

KNOWSTONE PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

26th April 2013 at 7.30pm at the Knowstone Parish Hall

1. **Apologies:** C Morgans & B. Barfoot.
Present: 10 members of the public.
2. **Election of Chairperson.**
D. Morgans proposed J. Smith, seconded by C. Howe.
Carried unanimously.
Mr Smith then chaired the rest of the meeting.
3. **Minutes** from meeting on 2nd May 2013.
The minutes were approved and signed.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes (not on the agenda).**
There was a hearing last week in the High Court at Bristol following the inspectors ruling in favour of npower. That had been challenged hence the review. The result of that hearing was not available at this time. If the judge rules for npower then the wind farm will go ahead. If he rules against npower then the fight starts all over again.
5. **Annual reports from the Parish Committees and Parish Clubs and Societies.**
Full reports from the following are attached to the minutes held in the Parish files:
Shapscott Barton: due to the very wet winter and very cold start to spring there have been some plant losses and a very slow start to the spring bulbs causing them to have to cancel the April Garden Open Day.
Village Hall: The hall is being used 2 to 3 days a week on average and we have a new secretary in Wendy Vigus due to Flora leaving the parish. Jubilee Celebration night was the highlight of the year. A new sound system, projector and DVD player have been purchased with the help of a grant from the Devon Community Foundation and County Councillor, J. Yabsley. There are improvements being made to the car park thanks to grants from the National Lottery's "Awards for all" and the Knowstone Parish Council.

Knowstone Parish Council

Report given by new chairman Cllr John Smith who thanked the previous chair Cllr John Stanbury for the long years of excellent service he has given to the parish as chairman. Following the resignation of Cllr D. Blackburn due to relocation there is a vacancy for a parish councillor.

Wind farm applications have dominated the agenda this year and thanks go to Cllr Bob Barfoot for his untiring work, nationally and locally, informing and advising communities on how to evaluate and respond to these applications.

Highways Issues are always ongoing and thanks go to Cllrs C Howe and D Morgans for their active and valued work in this area and to Mr Richard Sables of DCC Highways for addressing local problems when they arise.

A special mention and thanks to Cllrs Stanbury and Vigus for the time and effort they put in to clear the roads following snow storms to the benefit of all.

Thanks go to Cllrs Stanbury, Barfoot and Morgans with the Moors Management Association.

The Council supported the Jubilee Celebrations and the leaving party for Mr Fred Camp (postman) held in the village hall. Special thanks to Mr Ken Dykes as the chairman of the Village hall committee for his proactive approach to fundraising and joint enterprises with the KPC.

East Hill Farm: KPC has attempted to move this issue on, without success at this time but we will continue to push for a resolution.

Knowstone Moors Management Association.

Apologies from Mr Barfoot, the Association secretary for his absence, the report was presented by Mr D. Morgans.

The Management Rules and regulations were updated during the year in line with national requirements.

A small piece of land up by Haresdown Bridge was the subject of a query and we were forced to conclude that it was in fact owned by South West Water. It was included in a proposed sale of SW Water lands. The Association bid for the land and were successful in securing it.

Swaling in the winter months was jeopardised by the weather although the firebrakes and gorse cutting was completed.

Fencing repairs have been made which will allow grazing to commence at the start of May.

PCC

The report was presented by Mr. R. Howe. They are actively fundraising and their income over the last year was £9000.00 against £6000.00 expenditure. The Horse show income is very much appreciated. Raising income in the future is always a worry.

They made donations to the following charities: Woman's refuge, Devon Air Ambulance and The Childrens Hospice.

Three parishes have been chose to have wind turbines erected, Black Torrington, East Anstey and Chittlehampton.

The heating in the church has not been done yet.

Knowstone Horse Show

To ensure the future of the show there is a need for secretarial help and due to the Batsworthy Wind turbines a new location for the show will be required.

Garden Club

Sara Harrison was unable to attend but sent the following:

The garden club, with the injection of new committee members to replace those established members retiring this year looks to be continuing with growing numbers. There is a full schedule of events for the year ahead and we will be advertising these to encourage as many guests/ new members as possible.

6. Reports from District/County Councillors if present.

Eric Ley, our district councillor updated us on the local Plan and the need to be proactive. There has been a fall in the number of wind turbines being applied for with only approx 1 in 5 being approved. There are applications in for solar panel farms in adjoining parishes. The development of the care village has gone quiet.

Jeremy Yabsley updated us on the savings the county council has had to make and th 500 jobs that will not be replaced. 2 million pounds is being spent to repair potholes.

He will have £1000.00 to spend in grants for community projects. In response to a question on nursing & care homes in Devon he told us that 4 had major problems and 72 were adequate. He went on to tell us about the satellite broadband project which is determined by your postcode. For more information www.connectingdevon&somerset.co.uk

7. Update on proposed maintenance and improvements to footpaths and rights of way.

Mr J. Smith presented the NDDCs plans for improvements to the footpath and rights of way in the parish. This included replacing old stiles with gates and other repairs. There were very informative and interesting plans and photo's available to peruse.

8. Meeting open for questions and discussions.

There were two topics of discussion, the first centred on the need to find a new field for the gymkhana. This led to a decision being made to look into whether it was feasible to buy a field at East Hill farm from NDDC with A361 compensation monies as a community field which would have a sorts of practical uses. Cllr Yabsley agreed to look into the feasibility of this with NDDC.

There was a discussion as to whether there could be a farmers market held in the village hall. It was felt to be a good idea and worth looking into.

Minutes prepared by Sheila M. Beeney (Parish Clerk)