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 14 October 2026 at 7.30pm

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Present
Councillor D Blount (Chair), Cllr A Bryant, Cllr K Savill, Cllr J Hare & Cllr A Hodgson
Also present
Suzanna Hughes (Clerk), District Cllr Taylor and 6 members of the public

The meeting was opened by Cllr Blount at 7.30pm.

261014.01 Apologies for Absence

- Cllr Calderwood
- County Cllr Connett

261014.02 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.

Cllr Savill declared an interest in item 7.1.1.

261014.03 Open Forum

A resident informed members that she was requesting the establishment of a Right of Way between Mamhead Road and Oxton Lane. The path provides a valuable connection between the two lanes. She feels that this is in line with Kenton's Neighbourhood Plan. Formal recognition will help to preserve and protect the established route for future generations and prevent access being lost unnecessarily. She requests support from the Parish Council by way of a supporting letter. After brief discussion, the Parish Council indicated its support, in principle, but suggested that a supporting letter is drafted for the Parish Council's consideration and approval at the next meeting.

A resident praised the recent resurfacing of the road which was carried out quickly and efficiently.

261014.04 Ratification of Minutes

Members received the minutes of the meeting on 9 September 2026. It was agreed unanimously that those minutes are signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the meeting.

261014.05 Playing Field and Hard Court

5.1 The Chairman brought this item forward and invited representatives of the Kenton School Parents' Association (KSPA) to give a report on proposed plans to establish a Forest School in the grounds of Powderham Estate providing educational opportunities to children attending the primary school and also to the wider local community. Due to charity

regulations, KSPA is unable to take the project forward directly and, as a result, a small group has agreed to establish the Kenton Forest School CIC enabling them to progress the project independently. Support is being sought from the Parish Council and local community, local MP and TDC. The intention is to start by welcoming small groups of children from Kenton Primary School during school hours with a view to extending this to other schools in the Trust and the wider community. Any development will be sensitive to its surroundings and with the agreement of Powderham Estate. The group requested the Parish Council's support to establish Kenton Forest School CIC and its proposed educational use of the woodland. Subject to this support, they will then approach TDC for pre-application planning advice. After brief discussion, and clarification about operational details, the Parish Council agreed that this would be a great asset for the school and community and would be pleased to support it.

5.2 A hole in the hedge at the bottom of the field was reported by a parent and the concern was that children can climb through the hole into the drive that comes down from Hyde House. The Ivy Education Trust was notified and prompt action was taken to seal it off.

5.3 The school sign has been damaged again. It was noted that the Ivy Education Trust are aware of this and it has been requested that a larger sign is mounted on a board on two stakes into the hedge.

261014.06 Reports

6.1 **Police Report and Community Speedwatch**

In the period, 1 – 30 September 2026, there were 3 recorded offences in the Kenton area:

- Violence less serious (child bitten by family dog needing stitches) x 1
- Suspicious vehicle/persons (male staring at houses and following people home) x 1
- ASB nuisance (group of underage youths on motor bikes, not lights or number plates) x 1

The Chair advised that a resident has written to Martin Wrigley, MP, complaining that the police have taken no action regarding the break-in at the school. It was also noted that no action had been taken regarding the recent damage to equipment on the playing field. The police have confirmed that they will make contact to establish details and progress outstanding matters. To date, there has been no communication.

The clerk confirmed that the police will be delivering a cyber awareness presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting upstairs in Victory Hall on 23 March 2027.

6.2 **County Councillor's Report**

No report

6.3 **District Councillor's Report**

Cllr Tayor confirmed that Local Government Reorganisation has been paused. Service levels on household bin collections will be restored from Monday and he thanked residents for their patience. £5m has been allocated towards the refurbishment of Dawlish Leisure Centre. Branches of a tree in the churchyard which were overhanging into an adjacent property have now been cut back by the Green Spaces team.

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

Some members of the Parish Council, the volunteer flood warden, County Cllr Connett and Martin Wrigley MP finally met with officers from South West Water at the Slittercombe Lane Pumping Station. It was a productive meeting at which SWW gave full details of how the sewerage system operated including details of the number of legal discharges into the brook during periods of high rainfall. The two principal and most urgent measures are:

- Dredging of the brook downstream of the Slittercombe Pumping Station to the junction of the River Kenn by Powderham Estate to allow South West Water to operate legal discharges in periods of high rainfall. If it is not kept clean, sewage liquid will eventually back up along brook path
- Flood reduction measures upstream of Ford Farm to reduce brook flood water entering the village. Slittercombe Pumping Station cannot cope with flood quantities of surface runoff entering the combined sewage and surface runoff SPS system.

After brief discussion, it was agreed that the clerk should write to SWW thanking them for the meeting and ask them to write to the Parish Council to confirm in writing the importance of the brook being dredged. The Parish Council can then write to Powderham Estate with this information. Martin Wrigley, MP, also offered to speak directly to the Earl of Devon.

6.5 **Kenton Nature and Green Spaces**

The National Emergency Briefing is being shown in Kenton Victory Hall on 6 November with a follow-up meeting immediately after the film. A request was made to the Parish Council to cover the cost of the hall hire (£36) which was agreed.

6.6 **Kenton Pub and Community Group**

Invoices should be going out next week. A Statement of Work is being formalised. The pub is supporting the Emergency Briefing and will be providing the bar and refreshments. Other events in the pipeline include a Halloween antiques quiz and the Shanty in the middle of November. Everything is moving in the right direction. The Chair thanked the Committee for all their continued hard work.

261014.07 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).

261014.08 Planning

8.1 **New planning applications/appeals**

8.1.1 26/01278/LBC – South Warborough House, Warborough Hill, Kenton
Removal of interior wall separating lean to shed and utility room, internal utility room alterations, insertion of new velux window and replacement door

Having declared an interest, Cllr Savill abstained from the discussion and decision.

Members had no objections to this application.

8.2 **Decisions**

8.2.1 26/01251/CAN – 3 Torrington Place, Kenton
Beech tree – fell

Members noted that TDC has approved these works.

8.2.2 25/02061/FUL – Kenton Primary School, East Town Lane, Kenton
Retention of 3 single storey and 1 two storey temporary modular buildings for a temporary period of 156 weeks. Installation of a car park, pathways, associated fencing, gates, canopies, cess pit and 6.6m x 8m astroturf

Members noted that TDC has granted conditional consent.

261014.09 Asset Transfer

The clerk advised that the only asset TDC is asking the Parish Council to consider as part of its asset review programme is the land adjacent to the brook between Pear Tree Close and Bramley Close. It was noted that in 2010, whilst the Parish Council agreed to acquire the village car park, land at East Town Lane and land at Sunnybank, it had agreed not to take this asset as the benefit of doing so did not outweigh the liability.

Having reviewed the site, members considered that the potential liabilities associated with this piece of land are too great for the Parish Council to accept. In particular, the land's proximity to the brook, together with the presence of trees and the associated ongoing maintenance and management responsibilities, present a level of risk and potential future cost that the Parish Council is unable to justify taking on.

261014.10 Defibrillator

Members retrospectively approved the purchase of a new battery for the defibrillator in the village car park at a cost of £220 + VAT.

261014.11 Car Park, Triangle, Cemetery & Other Green Spaces

11.1 Members received advice from Dart Forest Trees regarding the beech tree in the centre of the car park which has fungus growing around its base. The advice is that it should be felled. It was therefore agreed to submit the required application to TDC to seek permission to fell the tree in the Conservation Area.

11.2 Flower honesty box
Further correspondence was received asking the Parish Council to reconsider alternative locations for a flower honesty box. It was agreed that the resident should propose an alternative location herself for the Parish Council to consider.

11.3 Members discussed maintenance work which is still outstanding. The Chair advised that he has spoken to the guys doing the work. He has asked them to inform the Parish Council when they intend to carry out trimming back the hedge in the car park so that cones can be put out to prevent parking.

11.4 The Chair advised that he has sorted out the sandbags. He has obtained some empty sacks so that the contents of the sacks which are ripped can be transferred. Members agreed to help with this.

261014.12 Bus Shelters

One quotation has been received to refurbish the bus shelters. Given the value of the work, it was agreed to seek two more quotes before making a decision.

261014.13 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 Members were invited to consider a request for non-contentious parking restrictions/double yellow lines as part of DCC's Local Waiting Restriction Programme. After discussion it was agreed to suggest yellow lines at the top of East Town Lane where it has become very congested with school drop-off and pick-ups. It is suggested that they might go on the right-hand side as you approach the school just after the drive of 16 East Town Lane to just before the drive of 18 East Town Lane. It was thought that something also needs to be installed at either side of the school gate as well - either yellow lines or a hatched box to avoid congestion and prevent parked vehicles obstructing visibility.

261014.14 Service of Remembrance

The Chair advised that he had been invited to read the Roll of Honour; Cllr Savill offered to lay the wreath.

261014.15 Correspondence

None

261014.16 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

261014.17 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on 11 November 2026 at 7.30pm.

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Chairman

14 October 2026

Item 7.1:

Expenditure

Payment type	Payee	Details	Amount (includes VAT where applicable)
Standing Order	Salary (Clerk)	Sept	£561.42
DD	Lloyds Bank	Bank service charges (July& Aug)	£4.25
Online	Defib Store	New battery for the defibrillator	£264
Online	Plant Tech	Grass cutting & maintenance (Sept)	£540
Online	20i (reimbursed to the clerk)	Domain name renewal	£30
Online	Taylor Construction	Installation of cradle swing and train steering wheel	£235.06

Income (5 September – 9 October 2026)

Date received	Received from	Details	Amount
Sept	TDC	2nd instalment of the precept	£15,997.50
Sept	Orchard Memorials	Memorial stone	£180

Bank Balance at 9 October 2026

Current account	£57,009.80