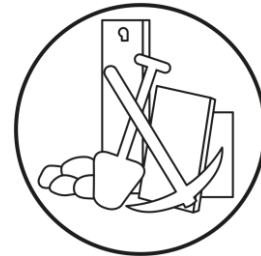


Keinton Mandeville Parish Council Newsletter Issue 10: April - June 2026



Somerset Council Matters

Somerset Council (SC) approved a balanced budget in March 2026, with council tax rising by just under 5%.

Bridgwater's new battery factory will create 4,000 jobs, alongside opportunities at Hinkley Point and Leonardo in Yeovil, helping young people stay locally.

Large rural developments may affect village character, while rising building costs are delaying schemes and creating uncertainty.

Councillor Page chairs the Avalon and Polden LCN, which includes Keinton Mandeville Parish Council. LCNs are under review.

Galion Homes section 106 payments: a new instalment agreement has been reached, and Galion has paid for the first two instalments, including Somerset Council's legal costs and interest. The Parish Council (PC) thank Councillor Page for pursuing this long-standing issue.

Parish Council Matters

Councillor Trevor Ryder has resigned from the PC and has been replaced by Mr Hugh von Bergen, who has also taken on the role of Vice Chair. There is still a vacancy for another councillor – please contact the Clerk if you would be interested.

Planning Issues

Somerset Council is still negotiating the Section 106 agreement for the 100-house development to the west of the village; the Area Planning Committee is likely to reconsider the application. This will probably delay the decision on this development by several months, so the PC, advised by SHOCK, is considering changing legal counsel for one with stronger public law experience. This could considerably strengthen the case in a Judicial Review.

SC have asked for the PC's input on naming the nine-dwelling Queen Street development. Councillors did not support a name including "Mews" and suggested "Queens Close".

Traffic and Highways Issues

The PC has begun the work of removing unnecessary site direction signs, although some must remain until the roads on Lakeview are completed and adopted by Somerset Highways.

The PC is seeking new quotes for drains and gullies clearance as the current contractor, Kier, has not started the work.

The ongoing saga of the village centre fingerpost sign replacement continues – the "fingers" have been collected, but a new contractor is needed for the post.

The village 20mph scheme is still to be completed and will eventually include more road roundels and additional repeater signs – the PC are "chasing" Somerset Highways for dates this work will be undertaken.

The Kerb edge by the shop has been repaired, and the collapsed drain at the shop crossroads has been reported to Somerset Highways.

The PC have been assured that Castle Street parking issues should ease once works finish at Castle House and the car park reopens.

The PC have been notified that work on the Lydford and Lovington traffic lights will start in September 2026, with temporary four-way lights and some closures, even during autumn school term. There will be considerable traffic disruption.

Footpaths and other Maintenance

The PC has either completed or contracted for improvements on a number of village paths. These include repairs to the kissing gates north of the Village Hall and the south end of Row Lane, removing the large stone obstruction and resurfacing the pathway between Lakeview and the Village Hall, repairs to the fencing and wire mesh covering on the sleeper bridge west of the Village Hall.

Work is expected to commence soon on resurfacing the Babcary Lane footpath south of Castle Street.

The “Home of Blue Lias” sign to the west of the village has been repaired and replaced.

Residents are reminded that motorized scooters should not be ridden on the Trim Trail at the Village Hall; incidents have been reported to our PCSO.

Newsletter and Website

The PC’s new website is up and running and a link can be found at the end of this newsletter. We are intending to upload all copies of this newsletter onto the website as soon as possible. You can still subscribe to receive a copy by email by contacting the Clerk (see below). A few paper copies will be available at the Shop, Quarry Inn and Newlands Farm.

Grants, Donations and other Awards

The PC is pleased to be able to award the following grants;

£140 to Keinton Mandeville Women’s Institute to provide first aid training for any residents wishing to improve their first aid skills.

£195 for Community Transport to provide transport to appointments for people in the village who do not have their own transport. Nearby parishes have also been asked to contribute as they use the service as well.

Keinton Environment Group

The PC have reported the filling in of the Newt Ponds at Copia, on Lakeview, to the Police, Somerset Planning and the Environment Agency as this is potentially a breach of environmental law and planning conditions. The PC is considering adopting a dark skies policy for the village at the request of KEG.

Neighbourhood Planning Group

The group is now in the process of finalising version 12 of the draft plan (the last newsletter reported version 10 was being written) with modifications to cover updates in the NPPF and new planning developments in the village. This version will be submitted to SC and consultants, with feedback hopefully in time for the next newsletter in October.

Next Meetings

The next PC meetings are on 1st September and 6th October. A meeting could be called on 4th August if there are important matters which need immediate discussion and action. Meetings take place in the Village Hall and start at 7.30pm with the public session. All are welcome to attend.

Contact the Parish Council

Email: clerk@keintonmandevilleparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: <https://keintonmandevilleparishcouncil.gov.uk>

Contact the Environment Group

Facebook; [\(5\) Keinton Environment Group \(KEG\) | Facebook](#)

Email; info@keintonenvironmentgroup.org.uk