

KENTISBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th January 2026
at 7pm in Kentisbeare Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs: Nick Allan (Chairman), Martin Disney, Mrs Felicity Ryan, Oliver Forster and the Clerk.

Public Question Time: None.

01/01/26. Apologies: Cllrs. Mrs Elise Ellicott, Edd Southerden and Neil Woofenden.

02/01/26. Declarations of Interest: None.

03/01/26. The Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 13/01/2026 were approved and duly signed by the Chairman.

04/01/26. Matters Arising: None.

05/01/26. Planning & Planning Correspondence/Information:

a) Applications considered by the Parish Council:

-26/00015/FULL Erection of self-build dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling, Woodside, Kentisbeare, EX15 2EU. No objections.

b) Results of applications from Mid Devon District Council.

-25/01578/FULL Reposition existing field gateway to highway. Land at NGR 309420 108849 (Western Cottage) Blackborough. Approved.

c) Culm Garden Village: The Chairman reported following the last meeting of the Delivery Board – works to Cullompton Relief Road are expected to start over the summer. There is no further news regarding funding for improvements to junction 28. The Chairman requested that reference to the letter from Kentisbeare Parish Council regarding what Kentisbeare would like to see regarding a buffer zone be formally included in the minutes of the Delivery Board.

d) Any other Planning Matters: East Devon Local Plan - Second Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation (Nov 2025 to Jan 2026). Consultation previously noted received as a neighbouring Parish & ref minute 143/12/25 (d); the Chairman reported as having liaised with Broadhembury Parish Council - a comment will be submitted raising concern over the recommendation of Brhe 09 as a development site. This seems to be contrary to the Blackdown Hills Management Plan policy and guidance and would set a troubling precedent.

06/01/26. Highways

a) Items to report and any other matters – the Clerk reported the damaged stop sign at Post Cross shortly after it was damaged and has since followed it up requesting that it is attended to ASAP together with the fading lines at the junction. DCC has placed a bollard on the road at Bishops Farm to indicate the problem at the side of the road- it is hoped that works will take place shortly. The Clerk has followed up the request to reposition the 30mph sign along Rectory Road. **b)** Road and Snow Warden Schemes – the Clerk reported on costs for training for the Road Warden Scheme following enquiries with two providers. The cost is in the region of £300-£400 for Chapter 8 (SWQR) Signing, Lighting & Guarding of which DCC will fund up to £355 per person for 3 people. Details are needed regarding the Snow Warden Scheme. Contact with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer (NHO) is required before proceeding and the Clerk will endeavour to make contact with the newly appointed NHO.

07/01/26. Reports.

a) The Clerk: Free Landmark Tree for your Parish Council or Town from Saving Devon's Treescapes - the Clerk will reserve a Hornbeam which will be planted in memory of Mark Kent as a previous serving Parish Councillor. Kentisbeare Parish Magazine Editor - a replacement has now come forward. It was agreed for the Clerk to attend upcoming training as provided by the district council.

b) The Chairman/Vice-Chairman: The Chairman has written to the Post Office regarding the possibility of reopening the post office in Kentisbeare Village Stores. It was considered that a petition to show support may be useful and the Chairman will put together a short introductory article for KNet and the Parish magazine.

c) Any Reports from MDDC and DCC Councillors: MDDC, Cllr. Cathy Connor had submitted a report, details include – Recycling information post-Christmas, including recycling Christmas trees. Warm Homes Local Grant: A government backed scheme to make homes across Devon warmer, greener and more affordable to heat - delivered in partnership with Devon County Council and other local authorities in Devon. It offers fully funded energy efficiency upgrades for eligible households, including measures such as cavity wall and loft insulation, double glazing, air source heat pumps, solar panels and insulated doors.

Cabinet Decisions Car parking & Permit Proposals 26/27: The reintroduction of a day permit option for car park users available to all residents across the district. Development of proposals around a new business permit for the multi-storey car park. A 5% rise for charges to be introduced as part of the budget setting process. Granting of additional free parking days for Crediton and Cullompton Town Councils to designate as seen fit to support their town centre activity. Tax Base Calculation 2026/27: That the calculation of the Council’s Tax Base for 2026/27 be approved in accordance with The Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (England) MDDC – decisions taken by the Cabinet on 02/12/25, Agenda Item No Topic Decision 6 Regulations 2012 at 31,180.16 an increase of 447.25 Band D equivalent properties from the previous financial year. Current collection rate of 97.5% will remain the same.

New Funding Formulae Published - the Government has set out how councils in England will be funded from 2026/2027, with new funding formulae based on 2025 indices of deprivation, population projections and service demand. As part of the fair funding review 2.0. it has also pledged - £2.4 billion for children’s social care reforms, £2.4 billion for a new ring-fenced and combined homelessness, rough sleeping and domestic abuse grant and a £600 million recovery for areas with the greatest immediate needs and less ability to raise income locally.

There will be an all member briefing on the 2026/2027 budget on 19/01/26 which should hopefully provide an answer as to how all of these changes will relate to Mid Devon.

Notification of a Business Rates Day 17/02/2026 (at Phoenix House) - to help businesses understand the changes which are being made to business rates. There are government schemes in place to help with the extra costs.

Police and Crime Commissioners – will be abolished from 2028. However, the strong link between police and the local communities will be maintained particularly in areas that will see the introduction of new local authority-led policing boards. Local area authority policing boards are part of the new governance structure introduced by the government’s devolution agenda in England.

National LGR analysis – state of local government re-organisation: Averages can mask a lot, this was the result of their national analysis - across all the proposals submitted to MHCLG, we find that the average reduction in councillor numbers is 55.2%, the average estimated transition costs is £54.8m, the average estimated recurrent annual savings is £42.0m, the average population size of a new unitary is 515,430. However, this varies significantly across the devolution areas and the proposals submitted. Across the country (21 areas), it’s assumed that we’re looking at a cost of over £1bn to do this, for a system that will reduce councillors by over half, and see new authorities created probably somewhere in line with the government’s 500k ‘ideal’.

d) P3 Footpaths, Parish Paths & Silver Wood: None.

e) Any other reports: None.

08/01/26. Finance.

a) A report was given the balances were noted and the finance schedule was signed.

Direct Debits taken: 04/12 Nest £91.98 & 23/12 £88.06, 10/12 EDF £50.88, 16/12 Lloyds Bank Service Charge £8.25, 31/12 Utility Warehouse £47.65.

b) Payments were approved:

Payment 1	£ 12.07	SMA Services. Payroll Provider.
Payment 2	£ 300.00	Helen Rose. Website & digital communications.
Payment 3	£ 992.91	Clerk – salary and expenses.
Payment 4	£ 373.20	R&R Services Ltd. Grass maintenance contract & hedge cutting.
Payment 5	£ 914.40	T K Play Ltd. Playing field maintenance.
Payment 6	£ 126.50	Society of Local Council Clerks renewal re: the Clerk.
Payment 7	£ 341.65	HMRC. Quarterly payment.

c) Scribe Accounts – A quotation for £224 as a set-up fee and ongoing fees of £37 per month were agreed following a session as attended by the Clerk early in 2025. The Clerk will attend a refresher session shortly and hopes to proceed with the system in time for the start of the new financial year.

d) To consider grants and subscriptions to the various groups and organisations for inclusion within the 2026/27 – it was agreed to continue as in previous years regarding subscriptions and grants for the various groups and organisations, with either a similar or the same amount. As within the previous financial year it was agreed for a grant of £2100 for the three churchyards, £2000 for the village halls and £1000 for the sports clubs.

e) Precept 2026/2027: To agree a figure for the Parish precept – following an informal meeting with the Clerk & the Chairman and circulation of suggested figures to cover financial needs for the coming year, a report was given. After a full discussion it was resolved to set the precept at £52,000 which equates to £7000 extra for the Parish which is a 13% increase on last year's figure. The increase on the Band D equivalent is £14.82 pa. The precept figure includes annual grants and subscription as 08/01/26 (c) - as in previous years. An amount is included for professional fees regarding works in relation to digital and data compliance in respect of authority website and email management. It was agreed to start reserving a fund in relation to the Road Warden Scheme. Councillors were unanimous in their decision to set the precept at £52,000. As in previous years, MDDC will deduct the subscription for DALC.

f) Any other financial matters: The Clerk will liaise with Cosmic regarding digital and data compliance and report at a future meeting.

09/01/26. Kentisbeare Play Area.

a) Pump Track: The Parish Council would like to thank R&R Services (Devon) Ltd., for recent works to the access track which were provided on a complimentary basis.

Inspections – the Clerk has been monitoring the track and will liaise with R&R Services (Devon) regarding a handover and a start date. The Clerk and Cllr. Forster reported on some standing water and an accumulation of silt on the lower-lying dips. The advisory group will meet on site once there is a decent break in the weather and a site meeting will also be arranged with the contractor regarding phase 2 and any issues arising such as drainage.

b) Any other matters: Cllr. Forster will report as to whether there is a suitable place for the Hornbeam on site at the next meeting.

10/01/26. Village Sign – following the sign being knocked off the posts recently, it was agreed to ask Ken White Signs to erect it more securely. The Chairman will liaise with the landowner when hedge cutting is due to request that the contractor takes more care.

11/01/26. Correspondence & Any Consultations: Generic emails as circulated.

12/01/26. A Review of the Clerk's salary and expenses was covered in Part 2.

13/01/26. Items for information, future agenda items, and dates of future meetings: (i) Contacts from the following will be invited to a future meeting to provide information/an update – The Blackdown Support Group and Connecting the Culm. (i) MDDC will provide an update when the most recent Notice of Vacancy has been displayed and expires.