

## KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of a regular meeting held on Tuesday 26th February 2019 in Knowstone Parish Hall

**Present:** Cllr T Browse, Cllr R Howe, Cllr T Moore (Chairman)

**In attendance:** Members of the public x 4, D/Cllr E Ley, W Sweet (Clerk)

**18/134 Apologies for absence** Cllr Filmer-Bennett, away on business, Cllr J Stanbury, due to work

**18/135 Declarations of Interest** (re. matters appearing on this agenda) - None

**18/136 Approve Minutes** It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2019, Cllr Browse proposed. Cllr Howe seconded, all agreed.

**18/137 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)**

- Note receipt of email dated 2.02.19 from CPRE re. Campaigns update;
- Note receipt of emailed newsletter dated 9.02.19 from DALC;
- Note receipt of emails dated 12.02.19 & 19.02.19 from Rural Services Network with Rural Bulletin;
- Note receipt of email dated 14.02.19 from DALC with events bulletin;

**Note any correspondence received after the preparation of the agenda:**

- The Chairman read out an email from Judith Riley thanking the Council for the condolence they had sent following the death of Iris Riley, former clerk to the Council;
- Email dated 21.02.19 from DALC re. Local Council Expo;
- Email dated 23.02.19 inviting councillors to visit Barnstaple custody centre;
- Email dated 25.02.19 from Office of the Police & Crime Commission re. Councillor advocate seminar wrap up – as only just received the Chairman said he would talk about this at next month's meeting;
- Email dated 26.02.18 from CPRE with invite to New Housing Seminar on 21.3.19;
- A copy of 'Clerks & Council Direct' was available at the meeting for councillors to look at.

**18/138 Public Questions *Standing orders suspended.***

Mr D Morgans said that as a member of CPRE he will be attending their housing seminar and offered a lift if anyone would like one. He also said that the surface of the road from Little Oak to the top of the hill going towards Rackenford is full of pot holes. This had been mentioned at the last meeting and Cllr Filmer-Bennett was going to show C/Cllr Yabsley and Highways officer on their next visit to the Parish. It has been officially lodged and is on list to do. Mr Morgans also raised the problem of tractors being driven on the verge towards the beech tree and requested that if anyone saw it being done that they ask them to stop doing it as the verge will eventually be worn away. This is also a problem with verges near Moortown Cross.

***Standing orders resumed.***

**18/139 Finance**

a) It was RESOLVED to agree accounts and bank reconciliation to date, previously circulated, Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Browse seconded, all agreed. Cllr Howe signed the accounts.

**b) Accounts to settle**

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| • Clerk's salary Jan/Feb (£171.77) & expenses (£2.32) | £174.09             |
| • Website Development – annual hosting service        | £222.00 (incl. VAT) |
| • Jewsons - PPE for Cllr Filmer-Bennett               | £99.30 (incl. VAT)  |

It was RESOLVED to settle the above accounts, Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Browse seconded, all agreed.

c) It was RESOLVED to agree the Clerk's attendance at DALC seminar 'Preparing for Elections' on 7th March at cost of £30 plus VAT (or £15 plus VAT if Rackenford and Creacombe PC agree to share the cost), Cllr Browse proposed, Cllr Howe seconded, all agreed.

*Approved*

The Clerk briefly ran through the key dates for the Parish and District elections which will be held on Thursday 2nd May. The Notice of Election will be issued on 18th March, with nominations opening on 19th March and closing on 3rd April. Nomination papers will be available from the clerk and are required to be delivered by hand to NDC. If there is an election the council will not be charged for Poll cards. The chairman said that although the council only needs 3 councillors at a meeting to be quorate, it needs 5 councillors to be a viable council so important to have enough candidates.

#### **18/140 Discuss the installation of disposal bins for dog mess in the Parish**

Cllr Moore reported that this issue had been raised at the recent Moors Management meeting in particular in respect to installing a bin on Knowstone moor where a lot of people park and let their dogs out onto the tarmacked path. Some cattle on the moor are not giving birth as they should be due to this problem. Residents in Knowstone have also said there is sometimes a problem with dog mess. If bins are supplied there would be the cost of having them emptied. It was suggested that official council signs could be put on the stakes along the road near the Millennium stone and along the path. It was pointed out that if the council encourages people to pick up after their dogs they should provide somewhere to dispose of it. It was agreed that if Moors Management Association decided to go ahead with a bin then the Council would support them and a letter to this effect will be sent to them.

#### **18/141 Planning**

- a) Applications received after preparation of the agenda - None
- b) Applications notified since last meeting – None
- c) The retrospective application re. chicken farm in East Anstey will be before NDC Planning Committee on Wednesday 13th March which Cllr Howe will be attending.
- d) It was agreed that Cllr Howe will attend NDC's Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 7th March at Brynsworthy where the noise monitoring situation at Batsworthy will be on the agenda.

#### **18/142 Third Party Reports (if present):**

- a) District Councillor Ley said that at the Overview and Scrutiny committee two spokespersons would be allowed to speak re. Batsworthy. It needed to be people with detailed knowledge and able to answer questions. Proper monitoring is needed and the wind turbines to be idle during unsocial hours. If the operator cannot conform to inspector conditions they would have to stop using the turbines.  
Re. East Hill – no news to report, still with solicitors.

#### **18/143 Members Reports**

- a) **Highways** – Cllr Filmer-Bennett had submitted a written report which was read out by the Chairman and a copy is attached to these minutes. Cllr Browse raised the issue of the broken grate in East Knowstone which will roll over to next meeting. It was agreed that the clerk would write to Cllr Yabsley to see if anything is happening on the flood resilience front. It was pointed out that even if the grate is fixed it would not actually stop flooding into Vigus' yard. Cllr Howe reported that the palette and sack containing salt half way up Tracey's hill had now disappeared. There should be a grit bin there which has been raised previously. It was agreed that the Clerk would speak to Richard Sables/C/Cllr Yabsley about this plus the flashing sign mentioned in Cllr Filmer-Bennett's report and the requested East Knowstone HGV signage.
- b) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – Cllr Browse reported that the annual footpath reports and finance forms had been submitted. He has been researching the cost of a bench for Beaples Stone and had written to C/Cllr Yabsley to get contact details of the County's procurement officer in the hope of getting a better price. He will report back when more information obtained.
- c) **Police Report** – Cllr Moore read the brief list of crimes in SM from the police blog. The Police are advising people to drive carefully and slowly through the roadworks on the A361.
- d) **Parish Pound** – Cllr Howe reported on his research regarding the creation of a war memorial on the Pound. The clerk had supplied him with a document from the War Memorial Trust on how to create a War Memorial. He will make a model of what he envisages it would look like to put it on the website to see what people think. The Chairman asked Cllr Howe to speak about the proposed scheme at

*Approved*

the Annual Meeting of the Parish in May. Cllr Howe will chase up the removal of ivy on the other side of the Pound wall.

- e) **Parish Hall** – Cllr Howe gave details of forthcoming events - coffee morning next Wednesday 6th March; film night on 7th March showing 'Christopher Robin', final film of the season; Spring Market on 31st March; Annual Village Fair & Show on Saturday 15th June.
- f) **PCC Report** – Cllr Howe reported that the stone work stabilisation for rood loft steps has now been completed. High tensile steel bars have been used inside the rood steps ceiling to make it safe. Ecclesiastical Insurance is happy for it to left as it is with the church unlocked. By mid-March the conservation part of the work will be finished and the scaffolding will come down. There are plans to put a plaque on the wall with information about the steps plus the names of people who have donated to the funds for the work. The architect has a friend who will paint a watercolour of what it probably looked like. Cllr Howe has been onto the church roof to check where it is leaking and retrieved a teddy from last summer's teddy parachute jump. The builder, Nick Avery has identified where the water could be leaking. The postponed quinquennial inspection will take place later this year in conjunction with church's architect, Alison Bunning. Once all the work is finally completed, the Bishop of Exeter, Bishop Robert will come and conduct a service. The trees in the churchyard have recently been pollarded.
- g) **Air Ambulance Site** – Cllr Moore said he felt the Council needed C/Cllr Yabsley's guidance on how to approach the idea of using County Council owned land at East Hill farm for a potential landing site. It was RESOLVED to invite Toby Russell from Devon Air Ambulance to talk at the Annual Meeting of the Parish, proposed Cllr Howe, seconded Cllr Browse, all agreed. Hopefully this will attract more people to attend. In the meantime, Cllr Moore will contact C/Cllr Yabsley to see if he can start progressing the possibility of a landing site on land at East Hill farm.
- h) **Snow Warden** – No report, Cllr Stanbury not present.

**18/144 Casual Vacancy for two Parish Councillors** Parishioners to be encouraged to put themselves forward to stand at the upcoming election in May.

**18/145 Business at the Chairman's discretion** – no decision making to take place during this item

Cllr Howe reported that he had recently visited the Log Cabin Diner and passed information about Knowstone's defibrillator to Mrs Selby. It was suggested that it would be a good idea to hold a CPR refresher training session soon organised by KPC/Parish Hall committee which Cllr Moore said he would be happy to run again.

**18/146 Date & Time of next meeting:** Tuesday 26th March 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed 20.40