

To Sign .

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

22 July 2014 - Minutes of a meeting of Knowstone Parish Council

Present:

Cllr John Smith	(CHAIR)	Cllr Reg Howe,	(RGH)
Cllr Suzanne Howe	(SMH)	Cllr John Stanbury	(JRS)
Cllr Anthony Vigus	(AV)	Richard Vos	(Clerk)

*DMorgan
RJB 2/14*

Also in attendance: DCC Cllr J Yabsley, x6 Members of the Public

The meeting opened at 8pm

1. Apologies:

1.1 ND Cllr Eric Ley, DCC Jeremy Yabsley (will be late)

2. Declarations of interest (matters appearing on the posted agenda):

2.1 None

3. Minutes:

3.1 The minutes of the last meeting of KPC having been circulated:

Proposed: "To Approve the draft minutes as presented as an accurate record of business transacted at the last meeting"

Outcome: PASSED (prop: JRS sec: AV)

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

4.1 DBM expressed concern at the last meeting he had not been contacted to come and make up a quorum; he was concerned that other councillors had been called on the phone whereas he had not. CHAIR accepted that had this happened it would have been quite wrong however no councillors had been telephoned; the meeting was not quorate at the appointed start time of 7.30pm but by 8pm sufficient councillors had arrived to allow business to be transacted.

5. Correspondence:

5.1 None

6. Public Questions (limited to 20 minutes)

Meeting closed for public questions;

Mrs Newton asked whether if there was a play area on the gifted area at East Hill Farm would KPC be responsible for the costs of erection and maintenance?

CHAIR responded that the use of the area in question had not yet been decided upon and that the question of costs would be a matter for consideration at the time the gift is perfected.

*Approved
23/9/14*

There being no further questions from members of the public the meeting was reopened.

7. Finance:

7.1 Finance Report: Report was presented by CHAIR
Proposed : "To accept the financial report as accurate"

Outcome: PASSED (prop: RJB sec: SMH)

7.2 None – the account from Richard Stagg to be considered at the next meeting

7.3 A separate resolution to approve payment of the Clerk's salary (£114.55 incl copying expenses etc.) was felt to be unnecessary since the info was contained within the finance report to the council at 7.1; this item will not appear on future agendas.

8. Parish Plan Committee

The meeting was closed for Mrs R Newton to explain the position. A letter dated 4th July from Mrs R Newton was read to the meeting and a cheque drawn in favour of Knowstone Parish Council in the sum of £48.41 (together with the cancelled building society pass books) was handed over to the CHAIR.

9. Planning:

9.1 None

9.2 None

10. Report from District Councillor:

10.1 none.

JRS reported that the site at Batsworthy Cross would be open on Wednesday 23rd July for the public to view the archaeological excavations. CHAIR reported that he had agreed with the person in charge that the hours for the public would be extended to give access Noon – 7pm

11. Report from County Councillor:

11.1 Cllr Jeremy Yabsley gave a verbal report on recent developments and matters of interest at County Council level.

Cllr Yabsley advised that Grace Hicks of NPS will be dealing with the proposed sale and that their valuation had now been done. ~~DCC have instructed~~ NPS that the proposed sale is to be regarded as a transfer of land between local authorities rather than as a commercial sale. *

Cllr Yabsley confirmed that the barns at East Hill are on a DCC register to be dealt with under the amended rules related to permitted development

* Cllr Yabsley had advised NPS that -- *[Signature]* 23/9/14 2

[Signature]
23/09/14

The next DCC Farms Estates committee meeting will be 14 November 2014. Any agreement relating to enc 6400 should be concluded not less than 10 days ahead of that date to be sure to be treated as an agenda item at the meeting.

12. To consider Model Standing Orders cl. 1(y) "Meetings" and cl. 5.a (xvii) "Motions not requiring written notice"

12.1 cl. 1(y) "Meetings"

DBM referred to NDDC Standing order 3 (June 2007) and suggested that a "cut off" time be introduced for future meetings to achieve a quorum. The benefit of the certainty this would give was accepted by the meeting.

Proposed to KPC Standing Orders sect 1(y) to be amended so that in future where a meeting is not quorate at the scheduled start time after thirty minutes (30 mins) the person presiding shall cause a count of members to be taken and if there is still no quorum present the meeting shall end.

Outcome: PASSED (prop: RGH sec:SMH)

12.2 cl. 5.a (xvii) "Motions not requiring written notice"

DBM referred to SO sect 5a. At present there is a maximum limit of £500 for finance motions without notice; i.e. any finance motion approving expenditure in excess of £500 must be submitted in writing and included on the agenda of the meeting at which it is voted upon.

Given the restrictions of Sect 5a (xvii) DBM was concerned that the authority to agree fees given to the Chair and Vice-chair at minute item 12.2.2 (24/06) and the authority to make an offer on behalf of KPC at 12.6 on the face of it appear to exceed the authority given by SO 5a(xvii).

In discussion it was accepted that these decisions amounted to no more than a statement of intent and were not finance resolutions which would require written notice in advance however it was accepted that in future greater care needed to be taken when considering financial resolutions particularly with reference to sect 5a(xvii)

On a similar point RJB pointed out that the decision made at 12.6 (24/06) should have had a financial cap placed on the authority given to approve professional fees and this observation was accepted as being good practice for the future.

13. Purchase of Land – report on progress

13.1 Cllr Yabley was asked to leave the meeting. The CHAIR led the ongoing discussion regarding the possible investment of KPC funds for the purchase of amenity ground from DCC Farm Estates for the use of the parish.

13.1.1 Confirmed that Richard Stagg has now completed his valuation of the land at enc 6400; his valuation report has been circulated ahead of this meeting by email. DCC have advised that their valuation has also now been completed. The next step will be for KPC to put forward an offer to buy based on the valuation obtained

13.2 Richard Stagg's invoice has been received; it will need to be discussed at the next meeting as an agenda item.

13.3 considering the valuation and also considering exactly what land it is proposed should be purchased.

RJB repeated his concerns that the potential use of the ground once purchased is still undecided. He also repeated his feeling that no more should be spent than could be met from monies held i.e. he was against borrowing any monies. DBM also felt that borrowing monies to make up any shortfall between the purchase price and reserves held was something he would be opposed to.

CHAIR felt that this was an opportunity for the parish and that details about use of the land post acquisition could be worked out later. If no more pressing use came up immediately the land could be let for grazing to generate income and cover costs.

JRS felt that the purchase of land would be a good use of the parish's capital reserves which were being devalued in real terms because the interest rates are so low; it was felt unlikely that any other land in the area would come up for sale in the foreseeable future.

RJB expressed serious personal reservations about the authority given at 12.6 (24/06) and repeated that he felt no more should be offered than the amount KPC could cover from monies currently held. DBM concurred generally.

After further discussion it was proposed by reference to Richard Stagg's valuation:

KPC should put forward an offer to DCC, subject to contract, to purchase 4.25 acres or thereabouts within enc 6400 at the figure of £25,000 with a separate side offer of further £1,000 in respect of the additional 0.46 acres

Outcome: PASSED unanimously (proposed JRS seconded RJB)

Cllr Yabsley was invited to return to the meeting.

14. Highways and Footpaths.

14.1 Members report (Highways) SMH reported that the top dressing the A361 to Beaples Moor has now been completed

14.1.1. DBM reported a broken post on the cattle grid at the Roachill end of the moor which requires urgent attention. (Clerk to action)

14.1.2 RJB requested that an update be obtained regarding removal of the HGV sign and Holy Moor Cross (Clerk to action)

14.2 Members Report (footpaths) Nil to report

15. Moors Management Report:

15.1 DBM Little to report. No progress made on the TB testing regime for cattle being turned out onto the Moor

Handwritten signature and date:
23/9/11

16. Police Report:

RGH – No report to offer this month

Police contact numbers:

In Emergencies call : 999

Non-Emergency call : 101

Email contact : southmolton@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

17. PCC report.

17.1 RGH reported The inaugural Family Service with the new vicar – The Rev David Baker- had been enjoyable and very well attended. Rev David Barker has introduced himself to those present and it had been regarded as a good community event.

17.1.2 The Bells in the church tower have now been surveyed and are in better condition than had been expected.

17.1.3 To commemorate the start of WW1 The Royal British Legion will be laying a wreath at the grave of Private A Chapple at a date to be fixed. The grave is an official Commonwealth War grave maintained by the War Graves Commission.

18. Village Hall committee Report

18.1 CHAIR - Nil to report

19. Members reports:

19.1 Nothing

20. Date & Time of next meeting:

20.1 Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 26nd August 2014 at 8.00 pm

Meeting closed at 10.00pm

Minutes prepared by Richard Vos (Parish Clerk)

Richard Vos
23/9/14