

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held in the Parish hall Knowstone on 25th February 2014 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Cllrs J. Smith (Chairman), J. Stanbury, D. Morgans, R. Howe, C. Howe, A. Vigus (part). Wendy Vigus (taking minutes)

In attendance:

County Councillor Jeremy Yabsley (part) and three members of the public.

1. Apologies:

Cllr B. Barfoot and District Councillor E. Ley

2. Minutes:

5.4. Amended to read 'Letter from Parish Council to Kerr Brown'. 12d. Amended to read 'between Wiston X and Roachill'. The minutes were then signed as a true record of the meeting.

3. Declarations of interest:

None

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

12e. Cllr Stanbury reported that workmen have assessed the drain at Wiston X. Situation remains unchanged.

8.1. Cllr Morgans has written a Parish Council response to the Bommertown Solar Panel appeal.

3. (12.2). DCC confirmed that it is not possible to claim back VAT on Village Hall improvements as the Village Hall is not owned by the Parish Council. Cllr R Howe recommended pursuing the matter further as there may be alternative approaches allowed. Cllr Smith is to explore the issue further.

3. (11.) Lorna Jones of DCC has approved £455.20 (Tap Funding) payable to PC. Cllr Smith confirmed that the money has been ring-fenced for the community bus.

12c. Cllr R Howe has written twice to the police requesting presence at the monthly meetings. Spoke with Police Inspector Roger Bartlett 25th Feb pm. He confirmed that someone would be in attendance going forwards. He is also happy to attend the Annual Parish meeting as a guest speaker and requested that the imminent increase in local police constables and PCSO's be noted.

9. Cllr Smith has emailed local community groups to gauge interest in the Best Kept Village competition. Cllr R Howe is happy to head up a working group. All agreed that the focus should be the 2015 competition and parishioner participation is to be encouraged at the Annual Parish meeting in May.

5. Police Report:

1 x child protection incident and 3 x road accidents reported. No further details available. All agreed to request more details when a police representative is in attendance. Cllr R. Howe was congratulated for the progress made with the police.

6. Correspondence:

6.1 Letter from Mrs R. Newton stating concerns regards 56193 planning application

6.2 Letters from Cllr R. Howe to police

6.3 DCC email confirming gate on footpath near Owlaborough is being addressed

6.4 New Mobile Library service timetable (confirming loss of East Knowstone stop)

6.5. Parish Paths newsletter

Admitted
25/2/14

- 6.6. Letter reiterating PC's opposition to the Bommertown Solar Panel application
6.7. Email from Cllr Smith to Richard Sables regards HGV and road signs
File given to Cllr C. Howe for circulation to all.

7. Public Questions (limited to 20 minutes)

- 7.1. Parishioner made councillors aware that a horse rider had trespassed on a public footpath and broken a stile. DCC are aware.
7.2. Cllr Morgans requested that planning application 56913 be made open to public comment and this was agreed.

8. Finance:

8.1 Finance Report: 85p interest confirmed. Monthly finance report was accepted.

8.2 Accounts to settle. Approved:

- a) Website Development Ltd (inv 2445 for renewal of hosting) £222
- b) Country Matters (Inv A0922 for footpath works) £186.49
- c) Temporary Clerical Services £53.95
- d) EVCB (Inv 14/02/14) £308.56

Agreed to pay £400 to Parochial Church for Parish Council's annual contribution to upkeep of churchyard (£200 for 2013 and £200 for 2014).

8.3 Budget for 2014 – 2015. Additions to include contribution to upkeep of churchyard, donation of £25 to South Molton Community News and contingency for Best Kept Village competition. Cllr Smith noted need to resolve outstanding budget in 2014 – 2015 period.

9. Planning:

9.1 No applications received after preparation of agenda.

9.2 56913 New gate access at Roachill Cottage. Issue was discussed as far as possible given applicant was not present. Cllr Morgans outlined concerns from some parishioners and reiterated that on 13.04.06 the Parish Council refused retrospective planning for current gateway. Letter from Mrs R. Newton was revisited. Agreed 3-2 to email the District Council stating that the Parish Council do not support the application.

10. Document: Community Energy Strategy – Key Findings

Not all councillors had read the document emailed by Cllr Smith but overall it was agreed that the Parish Council would respond stating document is worthy of consideration and that there is interest in exploring feasibility.

11. Report from District Councillor:

No Cllr present to provide a report.

12. Report from County Councillor:

12.1 Update given on meeting between land agents and Cllr Jeremy Yabsley on 25.02.14 at East Hill. Confirmed that there is no particular wish to split land but possibly a maximum of three acres of the chosen field could be purchased. Land would need to be independently valued but a ballpark figure of between £7k and £15k per acre was given. Highlighted there could be an opportunity to set up an agreement with the tenant farmer regards holding an annual event on the entire field. The terms of this arrangement would need to be written into the tenancy agreement. Agreed to add this item to the March agenda.

12.2 Impact of local council budget cuts on day care and youth services was noted. Parish Council encouraged to respond with comments by 19th March.

Handwritten signature and date:
25/3/14

13. Highways and Footpaths.

13.1 Members report (Highways)

a. Cllr Smith has written to Richard Sables regards signs at Holy Moor X and Ashmill. No response. Cllr Smith to email again regards this and signs at Wiston X.

13.2 Members report (Footpaths)

- a. Cllr Smith to follow up Parishioner comment regards horse damaging stile.
b. Cllrs Howe confirmed mud has been cleared on lane by Harpson and Kidland junction. Cattle have also been moved from field.

14. Moors Management Report:

Cllr Morgans noted that it has been too wet to complete the swaling. Devon Bryophyte Group will be visiting moor to research liverworts and mosses.

15. PCC report.

Bill Bucknell has retired as churchwarden after 39 years but will remain as caretaker of churchyard. A thanksgiving tea party is to take place on Mothering Sunday in hall. Cllr R Howe is new churchwarden from 2nd March. Miss Priscilla Boundy left church £37,000 in her will. Cllr R Howe stated need to boost numbers on committee.

16. Vacancy / appointment of Parish Clerk:

The three members of public present volunteered to leave prior to discussion and therefore negated need for resolution. Cllr Smith confirmed that two applications had been received, one prior to 31st January deadline (Richard Vos) and one dated 6th February. Cllr Smith has advised applicant that the late application cannot be considered and that one valid applicant exists for consideration. Following discussion the next steps were agreed as Cllr R Howe, Cllr Morgans and Cllr Smith meeting Richard Vos for an informal chat regards job expectations and to discuss issues such as conflict of interests in planning matters. Cllr Smith to liaise on potential dates.

17. Members reports:

Matters of immediate concern or for inclusion at the next meeting.

17.1 Annual Parish meeting. Cllr Morgans to create poster to garner public interest. Cllr R Howe to confirm date following liaison with guest speaker.

17.2 Best Kept Village competition – 2015

17.3 Purchase of field

Cllr Smith is to shorten the agenda to accommodate discussion of point 17.3.

18. Date & Time of next meeting: Tuesday 25th March 2014 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 10.15pm

Minutes prepared by Wendy Vigus (temporary minute taker)

WV
25/3/14.