KENTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk - Mrs Suzanna Hughes LL.B (Hons), 16 Westwood Cleave, Ogwell, Newton Abbot, TQ12 6YE
Email: clerk@kentonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held in Kenton Victory Hall on Wednesday 9 September 2026 at 7.30pm

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Present
Councillor D Blount (Chair), Cllr A Bryant, Cllr R Calderwood, Cllr K Savill & Cllr A Hodgson (from item 2)

Also present
Suzanna Hughes (Clerk) and 6 members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Blount at 7.30pm.

260909.01 Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Hare
- District Cllr Taylor
- County Cllr Connett

260909.02 Casual Vacancy

Members received an application from Andy Hodgson to join the Parish Council as a co-opted member. Having confirmed his eligibility, Andy signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

260909.03 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.

260909.04 Open Forum

A resident asked about the upcoming night time road closure. The Chair confirmed that Highways are resurfacing the road and it is being done at night so there is minimal disruption.

A resident advised that she had used a blow torch over the summer to eliminate ants entering her home. She was aware that some residents had raised concerns about her using a naked flame in the very dry weather. She considered that she had used this safely, though it was noted that at the time, it had been recommended that naked flames should not be used.

A resident asked the Parish Council whether it was aware that there was a planned change of use for the barns at Ford Farm Court belonging to the Powderham Estate. Whilst there has been positive communication with the new tenants, who plan to open a bird of prey sanctuary, Powderham Estate has not engaged with residents. The unofficial footpath to Willsland Close will be fenced off and there are also concerns about the potential increase in traffic and possible decrease in property values due to the proximity of living adjacent to this type of business. It was confirmed that Powderham Estate has not engaged with the Parish Council, but an email would be sent to try and find out more information.

260909.05 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the meeting on 8 July 2026. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

260909.06 Reports

6.1 **Police Report and Community Speedwatch**

In the period, 1 – 31 August 2026, there were 5 recorded offences in the Kenton area:

- Violence less serious (husband punched in chest by workman) x 1
- Violence less serious (harassment aggressive threatening and intimidating behaviour by male neighbour) x 1
- Burglary Business (unknown suspects have forced entry into disused school) x 1
- Vehicle crime (Brother has taken vehicle in early hours and got speeding ticket) x 1
- Other crime (unwanted contact) x 1

The clerk advised that the police have offered to give a cyber awareness presentation. It was agreed that this could be the topic of the Annual Parish Meeting and the clerk would look at dates for March 2027.

6.2 **County Councillor's Report**

No report

6.3 **District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Tayor sent a written report:

A meeting of the CIL Community Match Fund Bid Evaluation Group is expected in the next week or so. As Ward representative for Kenton and Starcross, I will continue to promote the bid made by Starcross PC for their playing field pump track and I very much hope that the bid is successful. This would deliver a welcome facility for BMX and other bike enthusiasts in the local and wider area.

Councillor Community Fund. The CCF is now open and available for on-line bids. The total amount in my Councillor fund is relatively modest at £1000 - and I already have a couple of bids in the pipeline (one each from community groups in Starcross and Kenton).

At yesterday's Executive Meeting, an investment in refuse collection to the tune of £158,678 was agreed. This additional funding is expected to help recover the performance in collection service levels, which have unfortunately been dropping despite the best efforts of our front line teams. This investment is expected to decrease the reliance on temporary or agency staff and overtime working, leading to a more dependable service in the future. I spoke at the meeting and thanked the public for their forbearance and their support for our hard-working crews over recent weeks.

A Notice of Motion from the Council Leader, Richard Keeling was also debated at the Executive Meeting yesterday, calling for the Government's proposal for Local Government Reform (LGR) for Devon to be withdrawn and reconsidered. This agenda item had to an extent been overtaken by Monday's announcement from Government, stating that LGR in Devon (and a dozen or so other areas) is to be paused pending a review. The timing of this review will have implications for Councils with elections due in 2027, which will I understand are now take place with boundaries as existing.

The debate particularly centred around the poorly considered proposals for Devon's rural coastal and countryside areas, an area far larger than the 3 other new Combined Authorities put together.

6.4 **Volunteer Flood Warden's Report & Kenton Flood Prevention Scheme**

Some members of the Parish Council are due to meet with South West Water to find out more about Slittercombe Lane Pumping Station. This has been rearranged for 14 September.

6.5 **Kenton Nature and Green Spaces**

Anette Grahns-Doan sent the following report:

Activities undertaken:

- New plants in the Community Garden have been watered on a rota
- The plants away from the larger tree are doing well
- Painted a newly donated picnic bench at Harmony Meadow – for anyone to use!
- Painted tar 'socks' (!) on the two existing smaller benches, for protection of the wood during the wet months

Activities in the pipeline:

- Plans being progressed to screen the 'National Emergency Briefing' film on 21 October at the Victory Hall, 6.45 for 7 pm. The film will be followed by a facilitated community discussion. Everyone very welcome. Booking of tickets done via Tickettailor. Additional promotion of the event will be posted on Kenton Devon Facebook page, posters in the village (with the QR code), and via the local Kenton newsletter for October
- KPC has asked us to replace the two trees that needed to be cut down.
- KNGS has liaised with Rodean and had a vote among the KNGS members, the vote favoured a Rowan and a Crab Apple tree. The next step is to source the trees and liaise with the school to invite pupils for the planting event.
- After bird nesting season, thinning of less healthy trees to benefit the overall health of Harmony Meadow biodiversity
- Investigate holding a community picnic event - possibly alongside a future event at the Allotment, to increase footfall and interest in the space
- Following the Devon Wildlife Trust report in September 2025, we are progressing some of their recommendations.
- Despite this summer's heatwave half of our budding yellow rattle plant plugs seem to be doing okay, with the help of some watering by the KNGS team

5.6 **Kenton Pub and Community Group**

Cllr Bryant advised that a series of fundraising events are planned between now and Christmas: a Halloween quiz, Shanty in November and a joint New Years Eve event with the Rodean. The Parish Council agreed to support the joint New Years Eve event on the Triangle which will involve the erection of a marquee, the serving of drinks and use of the benches.

The group continues to work on a statement of work after which formal contracts will follow. Invoices for shares which have been pledged will be sent out hopefully by the end of the month.

260909.07 Finance and Governance

7.1 **Payments**

Members received the invoices for payment and it was agreed unanimously that the payments as listed are approved (attached).

7.2 Members noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has reached an agreement on the new rates of pay applicable from 1st April 2026 (+3.3%). Clerk's salary will be backdated accordingly.

260909.08 Planning

8.1 **New planning applications/appeals**

8.1.1 26/01363/TPO - 9 Staffick Close, Kenton

Lime tree – remove all the epicormic growth back to the main stem. Dead wood the whole tree. 10% reduction of the canopy to match the neighbouring tree no cuts greater than 120mm.

Members had no objections to this application.

8.1.2 26/01251/CAN – 3 Torrington Place, Kenton

Beech tree – fell

Members had no objections to this application.

8.1.3 26/00401/OUT – Shambles, Fore Street, Kenton

Outline planning application for up to 4 dwellings (all matters reserved except for access)

After discussion, it was agreed to respond as follows:

When this application was submitted to the Parish Council in May, there appeared to be no concerns from DCC Highways about access. However, it is now noted that access concerns have been raised and, as it did in 2019, the Parish Council shares these reservations regarding the entrance on to the A379. Furthermore, Highways are also requesting contributions to development of infrastructure for highways drainage. The Parish Council supports both these points.

Concerns were also raised about the increase in vehicles on the driveway which could result in the possible collapse of the retaining wall into the brook. This would potentially block the culvert under the A379 as well as cause flooding to the car park and thus the Triangle area of the village.

The Parish Council also notes the response from the Environment Agency, supported by TDC's Emergency Planning officer. As was experienced during the floods of 2023, flooding in this area is a major risk with devastating consequences to residents. The Parish Council is concerned about the increased risk of flooding elsewhere as a direct impact of this development, and access difficulties for emergency vehicles in the event of flooding.

8.2 **Decisions**

8.2.1 26/01015/HOU – Oxton Mere, Kenton

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

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional planning consent

8.2.2 26/01014/LBC – Church Cottage, High Street, Kenton

Retention of replacement slate roof

Members noted that TDC has granted listed building consent.

260909.09 Asset Transfer

Members were invited to consider whether the Parish Council wished to take on any assets in the parish currently belonging to TDC as part of their asset review programme. After a lengthy

discussion, it was agreed to seek further clarification about the assets in question together with boundary maps and to defer the matter until October's meeting.

260909.10 Car Park, Triangle, Cemetery & Other Green Spaces

10.1 Members received a request to erect a flower honesty box on the Triangle. After discussion, it was agreed that this location would be a target for vandalism and theft and therefore it was not supported. An alternative location was proposed (on land not belonging to the Parish Council) and this would be suggested instead with a view to them making a direct approach.

10.2 Members received a request for a memorial bench in the village. The Chair advised that he had discussed a suitable location with the relative which was not on parish land and that the relative would follow this up privately.

10.3 Members discussed maintenance work which was still outstanding. The clerk advised that she hadn't received a reply from the contractor. It was agreed that payment would be withheld until a response was received.

10.4 Highways have confirmed that they will not fund the cost of providing and installing a new bollard at the corner of The Triangle. It was agreed to ask Highways for a quote with a view to possibly applying to Cllr Connett's locality budget for a grant to support the cost.

260909.11 Bus Shelters

The two wooden bus shelters require attention. It was agreed to obtain a quote to strip and revarnish them.

260909.12 Playing Field & Equipment

The Chair advised that he and Cllr Bryant had attended a meeting with two colleagues from the Ivy Education Trust and have sought their agreement that the Trust will pay to demolish and remove the changing rooms. It was noted, however, that no work has yet been carried out.

It is intended that representatives from the Ivy Education Trust will attend October's meeting to explain future plans for the development of the school. Any other outstanding matters can also be addressed.

The Chair reported that there has been some vandalism in the play area. The police have been notified.

260909.13 Highways & Footpaths

Residents are encouraged to report all potholes:
https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/

13.1 Devon County Council (Teignbridge HATOC) (Traffic Regulation) Tranche 3 Amendment Order - Revocation of No Waiting 9am-6pm on a specified length of The Triangle. This was noted.

13.2 Road markings - High Street/Church Street/ Mamhead Road
The Chair advised that he and Cllr Bryant had met with Rhys Andrews, Highways, about making the road markings more visible at this location. However, they were informed that there are no funds available for this.

13.3 Parking - High Street/Belle View
The Chair had been notified that some cars are being parked nose/tail in to the pavement thus narrowing the highway. Having looked, he had only seen one or two examples of

this and therefore no further action would be taken at this stage.

13.4 Parsons Walk
With no one taking responsibility for this walkway, it was suggested that volunteers might be invited to help clear the path. This would not be a Parish Council initiated event but a community effort by those willing to help.

260909.14 Correspondence

14.1 Members received an invitation from Westbank: Celebrate the Impact of our Devon wide, Health and Wellbeing Charity, Westbank Community Health and Care and to find out more about our services in our 40th Anniversary Year on Tuesday 13th October 2026 between 10am - 3pm at Westbank's Healthy Living Centre, Farm House Rise, Exminster, EX6 8AT. The Chair and Vice Chair advised that they would attend this.

260909.15 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]

It was suggested that the parish might look into obtaining a Parcel Locker. A resident offered to explore this further.

260909.16 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on 14 October 2026 at 7.30pm.

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Chairman

9 September 2026

Item 7.1:

Expenditure

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount (includes VAT where applicable)
Standing Order	Salary (Clerk)	July & Aug	£919.94
DD	Lloyds Bank	Bank service charges (July& Aug)	£8.50
DD	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£397.90
Online	Plant Tech	Grass cutting and maintenance (July & Aug)	£1080
Online	PKF Littlejohn	Limited assurance review (external audit)	£252
Online	A Grahns-Doan	Paint for the donated picnic bench (KN&GS)	£24

Income (4 July – 4 September 2026)

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
July & Aug	Various	Cemetery	£1000

Bank Balance at 4 September 2026

Current account	£41,936.97