

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Knowstone Parish Council held in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 28 August 2012 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs J.Smith (Chairman), J Stanbury (from item 8), R.Barfoot. Mrs C Howe, D Morgans and A.Vigus.

In Attendance; District Cllr.E.Ley, County Cllr.J.Yabsley. PCSO Rick Napier, 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D.Blackburn.

2. Minutes of the meeting held 24 July 2012

The minutes were amended to record that Cllr Mrs Howe left the meeting after item 14.

The amended minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

Councillors who had not already done so handed their Register of Interests to the Clerk.

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

Min. 9.3 It was noted that the application for a turbine at Cove had been withdrawn.

Min. 9.4 It was agreed to enquire the date of the West Hill enforcement appeal.

Min. 14. No response had been received from Western Power Distribution regarding the recent power cuts.

5. Police Report

PCSO Nick Rapiere reported that during the past month two calls had been logged by the police, both relating to suspicious vehicles.

2 crimes had been reported – thefts of a quad bike and a 4x4. Farm machinery and quad bikes had become a main target for thieves. Owners were advised to have their quad bikes etc tagged, to aid recovery.

Recent figures released put the Devon & Cornwall police are higher in the crime league than in previous years. This was mainly due to a different method of recording crime from that of other forces.

6. Public Questions

In answer to a question, the Chairman confirmed that minutes of Parish Council meetings would be posted on the website.

7. Finance

7.1 Planning a Time-Line for significant Knowstone Parish income and expenditure items over the year 2012-13

The Clerk circulated Finance Time-Lines to councillors, which had been updated to include dates of HMRC Returns.

7.2 Finance Report

The Clerk circulated copies of the finance report.

J.Smith
25/9/12

7.3 Accounts to Settle

- | | | |
|----|--------------|---------|
| 1. | Parish Clerk | £104.30 |
| 2. | Mr D Newton | £ 60.00 |

The Clerk reported that the invoice from Mr Newton was for work to remove a large branch blocking Byway 12.

The Chairman reported that the problem had been reported to Highways, who has assessed it as being 'low risk' and would be dealt with within 6 months, noting that it was not on DCC property.

It was agreed that the right course of action had been taken to resolve the problem, and that the invoice should be paid and the cost reclaimed from DCC.

Cllr Stanbury joined the meeting.

8. East Hill Estate - update

Cllr Yabsley reported that the new s106 was still awaited from North Devon Council. He had been in contact with Mr Kelly to determine the current position. It was understood that there were problems within the legal department due to shortage of staff.

Cllr Ley offered to arrange a meeting with Cllr Yabsley, Mr Kelly, and the legal department. He would advise the time of the meeting on 3 September.

It was generally considered that the existing s106 agreement was too onerous for any developer to enter into.

It was agreed to write to express the council's views that the agreement was too onerous and needed simplifying in order not to put developers off.

It was noted that the main focus at the moment was to tidy the farmhouse and the whole site.

9. Planning

9.1 Batsworthy Cross Inquiry - Update

Cllr Barfoot reported that the Inquiry would be reopened on 20 September. Although members of the public would be able to attend, they would not be permitted to speak. Photo montages showing the visual impact of the turbines had been prepared, and were available for councillors to view.

Cllr Morgans expressed his concerns that the general public would not have the right to speak.

It was noted that the decision would be received on 16 October.

9.2 Planning applications received after preparation of Agenda

With reference to application 53764 - erection of one wind turbine (height 61m, hub height 44.23m, blade diameter 33.4m) at Sydeham Farm Rackenford, Cllr Morgans would attend the meeting of the planning Committee.

It was noted that a letter of objection had already been sent on the grounds that it was inappropriate for the area, and that it would have a detrimental visual impact.

Concern was raised over the possible cumulative impact.

It was considered that the Pearson Report would be a useful document in opposing this application.

10. Report from District Councillor

Cllr Ley spoke on the proposed solar park at Bommertown Farm, Bottreaux Mill. It was noted that Knowstone Parish Council had not been consulted.

J. Morgan
25/9/12

11. Reports from County Councillor

Cllr Yabsley reported that new contracts for bus services were being issued.

12. Highways and Footpaths

12.1 Members Report (Highways)

It was reported that the gravel on Holymoor Hill had not been swept up and that the potholes had not yet been repaired. The junction was in need of remarking. Clerk to inform Mr Sables.

12.2 Road Safety - Local Speed Limits

It was thought that a 20mph speed limit would be a great benefit, especially for Roachill.

Cllr Morgans proposed that Roachill should be a pilot programme. Seconded by Cllr Barfoot. All in agreement.

It was agreed not to request improvements to the junction at Harpson at present.

12.3 Members Report (Footpaths)

Nothing to report.

13. Moors Management

Nothing to report.

14. Developing Local Transport Links – update

Cllr Smith reported that neighbouring parishes had indicated a willingness to be involved in setting up a community bus service.

He had spoken to the Exe Valley Community Bus which was run by a committee with volunteer drivers. They were willing to help wherever possible.

The Town and Parish grant could provide some initial funding.

It was noted that the setting up of a community bus service was a big undertaking, and success would depend on a regular number of passengers. It could be run by an independent committee.

It was agreed that additional research was necessary before any commitment could be made.

It was resolved to:

- To co-operate with other Parish & Town Councils and organisations such as the EVCB & Rackenford School.
- Create a defined set of project Aims & Objectives.
- Conducting market research in relation to a defined Target Market.
- Formulate a successful bid for any available funding

15. Knowstone Parochial Charity (winding up).

It was reported that the Parish Council may be requested to confirm that it agrees with the charity being wound up.

It was agreed to acknowledge the letter from the charity and request being kept up to date with developments, and to advise if there was anything that the parish council needed to do.

16. Parish Compensation Fund – Update

It was agreed that there would be the possibility of using the funds towards the cost of establishing a Community Bus. Other possibilities included the establishment of a Play Area and the purchase of land.

It was agreed to discuss the matter further at the next meeting.

RD Smith
25/9/12

17. Rural Housing Project – meeting at Blackerton House 7 September 2012

Councillors were making their own arrangements to attend the consultation.

It was noted that a developer was ready to start what could be a contentious project owing to the amount of new build being proposed.

18 Correspondence and the Correspondence File

18.1 Printed matter sent/received in past month

1. Notification had been received from Barnstaple Town Council of a Planning School being held on Saturday 13 October. Cllr Smith expressed an interest in attending.
2. NDC had advised that the next meeting to consider the future of the Parish Grant would be held on Wednesday 19 September. The Clerk would be attending.
3. Cllr Smith reported that the DCC Winter Service Survey had been completed and returned.

The whereabouts of the Correspondence File was still unknown. It was agreed that the circulation of correspondence to councillors should continue.

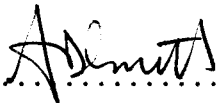
19. Members' Reports

19.1 Matters of immediate concern or for inclusion in the next meeting

1. It was reported that there was a trench in front of the recently installed cattle grid near the picnic area. Clerk to report to Highways.

20. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 25 September at 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 9:38pm.

Signed 
Chairman

Date 25/9/12 .