

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a regular meeting held on Tuesday 23rd October 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in Knowstone Parish Hall

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

In attendance: Members of the public x 4

18/94 Apologies for absence – Cllr J Filmer-Bennett due to a family function, Cllr E Ley

18/95 Declarations of Interest (re. matters appearing on this agenda) - None

18/96 Approve Minutes It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2018, Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Stanbury seconded, all agreed.

18/97 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

- Note receipt of email dated 5.10.18 from DCT re. Resilience Forum Event & Neighbourhood Planning Workshops. Cllr Browse said he had attended last year but was not planning to go this year – the topics being covered are flooding, flu pandemics and how to use a walkie-talkie which he did not feel were particularly relevant to Knowstone.
- Note receipt of email dated 8.10.18 from BBC Two Show – Love in The Countryside;
- Note receipt of letter dated 8.10.18 from Community News thanking the Council for its recent donation;
- Note receipt of email from Jane Faust dated 9.10.18 with update on noise compliance monitoring of the turbines at Batsworthy Cross;
- Note receipt of email dated 10.10.18 from NDC Electoral Services re. Knowstone Casual Vacancy;
- Note receipt of email dated 16.10.18 from Devon Highways re. Works Programmes survey;
- Note receipt of email from Devon Highways dated 17.10.18 re. Chapter 8 training for the Road Warden Scheme;
- Note receipt of email from Councillor Advocate OPCC dated 17.10.18 re. Councillor Advocate Scheme The Chairman said he had not had a chance to read all the accompanying paperwork but the scheme looked interesting. It will be looked at in detail at the next meeting;

Note any correspondence received after the preparation of the agenda:

- Email dated 22.10.18 from DCC Waste Management Officer re. Recycling Devon Thank You Awards 2019;
- Email dated 22.10.18 from NDC re. Loans for housing repairs;
- Email dated 23.10.18 from Cllr Browse re. Harpson track – will be covered later on in the meeting;
- Email dated 18.10.18 from DCC re. Repair café revolution;
- Email dated 18.10.18 from Life on the Verge Biosphere project;

18/98 Public Questions *Standing orders suspended.*

Mr K Dykes asked: (1) was the dumpy bag at the top of Tracey's Hill going to be replaced with a grit bin? It had been moved there from its original place in a field. It had been due to be replaced last year which did not happen. The clerk will email Richard Sables to chase up. (2) As there had been a number of deaths recently on the link road due to people falling asleep, he felt that the sign on the approach to Moortown Cross suggesting drivers take a break was too close to the turn off for the rest area and would like the sign moved to nearer the bridge. He intends to write to Peter Heaton-Jones MP about this and would like KPC's support in the matter. It was suggested that Cllr Filmer-Bennett speaks to Richard Sables about it and that the issue is discussed at the next meeting. Mr Dykes was asked to send copy of his letter to the Clerk. (3) Mr Dykes is also going to write to Peter Heaton-Jones about improving the junction at Moortown Cross/A361 as the amount of traffic on the link road has greatly increased in recent years and he has seen a lot of near misses at that junction. He would also like KPC's support on this issue.

Mr D Morgans asked: (1) when considering item 8c and Cllr Howe's report on Batsworthy Noise Working Group, could KPC look at his letter to NDC about this matter? (2) He had recently attended CPRE's seminar on government housing policy and passed a booklet which had been given out at the seminar to the Chairman entitled "A Review of Government Housing policy and its impact on Devon". (3) Whilst sorting through the Parish Council's records with the Clerk and Cllr Filmer-Bennett it had come to light that no-one knew where the Parish's Millennium Capsule was buried and so he had produced a sheet listing what was in it and where it is buried. A copy was given to Mrs Wilmetts to be put in the village archives and a copy to the clerk to go in the Council's files.
Standing orders resumed.

18/99 Finance

- a) Accounts to date, previously circulated, were reviewed.
- b) Expenditure against budget to 6 months ending 30.09.18, previously circulated, was reviewed.
- c) **Accounts to settle**
 - Clerk's salary (£152.90) & expenses (£4.05) £156.95It was RESOLVED to pay the above account, Cllr Browse proposed, Cllr Howe seconded, all agreed.
- d) It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would attend the SLCC training seminar on 28th November at a cost of £75 plus VAT, details previously circulated, Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Stanbury seconded, all agreed.
- e) It was RESOLVED to make a donation to Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon Citizens Advice of £25 in response to their email and letter dated 11.10.18, previously circulated, Cllr Stanbury proposed, Cllr Howe seconded, all agreed.

18/100 Standing Orders It was RESOLVED to amend clause 3(u) of Standing Orders to read ".....and in no case shall the quorum of a meeting be less than three." – Cllr Browse proposed, Cllr Howe seconded, all agreed.

18/101 Planning

- a) Applications received after preparation of the agenda - none
- b) Applications notified since last meeting – none
- c) It was noted by Cllr Howe that there have not been any planning enforcements by NDC for over a month.
- d) Consider Jane Faust's email dated 15.10.18 to Cllr Howe re. request to Knowstone PC re NDC and noise compliance of the turbines at Batsworthy. Cllr Howe said that NDC are ignoring the Inspector and are not carrying out testing at the required number of sites. One property owner did not want noise monitoring equipment on their property. Mr Morgans pointed out that the Inspector had given no sanction to alter the condition or create a new condition for the noise monitoring. It was felt that NDC has washed its hands of the situation. It was RESOLVED that the Council would write to NDC with copies to Peter Heaton-Jones MP, C/Cllr J Yabsley, D/Cllr E Ley and the Batsworthy Noise Working Group based on the points raised in Jane Faust's and D Morgan's letters addressing the breach of conditions and NDC's lack of engagement with the problem; Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Browse seconded, 3 in favour, one abstention, motion carried. Cllr Howe will draft a letter which he will circulate to all councillors.

18/102 Third Party Reports (if present):

- a) District Councillor – not present
- b) County Councillor – not present

18/103 Members Reports

- a) **Highways** – Cllr Filmer-Bennett had circulated the following report which Cllr Moore read out:

Road Warden scheme

Further to the last meeting the Chairman has signed the agreement for the Road warden scheme and an application has been made on behalf of Councillor Filmer-Bennett to attend Chapter 8 training. All costs will be covered by D.C.C.

HGV signage discussed at the last meeting

The clerk has written formally to D.C.C. asking for the alterations to be made to current signage, a copy of this letter has been circulated.

Damaged grate at East Knowstone

As agreed at the last meeting the clerk has written to the DCC fund resilience scheme to establish if funding was available to repair this.

Road condition from Wadham Cross to Lockett Bridge

As agreed the problems on this stretch of road were reported on the appropriate website. Since then the Highways officer for North Devon has been in touch with Councillor Filmer-Bennet and the officer is arranging a site visit to ascertain the full problems to be addressed.

Mobile speed control signs

Councillor Filmer-Bennett is waiting responses for costings for the above.

Replacement street lighting in Knowstone

The clerk has prepared letter for councillors to discuss at this meeting. It was RESOLVED to send the proposed letter, previously circulated, to Western Power re. new LED light in Knowstone after amending the reference to the light being on all night as Mr K Dykes said he thought that the light goes out at 1.00 a.m., Cllr Stanbury proposed, Cllr Browse seconded, all agreed

Harpson Lane – Mr Newton had approached Cllr Browse to see if anything could be done about the standing water on the track, silt is stopping the run off going into the ditch. There is also a problem at the Knowstone end. Cllr Filmer-Bennett to report problem via the website. Mrs Newton said that it was a byway which was maintained to bridleway standard.

Cllr Howe said he had emailed Cllr Filmer-Bennett about the sign that has been damaged opposite the entrance to Harpson and Kidland. It was assumed that Highways already know about it as there are cones either side of it. In the dark it is the only way to see that there is a turning there so important that it is re-instated as soon as possible.

b) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – Cllr Browse reported that he had recently met with Ros Davis. She had checked the path adjacent to Enfield House which remains unobstructed. As it stands it is fine but DCC are happy to supply the landowner with a steel, self-closing gate FOC for him to install as the county is phasing out stiles. Cllr Browse reported that there were posts down on the paths at the Newtons and at Acorn Cottage at Harpson both of which will be replaced. He is in the process of replacing way markers where required.

c) **Police Report** – Cllr Moore reported that there had been the usual low key crime with nothing of major significance. There was a reminder from the police that if someone does break down, they should leave their vehicle and watch for traffic.

d) **Parish Hall** – Cllr Howe reported that by Saturday, the disabled toilet will be installed and working in time for the dance in the evening. He said credit should go to Ken Dykes for the successful bid to the Batsworthy fund. There will be a working party on Saturday morning to clear up and clean the hall. The first film nights of the season will be on 8th November - 'The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society' and on 6th December –'The Greatest Showman'. The screen will soon be adorned with new curtains.

e) **PCC Report** – Cllr Howe reported that work has started on the church and the first part has been completed externally on the south side of the building where the Buttress which accommodates the rood steps was moving away from the main structure. This has now been tied in by Nick Avery. The conservation work will start shortly. Acrow jacks will have to be used within the rood steps. Future activities – Saturday 1st December Christmas Fayre, Friday 7th December Con Spirito concert in the church – tickets available from Jeremy Filmer-Bennett, 11th December Bingo Night and Sunday 16th December Carol service. There will not be a service on Christmas Day in Knowstone due to shortage of clergy. Cllr Howe said he would be talking to the churchwarden at North Molton about their under pew heating which was very effective to see if it would be suitable for St Peter's Church. Cllr Browse will be having a meeting with Western Power to check the amount of power coming into the church in preparation for this.

Cllr Howe said he had been looking into the glebe land belonging to the church and showed the meeting a map of the land owned by the church including a thin strip bordering land on the way to Ash Mill. He intended to check with GTH that this land was not being included in the sale of the neighbouring farm.

f) **Snow Warden** – Cllr Stanbury said he was still waiting to hear from Richard Stables about training. The Clerk was asked to chase this up.

18/104 Councillors' roles – appoint a KPC representative to attend Moor Management Association meetings. Cllr Moore said he would attend the next meeting as the KPC representative.

18/105 Casual Vacancy for a Parish Councillors It was re-iterated by a couple of councillors that it was felt to be a good idea for any potential councillors to attend a Council meeting to see what is involved. It was noted that there are now two vacancies on the council.

18/106 Business at the Chairman's discretion – None

18/107 Date & Time of next meeting: Tuesday 27th November 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 20.52.

Minutes prepared by W Sweet, Parish Clerk.