

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Annual Report for 2018/19

The Parish Council started the year with six councillors: Timothy Browse, Ed Costerton, Jeremy Filmer-Bennett, Reg Howe, John Stanbury and Tony Moore. Regrettably due to work commitments Ed Costerton retired from the council during the year.

Only Cllrs Jeremy Filmer-Bennett, Reg Howe and Tony Moore stood for election in May and at the May Parish council meeting, Tony Moore was elected Chairman, and Jeremy Filmer-Bennett Vice Chairman. At the same meeting, David Barrett and John Pomfret were co-opted as councillors to bring the total number 5 leaving for two further vacancies to be filled.

Knowstone Parish council must record its sincere gratitude to both Timothy Browse and John Stanbury for their years of serving the community as parish councillors and to the hard work and diligence they have employed in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities.

Knowstone Parish Council has many responsibilities but perhaps the main responsibilities are:

- **Fulfilling our legal and financial responsibilities as the first formal level of Government**
 - Led by Tony Moore as Chairman and Wendy Sweet as both our Parish Clerk and our Responsible Financial Officer
- **The right to comment on planning applications** (North Devon District Council will take note of our Parish's position on all planning applications),
 - Led by Cllr Reg Howe
- **Liaison with Devon County Council Highways department on all highways issues.**
 - Led by Vice Chairman Cllr Jeremy Filmer-Bennett

Other responsibilities include:

- **maintenance of the Parish graveyard**
- **care of any playgrounds (if and when we have any)**
- **monitoring of footpaths**
- **care of assets**
- **emergency plan**
- **liaison with local police**
- **liaison with Parish Hall Committee**
- **liaison with Parochial Church Council**
- **monitoring of community bus service**
- **representing the council on the Moors Management Committee**

The Council is **NOT** responsible for:

- **removal of fly tipped rubbish (please report on the North Devon District Council website)**
- **drainage problems**
- **highways (pot holes please report on the North Devon District Council website)**

Our main challenges/activities during the last year:

- **Further updating of various Council documents, including our Standing Orders, Asset Register, and budgeting**
- **Continued involvement in:**
 - **Oaklands Poultry Farm,**
 - **East Hill farm, and**
 - **Batsworthy wind farm**
- **Facilitating resolution of road surface water issues in East Knowstone**
- **Considering how the council should respond to speeding traffic and the amount of heavy goods vehicles moving through Roachill**
- **Debate and introduction of a 'road warden scheme' (proposed and delivered by Cllr Filmer -Bennett)**
- **Debate and introduction of prayers before council meetings**
- **Further development and maintenance of the Beaples Stone including a new bench (proposed and delivered by former Cllr Timothy Browse)**
- **Clarity and agreed changes to HGV signage through East Knowstone**
- **Presentation by Devon Air Ambulance on the need for a local night landing site**

We are also supported by our District Councillor Eric Ley and County Councillor Jeremy Yabsley who despite all their other responsibilities, manage to attend and contribute to our Parish Council meetings.

As chairman, I am grateful for the considerable support I receive from my fellow councillors, who are dedicated to helping our community and to ensure that we represent the views of all of us as fairly as we can, and particularly to the members of our Parish who regularly attend Council meetings to update and inform us of matters that might otherwise be missed or pass unchallenged.

My final thanks to our Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, **Wendy Sweet**, for all her help and guidance to myself and the council.