

## KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

27 January 2015 - Minutes of a meeting of Knowstone Parish Council

### Present:

Cllr John D Smith	(CHAIR)	Cllr Reg G Howe,	(RGH)
Cllr David B Morgans	(DBM)	Cllr John R Stanbury	(JRS)
Cllr Bob Barfoot	(RJB)	Cllr Suzanne M Howe	(SMH)
Cllr Anthony Vigus	(AV)	Richard G Vos	(Clerk)

### Also in attendance:

Cllr E Ley - NDC  
16798 PC Adrian Micalef – South Molton  
Members of the Public x8

The meeting opened at 7:30pm

### 1. Apologies:

1.1 none

### 2. Declarations of interest (matters appearing on the posted agenda):

2.1 CHAIR matter 7.3 Non pecuniary interest as Chair of Village Hall Committee

### 3. Minutes:

3.1 The minutes of the last meeting of KPC having been circulated:

3.2 Proposed: "To approve the draft minutes as presented as an accurate record of business transacted at the last meeting" (prop JRS, sec AV: PASSED).

### 4. Matters arising from the minutes (not on the agenda).

4.1 RJB matters 18.3 and 18.4 in the minutes of the last meeting (25/11/14) should have appeared as agenda items; the Clerk apologised for their omission from the agenda for tonight's meeting.

25/11 item 18.3 RGH to make enquiries with the Dioceses regarding purchase of glebe land to extend the churchyard; this item to be listed as an agenda item at the March meeting

25/11 item 18.4 Mr Brooks raised an enquiry regarding provision for off road parking within the parish plan. RJB was able to report that there was no provision within the Parish Plan

CHAIR reported that the link to DCC pothole report line is now on the village website. Links to the site will be posted on the village notice boards.

Over grown weeds / grass at Beaples stone site has not yet been cleared; CHAIR and AV will try to complete before the next meeting

The Clerk to chase for replies from DCC Highways to items at 25/11 18.2 and 25/11 18.5

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*24/31*

25/11 18.6 RJB reported that the Best Kept Village competition will NOT be run in 2015 but it is expected it will be "re-vamped" and re-launched in 2016

RJB pointed out that the decision notices relating to Roachill Farm should have been included within the correspondence presented to the meeting. The Clerk apologised for his oversight.

#### **5. Correspondence:**

5.1 Letter of condolence has been sent to Mrs Phyllis Downes on the death of her husband Ron Downes. All other correspondence has been circulated to councillors by email; save for decision notices relating to Roachill Farm (see comment above).

#### **6. Public Questions (limited to 20 minutes)**

Meeting closed for public questions.

Mrs Brooks enquired about the length of time the drain on Tracey's Hill was allowed to overflow. The Clerk to write to DCC to point out that despite complaints having been made to DCC the overflowing drain was not resolved until cleared by members of the parish.

The road surface at The Hunters Knowstone Village is breaking up due to frost damage; the Clerk to write to DCC to request they take remedial action.

Mrs Wilmetts asked about the creation of a children's play area; as yet the gift of the land to KPC has not been completed. Further no commitment has been made to a children's play area though this is one option that may be up for consideration.

There being no further questions from members of the public the meeting was reopened.

#### **7. Finance:**

7.1 Finance Report: Report was presented by CHAIR

Proposed: "To accept the financial report as accurate"  
Outcome: PASSED (prop: RJB, sec: SMH)

7.2.1 DALC invoice March 2014 to be paid £55.54

7.2.2 CPRE subscription to be paid £36

Payments to be ratified at the March meeting

7.2.3 CHAIR reported the Parish Grant / Precept for 2015 has been accepted and will be paid in two parts in April 2015 and September 2015

7.3 Consideration was given to agenda item 7.3 a photo voltaic system for the Village Hall

The discussion was led by CHAIR - A request has been made to KPC to contribute to the cost of a standalone Photo Voltaic system (PV) to be mounted on the roof of the Village Hall; this to be a community asset

*Handwritten signature and date:*  
A. Wilmetts  
24/3/15

A worked proposal was presented to the meeting by CHAIR (as Chair of Village Hall Committee); this had been prepared by the Village Hall committee working gp. It would take approx 10 years for the investment to be recouped by a mix of savings and income from feed in tariffs. Savings could be up to £400 pa from savings and £900 pa from feed in tariffs. Several options had been looked at before Solar Tech emerged as the preferred supplier.

RJB was concerned at possible inconsistency in KPC's position in relation to other solar panel schemes. In the past KPC has opposed these schemes as being inappropriate in a conservation area.

Free installation onto Village Hall roof space had been considered (as opposed to purchase of the system) but these options had been discounted by the working party.

Cllr Ley felt the VAT should be recoverable provided and invoices were addressed to KPC rather than the Village Hall.

The Clerk felt the discussion was becoming confused and recommended that CHAIR pass conduct of the discussion over to JRS as vice-Chair. This suggestion was not accepted and councillors felt there was no need for the CHAIR to pass responsibility for the discussion to RJS

The meeting was closed for contributions from members of the public; general comments were supportive of the scheme

DBM suggested that a general parish meeting should be called to seek the views of the wider parish CHAIR felt that it was for KPC to show leadership

Cllr Stanbury in the chair Cllr JD Smith abstaining the following motion was voted on.

Proposed : "It is Proposed that KPC agree to finance a solar panel installation on the roof of the Parish Hall up to a maximum cost of fifteen Thousand pounds only (£15,000)" Outcome: PASSED (prop: RJB, sec: RGH)

CHAIR welcomed the decision which he considered was "very significant". Instructions to Solar Tech would confirm that they should press ahead with the application for planning permission etc.

## **8. Planning:**

- 8.1 Applications received after preparation of the agenda : None
- 8.2 Decision notices have been received relating to Roachill Farm (x2) and Dairy Cottage Beaples Barton
- 8.3 Regarding 58081 Discharge of planning condition 18 relating to Batsworthy Cross

Proposed : KPC supports the approach of CPRE as set out in their letter dated 13 January 2015 addressed to Matthew Brown at North Devon Council; a letter to be sent by the Clerk to object to the discharge of condition 18 on the basis of the three points set out therein. Outcome: PASSED (prop: RJB, sec: SMH)

*For met  
24/3/15*

**9. Consider arrangements ahead of the elections May 2015**

9.1 A general information sheet was circulated. The first date to consider is 16 March 2015 for publication of Notice of Election

**10. Third Party Reports**

- 10.1 Cllr Ley reported from North Devon Council  
(Cllr Ley will not be at the March meeting and offered his apologies in advance)
- 10.2 No report from DCC
- 10.3 Police report (offered earlier in the meeting by 16798 PC Adrian Micallef)  
There had been x1 RTC and no crime reports in the parish since the last meeting

**11. Members Reports**

- 11.1 Village Hall Committee: Next meeting 2 February
- 11.2 Highways: SMH reported that the newly surfaced A361 is breaking up – concerns should be reported to Richard Sables at DCC Highways . He should also be asked to deal with the cattle grid at Roachilland at the entrance to Harpson / Kidland and also the large potholes at Shapcott Hill
- 11.3 Footpaths: nil
- 11.4 Police Report: Received earlier
- 11.5 Moors Management Assoc: Firebreaks have been cut. No Payment received yet from Nat England. Moor too wet to swale for the time being
- 11.6 PCC report: Family services continue to be well supported.

**12. Members Matters of immediate concern**

- 12.1 AV the snow warden is ready with road salt and sand bags in case of more bad weather
- 12.2 SMH requested a copy of the Full electoral roll to enable her to update the emergency plan – The Clerk to request copy

**13. Date & Time of next meeting:**

13.1 Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 24 March 2015 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 21.50Hrs

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Minutes prepared by Richard Vos (Parish Clerk)

**Police contact numbers:**

In Emergencies call : 999  
Non-Emergency call : 101  
Email contact : [southmolton@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:southmolton@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

DCC pothole reporting helpline :

*Richard Vos*  
24/3/15