrance.

The school has now erected a sign on East Town Lane but it is very small and barely visible; this has been raised with the school.

260408.11 Highways & Footpaths

Residents are encouraged to report all potholes:

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

It was noted that Warborough Hill has not been swept this year. The gully at the bottom of Pitt Hill is being blocked by a fallen tree. This has been reported; Cllr Calderwood offered to do this again.

There are still some problems along Slittercome Lane which have been reported. Detritus is still blocking the drain.

260408.12 Correspondence

12.1 Members considered a request from Westbank GP Surgery PPG to attend a Parish Council meeting between June and September to give short presentation with time for questions. This was agreed.

12.2 Members received an invitation to a Community/Residents Meeting on 21 April 2026 at Powderham Castle (+ pre-meeting for Parish Councils at 5pm). This would be attended the Chair and Cllr Bryant and any other members who are available.

260408.13 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

260408.14 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on 13 May at 7.30pm.

PART 2 – CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

Members resolved to exclude the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as the following items contain confidential information.

260408.15 Attendance at Meetings

Members were advised that according to section 85 of the LGA 1972, if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, they shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority. This being the case, Cllr Godwin's office has now become vacant.

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Chairman

8 April 2026**Item 6.1:****Expenditure**

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount
Standing Order	Salary (Clerk)	April	£554.97
DD	Lloyds Bank	Bank service charges (March)	£4.25
Online	Plant Tech	Grass cutting – March	£480
Online	DALC	Annual subscription	£431.33
Online	D Blount	Reimbursement for cleaning bus shelters	£27
Online	Cover Ups	Touch up paint for defibrillator kiosk in car park	£42
Online	Cover Ups	Painting of war memorial railings	£1020
Online	Kenton in Bloom	Plants and flowers	£431.50

Income (8 March – 2 April 2026)

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
None			

Bank Balance at 2 April 2026

Current account	£41,107.71
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