

ANNUAL MEETING OF KNOWSTONE PARISH

Minutes of the meeting held in the Parish Hall Knowstone 19 May 2014 at 7.30pm.

Present:

A list of those present is set out below

1. Apologies:

1.1 Cllr Jeremy Yabsley DCC, Cllr John Stanbury , Mrs R Barfoot

2. Opening address:

2.1 The Chairman of the Knowstone Parish Council (KPC) welcomed those present from the Parish (as well as the guest speaker Police Insp. Roger Bartlett) and gave a short address to open the meeting.

2.2 The minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting having been circulated in advance of the meeting were approved subject to subject to minor corrections

3. Chairman's Report:

3.1 The Chairman gave a report on events in the parish over the past 12 months – see attached report for detail

4. Local Group reports

4.1 The meeting received reports from the following:

a. Parochial Parish Council

Cllr Howe reported that the PCC committee was "compact" comprising The Rev Andrew Jones and Reg Howe, Cath Morgans, Christine Watson Valerie Reynolds and Barbara Osborne. The PCC was looking for new members and volunteers were called on to step forward.

Bill Bucknell's retirement tea had been well supported; Bill has stood down as church warden but will continue to look after the churchyard.

The Rev Andrew Jones will retire in June; he will be replaced by The Rev David Baker who will be taking charge of all 11 parishes in the Oakmoor Group. The rectory at Bishops Nympton is to be sold.

Cllr Howe was upbeat about the success of the PCC. Although regular congregations were low the church had continued to function and major events such as Easter, Christmas and the Harvest festivals were very well supported. The church has been successful with fund raising events and Cllr Howe would like encourage bell ringing and to re-establish a tower team.

For full details see attached report

b. Village Hall Committee

Ken Dykes reported on the use of the hall over the past 12 months which he says are slightly down on previous years.

Grants have been secured to help plant the front garden and clear a path around the building for use in emergency, a second grant had been secured to put towards buying a commercial dishwasher for the hall.

There are plans to redecorate the outside and volunteers are called for to help raise funds.

The hall is used regularly by several clubs such as keep fit, dance, and Tai Chi as well as music practice coffee mornings bingo etc. but anybody who wants use the hall to set up a local club or just to use on an ad hoc basis should speak to Mr Dykes.

Volunteers for the hall committee are required in particular from the Gardening Club and PCC). (see attached report for further details)

For full details see attached report

c. Moors Management

Cllr Morgans reported that Knowstone Moor is managed by the MMA in assoc with Natural England.

The MMA would like the moor grazed by 100/110 cattle from May to end of Sept/beginning of October but the MMA was having to deal with new restrictions on movement of cattle deigned to control bovine TB. The moor is common ground and can not be fenced. New movement restrictions will require that cattle are TB tested before they go out onto the moor and each time they come off it and return to the homestead.

If implemented in its current state this will make grazing the moor unattractive to local farmers which will have adverse knock on effect in terms of profitability of local livestock farmers, the fabric of the moor itself and conceivable the payment received by the community as rent for the land.

This is potentially a very serious issue but the MMA are working on trying to resolve it before the new rules come into effect in June 2014.

David Morgans was thanked by the meeting for his efforts on behalf of the community.

d. Garden Club

For full details see attached report

e. Music In Knowstone

Trevor Reynolds reported that the music group had "morphed" into a band called the "hat Pack" which played together regularly both in the hall and at other venues. Anybody who wanted to come along and play an instrument was welcome and the repertoire was not limited to the swing/trad style of the Hat Pack ; any music tastes would be encouraged.

f. Dance Club

Mr Ken Dykes reported. The Dance Club meets in the hall alternate Wednesdays October to April.

For full details see attached report

g. Art Club

Katie Gregory had provided a written report.

For full details see attached report

h. Knowstone Horse and Pony Show

Cllr S Howe in her role as secretary to the Horse show updated the meeting on developments. The Horse show will NOT run this year.

There will however be a Pony Club show at the end of June; whether or not the larger horse show returns next year or subsequently depends on helpers coming forward and a suitable venue being available.

5. Guest Speaker – Police Insp Roger Bartlett

Police Insp Roger Bartlett of Ilfracombe gave a very interesting and enlightening presentation on policing rural North Devon.

Despite the restraints of tight budgets North Devon is still a very safe place to live; there are few acts of criminality and residents could sleep safe and sound in their beds without concerns.

The Powerpoint presentation will be available on the village website.

6. Open Discussion

a. HGV signs

Philip and Jan Sealy (The Old Chapel) – Felt the new signs on the moor were having a beneficial effect on the volume of HGV traffic attempting to make the turn at the bottom of Traceys Hill. This sentiment was echoed by Mike Smith (Valley Rise) and Sue Brooks (Manor Cottage).

b. Speed restrictions

David Morgans (Roachill House) commented on the problem with getting speed restrictions applied in rural areas such as ours

c. Community Bus

John Smith (Anstice Cottage) gave a report on the operation of the community bus and confirmed that he believed that the holders of bus passes issued by any local authority in England could make use of the service FOC.

The 16 seater bus is available for private hire at reasonable rates.

d. Village Website

John Smith (Anstice Cottage) reminded the meeting to check the village website for details of events and local businesses and anybody planning an event could contact him to have their event publicised on the website

e. Purchase of Land

John Smith (Anstice Cottage) led a discussion regarding the proposal to use the compensation monies paid following the construction of the A361 North Devon Link Road to purchase a piece of amenity land for the use and benefit of the community.

Approx £25,000 is available and it is proposed to approach DCC Farm Estates to buy ground from what was formerly East Hill Farm for use by the community. It is envisaged that the land being agricultural land could be used – meg for taking hay or silage- to generate an income for the community to cover the costs of ownership when not in use for community activity.

Cllr Eric Ley (North Devon Council) contributing to the general discussion and answering questions

Contributions from:

Steve Cann (Chulla Park),	Jeremy Filmer-Bennett (Ladymead)
Anthony Vigus (Eastacott)	Ken Dykes (Rose Meadow)
Mike Smith (Valley Rise)	
Richard Vos (Roachill Farm)	John Smith (Anstice Cottage)
David Morgans (Roachill House)	Olwen Smith (Anstice Cottage)

After discussion a vote was taken:

“The Meeting authorises the Knowstone Parish Council to enter into negotiations with Devon County Council to buy land as a Community asset”

Voting: For the proposal: (22), Against :(0), Abstentions; (2)

The above motion was passed

Meeting Closed

There being no further business the meeting Closed at 10:25 pm

Minutes prepared by Richard Vos (Parish Clerk) 21 May 2014

Attendees List

Knowtsone Parish Council : Cllr John Smith, Cllr David Morgans, Cllr Robert Barfoot, Cllr Reg Howe, Cllr Suzanne Howe, Cllr Anthony Vigus, Richard Vos (Clerk)

Community : T Reynolds, I Brooks, Mrs S Brooks, Mrs C Watson, Mrs O Smith, M Smith, S Cann, Ms L Severene, J Filmer-Bennett, Mrs E Filmer-Bennett, Mrs R Newton, Mrs W Vigus, Mrs T Wilmetts, K Dykes, Mrs C Dykes, Ms S Coffin, S Sealy, Mrs J Sealy, J Westacott

Also in attendance:

District Councillor E. Ley
Police Inspector Roger Bartlett