

## KENTISBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7pm in Kentisbeare Village Hall

**Present:** N Allan (Chairman), N Woofenden, Mrs F Ryan, E Southerden, M Disney, Mrs E Ellicott (from 10/01/24), MDDC Cllr. Cathy Connor (from 09/01/24), MDDC Cllr. J Poynton and the Clerk. Mr Mark Kent was present in respect of co-option being co-opted at agenda item 6.

*A briefing from Devon County Council was held immediately before the meeting at 6.30pm regarding the M5 Junction 28 and Town Centre Relief Road. An Officer from MDDC was in attendance for the presentation together with the Project Manager for Culm Garden Village. Two members of the public were present for part of the presentation.*

**01/01/24:** Public Question Time. None.

**02/01/24.** Apologies: Cllr. Mrs Broom, Mrs L Downing, O Forster and DCC Cllr. J Berry.

**03/01/24.** Declarations of Interest: Cllr. Allan (DPI) in the general precept discussion regarding a possible grant for the cricket club as landlord of the field rented by the cricket and football club - this also applied to agenda item 13.2.

**04/01/24.** The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 05/12/23 were approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

**05/01/24.** Matters Arising: None.

**06/01/24.** Co-option of a Parish Councillor: Mark Kent was co-opted on to the Parish Council; proposed by Cllr. Allan and seconded by Cllr. Woofenden - all councillors were unanimous in the decision to co-opt Mr Kent. Cllr. Kent signed a Declaration of acceptance of Office.

### **07/01/24. Planning & Planning Correspondence/Information:**

**a)** Applications considered by the Parish Council:

-23/01838/MFUL Installation of ground mounted solar PV panels to generate up to 5MW, comprising photovoltaic panels and associated infrastructure and works (Site Area 6.30ha). Land at NGR 300681 107829 (East of Wells Park) Cullompton. Noted – it was agreed for no comments due to the fact that the application is within a neighbouring Parish and considered not close enough to the Parish boundary to be of concern.

**b)** Results of applications from Mid Devon District Council.

-23/01749/CLU Certificate of Lawfulness for dwelling with unrestricted occupancy (free from the encumbrance of the planning conditions attached to planning permission 4/32/90/01482 and detailed plans approval 4/32/90/2267). Wressing Barton, Kentisbeare. EX15 2AR. Certificate granted.

-23/01444/CLP Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed replacement of an existing caravan with a new caravan and proposed use of caravan as holiday accommodation not restricted to set number of days. Land at NGR 309491 109255, The Paddock, Blackborough. Application Part Granted/Part Refused.

**c)** Culm Garden Village: Cllr. Allan reported that road improvements/infrastructure in respect of the M5 Junction 28 and Town Centre Relief Road were the main topic at the last meeting of the Delivery Board – in advance of the current DCC consultation.

**d)** Any other Planning Matters: None.

**08/01/24. DCC Consultation - M5 Junction 28 and Cullompton Relief Road:** Following a presentation held before the meeting it was agreed that the scheme seems logical and makes sense however there is one concern. Already a number of HGVs try to access businesses to the north of Kentisbeare through the centre of the village using lanes that are not able to handle vehicles of a certain size. At times village access is blocked whilst heavy vehicles reverse and perform a complicated multi-point turn in narrow lanes. If the southern spur of the new junction links significantly closer to the main lane to Kentisbeare at Post Cross, there is a likelihood that this problem will grow significantly. A request will be put forward for signage to direct such vehicles away from Post Cross via Kingsmill.

**09/01/24. Flooding.** MDDC Cllr. Cathy Connor arrived.

**a)** Flood Protection for Community Buildings: Details have been received from DCC and The Culm Catchment Officer regarding a free survey and funds available in respect of the Flood Resilience Project for property flood protection for buildings considered community assets. Information has been sent to various organisations that may benefit.

**b)** Early Flood Warning System for Kentisbeare: Details have been received from DCC and The Culm Catchment Officer in respect of the Devon Resilience Innovation Project (DRIP) regarding the setting up and testing an early flood warning system for small rural communities.

**Flooding continued:**

Details will be publicised and DCC will present the project and discuss how it will work in the Kentisbeare catchment to see if there is interest. It is hoped that 5-10 residents will be willing to be part of the project and will sign up to test the system and get involved in feedback on the design of the system.

**10/01/24. Highways.** *Cllr. Mrs Ellicott arrived.*

a) A date was agreed for an informal meeting with the DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO) and The Culm Catchment to discuss various issues – this will precede the presentation regarding the Early Flood Warning System.  
b) Any other matters – including any items to report and upcoming road closures: Debris at Machine Lane has been reported and problems with Machine Lane will be brought to the attention of the NHO at the above meeting.  
Thanks were extended to Cllr. Woofenden for arranging removal of the tree stump lodged underneath the bridge in Fore Street.

**11/01/24. Reports.**

a) The Clerk: The Clerk will attend an online workshop hosted via MDDC regarding the Shared Prosperity Programme.  
b) Reports from DCC & MDDC Councillors: The District Councillors hope to circulate a monthly report on a regular basis. Cllr. Cathy Connor reported on the Christmas Eve event held in Kentisbeare.  
c) P3 Footpaths and Parish Paths: A parishioner has made contact regarding concern over path erosion in Silver Wood – the P3 coordinator and the Clerk will arrange a site meeting in the spring. It is hoped that works will shortly take place on a permissive path and at Bridleway 34.  
d) The Chairman/Vice-Chairman: None.  
e) Any other reports: None.

**12/01/24. State of the District Debate 2023/24** – notification of a date is awaited and a representative from Kentisbeare Parish Council will endeavour to attend.

**13/01/24. Finance.**

a) A report was given and the bank balance was noted as at 31/12/23. Direct Debits taken were noted: Nest £91.03 on 05/12 & £89.56 on 21/12, EDF £7 on 11/12, Utility Warehouse £41.05 on 29/12. Credits received: 05/12 - £7.50 website advertising.

b) Payments were approved:

-Chq 2123	£ 66.00	Kentisbeare Village Hall. Hall hire.
-Chq 2124		Clerk – salary and expenses.
-Chq 2125	£ 258.43	Website and e-newsletter.
-Chq 2126	£ 9.97	SMA Services. Payroll provider.
-Chq 2127	£ 280.80	Countrywide Grounds Maintenance Ltd. Grass maintenance contract.
-Chq 2128	£ 306.00	Kentisbeare Parish Church Magazine. Printing to date.
-Chq 2129	£ 50.00	Power for Christmas lights in the village square.
-Chq 2130	£ 50.00	Kentisbeare PCC. Power for Christmas lights on St. Mary's church 23/24.
-Chq 2131		HMRC. Quarterly payment.
-Chq 2132		Spoilt cheque. Cancelled internally.

*It was noted that due to a typing error, cheque number 2134 has been issued for £100 (opposed to £200) in place of cheque 2132.*

-Chq 2133	£ 604.80	MDDC. Play Area Inspections – six months.
-Chq 2134	£ 100.00	Citizens Advice, Torridge, North, Mid & West Devon. Grant 23/24.

c) Letter received from Kentisbeare Football Club regarding improvements on site for 2024/25; *See declarations.* Details were given of required improvements to facilities which will be in excess of several thousand pounds. It was agreed for £1800 to be included within the precept figure for grants to help sports clubs – the precise figure/breakdown will be discussed at a future meeting.

d) To confirm signatories on the Parish Council bank accounts and those registered for online banking – the existing four signatories were confirmed and two registered for online banking; it was agreed for the addition of two extra signatories – Cllrs. Southerden and Woofenden. Online banking will be updated as required when the additions have been completed.

e) Precept 2024/2025: To agree a figure for the Parish precept. *See declarations.* The Clerk advised that there is no referendum limit for Town/Parish Councils for the financial year 2024/25.

*Finance continued:*

Following an informal meeting with the Clerk, Chairman and Vice-Chairman and circulation of suggested figures to cover financial needs for the coming year, a report was given and it was resolved for no increase in the precept - the amount requested agreed as £41,000. The figure includes grants for the following - Blackborough and Kentisbeare Village Halls, the three churchyards, the youth club and the sports clubs. Improvements are required at the Parish playing field and a fund will continue to be built for the cycle track. An amount will be included for the general reserve. Councillors were unanimous in their decision to set the precept at £41,000. As in previous years, MDDC will deduct the subscription for DALC.

**f)** Any other financial matters: None.

**14/01/24. Kentisbeare Play Area.**

**a)** Update on cycle track: An informal meeting will be held shortly to discuss funding.

**b)** Any other matters: A date is awaited for minor works to take place.

**15/01/24. Correspondence & Any Consultations.** Peninsula Transport – consultation on regional transport strategy. MDDC Survey - Share your views on rural services in Mid Devon. Blackborough Village Hall, Sainthill Youth Club, Kentisbeare Football Club – thanks received via email.

**16/01/24. Items for information, future agenda items, and dates of future meetings.** Next meeting 13/02/24.