

# Kenn Parish Council

## Minutes of the meeting of Kenn Parish Council

held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2026 at 7pm in the Kenn Centre.

**PUBLIC OPEN DISCUSSION** Six members of the public in attendance.

An open discussion concerning the events of storm Chandra, which saw the water level of the river only 70 millimetres short of the levels reached during the 2012 devastating flooding of Kennford.

The response emergency plan team, and residents worked through the night running the pumps and delivering sand bags to the properties most under threat. The council wish to extend sincere thanks to the following residents for their actions during the crisis, Mr A Crisp, Mr D Jinks, The Wisker family, Mr K Boot, Cllr B Stretton, and many other residents who just turned out to help.

Points were raised to try to help the community be better prepared for future events, including clearing culverts and flaps of any mud or debris build up. Encouraging residents to apply for individual grant funding to install flood barriers on their properties. A leaflet drop to all residents was proposed with information on action they can take to be prepared for storm events. A further update on the parish emergency plan to ensure any lessons learned from the recent event are covered in the action plan.

A public meeting was proposed and agreed for Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of February, at 7pm in the Kenn Centre to agree the leaflet content, Councillor Salter will post the meeting information on the parish social media page.

Mr Kelvin Boot confirmed that as Sandbag monitor, he had requested more sandbags to replace stock that had been collected and in several cases were not returned or damaged. He stated the very quick and helpful response to the request by TDC, new filled sandbags were delivered the following day. The Council will add their thanks by letter to TDC for their prompt action. The council will purchase new empty sandbags to supplement the stock, using filling from damaged sandbags returned to the store.

It was further agreed to promote with TDC the idea of placing a similar Sandbag store in Exminster, as they experienced minor flooding. The Kenn parish store is intended for the whole of Kenn ward, the parish council would never prevent collection of sandbags by neighbouring parish residents under threat of flooding, it is felt that Kenn has a far higher need by residents of properties across the parish, a second store would help meet the needs of both communities.

Due to the extended time of 1 hour given the public open session the agenda was adjusted to allow County and District Councillors to report.

## **26/724 County and District Councillors' reports.**

**C/Cllr Connett.** Following a point made in the public open session, which informed that the street lighting went off at midnight, further adding to the difficulty of the situation, he will take the matter up with DCC to see if there is a way of keeping the street lights on during storm events or emergencies.

Cllr Connett also mentioned the recent appeal decision regarding the illegal traveller's site, DCC as land owners are monitoring the situation, but seem unable to challenge the decision.

He pointed out that DCC cabinet will be discussing two parcels of land which will be considered for sale, he advised the Parish council to follow up on this news.

The new proposed HGV weight restriction signage for Kennford was mentioned, noting the new Chudleigh road junction on the A379 has a 7.5ton Weight restriction sign without any for access wording. It was suggested that a letter to highways asking why there is this difference and asking if the proposed new sign for Kennford by the same as the Chudleigh signs.

**D/Cllr Parrott.** Reminded council that a further consultation on the restructure of local government is now open for comments, the process is continuing at present with interim election of a new shadowing body is set for May 2027, present district Councillors will be asked to stay in post for an extra year as part of the hand over to any future governing structure.

He also mentioned that due to a new directive from Government, TDC is having to revisit its budget proposal for 2026/27 as the new directive will leave the district with a large deficit, at present the budget is set at 2.99% increase, the maximum they are allowed.

He confirmed that he has been following up the foul sewage still overflowing from a manhole in kenn nearly two weeks after the storm, TDC environmental officer has visited the site and is working with SWW to try to resolve the issue, the officer confirmed that due to the amount of clear water coming from the drain, he does not consider it a threat to human health, SWW have confirmed that the whole old surface water and sewage system is unable to handle even moderate weather events.

**D/Cllr Smith.** Introduced himself to Council on his first attendance to a Parish Council meeting since election in October 2025. He pointed out that TDC were monitoring the vehicles parked along the weighbridge road, and the fly tipping of a sofa on the same road. He also pointed out that as Chairman of Exminster PC he would support the idea of a sandbag store in that parish.

**D/Cllr Nuttall.** Not in Attendance

**26/717 Councillors in attendance,** Cllr A Chislett, Cllr C Salter, Cllr H Mortimer, Cllr B Stretton  
Cllr S Skuse, Cllr P Westwood

**26/718 Apologies for absence** Cllr R Redding, Cllr D Kukulka, D/Cllr C Nuttall

**26/719 Declarations of interest.** None declared

**26/720 Dispensation requests regarding the code of conduct.** None received

**26/721 Minutes** To consider the approval of the minutes of the of the meeting held on

The 13<sup>th</sup> of January agreed and signed off by the Chairman.

## **26/722 Matters raised by the Chairman.**

The Chairman Mentioned that Swift boxes are a planning requirement in many Planning authority areas, It was confirmed that TDCs local plan has that requirement, and the parish NDP reflects that in a policy.

Also mentioned was the use of the public telephone box in Kennford. BT monitor the use of public boxes across the country, if usage falls be low 52 calls per year they remove the box. However statistic published by BT show thar 25% of calls made from public call boxes are to Childline and 25% of call s to Samaritans, Although there is no indication of the Phone box being in danger of being removed the chairman asked that we should all make a call or two from the box to Guarantee the continued siting of the box, which just may de used to help someone contact the help they need.

**26/723 Clerks Report.** To note the email newsletters received since the last meeting and correspondence received and any Previous meeting action points

**Action Points:** 1, Contact Cllr Connett re Blocked and broken drains & loose covers

All points reported reply received

2, Invite the new highways officer for a site visit. Set for 2<sup>nd</sup> October

3, Follow up with Coeval re VAS repair parts. Waiting cost quote

4, Church donations regulations. **Agenda item 26/725**

5, Parish on line re email transfer. Underway **Agenda item 26/726**

6, Repairs to phone box/ book exchange Ken . Complete

**Correspondence:** 1,TDC invitation to event agenda includes grant match funding

2, Notification of dog bin emptying 2026

3, Police crime report for January 2026

**Meeting attended:** 1, Assertion 10 webinar 15<sup>TH</sup> OF January **Agenda item 26/726**

2, Devon highways Officer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, with Chairman discussing all highways issues.

**attending:** 3. TDC MEETING 9<sup>TH</sup> Feb re neighbourhood plan

4, TDC Local leaders' event, 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 26

**26/725 TO DISCUSS PARISH COUNCIL FUNDING FOR PLACES OF WORSHIP.** It was confirmed that legislation changed in 2023 to allow Parish and Town councils to offer discretionary grant support to Churches. The basic criteria includes maintenance and repairs to church fabric, improvements to community facilities i.e. toilets, sustaining net zero targets. Also, the upkeep of open churchyards.

It was pointed out that any grant application to the Parish Council must be presented using the existing small grant application form, which sets out the information the Parish Council require to decide.

**26/726 TO ACCEPT IT & DIGITAL COMPLIANCE REGULATIONS (Assertion 10)**

Copies of the new IT and Digital compliance policy were circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The proposal to accept the policy as set out was unanimously accepted by vote.

**26/727 TO NOTE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARISH EMERGENCY PLAN DURING STORM CHANDRA**

This agenda item was discussed in depth in the public open session at the beginning of the meeting, and will further explore at the public meeting set for the 18<sup>th</sup> of February at 7pm in the Kenn Centre

**26/728 DISCUSS ENVIRONMENT AGENCY POSSIBLE WITHDRAWAL OF MAINTENANCE**

It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk would respond to the Environment Agency consultation to ensure that the Parish flood precautions are protected and any concerns are put forward.

**26/729 Planning Applications -**

**Planning Applications** - Teignbridge District Council has asked for comments from the Parish Council on the following planning application.

APPLICATION: 26/00064/HOU ALSO 26/00065/LBC  
LOCATION: The Old Rectory Pennycombe lane Kenn  
PROPOSAL: Retention of lean-to timber greenhouse, two solar panels on southern slope of 1960's steel roof, attic storage area converted to snug/TV area and glazed roof added to existing garden wall to form dog/storage area

**Comment;** No objection to either element of the application

APPLICATION: 26/00121/CAN  
LOCATION: Youngs Farmhouse Road from The forge to Pennycombe lane Kenn.  
PROPOSAL: T1 - 1x Silver Birch - Crown lift lower branches with cuts not exceeding 15mm in diameter. Reduce in height by approximately 8m by removing the central leader down to suitable pruning points.  
The finishing height will be 14m with the secondary growth forming the new height of the tree. Cuts will not exceed 35mm in diameter

- T2. 1x Persian Ironwood - Reduce in height by approximately 2.5m  
to match where the tree has been historically exceeding 15mm in diameter.  
Reduce in height by approximately 8m by removing the central leader  
down to suitable pruning points. The finishing height will be 14m with the  
secondary growth forming the new height of the tree. Cuts will not exceed 35mm  
in diameter.
- T3. 1x Holly – Reduce in height only by 1.5m removing dying top.
- T4. 1x Douglas fir situated in neighbours garden - Remove storm damaged  
Branches from the canopy that are overhanging the top tier of the garden area.

**Comment** No objection

**26/730 PLANNING DECISIONS:** None received

**26/731 Accounts for approval**

**TO RECEIVE THE END OF MONTH BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT FOR**

The month ending on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2026. agreed and signed off.

**Invoices for payment**

1346	Lengths man drains and gully work	£	378.30	PIA
1347	Vision ICT website April 26- Mar 27	£	175.76	
1348	Book Exchange Plack T/box	£	46.20	
1349	Printer Cartridges	£	62.46	
1350	X2 Connect Telephone box parts	£	262.82	
1351	January salary	£	1228.50	
1352	X2 Connect Telephone box door frame	£	378.00	
1353	Unity trust bank fees	£	6.00	DD
1354	Octopus energy Playbox	£	138.10	DD
1355	ICO	£	47.00	DD
1356	2 HeartSine defib pads (Ley arms & Brenton)	£	309.60	
1357	Kennbury Carpentry Store shed doors repair	£	57.00	
1358	Kennbury Carpentry Phone box repairs	£	945.40	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>4035.14</b>	

**INCOME** To note income for the previous month; Nil

**Bank balance** at 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2026 Current Account £52,949.03 Deposit Account 62,728.89

TO note Public works loan statement (PWL) as at 15/5/25 Balance to pay £ 109,035.01

**26/732 Councillors reports, and External Meetings attended (for information only).**

**Cllr C Salter** Reported she had checked all the grit bins in the parish and sent to the clerk the grit levels so top ups can be ordered. No work on the speed awareness campaign had been possible due to the poor weather.

**Cllr H Mortimer** Reported that no progress had been made on the state of Two stone lane, It was confirmed that the highways officer had visited and was advised that the lane was entirely un suitable for traffic including buses following the temporary road closure diversions.

**Cllr B Stretton** Confirmed that the residents affected by the recent flooding would apply Individual to DCCs flood resilience fund for grant aid to protect their properties

**Cllr P Westwood** Enquired how often the road sweeper visited the parish, it was confirmed that The schedule was approximately every six weeks but often fluctuates.

**Cllr S Scuse** Nothing to report

The next meeting of the parish council, will be on the  
10<sup>th</sup> of March 2026. 7.00pm at the Kenn Centre.

Meeting closed at :- 21.25pm

Signed.....

Date.....