

## **KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the ANNUAL MEETING held in the Parish hall, Knowstone on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at 7.30pm

Present: S. Beene (Parish Clerk), D. Morgans, B. Barfoot, J. Stanbury, C. Howe, J. Smith, R. Howe.

In Attendance: E. Ley (district councillor) J. Yabsley (county councillor) and 4 members of the public.

### **1. Election of Chairman.**

Cllr Morgans proposed Cllr Smith and Cllr Howe seconded the proposal. Cllr Smith stated that he was prepared to stand as chairman. As there were no more proposals it was resolved by 4 votes to 0 that Cllr Smith be chairman for the next twelve months.

### **2. Election of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Morgans proposed Cllr Stanbury and Cllr Howe seconded the proposal. Cllr Stanbury stated that he was prepared to stand as Vice-Chairman. As there were no more proposals it was resolved by 4 votes to 0 that Cllr Stanbury be vice-chairman for the next twelve months.

### **3. Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**

Cllrs Smith and Stanbury duly signed their individual acceptance of office forms and these were countersigned by the Proper Officer of the Council S.Beene

### **4. Apologies: A. Vigus**

### **5. Co-option of Councillor.**

There had been one application for the vacant seat from Mr. R Howe. It was felt that the possibility that there may be a perceived contention that husband and wife may vote together to get things through should be raised. It was resolved to appoint Mr. Howe to the vacant seat on the council by 4 votes with 1 abstention. The Chairman welcomed Mr. Howe to the Council.

### **6. Declarations of Interest.**

There were none recorded.

### **7. Minutes.**

The minutes were signed as a true record.

### **8. Matters arising from the minutes (not on the agenda)**

Cllr Morgans asked that the Boar farm entrance be discussed under highways later in the meeting.

### **9. Police Report**

A new volunteer is needed for the neighbourbour watch scheme in East Knowstone as Mr McGill is unable to continue.

### **10. Public Questions.**

It was asked why Mr Dykes name was included in the minutes as attending the meeting. This was because he was giving a presentation to the council.

### **11. Appointment of members to serve on Parish Committees.**

PCC – Cllr R. Howe

Village Hall – Cllr J. Smith

Planning Sub Committee – Cllrs J. Smith, C. Howe, B. Barfoot

Moors Management – Cllr D. Morgans.

### **12. To allocate roles amongst Parish Council members.**

Snow Warden – Cllr A. Vigus

Emergency Plan and Highways – Cllr C. Howe

Footpaths & Website – Cllr. J. Smith

Tree Warden – Cllr J. Stanbury

*Handwritten signature and date:*  
J. Smith  
7/6/13

### **13. Finance**

13.1 Finance Report: Cllr Smith presented his report. The Internal Audit has been signed off. 4 points were raised by the auditor which were fairly minor and are in hand. All tests were satisfactory. The use of S 137 was raised and resolved.

13.2 Accounts to settle. Cheques were raised and signed for the following:

Parish Clerk - £152.83

K. Abrahams, auditors fee - £90.00

DALC (training course) - £30.00

Village Hall - £1500.00

### **14. Planning**

14.1 Applications received after preparation of agenda.

There were none received.

14.2 Batsworthy – outcome of review.

The review found in favour of NPower. It was felt that we need to ensure that they comply with all the agreed requirements.

14.3 Sydeham Farm – there is a hearing in July.

14.4 Blackerton Development (55662)

This is asking for Full Planning for 13 houses for the open market and Outline Planning for 9 affordable houses. It was agreed that to ensure that the affordable houses are built outline planning was not acceptable and that Full Planning should be applied for from the outset with the proviso that the affordable housing has priority.

14.5 Single Turbine Ash Mill (55590)

As this is a very large turbine it was felt that this would create a large shadow and would impact on Port farm and those working in the fields. The impact and distraction would be high for those travelling on the North Devon Link road. It was resolved by 5 votes to 0 to send a letter to planning in support of Bishop Nymptons response.

14.6 Little Wadham (55563)

Application for permission to renew roof. Council is happy to support work on listed building that is being done sympathetically and to conservation requirements.

### **15. Report from District Councillor**

15.1 Cllr Smith asked when Batsworthy Wind Farm would start to pay business rates. Cllr Ley was not sure but said that he would find out.

15.2 Cllr R. Howe asked if it was possible to hold the planning meeting re. 55590 at Bishops Nympton Village hall to allow as many parishioners as possible to attend.

Cllr Ley thought that this was very unlikely to be agreed to.

### **16. Report from County Councillor.**

16.1 Following the recent local elections the balance of power will remain the same as before. Due to reduction of budget there will be significant re-organisation of human resources and other economies.

16.2 Cllr Yabsley has £4000.00 available for grants and invites applications. Following the discussion at the Parish Annual Meeting Cllr Yabsley has been given permission to walk the field in question at East Hill once it has been cut with local councillors.

16.3 The new entrance that has appeared into the Boar farm woodland has been reported to the appropriate department.

16.4 Cllr Morgans felt that the new resurfacing of the dual carriageway from Junction 27 to the Bolham roundabout to be very poor.

### **17. Report re. Annual Parish Meeting**

*A. Smith*  
25/6/13

Despite a poor turnout of parishioners there were some very interesting discussions re. Sam Jeffcoats proposals for repairs and improvements to Parish footpaths and the possibility of using the compensation money to purchase a field at East Hill for community use. The footpath plans were displayed for all to see. Cllr Yabsley will look into whether the Council may consider selling a field to the parish.

**18. Rural Areas: Settlement Planning**

It was agreed that the Chairman should write to state that we feel that we should be known as a "small Village" and that anything over a single dwelling should be on a "specific to our requirements" basis.

**19. Conservation Management Plan (if available)**

The Plan was not available yet.

**20. Highways & Footpaths**

**20.1 Members Report (Highways)**

The roundabout has been tidied up.

It was asked if the white lines at the bottom of Holy Moor lane could be erased so that Holy Moor lane is the principle way in and out of East Knowstone and has priority over traffic coming down from Roachill, as since the building of the Link Road this has been the case. The white lines would then need to be at the end of the lane leading to Roachill. It was agreed to look into this.

**20.2 Members Report (Footpaths)**

Sam Jeffcoat is contacting landowners to get permission to make improvements and repairs. He asked if the Parish Council had any funds available to help with this work. It was agreed that he should be asked for a breakdown of the costs to enable the Council to make a decision.

**21. Moors Management Report.**

Please be aware that cattle are grazing the moor. The wild Boar on the moor are making a mess when foraging.

**22. Members Reports**

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

Nothing was reported.

**23. Date & Time of next meeting: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013 at 7.30pm.**

Meeting closed at 10.10pm

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Minutes prepared by S.M.Beeney (Parish Clerk)  
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*Admitt*  
*25/6/13*