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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 July 2026 at 7.30pm**

Present

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

Also present

Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), County Cllr Connett, District Cllr Taylor, Val Stanley (Westbank PPG) and 4 members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Blount at 7.30pm.

260708.01 Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Calderwood
- Robert Neill

260708.02 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.

260708.03 Open Forum

Val Stanley - Chair of the Westbank Patient Participation Group – gave a presentation at the meeting. PPGs are a requirement of all NHS contracts with GP services to ensure that the services being provided by GPs is right and appropriate for patients. This year is 20 years of PPG at Westbank and they are using this opportunity to celebrate the work the GP practices have done and provide a celebration event in Victory Hall on 22nd October, 12.30-13.30.

In summary:

- Serving our community together for 20 years to support 9089 patients across 7 villages and 3 hamlets
- 97% of patients report a Good overall experience compared to the national average of 75%
- Care Quality Commission recognized an 'outstanding level of mutual support between practice and PPG

UK National Recognition

- Westbank PPG selected by the Clinical Commissioning Group to create a national guidance resource. Shared with PPGs regionally and beyond
- Westbank PPG developed a pioneering model for non-attending members to participate in decision making

- Patient satisfaction scores consistently and significantly above national average – not a fluke, a pattern

Real Impact – The PPG listens and...

- Acts as a critical friend enhancing communication and support
- Engages with local healthcare providers to share Westbank patient voice
- Develops resources in response to patient requests

Why we succeed

- Practice manager/GP at every meeting
- Transparency regarding access to Practice Information
- Bi monthly engagement with patients at both surgeries
- Collaborative working to develop, enhance and provide resources

Next 20 years – Growing Together, Changing Patients Needs

- Ageing population – more patients with long-term conditions
- Increased numbers of unpaid carers
- Focus on prevention and well-being

The PPG's role in championing those needs

- Maintaining community connection as social change influences health and well-being
- Representing patient and carer voice
- Supporting vulnerable population through periods of change

The Chair thanked Val for attending the meeting, and the surgeries for their services in the community.

A resident advised that she had written to the Parish Council asking that the road markings/signs at the Mamhead junction with High Street and Church Street are reviewed. Both junctions have dashed give way road markings but not a give way picture. As there is no stop sign, people emerging from Mamhead Road are driving straight onto Church Street to see if it is clear and do not always consider vehicles coming down from High Street. There is a second issue at the church-end of High Street where cars have started to park fronted onto the kerb which has narrowed the corner even more. This may create difficulties for emergency vehicles. The Chair advised that this would be discussed under Highways and Footpaths.

260708.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the meeting on 10 June 2026. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

260708.05 Reports

5.1 Police Report and Community Speedwatch

In the period, 1 – 30 June 2026, there was 8 recorded offences in the Kenton area:

- Fraud and Forgery (elderly female scammed) 1
- Other notifiable crime (male in drink using abusive words) 1
- Other notifiable crime (Going equipped urban explorers) 1
- Sextortion (exchanged images online threats made to publish images) 1
- Dog bite 1
- RTC damage only (3 x vehicle road blocked) 1
- Violence less serious (assault by beating) 1
- Drink drive 1

5.2 County Councillor's Report

No report

5.3 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Taylor reported that a decision from government about the Local Government Reorganisation is expected next week. He commented that Powderham's Live event in June had been a great success although he had noted that there had been some problems with people returning home if travelling south.

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

Robert Neill had nothing to report. He wished to thank those riparian owners who have cleared weed from the brook.

5.5 Kenton Nature and Green Spaces

Anette Grahns-Doan sent the following report:

Reference the tree planting on the Triangle, thank you for confirming that KPC will pay for the purchase of the two new trees. A KN&GS vote has concluded that the most favoured trees are Rowan and Crab Apple. We've been advised of suitable species of these trees – so we can order them, and provide the invoice to KPC – when the time is right (probably after the summer).

The Parish Council is still awaiting dates from Plant Tech to remove the stumps on the Triangle and the yew in the car park and has raised the issue of Plant Tech removing a couple of the newly planted trees/bushes at the Community Gardens.

We are watering the new plants at the Community Garden (on a rota). Sadly, the large tree near Rodean seem to be 'drinking' most of the water, and some of the tender bushes on this side of the garden have seen better days.

As reported previously, following the Devon Wildlife Trust report in September '25, we have progressed some of their recommendations, namely:

- Introduce more woodland loving flowering plants - bulbs and yellow rattle planted.
- Thinning of branches that cut out the light - for more biodiversity.
- Continued to build on the dead-hedge, the log and leaf piles.

Other activities in the pipeline:

- Continue to water the plants at the Community Garden throughout the summer.
- As mentioned , help planting two replacement trees for the Triangle green, when previous stumps removed and arranging a planting event.
- Enhance the bog area, reduce bramble in this area and introduce wet loving plants.
- Thinning of less healthy trees to benefit the overall health of Harmony Meadow copse (after bird nesting season)
- Investigate holding a community picnic event - possibly alongside a future event at the Allotment, to increase footfall and interest in the space.

We are glad to report, that despite the heatwaves our new yellow rattle plant plugs still seem to be doing ok, with the help of some watering by the KN&GS team.

The group will prepare a KN&GS newsletter article, using some of the above updates – for their August edition.

Thanks for your continued support.

5.6 Kenton Pub and Community Group

Planning permission has been granted (see item 7.2.1 below). There will be a public meeting soon to update residents.

260708.06 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).

260708.07 Planning

7.1 New planning applications/appeals

7.1.1 [26/01015/HOU – Oxton Mere, Kenton](#)

Widening of existing dormers and replace Juliet balcony with a narrow flower Balcony

Members had no objections to this application.

7.1.2 [26/01014/LBC – Church Cottage, High Street, Kenton](#)

Retention of replacement slate roof

Members had no objections to this application.

7.2 Decisions

7.2.1 [26/00703/FUL – Dolphin Inn, Fore Street, Kenton](#)

Sub-division of part of the public house to form a new dwelling, demolition of two storey rear extension, erection of single storey rear extension and associated alterations

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional consent

260708.08 Car Park, Triangle, Cemetery & Other Green Spaces

8.1 Update on abandoned Land Rover in car park

The clerk advised that TDC is taking action with regard to the removal of the Land Rover.

Other breaches of the car park rules are being noted. It was agreed to write an article for the newsletter reminding residents of the terms of parking in the village car park.

8.2 EV charging points – no further updates

260708.09 Playing Field & Equipment

Taylor Construction has carried out the agreed works in the play area. The cradle swing still needs to be installed.

The Ivy Education Trust has agreed to pay for the demolition of the changing rooms and for extending the wire fence.

There seems to be confusion in the parish about the extent of the Parish Council's responsibility: for clarity, the Parish Council is responsible for the hard court (which is currently inaccessible), the play area and the timber trail. The rest is the responsibility of the Ivy Education Trust.

260708.10 Highways & Footpaths

Residents are encouraged to report all potholes:

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

Members discussed the issues raised in the open forum relating to the junction of High Street/Mamhead Road/Church Street. It was agreed to set up a meeting with Rhys Andrews (DCC Highways Officer) to discuss possible solutions.

The dozen or so bags of asbestos roof tiles dumped at the end of Bidgoods Lane have still not

been cleared by TDC. The matter has been pursued a number of times. District Cllr Taylor advised that they are likely awaiting a specialist team to collect them.

Cllr Savill reported that the path to Sunnybank is overgrown. The Chair also confirmed that the wall along the path between Old Ford and Sunnybank is not being rebuilt despite being closed for c. 15 weeks; they have secured the bank, erected a new fence and leave the bank itself exposed.

It was noted that the brook is becoming very overgrown from Slittercombe Bridge on Powderham's side, despite having written to the Estate a number of times. A reminder will be sent.

A resident commented that a residents' questionnaire has been circulated by Powderham on Facebook. It is poorly worded and this will be fed back to the Estate at the upcoming feedback meeting.

260708.11 Correspondence

None

260708.12 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

260708.13 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on 9 September 2026 at 7.30pm.

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Chairman

8 July 2026**Item 6.1:****Expenditure**

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount (includes VAT where applicable)
Standing Order	Salary (Clerk)	July	£459.77
DD	Lloyds Bank	Bank service charges (June)	£4.25
Online	Plant Tech	Grass cutting and maintenance (June)	£540
Online	Taylor Construction Management Ltd	Play park repairs and refurbishment	£10999.78

Income (5 June – 3 July 2026)

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
June	Various	Cemetery	£1000

Bank Balance at 3 July 2026

Current account	£53,803.09
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