

KENTISBEARE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th June 2026 at 7pm in Kentisbeare Village Hall

Present: Cllrs: Oliver Forster (Acting Chairman), Mrs Elise Ellicott, Martin Disney, Edd Southerden, Mrs Felicity Ryan, Mrs Irene Edwards, the Clerk, DCC Cllr. James Buczkowski and MDDC Cllr. Cathy Connor (part of meeting).

Due to apologies received from the Chairman Cllr. Nick Allan, Cllr. Forster took the meeting.

Public Question Time: None.

75/06/25. Apologies: Cllrs. Nick Allan, Neil Woofenden.

76/06/26. Declarations of Interest: None.

77/06/26. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council meeting as held on 12/05/2026. were approved and duly signed by the acting Chairman.

78/06/26. Matters Arising: (i) Cllr. Southerden will report at a future meeting with details of those interested from Blackborough in assisting with the Road Warden Scheme. (ii) Cllr. Mrs Edwards reported that further works are required regarding 25/01647/TPO as the branches are hanging low – the Clerk will make enquiries with MDDC/DCC as necessary. (iii) The Clerk reported that ref 37/03/26 – the Data Protection Policy had been reviewed with other documents as listed.

79/06/26. Planning & Planning Correspondence/Information:

a) Applications considered by the Parish Council:

-26/00619/FULL Erection of an agricultural shed on existing concrete pad from former piggery. Land at NGR 304418 109085 (Lower Kingsford), Kentisbeare. No objections.

Revised Plans re: - 26/00670/FULL Retention of change of use of agricultural land to residential garden and erection of pergola and landscaping; erection of carport. Wressing Barton, Kentisbeare. EX15 2AR. No objections.

-26/00721/HOUSE Erection of two storey and single storey side extension. Brick House, Silver Park, Kentisbeare. EX15 2BW. No objections.

As a Neighbouring Parish, details of the following have been received:

-26/00498/MFUL Change of use of existing Class E use to outdoor educational facility (Use Class F1(a)), formation of ancillary structures and associated works. The Bear Trail, Westcott, Cullompton. EX15 1RZ. Noted - no comments.

Revised Plans re: - 26/00159/MFUL Construction of an earth-banked slurry lagoon, two silage clamps with associated retaining wall, yard extension, fencing and drainage. Land at NGR 298043 107664 - (Honey Park Farm) Butterleigh. Noted – no comments.

b) Results of applications from Mid Devon District Council.

26/00172/HOUSE Erection of single storey rear extension. 11 Parsons Close, Kentisbeare, EX15 2BN. Approved.

c) Culm Garden Village: None.

d) Plan Mid Devon – Launch of New Local Plan and Consultation. An initial scoping consultation opened on 26/05/26. Comments are invited to help shape the plan from the outset and what it should cover as well as the key issues it should address and how people would like to be kept informed of the work as it progresses. Noted - open until 10/07/26.

e) Any other Planning Matters: None.

80/06/26. Highways - items to report and any other matters. Any upcoming road closures have been publicised in KNet.

81/06/26. Reports.

a) The Clerk: None.

b) The Chairman/Vice-Chairman: None.

c) Any Reports from MDDC and DCC Councillors. **MDDC:** Cllr. Cathy Connor submitted a report on behalf of MDDC. Cllr David Wulff (Liberal Democrat, Tiverton Castle and previously the deputy leader) was appointed Leader of MDDC at the May meeting. Cllr Wulff has set priorities focused on improving access to council services, supporting residents with cost-of-living pressures, delivering affordable and net zero housing, and protecting the district's rural character and environment.

Reports continued:

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) - Devon's principal councils are continuing to prepare for the government's decision on the future shape of local government in Devon, which is expected before the summer parliamentary recess on 16 July. Councils across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay are working together to prepare for change and to support as smooth a transition as possible. Preparatory work includes mapping key data on assets, contracts, staffing, software and systems in a common format, so that implementation can move forward once the decision is known.

The current indicative timetable includes the creation of new shadow councils following elections in May 2027, with the new councils expected to go live on 01/04/28. Decisions about how future services will be delivered will ultimately be for those new shadow councils once elected.

Community Assets - a number of parish and town councils have expressed interest in taking on community assets that are currently owned and managed by MDDC. New Visit Mid Devon website - a new website has been launched, designed to act as a "digital front door" for the district. It brings together everything in one place, from local events and walks to attractions, heritage sites and independent businesses, making it easier for residents and visitors to discover what's on offer across Mid Devon and it is an important way of supporting the local economy by showcasing local businesses and attractions in one place. Local businesses, clubs and community groups can add their own listings or events.

National changes to Planning - streamlining of local planning decision-making is part of the government strategy to build 1.5m new homes. Through the Planning & Infrastructure Act 2025 the Secretary of State has introduced a new scheme of delegation intended to modernise local planning committees by setting out which applications will be delegated and determined by officers (Schedule 1) and which will go to Committee (Schedule 2). The Regulations detail is still to be published. Once received, Mid Devon will be required to adopt the National Scheme and update Constitution and Scheme of Delegation. This system starts from 30/09/26 and decisions will be based on application stage evidence and national criteria. District Councillors will no longer be able to 'call-in' all applications. Mid Devon is still to consider whether it will introduce a "triage" system to assess which Schedule 2 applications go to committee. In parallel with these changes to the approach to decision making, government is also looking to streamline the appeals process, promoting the use of a fast-track approach to written representations appeals. The new system will require both planning applications and officer reports to be 'appeal ready' as the Planning Inspectorate will not consider new plans, reports or late submissions from appellants, interested parties or the Local Planning Authority (LPA). LPA planning officer planning reports must provide clear, well-reasoned decision notices and supporting documentation, planning conditions and S106 obligations, which must be fully justified. The new system is designed to 'submit once, submit right', and places a duty upon all to submit their argued case and supporting evidence 'once and right' as there will no later opportunity. This includes observations from parish councils as these will contribute to the reports of the LPA planning officer and will be taken forward to any appeal stage. Where the Planning Committee resolves to overturn officer recommendations, the appeal case is likely to comprise the committee minutes and decision notice. To support this change, the Planning Committee has requested training to ensure the minutes (previously a record of key discussion points only) will provide a comprehensive explanation of the reasons for refusal.

Parish Councils should comment at the application stage. Any comments made by interested parties during the application will be considered by the Inspector when deciding the appeal. Most appeals will be considered through written procedures - Part 1 (fast track within 12 weeks) or Part 2 (full written representations, 6-months) which has a very high bar leading to a hearing or inquiry. More detail will be available once the Regulations are published.

Parish Councils should note these national changes to the planning system.

Recycling Update - Recycling is becoming more important than ever, for the environment and for council finances. If all recyclable materials were put into the correct bins it would bring in up to £660,000 extra funding, as well as reducing the landfill cost. Currently £1.38 million is received each year through recycling-related funding. Over the coming year changes will be implemented to help make recycling easier and more effective. Extra recycling will be collected at busy times i.e. Christmas. Trials are planned for new recycling sacks (to help prevent seagull damage) along with potential collections for soft plastics and nappies. Requests for can be made for replacement food waste caddies with more campaigns to raise awareness about the Bin It 1-2-3 system.

MDDC is pleased to announce the launch of two new schemes to help residents who are struggling with the cost of living - the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF), and the Oil Support Scheme which are funded by the government as part of its response to rising living costs and financial hardship.

Funding Opportunity for Local Craftspeople - The Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QEST) has opened applications for funding to support talented and aspiring craftspeople across the UK with grants available for training and development - an excellent opportunity for anyone considering a career in craft.

Reports continued:

d) P3 Footpaths, Parish Paths & Silver Wood: Silver Wood - the bridge has been repaired. The Parish Council may need to undertake works on the boardwalk connecting the wood to the permissive path in the future. The Clerk will liaise with DCC and submit the grant forms and the Clerk and Cllr. Mrs Ellicott will meet with the DCC Public Rights of Way Warden over the summer to discuss future works. Dates of the upcoming walks have been publicised in the Parish magazine and KNet.

e) Any other reports: Cllr. Mrs Edwards (as assisting with the sessions) has submitted an article to the Parish magazine and KNet regarding the monthly Chill and Chat coffee morning.

82/06/26. Finance.

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

Direct Debits taken: 06/05 & 29/05 Nest £95.01, 11/05 EDF £50.88, 18/05 Lloyds Bank Service Charge £4.25, 29/05 Utility Warehouse £47.65.

b) Payments were approved:

Payment 1	£ 13.81	SMA Services. Payroll Provider.
Payment 2	£ 300.00	Helen Rose. Website & digital communications.
Payment 3	£ 1070.21	Clerk – salary and expenses.
Payment 4	£ 414.00	R&R Services Ltd. Grass maintenance contract.
Payment 5	£ 689.52	MDDC. Bin emptying

c) Quotation for Data Protection Officer and GDPR support. Following notification that Microshade VSM is no longer providing Data Protection Officer and GDPR support a quotation of £165 from Parish & Town Audit Services was agreed.

d) Annual Clifford Pike Memorial Walk – it was agreed for a budget of approximately £200 for light refreshments at The Wyndham Arms.

e) Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) & Audit 2025/26. *Details circulated to all in advance.*

(i) Internal audit – the internal audit report was noted. *No matters of concern.* **(ii)** Section 1 – The Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 was approved and signed. **(iii)** Section 2 - The Accounting Statements for 2025/26 were (a) considered (b) approved and (c) signed by the Chairman of the meeting.

f) Expenses - Government support package re: claims for mileage. It was noted that the government had announced tax relief on .55p per mile up to 10,000 miles backdated to 01/04/26. The Clerk will confirm in an expenses policy that the internal mileage rate claim for those incurring mileage will be .55p per mile, backdated to 01/04/26 if applicable.

g) Any other financial matters: None.

83/06/26. Kentisbeare Play Area and Pump Track: The Clerk reported that there may be a revision in the grass cutting costs; to be discussed at the next meeting. The Clerk will meet with the Landing Sites Officers from Devon Air Ambulance Trust shortly as the annual site survey is carried out. The Advisory Group will meet on site in the coming days following which a meeting will be arranged with the contractor.

84/06/26. Correspondence & Any Consultations.

Correspondence: Thank you from Kentisbeare Football Club. Invitation to the Churches Houses Action Team (CHAT) AGM. Generic emails.

Blackdown Healthy Living & Activity Centre - Support for local communities: Questionnaire and the Blackdown Healthy Living & Activity Centre activity report from April 2025 – March 2026. Cllr. Mrs Irene Edwards to complete.

85/06/26. Items for information, future agenda items, and dates of future meetings. July meeting – date tbc. Summer recess – no meeting planned for August.