

Minutes 2014

**KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting held in the Parish Hall Knowstone 25 March 2014 at 7.30pm.

**Present:**

Cllr John Smith	(CHAIR)	Cllr David Morgans,	(DBM)
Cllr Robert Barfoot,	(RJB)	Cllr Reg Howe,	(RGH)
Cllr Suzanne Howe	(SMH)	Richard Vos	(Clerk)

Also in attendance: Members of the Public x5.

**1. Apologies:**

1.1 Cllrs John Stanbury & Anthony Vigus, District Councillor E. Ley & County Councillor J Yabsley

**2. Minutes:**

2.1 The minutes of the last meeting of KPC having been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Proposed: To accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.

(prp: RGH, sec: SMH)

Outcome: Passed unanimously CHAIR signed the minutes for the Record

2.2 A note to be sent to Wendy Vigus thanking her for her assistance at the previous meeting – (Clerk to action)

**3. Declarations of interest:**

3.1 None

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

**4.1 arising from 21/01/14**

(12c) RGH Had received confirmation that Police Inspector Roger Bartlett will attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014. RGH continues to press for a representative of the police to report in person to the next KPC meeting

(12.2) CHAIR confirms that KPC can NOT claim back VAT on payments made by 3<sup>rd</sup> parties such as the Village Hall

(11) CHAIR confirms that Tap Funding of £455.20 was received by KPC on or about 21 March 2014.

**4.2 arising from 25/02/14**

(8.2.d) The EVCB invoice 14/0 has been revised down to £98.52 – payment to be ratified under Finance

Payment to the Parochial Church Council for the upkeep of the churchyard had previously been agreed and no payment having been made in 2013

Proposed: To pay Knowstone PCC the sum of £400

(prp:SMH sec:RGH) sec: RJB

Outcome: Passed unanimously

(9.2) 56913 New Gate access Roachill Cottage; DBM reported that no objections had been made by Highways Dept and the application has now been granted

(13.2.a) CHAIR has still to follow up report of damage to stile by horse

(13.2.b) RGH reports that cattle are now back on field at Harpson/Kidland Junc. RGH will continue to monitor condition of cattle and lane.

(15) RGH confirms that a tea party to mark the retirement of Bill Bucknell as church warden will be held on Easter Sunday – 20 April 2014 – at 3pm at the Village Hall. A celebration tea will be laid on by the PCC and all are welcome / encouraged to attend. Those wishing to attend are requested to let RGH know in advance to assist with catering arrangements and those wishing to contribute to a gift for Bill Bucknell should send payment to RGH – cheques made payable to Knowstone Parochial Parish Council

## **5. Police Report:**

5.1 RGH has received a report by email from PCSO J Rozputynski which was read out to the meeting (copy on correspondence)

There have been a spate of thefts from farms and outbuildings and the public are once again advised to lock all out buildings and secure all tools especially such things as strimmers & chainsaws.

## **6. Correspondence:**

x5 items of correspondence have been received and filed in the correspondence file which was circulated at the meeting

6.1 TAP Funding

6.2 Appointment of Parish Clerk

6.3 CPRE Annual Report

6.4 DCC consultation on future of day services

6.5 Police Report

## **7. Public Questions (limited to 20 minutes)**

7.1 Mr Dykes reports that National Lottery Awards for All funding in the sum of £4,090 has been secured by the Village Hall to lay a path around the rear of the Hall and to tarmac the lower car park area and to plant out the garden. In addition a further sum has been secured to remodel the kitchen to incorporate a commercial style dishwasher. Unfortunately the funds do not cover the purchase of a commercial dishwasher and the question was asked whether KPC would consider purchasing a dishwasher for the Village Hall.

Approved 22 April 2014

CHAIR asked that Mr Dykes detail his request in writing/email so that the request might be considered further at a subsequent meeting.

7.2 Concern was raised regarding the planned removal of the large blue HGV diversion sign at Holy Moor Cross. The sign which was felt to be too large and too conspicuous at an earlier meeting is due to be removed but it was felt that the clear signing of the HGV route had reduced HGV traffic down Traceys Hill which it is accepted is not a suitable route for HGV's.

CHAIR will enquire with Highways Dept whether they plan to replace the large sign with a smaller less obtrusive sign; several people felt a clear finger post sign was the answer.

While writing to Highways CHAIR was also asked to query the siting of the "unfit for Cars" sign at Hittisford Lane which it was suggested is too far down the lane to give proper warning to unsuspecting drivers. CHAIR was asked to enquire whether the sign could be moved nearer to the public road.

The footpath sign at Knowstone Moor is reported to have been knocked down and requires repositioning as does the Cattle sign at the cattle grid at Roachill. CHAIR agreed to raise these matters with Highways

7.3 It was stated that the 2013/14 contribution of £25 to South Molton Community News letter had been agreed and budgeted for but had not actually been paid.

CHAIR requested that the item be dealt with as an agenda item under finance at the April 2014 meeting.

## **8. Finance:**

8.1 Finance Report: Report was presented by CHAIR

8.2 .a Proposed: To approve for payment invoice for temp Clerical Services £46.08  
(prp: RJB, sec: RGH)  
Outcome: Passed unanimously

8.2.b Proposed: To ratify payment of EVCB inv 14/2/14 in the sum £98.52  
(prp: RB, sec: DBM)  
Outcome: Passed unanimously

8.3 Review of draft budget for 2014/15

CHAIR presented a draft budget for consideration by KPC in total £4,157 and a discussion followed

Proposed: To accept the draft budget 2014/15 of £4,157.  
(prp: RJB, sec: RGH)  
Outcome: Passed unanimously

## **9. Planning:**

9.1 No new applications have been received

9.2 56913 Planning Approval for a new gate access at Roachill Cottage has been granted.

## **10. Report from District Councillor:**

10.1 No Cllr present to provide a report.

## **11. Report from County Councillor:**

11.1 No Cllr present to provide a report.

## **12. Highways and Footpaths.**

12.1 Members report (Highways)

12.1.1 SH reported a significant increase in the number of potholes. Agreed that Richard Sables be written to giving the location of the major potholes requiring immediate repair.

RGH agreed to provide CHAIR with the details to pass onto Highways

12.1.2 CHAIR will write to Highways to ask them to address the problems with the potholes (see above) and to consider the appropriate re-signing of the HGV route especially at Hollymoor Cross

RJB commented that there was a need for Highways to consider the HGV signage from Wadham and Luckett in particular to avoid HGV's attempting to turn right up Tracey's Hill.

## **13. Moors Management Report:**

13.1 DBM gave a verbal report; some swaling has been done but this has been a quiet period.

## **14. PCC report.**

14.1 RGH reported that the wooden crosses would be erected on Knowstone moor on 17 April ahead of the Easter weekend

14.2 RGH encouraged a good attendance at the celebration tea for Bill Bucknell's retirement on 20 April on Easter Sunday in hall.

## **15. Purchase of Land – consideration of options**

15.1 CHAIR felt that KPC needed to identify what would be the primary objective served by investing parish funds into ownership of a parcel of land. Was the primary objective (1) to establish a fixed base for community events such as the annual horse show and other community events e.g. summer fetes or parish sports days or (2) to invest the capital currently held in the bank for the purpose of growing the capital and generating income for the parish.

15.2 A wide ranging discussion followed during which CHAIR closed the meeting to allow members of the public to participate in the discussion.

15.3 It was agreed that in the absence of suitable available land on which to hold community events the primary objective was for capital investment.

15.4 It was agreed that shared ownership (e.g. with a local farmer) was fraught with difficulties. If the Parish is to invest in land then it should do so on its own. It was also agreed that ownership of any land brought with it the promise of rent but also responsibilities for fencing and maintenance as well as third party and public liability.

15.5 The possibility of purchasing with the aid of third party funding was raised and this possibility required further investigation to confirm whether or not permissible; assuming that the regulations do not preclude it the purchase of property for investment purposes (with or without third party funding) professional financial advice would be needed before proceeding.

Proposed: To examine the feasibility of purchasing a parcel of land as an investment for the Parish

(prp: RJB, sec: SH)

Outcome: Passed unanimously

## **16. Members reports:**

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

16.1 Annual Parish meeting. Will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014

16.2 Annual meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 27 May 2014

16.3 Consideration of the progress on the feasibility of purchasing land as investment (see above) to be listed as an agenda item

## **17. Date & Time of next meeting:**

17.1 Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9.20pm

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Minutes prepared by Richard Vos (Parish Clerk)