

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting which took place on Tuesday March 23rd 2010.

Clerk: John Wilkinson, 4 Silver way, Shobrooke, Crediton, Devon, EX17 1HP
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Present. Cllr J. Stanbury (ch) Cllr K. Howe, Cllr C. Watson, Cllr D. Blackburn,
Cllr J. Smith, Cllr R. Vos. Seven members of the public.

1. Public Questions.

It was reported that the drain by Sidemoor and the Chipping Depot was blocked allowing the flood water to erode the road surface.

Action: The Clerk was asked to report this to the Highway Authority.

2. Apologies.

An apology was received from Cllr E. Ley.

3. Minutes.

Due to a misprint in the agenda, the February minutes could not be signed. The February and March Minutes will be considered together at the April 2010 meeting.

4. Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Blackburn declared a personal interest in item 7:2

5. Highways.

Cllr Watson had met Mr. T Edwards and the following was discussed-

- (1). Agreement was reached about the need to drain the Village pond in order to reduce the danger from flooding.
- (2) The white lines at the junction of Kidland and Harpson were too close to the junction on the A361 and the white lines and markings on that road were breaking up generally.
- (3) Hittisford Lane – the County Council is responsible for the upkeep of this byway, they are also responsible for the upkeep of the footbridge across the stream and will improve the 'grip' of the walking surface by attaching wire mesh.
- (4) Planings from other jobs are being used on Harpson/Hittisford Lanes and these have been packed down rather better on Hittisford Lane which has caused the water to drain down the left hand side of the into a culvert.
- (5) Cllr Watson has been provided with a copy of all the correspondence in this matter
- (6) The County Council accepted responsibility for gritting the HGV route through the village.

(7) Replanting of the damaged Picnic site will begin after April 2010.

6. Planning.

(1) 49448 Wild Boar Farm. KPC and the CPRE had both lodged objections to the scheme; there was consensus that there was no agricultural need for the proposed building.

(2) 49781 Application for a 20KW turbine, 18metres high at Beech Grove Farm. A site visit was convened to examine the possible impact of this mast on the landscape. The feeling of the members was that the mast will have considerable impact on the surrounding area.

Action: (i) Cllr Watson and Cllr Howe were asked to organise a site visit and report back
(ii) Cllr Smith was asked to lodge an initial objection to the on-line planning forum, a more detailed case for the objection would be presented later.

(3) The Middle Hill application has been refused, there is no agricultural need recognised. Although there have been dwellings there for sixty years, the Certificate of Lawfulness only covers the temporary accommodation. Permission could well have been granted had the application been limited to a replacement of a mobile home but log cabins on foundations were not acceptable. There has to be allowance for the impact on the environment and regard taken for the amount of money spent in this regard by the Exmoor National Park.

There was a report by Cllr Watson about the Planning Emergency Session. The suggestion arising from this was that the occurrences of last winter – local flooding etc, there should be procedures in place to deal with them by next winter. The effect of the representations was to move the importance of the Village Plan further up the list of priorities in importance. The County Council will allow the PC to employ outsiders on a temporary basis to carry out specific tasks – snow clearing etc. The only rider to this is that an experienced highway engineer present. This was often impracticable.

Action: The Clerk was asked to look out the insurance position/liabilities in this event.

Mr Ken Dykes presented a file containing all the preceding matters, and explained that due to personal circumstances he was unable to continue in the capacity of Emergency Convenor. He reported that persons named in the plan had to give their permission to be included.

7. Finance.

The cheque for the Clerk's salary and expenses was proposed for payment by Cllr Watson and seconded by Cllr Howe with all in favour.

Due to a number of serious shortcomings in the service offered by Alliance and Leicester, a

letter of complaint is to be sent to the Manager pointing out the various faults occurring over the years and requesting that the appropriate signatories for the account be set up as required. If this was not done by the end of the month there would be recourse to the Banking Ombudsman.

Action: The Clerk to write a letter of complaint and liaise with Cllr Vos to agree the wording and monitor the situation.

8. Report from District Councillor.

Cllr Ley had made an apology for absence.

9. Report from County Councillor

The County Councillor did not attend.

10. Parish development.

There were no reports.

11. Parish Plan.

There were no reports save that there was to be a meeting on 21st April.

12. Footpaths.

A new Footpath Warden with responsibility for the P3 scheme in Knowstone has been appointed and a meeting with him would be useful for future planning.

Action: Cllr Smith to arrange a meeting with the new Footpath Warden, Mr John Baker, in April.

13. Windfarms.

The time for any appeal against the findings of the enquiry by Scottish Electric has now passed.

14. Website.

- (1) Some members of the parish had donated photographs for inclusion on the website
- (2) It is anticipated that the site will go live by the end of April.
- (3) The development of reciprocal links with other web sites will raise the 'visibility' of the KPC website.
- (4) The members agreed that there should be a set of protocols for deciding which organisations should or could appear on the KPC website.

Action: Cllr Smith to check the situation and report next meeting.

15. Housing Needs Survey.

This could best be accessed by contacting Eric savage through Cllr Ley.

16. Annual Parish Meeting.

This was set for Thursday 22nd April at 7.30 pm. in Knowstone Village Hall. It was agreed that there should be a guest speaker, and the various parish clubs and activity groups will be asked to give a report.

Action: Cllr Smith undertook to engage a guest speaker and to post a notice of the meeting on the three main notice boards – Knowstone, East Knowstone and Roachill.

17. Correspondence.

The printed matter received by the Clerk was presented.

18. Members' Reports.

(1) A letter was received from Mr Spottiswoode complaining about the overgrown condition of Highway 21 where the trailing brambles are giving trouble to passing horses and riders.

Action: The Clerk to contact the County Council.

(2) The question was asked (by a member of the parish) as to whether any Councillors attended to Association of Parish councils meetings.

Action: Cllrs Howe and Watson undertook to investigate the viability of attendance.

(3) Matters arising from the parish Plan meeting will be reported to the Parish council.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

The next meeting will be Tuesday 27th April 2010.
