

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a regular meeting held on Tuesday 25th September 2018 at Knowstone Parish Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Before opening the meeting at 7.30 p.m. a minute's silence was observed to remember Johnny Kingdon who had recently died in the Parish.

Present: Cllr T Browse, Cllr J Filmer-Bennett (Vice Chairman), Cllr R Howe, Cllr T Moore (Chairman), Cllr J Stanbury, W Sweet (Clerk)

In attendance: Members of the public x 8, C/Cllr J Yabsley (part), D/Cllr Ley (part)

18/80 Apologies for absence – none, all councillors present.

18/81 Declarations of Interest (re. matters appearing on this agenda) - None

18/82 Approve Minutes After reading out a letter from Mrs R Newton, the words “for specific reasons” were inserted after “said” in first sentence of minute 18/68 and the rest of the sentence was deleted. It was RESOLVED to accept the amended minutes of the meeting held on 28th August 2018, Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Filmer-Bennett seconded, all agreed.

18/83 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

- Note receipt of DALC Annual Report 2017/18 and Devon Communities Together Commemorative Booklet, copy available at the meeting;
- Note receipt of RSN Rural Funding Digest - September Edition;
- Note receipt of Devon Communities Together September newsletter;
- Note letter dated 5.09.18 emailed to DCC Planning regarding planning application ref. 65094;
- Note email dated 5.09.18 regarding Parish Councillors' Register of Interest forms; Cllr Moore reminded councillors that forms have to be updated when necessary and submitted to the clerk.
- Note email dated 6.09.18 to Devon & Cornwall Police re. Councillor Advocate Scheme;
- Note receipt of email dated 7.09.18 from DCC Roads & Transport Team re. Winter Service 2018/19;
- Note receipt of email dated 8.09.18 from CPRE re. Campaigns update;
- Note receipt of email dated 10.09.18 from NDC with advance notice of the next Parish Forum to be held on Wednesday 7.11.18;
- Note emailed dated 10.09.18 sent to Dr Watson re. dog fouling problem;
- Note receipt of email invitation dated 11.09.18 to the forthcoming celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the opening of the North Devon Record Office;
- Note email dated 13.09.18 from Torridge District and North Devon Councils re. Publication of Inspector's Report on North Devon and Torridge Local Plan;
- Note emails dated 17.09.18 to Tom Vaughan and C/Cllr J Yabsley thanking them for attending meeting on 10.09.18 to discuss Road Warden Scheme;
- Note receipt of email dated 17.09.18 from Cllr E Costerton tendering his resignation; note email dated 18.09.18 to NDC advising them of resignation; notice receipt of Notice of Vacancy in Office of Councillor from NDC. Cllr Moore said that at some stage Ed's responsibilities would have to be delegated to other councillors. On behalf of the council he thanked him for his work whilst a member of the Parish Council.
- Note any correspondence received after the preparation of the agenda:
- Letter from R Newton re. inaccuracy in minutes;
- Email dated 19.09.18 from Devon Highways re. temporary traffic restriction: Moortown Cross to Wiston Cross, Knowstone from 1 - 3 October;
- Email dated 19.09.18 from Toby Russell of DAA confirming his attendance at the November meeting;
- Email dated 20.09.18 from CPRE attaching Member's Priority Invitation to Devon housing needs seminar;
- Letter from Royal Mail re. scam mail plus poster;
- Email dated 25.09.18 from Wendy Vigus with photos of flooding when the grate in E Knowstone was blocked.

18/84 Public Questions (limited to 20 minutes) Standing orders suspended.

Mr Vigus re. broken grate in East Knowstone, said that photos of flooding in 2008 had been emailed to the

Draft minutes for approval at next schedule meeting

clerk. He said that flooding had nearly occurred again in March this year and bollards have been on the grate for months. The Chairman said that C/Cllr Yabsley would hopefully be at the meeting later and as he had asked for evidence of flooding in East Knowstone, the matter could be discussed then.

Mr Morgans asked re. proposed closure of the road to repair cattle grid whether it is the tarmac immediately before the grid that is going to be repaired. Cllr Filmer-Bennett confirmed that was what the closure was for. Mr Morgans also asked: a) whether the council had received a reply to letter re. East Hill, b) if there was any further news re. site visit to poultry farm, c) A361 access to M5 - wanted to ask C/Cllr Yabsley what the plan is.

Details of the road closure from Moortown Cross to Wiston Cross were re-iterated by Cllr Filmer-Bennett who read out closure notice. The work is being undertaken by Skanska,

Mrs Newton said her property in East Knowstone has also flooded previously as had Westacott House the neighbouring property.

Nick was not happy about a LED street light that had been put up adjacent to the Old School House the previous day to replace an old style light that had stopped working six weeks earlier. He said that the light is extremely bright and floods the nearby properties, including his, there had been no consultation or notification that it was going to be installed and there had been no attempt to hide the cabling on the pole, bearing in mind it is in a conservation area. The Chairman said this was not something the Council had been notified about or involved with and the item would go on next month's agenda for discussion.

Standing Orders resumed

18/85 Finance

a) It was RESOLVED to approve the accounts and bank reconciliation, previously circulated, proposed Cllr Howe, seconded Cllr Filmer-Bennett, all agreed. Cllr Howe signed the accounts and bank statements.

b) Accounts to settle

- Clerk's salary (£136.89) & expenses (£11.25) £148.14

It was RESOLVED to settle the above account, Cllr Filmer-Bennet proposed, Cllr Browse seconded, all agreed.

c) It was RESOLVED to make a payment of £200 to Knowstone PCC for maintenance of the graveyard (reference their letter dated 22.08.18 previously circulated), proposed Cllr Howe, seconded Cllr Browse, all agreed.

d) It was RESOLVED to make a donation of £25 towards South Molton & District Community News monthly newsletter. Cllr Filmer-Bennett proposed, Cllr Stanbury seconded, all agreed.

18/86 It was RESOLVED to adopt following wording as the Council's pre-meeting prayer, which will be said before the meeting and not form part of the meeting itself, Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Browse seconded, 3 votes in favour, 2 abstentions, proposal carried. "Heavenly Father, We pray that you will bless this meeting of Knowstone Parish Council. Give us grace to discharge faithfully, fairly and wisely our responsibilities to our community. Guide our deliberations, keep our vision clear, our resolution firm and our good humour intact. Amen."

18/87 Planning

a) Applications received after preparation of the agenda - none

b) Applications notified since last meeting - none

c) re. Oaklands Poultry Farm's retrospective planning application, ref. 64059 – Cllr Howe reported that there are strong feelings at Blackerton about the application and a group has been organised. Cllr Howe will attend their meeting on behalf of KPC to discuss the situation. The real problem is the smell of chicken manure close to existing houses and to where market houses are due to be built which could affect their value and jeopardise the building of affordable housing. D/Cllr Ley said that things had moved on since KPC's response was discussed. It was now planned to take the chicken manure to Bishops Tawton which he felt was unsustainable. Cllr Moore said that KPC was trying to focus on the issues that may affect the parish, although wider issues were valid. The application is due to be considered at the next NDC Planning meeting on Wednesday 10th October

18/88 Councillors' roles – to discuss and clarify Snow Warden's duties and agree appropriate training. There had been a blurring between Emergency Plan, Highways role and Snow Warden role. The clerk will arrange Snow Warden training for Cllr Stanbury. Some of Knowstone's grit has already gone to the contractor that KPC

used last year. This has not been budgeted for and will need to be looked at again next year. Cllr Howe asked whether it was planned to put a grit bin where there used to be one on Tracey's hill, as at the moment there is only a pallet there. It was supposed to have been done last year and Richard Sables in Highways is aware of it needing to be done. Cllr Filmer-Bennett asked that other councillors did not deal with Highways issues themselves but to feed them through him.

Ed Costerton used to report back on Moors Management meeting. Their next meeting is in early December; it was noted that KPC needs to appoint a representative before then.

18/89 Third Party Reports:

a) **District Councillor** – D/Cllr Ley said that there was little happening locally. With regard to the Chicken Farm application the overriding issue is not what it is but where it is. Re. East Hill he said he would know more in a month's time. There is a 50/50 chance it will go before a Planning meeting. Since it was first mooted planning policy has changed and the application does not fit current planning policy, in particular the two affordable housing. The consultation period has only just finished. Cllr Yabsley said that DCC has stuck with their agreement to support the affordable housing within the application.

b) County Councillor

Highways issues: The Chairman suspended S/Os and two members of the public were invited to speak. Mr Vigus said that the grate in E Knowstone is severely damaged and cannot handle fast flood water and the natural camber in the road directs water to his farm. Photos had been supplied to the clerk. He said he could put down sand bags and blocks to send water elsewhere. Mrs Newton said that her property had also previously flooded as well as Westacott House next door. C/Cllr Yabsley was thanked for the research that he had done prior to meeting held on 10.09.18. DCC Highways Department will not get involved as it is on private land. The grating needs to be repaired and the pipework cleared out. If there are records of flooding and a risk exists there could be some money available for preventative measures through the flood resilience fund. The clerk will email photos supplied by Mr Vigus to C/Cllr Yabsley. The parish would have to make the application for funds and Cllr Yabsley will give the clerk the name of right person to approach at DCC. The Chairman resumed standing orders

With regard to the issue of HGV route – C/Cllr Yabsley reported that Tom Vaughan would support the changing of the signage if that is what KPC wants them to do. This is on the basis that farmers can manage deliveries for themselves or unload elsewhere which would mean that lorries did not need to come down the road to East Knowstone. The designation at Holy Moor could be changed to 'not suitable for heavy goods' same as at Knowstone Moor junction. Also the blue sign pointing along to next junction as being the designated HGV route would have to be removed. It could be paid for it by getting a grant.

Mr Morgans asked C/Cllr Yabsley about the roadworks on the A361 at junction 27 which is making it difficult to get to M5. He was concerned that lorries would start coming through Roachill to try and find a better route to the motorway and asked whether the roadworks would really go until March 2019. It was pointed out that the time period given is usually longer than what is actually needed so hopefully the works will not go on until next March. Cllr Filmer-Bennett said he would enquire about it through the usual route.

18/90 Members Reports

a) Highways

(i) **Road Warden Scheme** Cllr Moore briefly summarised the discussions that had taken place at the meeting on 10.09.18 – that the scheme could be as onerous or as light as the council wanted to make it, the main admin burden would be on the Road Warden and the Parish Clerk, it would be a useful way to get some things done around the parish more quickly than it would be done otherwise, there would be some costs involved. Both Tom Vaughan and C/Cllr Yabsley had been confident that the scheme was suitable for a council of Knowstone's size.

It was RESOLVED that "Knowstone Parish Council, having received all the relevant details on engaging with Devon County Council's Road Warden Scheme as laid down in the contract and advice received from Devon County Council, circulated prior to this meeting, agrees to proceed to finalise the agreement." Cllr Filmer-Bennett proposed, Cllr Moore seconded, 4 votes in favour, 1 abstention, motion carried.

It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Filmer-Bennett as Road Warden, proposed Cllr Moore, seconded Cllr Stanbury, all agreed.

(ii) **East Knowstone HGV sign** – it was agreed that the council will write to Tom Vaughan to get signs changed and HGV route removed as summarised by C/Cllr Yabsley in his report. Cllr Filmer-Bennett and clerk to write a letter to Tom Vaughan at DCC Highways to progress this. Cllr Browse was thanked for all his work on this matter.

(iii) Damaged grate in East Knowstone. Further to C/Cllr Yabsley's advice, it was agreed that KPC would write to DCC's Fund Resilience Team.

(iv) Discuss Council's response to email dated 29.08.18 from M Garrod Poole re. debris and water on hill between Wadham Cross and Luckett Bridge. Photos of the state of the hill were circulated at the meeting. Mr Poole was asked to speak and said that the hill is never cleared. There is a spring on the side of the road and water runs down and freezes and forms a sheet of ice in the winter. The hill was tarmacked 4-5 years ago and not been cleared since then. Cllr Filmer-Bennett has reported it on DCC's interactive website as being a hazard. He will follow it up and report back at the next meeting.

(v) Mobile speed control sign for Knowstone – Cllr Filmer-Bennett reported that he and the clerk had previously been trying to contact E & W Buckland Council to get information from them about their sign but they have decided not to proceed with it. Cllr Filmer-Bennett will get some detailed information and costs for consideration by KPC at a future meeting.

(vi) Cllr Filmer-Bennett reported that he and the clerk now have access to Highways Drainage information.

(vii) Cllr Howe said that a first class job had been done repairing the cattle grid at Harpson.

b) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – Cllr Browse - nothing to report except to say that the spraying has worked well at Beaples Stone.

c) **Moors Management Association Report** – Cllr Stanbury said that the AGM will take place on the first Monday in December. KPC is likely to receive a similar amount of money from the Association as last year.

d) **Police Report** – Cllr Moore reported that most police activity in the previous month had related to driving offences of which there had been half a dozen incidences. A caravan had been stolen in Molland and equipment in Umberleigh. D/Cllr Ley mentioned animals having been stolen in broad daylight locally and it had taken 4 days for police to respond.

e) **Parish Hall** – Cllr Howe reported that the disabled toilets were currently being built. New curtains were also being sorted out particularly for the screen. Both these projects were as a result of receiving a grant from the Batsworthy fund.

f) **PCC Report** – Cllr Howe reported that the church had had a good Harvest Festival. The collection at the Harvest service had raised £129 for the rural chaplain who visits the local livestock markets. The event had been well attended with good produce and flower arrangements; for which Thelma was thanked. £841 had been raised in total for church funds. For Bill & Mary Bucknell's 60th wedding anniversary party donations to the church restoration in lieu of presents had been requested and £495 had been raised. Upcoming activities – Con Spirito concert Friday 7th December at 7.30 p.m., tickets £7.50. A useful meeting had taken place on 7th September with Mr Dodd, the Diocese's specialist for church heating when various ideas on how to warm the church had been discussed, one of which is under pew heating.

18/91 Casual Vacancy for a Parish Councillor - nothing to report

18/92 Business at the Chairman's discretion – None

18/93 Date & Time of next meeting: Tuesday 23rd October 2018 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 21.18.