

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Knowstone Parish Council held in the Parish Hall Knowstone, on 18th December 2012, starting at 7.30pm.

Present: S Beeney (Parish Clerk) Cllrs. J Smith (Chairman), R Barfoot, C Howe, J Stanbury (left after item 8), D Morgans, D Blackburn and A Vigus (arrived item 6)

In Attendance: County Cllr J Yabsley, District Cllr E Ley and 3 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr J Stanbury needs to leave early. County Cllr Yabsley may be late.
2. **Minutes**
The minutes were signed as a true record.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
R Barfoot declared an interest in item 7.4
4. **Matters arising from the minutes (not on the agenda)**
 - 4.1 J Stanbury apologised for not attending the interview for the new parish clerk.
 - 4.2 Thanks were given to R Howe for obtaining the necessary bank statements. He reported that the bank was very helpful.
 - 4.3 It was confirmed that the letter of thanks to former councillors had been sent.
5. **Police Report**
There was no one present to report.
6. **Public Questions**
 - 6.1 Mrs Barfoot asked if letters of thanks had been sent to 2 previous Cllrs and was assured that this had now been done.
 - 6.2 Mrs Newton enquired as to the financial records and was assured that these are now up to date.
 - 6.3 R Howe asked Cllr Yabsley why there are no longer several warning vehicles in front of the verge cutting vehicle on the North Devon Link road. He said that the contractors must feel that 1 was sufficient and they do have to control their budgets. The Council is having issues with the best way to contract this service. Everything is done from the centre and not locally. Companies are not keen to tender.
 - 6.4 R Howe asked County Cllr Yabsley if following the trimming of hedges the litter that is then uncovered could be picked up. Unfortunately responsibility for litter is with another contractor which makes it unworkable.
7. **Finance**
 - 7.1 **Finance Report:** Cllr Smith handed round an update and explained the financial position at present.
 - 7.2 **Accounts to settle:** Our CPRE membership has lapsed despite a cheque being written. It would appear that it either wasn't sent or it got lost in the post. This

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cheque will be cancelled and another sent. The chairman was given a vote of thanks for his work sorting out the finances. ACTION: JS to cancel previous ch and raise new one

7.3 Precepts and grants: We have received an email confirming receipt of our Precept application.

7.4 Batsworthy Cross Statutory Review: Cllr Barfoot reported that this is likely to cost the claimant upwards of £30,000.00. Fundraising is being undertaken to raise this money. He asked if the Parish Council would feel able to make a donation to this cause as the outcome will affect the whole Parish. Cllr Morgan suggested donating £3000.00, to be taken from the interest from the compensation fund and from the Moors Management budget. Cllr Blackburn proposed the above and it was seconded by Cllr Howe. The proposal was carried unanimously.

8. Planning: (discussed out of turn before 7 to allow Cllr Stanbury to leave.)

8.1 54684. Prior approval Application, erection of agricultural building at land at Luckett Moor Molland. Cllr Stanbury had been asked by an adjacent landowner to the site what the reasons for wanting to put it where requested as it was not in relation to any other farm buildings. Although the applicant had stated that it was not visible from the road this was felt not to be the case. It was felt to be sited in a prominent position and would have an adverse impact. There would appear to be no justification at this time. It also appeared that the grid reference was incorrect and needs to be challenged. All agreed that an objection is registered on the above grounds.

8.2 West Hill Appeal Hearing: This was on 4th December 2012 and was attended by Cllr Morgans. The appeal has been allowed with conditions attached. In brief:

- the residential occupation of the dwelling shall be limited to Mr and Mrs Fletcher-gaunt only so long as Mrs Fletcher-Gaunt remains in occupation.
- Residential occupation of the building shall be restricted solely to those areas occupied at the time of the notice and no residential use beyond those limits shall occur without the formal consent of the Local Planning Authority.
- Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (general Permitted Development) Order 1995 (or any order revoking and re-enacting that order) express planning permission shall be obtained for any development within classes A-H of Part 1 and class A of Part 2 of schedule 2 of the order.

It was felt that it is important that future councils are aware of these conditions. The Chairman thanked Cllr Morgans for his report and for attending the hearing.

8.3 Applications received after preparation of the Agenda.

No applications had been received but R Howe said that revised plans are being submitted by Mr and Mrs Day at the Schoolhouse. The church wall

will remain an independent structure and not be used as load bearing or form an integral part of the new structure.

9. Report from District Councillor

At the Chairmans request Cllr Ley outlined the concept of the Leader 4 project. This is funding to be used for sizeable community projects and it was felt that Blackerton and the Minibus Project may well attract funding from this source. He was unsure how much of the budget had already been allocated. He also stated that the Local Plan is due out at the end of January 2013.

10. Report from County Councillor

Cllr Yabsley explained that we could apply for a TAP grant in association with Oakford towards a mini bus as these grants are not dependent on council areas. The money goes into PC funds and you can use as necessary. This could possibly be up to £500.00.

11. Highways and Footpaths

11.1 Cllr Howe had nothing to report.

11.2 The government is making 10 million available to Devon for flood damage. Potholes are appearing all over the parish since the very wet autumn

11.3 Cllr Morgans has heard that South West Water are considering selling their reservoirs, County Cllr Yabsley replied that he had not heard of this.

11.4 Cllr Vigus is having a meeting next week with Highways re. availability of salt.

11.5 It was agreed that when it snows our salt supplies should be used to keep open the main routes in and out of the villages. We do not have enough to do the more remote areas. Parishoners can help themselves to salt from the bags around the parish if necessary.

11.6 It was agreed that we need to ensure that Highways keep our salt levels under revue and they are not allowed to get too low.

11.7 Highways acknowledged Cllr Morgans letter re. problems in the Parish.

11.8 A new post and double arrows is needed on footpath No. 6 at Middlecot Farm, East Knowstone. ACTION: JS to contact Footpath Warden.

11.9 Cllr Morgans has received a reply to his letter to the Rev Dr Andrew Jones re. the possibility of funds for sandbags. Funds are unlikely to be forthcoming.

12. Moors Management Report

The ground is extremely wet at present and the fire breaks will be cut when it is dry enough. Some of the fencing needs to be monitored as it is beginning to show signs of wear in places. Nothing needs to be done at present.

13. Knowstone Parish Council & Exe Valley Community Market Bus.

The Chairman reported that the pilot scheme had been well supported by the parish and that Exe Valley was pleased with the results and were happy to support a 6 month timetable. At the present cost per seat we need 16 to break even but for a small increase in cost they could break even at 13. If after 5 months we were no viable we could then give 1 months notice. We are looking to alternate on a weekly basis between Barnstaple and South Molton. To help with costs Oakford run a "1st Wednesday in the month" idea where they do trips to different venues

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for a day or evening out. This is very popular and is something we could consider on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Free bus passes can only be used on registered routes so could not be used on the Wednesday outings. We ideally need 6 or 7 drivers so we will need to find some more volunteers as we have 4 at present. Cllr Smith is looking into doing some market research to see if it may be viable to include Rackenford in our route. Cllr Barfoot suggested that the Moors Management fund could be used to help subsidise the bus.

A proposal was made by Cllr Smith that we should go ahead with the new timetable starting on April 4th 2013. This was seconded by Cllr Barfoot. The proposal was passed unanimously.

14. Correspondence File.

There was no outstanding correspondence.

15. Members' Reports

Cllr D Blackburns' resignation has been received due to his moving out of the parish and he feels that councillors should live within the parish boundaries. He was thanked for his good wishes to the council and thanked for his contribution to the parish and the community. The returning officer will be notified of his resignation. ACTION: SB to notify returning officer.

16. Date and time of next meeting:

Tuesday 22nd January 2013 at 7.30pm

ASmith
29/1/13

Minutes prepared by S Beeney (Parish Clerk)
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