

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a regular meeting held on Tuesday 28th August 2018 at Knowstone Parish Hall at 7.30 p.m.

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

In attendance: Members of the public x 4, D/Cllr Ley

18/64 Apologies for absence – Cllr J Stanbury

18/65 Declarations of Interest (re. matters appearing on this agenda) None

18/66 Approve Minutes After making a correction to item 18/59(a) 2nd paragraph, line 11 to read “KPC” not “KPCC”, it was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2018, Cllr Filmer-Bennett proposed, seconded Cllr Browse, all agreed.

18/67 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

- Note receipt of ‘Countryside Voice’ Summer edition from CPRE – copy available at meeting;
- Note email dated 26.07.18 from Ken Miles, NDC re. Community Governance review;
- Note email dated 31.07.18 from DCC re. extended consultation deadline for North Devon Link Road – SOS Emergency Phones Consultation;
- Note email dated 7.08.18 from Dr M Watson re. problem of dog mess. Cllr Moore said that this can be reported on North Devon Council’s website (<http://www.northdevon.gov.uk/environment/dog-issues/dog-fouling-and-dog-bins/>) and it would be dealt with by NDC’s Environmental Health Department. It was felt that there was not very much the Parish Council could do. Signage could be put up but on previous occasions when the PCC had put up signs these had subsequently been removed by a parishioner. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Dr Watson and suggest he reports the problem to NDC.
- Note receipt of Parish Paths Partnership Summer newsletter; Cllr Browse reported that free strimming courses were being run by DCC and to let him know if anyone wanted to go on one.
- Note email dated 9.08.18 from Amanda Palmer, NDC re. Police and Crime Commissioner Councillor Advocate Scheme. It was agreed that the clerk would inform them that KPC is interested in participating in the scheme and would like further information. The scheme is due to start in October/ November. Cllr Moore said he would be happy to attend and represent the council, but other councillors could also attend if they wished to.
- Note email dated 17.08.18 from Devon Communities Together re. Devon Home Choice Training session invite;
- Note receipt of Temporary Traffic Notice – prohibition of through traffic and parking on road from five crossway to Beaples Moor Cross from Monday 3 September until Friday 7 September 2018; diversion will be signposted. Closure due to drainage work being undertaken.
- Note receipt of Temporary Traffic Order - prohibition of through traffic & parking in various roads in Northern Area, Devon between Monday 17 September 2018 and Sunday 31 March 2019;

Correspondence received after the preparation of the agenda

- Note email dated 24.08.18 sent to Tom Vaughan, Highways, DCC inviting him to speak about the Road Warden Scheme at an Extraordinary Council meeting to be held during the day during week commencing 10.09.18; note out of office until 3.09.18 response received on 24.08.18
- Note letter dated 28.08.18 sent to Toby Russell, Community Landing Sites Development Officer, Devon Air Ambulance confirming Cllr Browse’s verbal invitation to talk at next Council meeting.

18/68 Public Questions (*standing orders suspended*)

Mrs R Newton, regarding item 12, said that in the past prayers had been said for specific reasons before the start of a meeting. Re. item 18/54 in the minutes, Mrs Newton had asked that KPC consider donating

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towards the upkeep of the churchyard and she thought KPC receives a grant from NDC for this purpose. The Chairman asked Cllr Howe to respond under PCC report. Mrs Newton said she would like to see the Council's minute book for 1960 – 1964. The Clerk thought it had probably been archived but will double check.

Mrs M Browse, regarding item 14, Casual Vacancy and referring to July's minutes asked: a) if an individual is interested in standing for Parish Council why not encouraged them to fill the vacancy now? b) have they been encouraged to attend meetings as members of the public to see what is involved in being a councillor? c) It would be a good idea if it was known who they were so they could be encouraged. Cllr Moore said he would ask Cllr Filmer-Bennett to respond under item 14.

18/69 Finance

a) The accounts to date, previously circulated, were reviewed.

b) Accounts to settle

- Clerk's salary (£135.33) & expenses (£2.72) £138.05

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

18/70 Adopt investment strategy as previously circulated. Cllr Moore explained that the council does not legally need one; however guidance from the Secretary of State strongly recommends that a council with the size of reserves that KPC has does have a strategy, which would be reviewed annually. Historically KPC has kept money in the bank, giving high liquidity and security and the strategy reflects this. Cllr Howe said that if KPC did wish to invest in the future perhaps it could look at CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities) fund which the PCC had recently invested in. It was RESOLVED to adopt the investment strategy, TM proposed, Cllr Howe seconded, all agreed.

18/71 Planning

a) Applications received after preparation of the agenda – None

b) Applications notified since last meeting - ref 65094: Demolition of redundant farm buildings; conversion of upper barn 1 to form one dwelling together with erection of detached garage; conversion of lower barn 2 to form one dwelling; erection of two affordable dwellings; creation of an area of public open space & upgrading access track at East Hill Farm.

Cllrs Howe, Moore and Browse reported back on their recent site visit. Overall it was felt that the application should be supported as the development would be of benefit to the parish both in terms of the affordable housing and the area of public land that will be gifted to the Parish. However a number of queries/concerned were also raised: i) who would administer the two affordable houses; ii) reassurance that access to the site would be via the track from top of Tracey's Hill; avoidance of transporting building materials through E Knowstone, Knowstone and Roachill; iii) query regarding the access to the affordable houses adjacent to which is a very steep bank; iv) clarification needed regarding the access to the gifted land.

It was RESOLVED that the council should support the scheme whilst raising the concerns expressed, Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Moore seconded, all in favour.

c) Attendance at NDC Planning meeting on 12.09.18 at 10.00 a.m. re. Oaklands Poultry Farm's retrospective planning application, ref. 64059. Cllr Howe will attend and make a statement on behalf of KPC as discussed and agreed at the council meeting on 26th June.

18/72 Councillors' roles – to discuss and clarify Snow Warden's duties and agree appropriate training. Roll over to next meeting. Information produced by Cllr Browse re. Snow Warden was passed to the clerk to pass to Cllr Stanbury to look at before the next Council meeting.

18/73 Third Party Reports (if present):

a) District Councillor – regarding the Planning meeting on 12th September, D/Cllr Ley suggested that

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Cllr Howe speaks to Ian Vigus, Chairman of East Anstey Parish Council, to make sure they covered different points at the meeting. Regarding the ongoing problem with noise Batsworthy Wind Farm, it may be going before the Scrutiny Committee which will give the opportunity for questions to be asked. Regarding the planning application at East Hill, Cllr Ley said that he did not know what the planning officers thinking on it was. He said that it did not fit with the emerging local plan. He said it was important to show that it would be of benefit to the whole community and satisfy local needs. He read out planning policy reference DM24.

b) County Councillor - not present

18/74 Members Reports

a) **Highways** – Cllr Filmer-Bennett read out some of Cllr Browse’s report, previously circulated, of his meeting in the parish with C/Cllr Yabsley and Richard Sables, Neighbourhood Highways Officer when the East Knowstone HGV sign and broken grate in E Knowstone were discussed. There is a possibility that the HGV reference on the E Knowstone sign could be removed. The County Council is not able to fund the repair of the grate as it is situated on private land. There is a Health & Safety situation and a potential risk of flooding of the farmhouse opposite. C/Cllr Yabsley is going to investigate the possibility of a grant towards its repair from a flood defence organisation and KPC may be approached to supplement the cost of the work. A synopsis of the meeting, as requested, has not yet been received from C/Cllr Yabsley. Cllr Filmer-Bennett said these items would go on the agenda at next month’s meeting.

b) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – Cllr Browse reported that all parish footpaths had now been strimmed. He would be going out the following week to look at way markers. With regards to Beaples Stone, having discussed the traffic situation with Graham James, the new police liaison officer, he felt that a big tree planting event would not be safe. The plan now is to have a smaller event to which local children and parents would be invited to plant 5 trees. There could still be photos and a press release. The area is looking much better since being sprayed.

c) **Moors Management Association** – Cllr Costerton had forwarded the minutes of the last meeting and next agenda to the clerk who will circulate them to the rest of the council. He had circulated an email from Wendy Vigus containing a copy email from Devon County Council agreeing to pay for the repair of the fencing along the link road.

d) **Parish Pound** – Cllr Browse had received a quote from J Poole for £325 plus VAT to clear the area and lay chippings in a similar way to the Beaples Stone area. However this potential work is currently on hold as Jeannie and Steve are working hard getting to grips with the area. Cllr Howe will undertake research on how a war memorial could be established in the Pound. Local residents would be consulted on this in due course.

e) **Police Report** – Cllr Moore – reported that there had been fewer crimes than usual last month and read out the brief list. There was a reminder about drink/driving. There had been a well organised theft of a large number of livestock near Exeter. New PCSO Graham James is trying to get round to all 26 parishes in his area.

f) **Parish Hall** – Cllr Howe reported that work installing the disabled toilet will commence on Monday 17th September. This will affect daytime activities in the hall for a few weeks but evening meetings will go ahead whilst work is being undertaken; the ladies toilet will be unisex for that time.

g) **PCC Report** – Cllr Howe said, in response to Mrs Newton’s query, that an annual payment of £200 from KPC is requested by and made to the church – this is a grant to maintain burial grounds. He said that if the PCC felt it needed more financial support from the council it would ask for it. Cllr Howe reported that the Faculty for the restoration work has been received and a meeting will take place on 5th September for everyone involved to start moving things forward. There will also be a meeting on 7th September with the Diocese’s heating expert to review heating situation in the church. The Harvest Festival is on 15th September, service at 7.00 p.m. followed by supper and auction of

produce. A Con Spirito concert will take place in the church on Friday 7th December at 7.30 p.m.

h) **Emergency Plan** – It was RESOLVED that the proposed insurance letter, previously circulated, is sent to Emergency Plan volunteers; Cllr Browse proposed, Cllr Filmer-Bennet seconded, all agreed. Cllr Browse passed a completed emergency plan questionnaire to the clerk for filing.

18/75 To consider Cllr Howe's proposal that "prior to the start of future Knowstone Parish Council meetings prayers are said." Cllr Howe that saying an appropriate and concise prayer before the start of council meetings would help focus minds on the common good. Cllr Filmer-Bennett read out a statement outlining why he was opposing the motion; he felt it did not reflect the belief of the local community. Cllr Costerton said he could not see the benefit of it and echoed some of Cllr Filmer-Bennett's concerns. Cllr Browse felt that the UK is still a Christian country and was in favour of it. Cllr Moore said he is a traditionalist and would like to see it introduced. It was RESOLVED to have a prayer said prior to the start of future council meetings, proposed by Cllr Howe, seconded by Cllr Browse, 3 votes in favour, 2 votes against, motion carried.

18/76 It was agreed to form a Working Group to sort through and dispose, where appropriate, old Knowstone Parish Council records. Cllr Filmer-Bennett volunteered to be on the Working Group. It was suggested that Mr D Morgans be asked to assist. Cllr Howe said some items that were needed to be kept could be stored in the hall's boarded loft.

18/77 Casual Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

In response to Mrs Browse's question Cllr Filmer-Bennett said that in conversation with people who had expressed an interest in being a Councillor he had conveyed the importance of coming to a Council meeting as a member of the public to see what is involved. The people he had spoken with did not want their names to be put forward at this stage and will be deciding whether or not to stand nearer the date of the election.

18/78 Business at the Chairman's discretion – none

18/79 Date & Time of next meeting: Tuesday 25 September 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 21.43.