

## KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a regular meeting held on Tuesday 26th June 2018 at Knowstone Parish Hall at 7.30 p.m.

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

**In attendance:** Members of the public x 3, D/Cllr Ley (part), PCSO Bray (part)

**18/34 Apologies for absence** - Cllr Costerton, away on business, Cllr J Stanbury, work commitments

**18/35 Declarations of Interest** (re. matters appearing on this agenda) - None

**18/36 Approve Minutes** It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 29th May 2018, Cllr Howe proposed, seconded Cllr Browse, all agreed.

**18/37 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)**

- Note receipt of letter dated 22.05.18 from Victim Support asking for contribution towards its work;
- Note receipt of email and press release dated 5.06.18 from DCC re. library services consultation; the Chairman suggested that a link to the simple survey about the library service is put on the Knowstone website.
- Note receipt of email dated 8.06.18 from Barnstaple Town Clerk re. North Devon Record Office;
- Note receipt of Agenda for Parish Forum to be held on 3rd July 2018 at 7.00 p.m. The Chairman asked if there was a volunteer who could attend; no-one available.
- Note receipt of Annual Report 2017 from CPRE Devon, available at meeting.
- Note letter dated 5.06.18 to Mr & Mrs Allen re. footpath #7;
- Note letter dated 19.06.18 to Highways re. damage being caused by lorries to road from Moortown Cross and Blackerton Cross;
- Note receipt of email dated 18.06.18 from Bev Costerton re. overgrown footpath from East Knowstone to Shapcott;
- Note any correspondence received after the preparation of the agenda. A newsletter from DALC had been circulated which contained information about a chairmanship course costing £25 plus VAT taking place in September. The Clerk will put this on next month's agenda for the Chairman to attend.

The Chairman confirmed that copies of all correspondence listed above are available to view on the Knowstone website.

**18/38 Councillors' roles** were reviewed and agreed as follows:

Cllr T Browse	Emergency Plan, Footpaths & Beaples Stone, Welcome Pack
Cllr E Costerton	KPC's rep on Moors Management Association, assist on Planning
Cllr J Filmer-Bennett	Highways, Road Warden scheme, Data Protection with Clerk
Cllr R Howe	Planning, KPC's rep on Parish Hall committee, Batsworthy Noise Working Group, PCC
Cllr T Moore	Police Liaison, S/O's Working Group, assist with Planning, Financial matters with Clerk
Cllr J Stanbury	Snow Warden, Tree Warden

It was agreed that to discuss the role of the Snow Warden more fully at next meeting to clarify the position on who was responsible for ordering salt, grit bins etc.

**18/39 Public Questions** (limited to 20 minutes) **Members of the public are invited to speak only on a topic that is on this agenda; please contact the clerk for any other matter to be considered for inclusion on the agenda at a future meeting of the council. Standing orders suspended**

With reference to Item 8 (c) Mrs Newton asked how many people have objected to this within Knowstone; she felt that the proposed statement was misleading as currently the waste products go to South Molton via the B3227 and then onto Bishops Tawton. As only one person from Knowstone has submitted an objection which appears on the NDC website, she felt that it was the view of a few parishioners not the majority. The Chairman acknowledged Mrs Newton's comments and said that the proposed statement was in response to the expressed feelings of many in Roachill where there potentially could be problems which could adversely impact on the Parish.

**Standing orders resumed.**

**18/40 Finance**

- a) It was RESOLVED to agree accounts and bank reconciliation as at 20.06.18, previously circulated, proposed Cllr Howe, seconded Cllr Filmer-Bennett, all agreed. Accounts and bank statements were signed by Cllr Browse.

*Approved*

b) **Accounts to settle**

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| • Clerk's salary (£161.36) & expenses (£45.39) | £206.75                   |
| • J Poole Plant Hire and Groundworks           | £1,200.00 (incl £200 VAT) |

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

**18/41 Planning**

- a) Applications received after preparation of the agenda - None  
b) Applications notified since last meeting - None  
c) To review and agree Cllr Filmer-Bennett's proposed statement at NDCC planning meeting on 11th July 2018 re. Oaklands Poultry Farm's retrospective planning application, ref. 64059:

'Knowstone Parish Council wish to make representation for the retrospective planning application for Oakland's Chicken farm on the grounds of environmental amenity as it is assumed that the waste products from this large development could well be driven by lorry through Knowstone and Roachill as the most direct route and as such would cause an unacceptable presence in these communities particularly as better and less populated roads are available. Knowstone Parish Council wish to request that any planning given to this development has a requirement for the disposal of any waste product to be moved not through the populated areas of the parish and any building materials be also routed with the same consideration.'

Cllr Filmer-Bennett said that although the application was not within Knowstone the council is entitled to comment on it or any planning issue in an adjoining parish. As further investigations are needed in connection with this application it will not be considered at the July NDC Planning meeting. Cllr Howe queried the need to refer to building materials as the chicken houses have already been built. He felt that the big concern for the parish is the impact of the aroma of 29,000 chickens wafting across to the new houses at Blackerton affecting their value and therefore the ability of the developer to build affordable house was seriously at risk. The Council had previously written to NDC to that effect.

Cllr Filmer-Bennet proposed resolution as it stands, Cllr Browse seconded, 3 in favour, 1 against.

**18/42 Third Party Reports** (if present):

- a) District Councillor – Cllr Ley said that he thought that KPC's statement was weak re. Oaklands Poultry farm and not consistent with the letter it had previously sent, although the matter of waste distribution was a valid point as it could be transported in any direction. The main concern was that the affordable housing may not happen as a result of the chicken farm's location. The Chairman felt that the local parish would be making that point strongly and as KPC would only have three minutes to make a statement the question of where the waste is going needs to be posed. It was agreed that the council would review the letter previously sent and consider again at next month's meeting.

On other matters, Cllr Ley reported that things were very quiet; no news re. East Hill.

- 18/43 Discuss and agree Council's response to Devon Council's proposal to decommission and remove six emergency 'SOS' telephones** located along the A361 from Uplowman to Rackenford Moor as outlined in DCC's letter dated 4.06.18, circulated to all councillors. If KPC wanted to keep the one closest to the parish it would be expected to pay towards the cost of its refurbishment, approximately £2000. After brief discussion it was agreed that as the majority of people have mobile phones and as the statistics showed that the emergency phones had very little usage no response would be submitted which would be taken by DCC as KPC's agreement to the phones being decommissioned

- 18/44 Risk Assessment** – it was RESOLVED to adopt the risk assessment as circulated prior to the meeting with extra clause added by the Chairman to cover Planning. Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Filmer-Bennett seconded, all agreed.

**18/45 Members Reports**

- a) **Highways** – Cllr Filmer-Bennett had been in touch with East & West Buckland Parish Council to obtain more information about the cost etc of a mobile speed/slow down sign. He hopes to have a meeting with Cllr Mason-Thomas and the Chairman of E & W Buckland Parish Council before the July meeting and will report back then.

A number of parishioners had contacted him about a seriously broken grate on the old Rackenford road. He has reported it via DCC's website. Two cones and a large sign saying 'do not drive on left-hand side' have been placed by it and it will be repaired as a matter of urgency.

An email about the '20 is plenty campaign' had been circulated to all councillors. DCC has been unable to do anything about the issue in the past as Highways against it. A Speed Limit Task Group has to been set up to look into it which is being led by Nicola Renovich. It was suggested that the Clerk invites Ms Renovich to come and speak at a future council meeting.

HGVs through East Knowstone – following the discussion at the last council meeting Cllr Filmer-Bennett and Cllr Browse are still trying to arrange a meeting with C/Cllr Yabsley.

Road warden scheme – Cllr Filmer-Bennett has formally applied for more details and received a response. Someone from DCC will come along to discuss the scheme and it was suggested and agreed that the appropriate person be invited to talk to the whole council at next month's meeting.

Cllr Filmer-Bennett reported that the Traffic Sensitive Needs Consultation is now closed. The review panel has identified the Link road as a sensitive road and will be prioritised.

Roadworks had been undertaken in Knowstone on the eve of the Knowstone Fair which already had a road closure organised for the following day. There had been discussion by the Chairman and the County Council that this was not a good idea and it had not been handled well by Devon County staff. However the work was done early in the morning and quickly as promised by DCC. It was felt that the notice of closure of the road was not legal and had not gone through the proper process. C/Cllr Yabsley has been asked to speak to them about it.

- b) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – With reference to Bev Costerton's email Cllr Browse said that he had spoken to Ros Davis and had been told it was on the list to be strimmed and contractors will drop the rotten tree at the same time. Cllr Browse had been informed by Ros Davis that DCC has a lot of vegetation to deal with elsewhere, ie on the coastal paths which are important for tourism and will get to Knowstone when they can. The Council was sympathetic to the problem but could not justify paying for a strim when DCC might come to do it a week later. The Clerk will liaise with Cllr Browse to reply to Bev's email. It was suggested that she also writes to DCC.

**Beaples Stone** – Cllr Browse reported that he was making arrangements for the tree planting later this year to tie in with the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy Project. It will be in November but no actual date yet. He has spoken to Rackenford School about a class coming along and being involved and it would also be open to children who live in the village. Cllr Browse will speak to police for advice or to possibly coming along on the day as Beaples Stone adjacent to a dangerous stretch of road.

- c) **Moors Management Association Report** – nothing to report.

- d) **Parish Pound** – Cllr Howe suggested that in order to make the Pound more attractive and keep maintenance to a minimum, it could be dug out, anti-weed membrane put down covered with scalplings and a few plant pots similar to what has been done at Beaples Stone. Cllr Browse felt that the cost would be under the figure that would require the Council to go out to tender and it was agreed that he will ask for a quote from J Poole. The key thing will be to keep it tidy and maintained. Cllr Howe suggested that Steve Vincent could be asked and may be prepared to maintain it. KPC will also consider putting a bench there and erecting a plaque to explain what the area used to be.

- e) **Police Report** – PCSO Bray said she had been pleased to come to the recent fair and looking back over recent crime reports there has not been anything over some considerable time which she was pleased to see. She informed the council of a new scheme - the councillor advocate – which is being introduced to make better use of police resources. Steven Wilkinson has been appointed in the South Molton area to liaise between the police and the council. Police officers may still come to council meetings if needed. PCSO Bray said she was meeting with Mr Wilkinson next week and would let him know that Knowstone Parish Council had not received any correspondence or notification about this new scheme.

- f) **Parish Hall** – Cllr Howe gave a brief report on the recent Village Fair & Show which despite some rain had been very good with a net income of just over £1,100. It had been a team effort with everybody working hard to make it a success.

- g) **PCC Report** – Cllr Howe reported that the PCC has permission to go ahead with the faculty to get the work done in the church which will hopefully start in July. Peter Heaton-Jones, MP had been in touch following a dinner engagement with the Bishop of Exeter with whom he had discussed Knowstone Church having visited it after opening the Village Fair. It is hoped that Bishop Robert will come and conduct a service in the church once the work has been completed.

Cllr Moore said that Instow Parish Council meetings start with prayers and wondered if that was something Knowstone Parish Council wished to consider and vote on at a future meeting. Cllr Howe said he would speak to the clergy about it and put something forward for the next meeting.

h) **Emergency Plan** – Cllr Browse reported that he had attended an interesting Resilience Event on 13th June, which had mostly covered flooding. He had talked to Toby Russell about community landing places for Devon Air Ambulance which is still looking to get as many landing sites as possible. Toby Russell would be happy to come along and talk to the Council and it was agreed that this would be organised for a future meeting. Cllr Browse had passed a copy of the Emergency Plan information to Greg Davies of Devon Communities Together for him to review and report back. Insurance cover for volunteers is still a grey area and he and the Clerk will get together and produce a letter to volunteers for review at the next meeting.

**18/46 Casual Vacancy for a Parish Councillor** – There has been no movement on this; the Chairman asked councillors to encourage anyone they might come across who might be suitable to consider it.

**18/47 Diary/Forthcoming Community Events:**

Harvest Supper                  Saturday 15th September

**18/48 Members - Matters of Immediate Concern** for inclusion at the next meeting. The Chairman pointed out that councillors, like members of the public, should be passing items to the clerk to go on the agenda so this item may not be necessary for future agendas. It may be replaced with 'Any matters raised at the discretion of the chairman' to cover anything that may have come up between publishing the agenda and the meeting.

**18/49 Date & Time of next meeting:** Tuesday 24th July 2018 at 7.30pm.

Meeting finished at 9.25 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Wendy Sweet, Parish Clerk