

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2010 in Knowstone Parish Hall

Due to the ill health of the clerk Mr J Wilkinson, notes were taken and minutes produced by Mrs O M Smith

Present Clr J Stanbury (Chair) Clr C Watson, Clr C Howe, Clr J Smith, Clr D Blackburn,
Five members of the public.
Dstr Clr E Ley,
PCSO J Rozputynski (Yorky)

1 Public Questions

The members of public asked a number of questions and the questions raised were carried forward into the meeting.

PCSO Yorky said that there were no reported incidents of crime within the parish. Property Marking Kits in the form of DNA Glue (Selecta DNA) are available for purchase at £19 plus vat. Costs could be reduced if enough members of the public were interested to £13 per set.

The glue is sufficient to mark approx 200 items with a code personalised to the purchaser. It is thought that the use of this product could reduce incidents of Burglary by approx 85%. Clr Blackburn asked if the glue could be easily scraped off and PCSO Yorky explained that it was not easy to do that, and in fact it would cause the particles that can be detected by ultra violet to spread and contaminate the surrounding area and the person concerned.

Clr Howe asked about topping up the kit, or if a larger kit is available? PCSO Yorky will enquire but as each kit is personalised to the purchaser then two kits could be purchased.

Action:

A list was produced at the meeting of all interested parties and given to PCSO Yorky. Posters to be put on the Parish notice boards alerting parishioners about these packs and to contact PCSO Yorky if they wish to acquire one.

Clr Smith to arrange for this.

2 Apologies.

An apology was received from Clr Vos.

3 Minutes.

The minutes of the January meeting were signed as correct after amendment.

4 Declaration of Interest.

Clr Blackburn declared an interest in item 7.2 Planning Application 49448.

5 Highways.

5.1 Clr Howe had written to the NDDC concerning the road marking on the A 361 and as yet there has been no reply.

Clr Watson reported progress re the tree planting at the picnic area. Quotes are being obtained by the NDC and the tree planting could commence before the end of this financial year or at the beginning of the next. Ms M Hind is the new contact.

Clr Watson confirmed that Mr Edwards has verbally acknowledged that he has located the correspondence re the gritting of the public highway through the village, although no E Mail confirmation has yet been received.

Action:

Clr Watson will monitor progress on this.

A discussion was started regarding the need for a snowplough to be located in the Parish. Clr Stanbury confirmed that he had been able to clear the snow from the lanes with the use of a 7' bucket attached to his tractor, and help from the local community. Clr Smith asked about personal liability should an accident occur after clearance of snow; Clr Blackburn explained that there is a great deal of confusion over this matter, however, provided there is no proof of negligence or intent to cause injury there would be no case to answer. Clr Stanbury expressed his intention to check his farm insurance on this issue. Clr Howe expressed a concern that if a snowplough was to be purchased, where would it be kept and would other settlements in the Parish have access to it?

Action:

No action to be taken now; Clr Watson suggested waiting until later in the year to make further inquiries.

The meeting was opened to the public and Clr Blackburn and Mrs Newton updated the Parish Council re Harpson/Hitisford Lane. Mrs Newton had met with Mr Pettifer (NDC) on 5th February and they discussed the resurfacing of the lane, Mrs Newton raised the issue of the roadside drainage pipes with Mr Pettifer he will report back on this to Mrs Newton. A telephone conversation with Mr Edwards (NDC) also took place and it was suggested that rubber tyres could be used as a base for the re-surfacing of the lane; funds for this should become available in the new financial year.

The matter of the conflicting signposting at either end of the Harpson/Hitisford lane was raised and Clr Howe informed the meeting that two new metal posts have been erected (possibly for new signage). Clr Blackburn and Mrs Newton will monitor the situation.

Action

Clr Watson to monitor Tree Planting and Gritting.

Clerk to bring issue of the snowplough back to the meeting in September.
Clr Blackburn to monitor the Harpison/Hitisford Lanes situation.

5.2 A member of the public raised concerns about the cattle grid that had previously been repaired. Many potholes still need to be repaired. More information needed on the situation.

Action:

Clr Stanbury confirmed that The Moors Management Committee would follow up the matter of the rubbish that has been left in a local lay-by.

6 Consideration Core Strategy Document.

Clr Watson gave a brief overview of the core strategy document; there was a brief discussion on the main points and the implications for Knowstone.

Action

After discussion it was decided that a letter should be sent to NDDC to query: (1) the very short time allowed for consultation (2) the need for more transport links from/to Knowstone (3) the need for more Primary and Junior School places in the local community (4) developments at South Molton Market, no time scale appears to be evident.

Action:

Clr Watson to contact Clerk J Wilkinson re letter to be sent.

7 Planning

7.1 East Hill Farm: Clr Stanbury to consult J Wilkinson to confirm whether or not a letter had been sent to NDCC re their intentions for East Hill and mentioning the possibility of applying for a S. 215.

7.2 Clr Smith reported that (retrospective) planning application 49448 (Wild Boar Farm) had been received. This had been sent to the Knowstone Parish Council for information; Mr M Kelly was the case officer involved and understood that because this case had been going on for some time, and as Knowstone was an adjoining parish, the KPC opinion was being sought.

Clr Smith had received a letter from CPRE outlining numerous objections to the 49448 planning application. The letter has been added to the circulation file. District Clr Ley was asked his opinion on this matter and confirmed that (1) it had been an on-going application with no sign as yet of an outcome. (2) Various kinds of objections could be raised regarding this planning application. Clr Smith reported that a Non Material planning application No 49806 had been received after the agenda had been compiled re Cross Wood from a Mr J Reed. Members of the Parish Council were unfamiliar with this location and the meeting was opened to the public to confirm the whereabouts of this area. No further information was available.

Clr Stanbury confirmed that correspondence re the wind farm appeals had been received and will be added to the correspondence file.

In the light of public questions concerning the availability of the correspondence file, a discussion took place regarding who should be allowed to view it and in what circumstances? Also, how best to log the correspondence for ease of access and continuity? A tracking system for the correspondence file would be useful and should be implemented as soon as possible.

Action:

Clr Watson has the latest correspondence and will update the file.

Clr Stanbury to confirm if letter to NDCC re East Hill was sent.

Clr Smith to send letter re objections to the planning application for Wild Boar Farm

Clr Smith to confirm location re application for Cross Wood

8 Finance

8.1 Clr Howe proposed ratification of cheque re website development, this was seconded by Clr Blackburn.

9 Report from District Councillor.

District Clr Ley contributed to the discussion on the Boar Farm and listed a number of objections that could be used, and reported that he had been invited to attend a meeting on-site to review the situation. Clr Smith reported an interest in attending the meeting (for information) and Clr Ley would confirm later if that were a possibility.

10 Report from County Councillor.

The County Councillor did not attend.

11 Parish Development.

No report was made.

12 Parish Pan

Mr Morgans had nothing to report as all items had been covered.

13 Footpaths

13.1 Clr Smith reported that the annual P3 return had been sent to Richard Spurway for the year 2009-2010. This included a special bid for funds to enable thorn scrub clearance on pathway No 3. It appears that return forms from previous years had not yet been located and Clr Smith expressed concerns that any monies received for the P3 scheme were no longer itemised within the general accounts. Some items relating to P3 finances were thought to be with the auditors. Clr Smith reported that a Mr John Baker was now the footpath warden in the local area including Knowstone Parish. A meeting with Mr Baker would be arranged for mid March and matters concerning the first cut of the season and other possible schemes requiring funding would be discussed. If a suitable footpath renovation project could be identified, Clr Smith would complete a further application for funding, from a Community Funding Scheme, by the April deadline.

Action

Clr Smith to meet with new Footpath Warden to identify a suitable footpath project for community funding.

14 Windfarms

Re the Batsworthy application: Clr Watson reported that NDDC might well support the application; if this were to happen it would cause problems for objections. It appears that no anemometer mast had been erected on the potential site; it was thought that a 2-year period for data collection was normal practice.

15 Website

Clr Smith reported that the initial site framework was complete and had been tested. Photographs are being collected and a meeting has been arranged with Mrs Thelma Willmetts to gather historical information from the Parish archives. The website is expected to go live in late March early April.

Action

Clr Smith to contact Web Development Company and check progress

Co-option

Clr Blackburn informed the meeting that the candidate was not able to attend the meeting.

Action

Clr Blackburn to confirm if potential candidate is still interested and it is viable for him to attend the meeting.

Social Housing

Councillors did not think that Mr Savage had been contacted and would arrange the matter for another meeting.

Land Transfers Deleted from the list.**Neighbourhood Watch**

New signs to be sought for the Parish it was thought that SWEB had taken the old ones away. PCSO Yorky to inquire about price for new ones. Clr Stanbury suggested that the neighbourhood watch co-ordinators could be involved with this matter.

Action

Clr Stanbury to arrange for letters to be sent.

Correspondence.

A letter was read from a parishioner regarding a parish notice board. A discussion then took place re the use of the notice boards, are they for use of the community at large, or just for the use of the Parish Council? The meeting

was opened to members of the public and the following comments were made:
Clr Watson "Parish Council information must be displayed on the notice board.
Clr Watson has updated the contact information on all notice boards."

Clr Smith "An earlier agreement had allowed the shared use of the notice Boards."

Clr Howe "All that is needed is common sense and outdated items removed as necessary"

Members of the public comments were also heard and after some discussion it was decided that Parish Council notices would take precedence, but parishioners would be able to place notices that concerned the local community, (but could they please be removed once deemed to be out of date?).

Action:

Clr Blackburn would place a brief note concerning the proper use of the notice boards in the next publication of the newsletter.

All other correspondence was added to the file for circulation to the councillors

Members Report

Clr Watson suggested that some form of mechanism be put into place re non-attendance of the clerk (due to illness).

The meeting re Blackerton care home was cancelled Clr Stanbury to ascertain what is happening with this.

The meeting closed at 9.35

Date of the next meeting is 23rd March 2010 at 7.30 pm

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