

KENN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Kenn Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th January, 7pm in the Kenn Centre.

Councillors in attendance,

Cllr A Chislett Chairman, Cllr P Westwood, Cllr D Jinks, Cllr B Stretton

County Cllr A Connett, District Cllrs C Nuttall, Cllr A Swain

Public open session,

One member of the public after the public open session.

An application to join the parish council had been received and was considered by council, it was unanimously agreed to co-opt Claire Salter onto the council.

23/128 Apologies for absence.

Cllr T Salter personal reasons, Cllr R Taverner personal reasons

Cllr P Gandy personal reasons, Cllr L Young personal reasons

An application to join the parish council had been received and was considered by council, it was unanimously agreed to co-opt Claire Salter onto the council.

23/129 Declarations of interest. None declared.

23/130 Matters raised by the Chairman,

- a, The London borough of Kensington and Chelsea is relaxing its rules to allow energy-efficiency boosting window upgrades on grade II listed buildings, without the need for listed building consent. Is there any plan by TDC the planning authority to follow this example.

Action District councillors to make enquiries at TDC.

- b, Concern over the continued number of power failures, at least three in the last month, Reports of elderly and infirm residents losing their emergency alarm call system for extended periods.

Action Clerk to write to Weston power, copy to MP

c, The parish lengths man cleared a dangerous surface water on Kenn lane, Devon highways were informed that cars were stranded, with AA, RAC rescue vehicles in attendance, it was not considered an emergency. There is clear evidence that the drain under the road has collapsed and has been for a considerable time.

Action Clerk to forward photographic evidence to Cllr Connett to follow up.

District and county councillors' reports,

District Cllr Andy Swain reported the TDC revised local plan had been published also, the proposed landfill site at lower Brenton farm is running a consultation period. Both items were lower down the agenda for discussion.

County Cllr Connett reported that the annual Kenbury wood recycling site report had been published. Also, that a retrospective planning application had been put in following the inspection regarding the installation of a generator. Also reported, A temporary road closure at Splatford which has been circulated to Cllrs. Zig zag lines have been repainted outside the primary school.

Following continued requests from the parish council to Kennford post office the bins outside the post Office are still obstructing the highway,

Cllr Connett asked council if they were In agreement to escalate the issue with Devon highways using the County Solicitors if required.

As the parish had completed the complaints process, according to the last communication from Devon highways that the parish councils only further course of action was through the ombudsman, it was agreed that Cllr Connett would progress the issue.

Cllr Connett took issue with the council website now showing attendance of County and District Councillors at meetings, after a lengthy discussion,

Cllr Connett circulated A response from all four elected councillors and asked that it be included in the minutes. That response is printed in full below.

Report on Kenn Parish Council attendance and Meetings

Overview:

1. The District and County Councillor team has attended 75% (30) of the possible 40 Parish Council Meetings from June 2019 to December 2022.
2. It should be noted that there is no requirement for County & District Councillors to attend Parish Council meetings, or to provide apologies.
3. From May 2019, Kenn Valley was enlarged and, to accommodate the additional workload, it became a 3-seat district ward. The councillors elected in 2019 work together as a team covering district and county matters, especially where colleagues are not able to attend a meeting.
4. We generally 'share out' the parish councils so, for example, Charles takes the lead at Exminster and Kenn, while Andy leads at Shillingford, Ide, Whitestone and Holcombe Burnell.
5. Much work to support parish councils is done routinely every day/week and does not wait for parish council meetings. If we were to wait for parish council meetings, the pace of progress for some issues would be incredibly slow.
6. Alison does not attend Parish Council meetings but works as part of the team on district matters especially on bus services and the proposed sell-off of farmland (Markhams and Manor Farms).
7. Private 'casework' for residents is dealt with by individual councillors. We don't 'advertise' this at parish council meetings, and neither would it be appropriate to do so.... But because the parish council can't see it and doesn't know about it, doesn't mean to say it is not happening.

It has been brought to our attention that the Kenn Parish Council web site home page has a prominent feature regarding District and County Councillor attendance at Parish Council meetings in 2022. This item has higher billing than any other parish matter, even than the proposed landfill application at Lower Brenton Farm.

The Data is presented in a way that implies an expectation that every district and county councillor will attend every Parish Council meeting. This is not consistent with enlarging the ward and allocating more councillors to cover the additional workload.

As the Parish chair and clerk are aware, meetings often clash with other councils Kenn PC and Shillingford PC and Holcombe Burnell and Starcross for example. It is therefore not possible for us all to attend all meetings. We work together as a team to cover these parishes and we do not undertake to have multiple representatives at any meeting.

The data presented on the Parish Council web page is clearly cherry-picked showing attendance only in 2022, when a range of factors affected attendance and the parish council's own ability to hold valid meetings. Below, a more useful summary of overall attendance is presented.

The information below is drawn from the published minutes on the Parish Council's website except for January and December 2022 when we have relied on the agenda information for the January 2023 meeting.

2019	County and District representation	Notes
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June	Yes (Alan, Andy)	
July	Yes (Charles)	
August	Apology	
September	Yes (Alan)	
October	Yes (Charles, Alan)	
November	Yes (Charles, Alan)	
December	Yes (Charles, Alan)	
2020	County and District representation	Notes
January	Yes (Alan)	
February	Yes (Charles, Alan)	
March	Yes (Charles, Alan)	
April		Cancelled: Covid
May	Yes (Alan)	
June	Yes (Alan, Andy)	
July	Yes (Charles, Alan)	
August	Apology	
September	Yes (Alan)	
October	Yes (Alan, Andy)	
November	Yes (Charles, Alan)	
December	Yes (Charles)	
2021	County and District representation	Notes
January	Yes (Alan, Charles, Andy)	
February	Yes (Charles)	
March	Yes (Charles, Alan)	
April	Yes (Charles, Alan)	
May	Yes (Alan)	
June	Yes (Charles)	
July	Yes (Alan) (**)	
August		No Meeting
September	Apology	
October	Yes (Charles, Alan)	
November	Yes (Charles, Alan)	
December	Apology	
2022	County and District representation	Notes
January	Yes (Alan, Charles, Andy)	
February	Yes (Charles, Alan)	

March	Yes (Charles, Alan)	Parish Council Inquorate
April	Apology	
May	Apology	
June		Parish Council Inquorate
July	Yes (Charles)	
August	Yes (Charles & Andy)	
September	Apology	
October	Apology	
November	Apology	
December	Apology	
Overall Attendance	30/40	

There is no requirement for district and county councillors to attend parish council meetings. It should also be noted that Parish Council meetings may clash – Kenn PC and Shillingford PC and Holcombe Burnell and Starcross for example.

It is also the case that councillors may be engaged on other council-related business, seeing constituents, involved in other meetings, or dealing with work/family matters.

Some of the Parish council data appears inaccurate. For example, Alan was not recorded in the Minutes as attending the July 2021 meeting. However, the minutes record a contribution he made during the meeting. (**)

In August 2022. The minutes record that Charles and Andy both attended for part of the meeting. This appears to be the first time the Parish Council has noted attendance for 'part' of a meeting. However, in the Parish Council note for the meeting on 10 January 2023, it is recorded that Andy was not present in August 2022.

The March and June 2022 meetings of the Parish Council were not quorate and could not proceed. This was because too few parish councillors attended, and it appears apologies were not given in advance.

The March meeting was attended by Alan and Charles. They were there and waited... but the meeting had to be cancelled due to lack of parish councillors.

It is not correct to say there were no meetings in those months. There were properly called meetings of the Parish Council.

The Minutes of the May 2022 meeting note that the Clerk was to contact the District and County Councillors about attending meetings. We do not recall this contact being made.

The July 2022 minutes record that Charles attended. There was a discussion about 'attendance' and Charles explained the reasons why some councillors may not be present. As explained above, we work as a team.

It should also be noted that in September 2022, many councils cancelled meetings as a mark of respect following the death of HM The Queen, and as part of the period of National Mourning.

Kenn Parish Council continued to meet with the Clerk advising Alan:

"..Thank you for your apology. I will note it for the Council. We have taken the very difficult decision to proceed with the PC meeting. On balance the lack of many members of the public if any that attend meetings, we could quietly hold the meeting without impacting on this period of national mourning"

The Parish Chair and Clerk also know that that one of our team was diagnosed with cancer, has undergone major surgery, and is still undergoing a course of radiotherapy which may also prevent them from attending some further meetings.

In summary, although a small number of recent meetings have been missed, we will continue our endeavours to be represented at meetings of Kenn Parish Council and will continue, as we have for over the past three years, to take up issues for the community and parish council with Teignbridge and Devon County Council.

Councillors Alan Connett, Charles Nuttall, Andy Swain & Alison Foden
06 January 2023

There followed a discussion on the ongoing flooding issues and the disconnect between official agencies such as SWW, Highways England, DCC the Environment agency and others.

An example being, the environment Agency desilting the river bed as part of their flood prevention programme had to stop at the bridge in Kennford, the very pinch point that needs regular desilting because they had not got permission from Devon highways to work under the bridge. Also lack of action or response when issues are reported.

Action Clerk to write to Mel Stride MP regarding the flooding issues

Standing orders were suspended to allow a member of the public after the meeting had commenced to speak regarding speeding traffic through Clapham and a road side gully so full and overgrown that all surface water runs down the road and not into the drains endangering properties.

Action Clerk to take up the issues with Devon highways and police.

23/132 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th December 2022

Draft Minutes had been circulated read and agreed signed off by the Chairman.

Proposed by Chairman, Seconded by All

23/133 The consultation meeting regarding the land fill application arranged for the 4th January was cancelled by the consultants, rearranged for Friday the 13th 5pm
It was agreed to write to the highways expert who worked on the previous application for his advice.

Action Clerk to circulate joining instruction to council member and write to highways expert.

23/134 Landowners' responsibilities Following a discussion regarding landowners. responsibility regarding overgrown vegetation and tree maintenance alongside public rights of way and highways, it was agreed to invoice the landowner for work carried out by the parish to clear a fallen dead tree across a public footpath.

Action Clerk to raise an invoice.

23/ 135 Council Forward plan 2023 The revised published TDC local plan has included a large site within Kenn parish, this together with the pending landfill application raises many issues, it was agreed that kenn parish should embark on a Neighbourhood development plan to ensure the parish has a voice at the negotiation table to get the best possible outcome for the parish.
It was noted that any councillor involved in any planning application, must declare a pecuniary interest and not take part in any council meetings, discussions or action resulting from the application.

Proposed by Chairman, Seconded by Cllr Jinks

Action Clerk to set up an initial meeting with volunteers to work on the Neighbourhood development plan.

23/136 **Open spaces group** No report this month

23/137 **Planning**

Application Ref; **22/022263/AGR**

Location; Dadmouth Cottage, Lane South of Dadmouth cottage Kennford

Proposal Moving an agricultural Building.

Action No comment

Application Ref; **22/02349/FUL**

Location; Goosemoor Kennford EX6 7XZ

Proposal Demolition of barn & creation of dwelling.

Action No comment

Application Ref; **19/02225/MAJ**

Location; Telegraph hill Haldon

Proposal warehousing scheme minor amendments

Action Amendments noted

23/138 **Planning decisions** None recorded

23/139 **Finance** **EXPENDITURE**

 Kenn valley young farmers Xmas tree recycling £ 10.00

 Drain rod set for lengths man £ 47.99

 Johnny Gosling lengths man £ 250.00

 Total £ 307.99

INCOME NIL

23/140 **Clerks report**

Confirmation of the next meeting with the police and the management of Kenbury recycling site regarding enforcing the 7.5ton weight limit, set for 23/1/23.

Teign housing are to carry out ground research on the proposed St Andrews close.

Site. All residents and neighbours are to be informed in advance.

Work is progressing on the lease of the land for the proposed children's play area, a change of use application is now required to progress. Clerk to contact TDC for the relevant forms.

23/141 Councillors' reports

Cllr Westwood reported the VAS sign at the top of Kenn is not working,

Cllr Salter reported the VAS sign in Kennford had been tampered with and needs recalibrating.

Action Clerk to contact supplier to investigate.

Meeting closed at :- 21.15 pm

Minutes agreed at the Meeting held on 10th January 2023.

Signed.....
Date..... 7th February 2023