

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Parish hall, Knowstone on 24th September 2013 at 7.30pm

Present: S. Beeney (Parish Clerk), Cllrs J. Smith (Chairman), B. Barfoot, R. Howe, C. Howe, D. Morgans, J. Stanbury, A. Vigus.

In Attendance: E. Ley (District Councillor) and 3 members of the public.

1. Apologies: J. Yabsley (County Councillor)

2. Minutes.

Amendments were made as follows (amendments in red)

4. Cllr Barfoot, on behalf of the CPRE and the clerk on behalf of the council etc.

7.2 A member of the public asked how the council came to their decisions on West Hill Farm. Cllr Morgans suggested that the parishioner could write to the council if he has concerns.

9.6 Cllr Morgans reported that a parishioner has raised concerns etc.

Following these amendments the minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest: There were none recorded.

4. Matters arising from the minutes (not on the agenda)

8.3 It had been agreed to offer the Parish Clerk a permanent contract as Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Office on NALC scale point 20.

17.1 Ragwort clearance is being undertaken on the North Devon Link road.

9.6 At the three parishes meeting re. Batsworthy procedures and systems it was agreed to act as an umbrella group when dealing with NPower. There will need to be some thought given as to how any monies received by the parishes is handled.

5. Police Report: There has been no response from the police again this month despite the clerk leaving messages. Cllr Howe will write to the Police Commissioner to request his help with a police presence or report each month.

6. Correspondence.

1. Email from R. Sables stating that the hedge from the corner beside Hillside was not subject to any conditions. The hedges form part of a residential site and are not protected by the Hedgerow regulations.

The council felt that this did not address the safety issues and asked the clerk to raise this particular issue with Mr. Sables.

2. The council acknowledged Mrs Newton's letter re. the car parking situation in Knowstone. Following a discussion it was agreed that it would be sensible to ask that all villagers park in a thoughtful manner allowing for the type of traffic which passes through the village.

7. Public Questions (limited to 20 mins)

7.1 It was asked if it is usual for the community to do the negotiations for compensation or do the District Council get involved. Cllr Smith replied that they were not involved yet but would have a role but not yet known how or when.

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7.2 Potholes were reported in East Knowstone and in Knowstone (due to running water on the road) and will be reported to Highways.

8. Finance.

8.1 Cllr Smith gave the monthly finance report which was accepted.

8.2 Accounts to settle:

Clerk salary & expenses - £95.34

Exe Valley Community Bus variations to rout fee - £26.00

8.3 Precept 2014:

The Chairman asked that the Cllrs give some thought to next years Precept application.

9. Planning.

9.1 Applications received after preparation of the agenda.

There were none received.

9.2 56306 Erection of agricultural building near Wiston Cross.

Cllr Morgans felt that this should be looked into as he would not want a West Hill type situation. It was agreed to arrange a site visit as soon as possible.

10. Review of housing need.

It was agreed that the council should have a review of housing need for the parish. It was thought that there was someone from Exmoor National Park who has offered to do this in the past and this needs looking into.

11. Report from District Councillor.

11.1 Cllr Ley pointed out that TAP monies can still be applied for and it was agreed to put this on the next agenda.

11.2 The petition re. fair share for rural areas needs to be sent as the deadline is approaching. Knowstones was posted on the 23rd September.

The Bommertown Solar Farm hearing is on the 9th October. Cllr Morgans offered to attend and speak on the parish's behalf. It was resolved by 5 votes to 1 that he should attend. Cllr Stanbury wished it minuted that he was against the resolution.

12. Report from County Councillor.

Cllr Yabsley was unable to attend. He has been trying to speak to the Land Agent re. Community field at East Knowstone farm and hopes to have done so by the next meeting.

13. Highways and Footpaths

13.1 Members report Highways.

DCC Highways workshop was attended by Cllrs J. Smith, R. Howe and C. Howe. Due to the need for large budget cuts it has been agreed that the A & B roads will be maintained but the C roads only if finances allow it. There will be the same amount of grit available as last year. It was noted that public liability issues re. registered snow wardens will be covered by the Devon County Council public liability.

There are ongoing problems with large vehicles going through the village. The new signs are in production.

13.2 Members reports Footpaths.

Sam Jeffcoats team have started work around the parish on the repairs and renewal programme. Cllr Stanbury asked about re-routing the footpath across one of his fields

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as he was going to plough it. It would be more sensible to walk around the edge of the field instead of directly across it. It was agreed that this was perfectly acceptable while ploughing and reseeded, but once these operations are complete the footpath should be reinstated to its original route.

14. Moors Management Report.

The Inner Moor ^{repairs} have been completed but still waiting for the Outer Moor repairs to be done.

Agreement has been reached re. cutting the fire breaks.

Exmoor Fire & Rescue may be doing training exercises on the moor.

15. Batsworthy Community Funding

This was raised and covered in Matters Arising.

16. Members Reports.

16.1 Cllr Howe reported that the Harvest Festival is on Saturday Oct 5th with supper and an auction in the hall afterwards.

16.2 The Council wished to send their Best Wishes to Mary Bucknell.

16.3 It was noted that Homeworking risk assessments have been completed in relation to the Parish Clerks working conditions, the results of which indicated that no action was needed and everything was in order.

17. Date & Time of next meeting: Tuesday 22nd October 2013 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Minutes prepared by SM Beeney (Parish Clerk)

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