

**Knowstone Parish Council – Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7.30pm at Knowstone Village Hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs Pomfret (Chair), Clarke, McGregor, Stanbury and Groves

Jane Mills, Clerk to the Council  
3 Members of the public  
Prayers were led by Cllr Pomfret

- 26/03/99      Apologies**  
Apologies received from Cllr Maidment, the District Cllr Milton and County Cllr Hopley
- 26/03/100     Declarations of interest**  
To receive declarations of personal interests and disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) in respect of items on this agenda. Members were reminded that all interests should be declared at the beginning of the meeting and prior to the item being discussed.  
There were no declarations
- 26/03/101     To agree the Agenda as published**  
It was **resolved** to agree the Agenda as published  
Proposed: Cllr Pomfret, Seconded: Cllr Stanbury(all in favour)
- 26/03/102     To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026**  
It was **resolved** to approve as a correct record and sign the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026  
Proposed: Cllr Pomfret, Seconded: Cllr Clarke (all in favour)
- 26/03/103     County Councillor Report**  
The County Councillor sent apologies and reported:  
The new Local Highways Officer is willing to be contacted by Parishes with a designated person regarding any Highways issues but please cc him as well so that he can follow up.  
  
He has had meetings with the police which have been very fruitful. He has been requesting they reopen the Front Desk at South Molton Police station. The police and Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez does not have that on her list to do. However, they have agreed to start a Pop-Up Police station throughout his division where residents can come and talk about council issues and Police issues. He will give further information about this once they finalise the details.  
“There is a very serious situation in Rackenford which will not only have a serious effect on that village but many villages in Devon. A company has applied to have “soil” transported from sites all over Devon and dumped in Rackenford. This involves 660,000 tons of building waste transported through small villages. 66 HGV vehicles a day for 4 years will be thundering through our country lanes. There is a petition online and he would be grateful if everyone could sign it and share. This is the last thing we need and the state of our roads and verges would deteriorate further.

With a budget of only 100 million pounds for the next financial year to spend on our road repairs you can imagine what will happen. £384 million pounds would be required to put Devon's roads back to a satisfactory condition and 100 million will hardly touch the sides. Having this "soil" dumped would be catastrophic."

- 26/03/104 District Councillor Report**  
The District Councillor sent his apologies
- 26/03/105 Public Participation**  
In accordance with Standing Order 3 (f) members of the public are permitted to make representations and ask questions, the period set aside shall not exceed 15 minutes. It should be noted that answers will generally not be given at the meeting where the questions are delivered, each member of the public is entitled to speak once. No one wished to speak
- 26/03/106 To receive a report from the Parish Clerk  
To include financial information, bank reconciliation and payments and budget update**  
It was **resolved** to accept the financial information including reviewing the budget figures, and approve the payments, Proposed: Cllr Pomfret Seconded: Cllr Groves,(all in favour)  
**Action Point:** Payments to be made
- 26/03/107 To consider Action Points**  
Action Points were noted
- 26/03/108 To consider an update on the Emergency Plan**  
No further update at present, Cllr Pomfret will be attending the Devon Community Resilience Forum. This will be on the next agenda  
**Action Point:** Agenda item
- 26/03/109 To receive an update on the Picnic areas**  
The Chair has been in contact with the Associate Director of Norse SW Bids closed on 27<sup>th</sup> February, it is understood that proposals have been received for both sites. It is anticipated that Sidemoor may become something other than a picnic area but Moortown will remain with toilet facilities, drainage works will be required.
- 26/03/110 To discuss Cluster working**  
Members requested to be kept in the loop
- 26/03/111 To receive an update on the New Website** Members were advised it is hoped to go live on 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- 26/03/112 To discuss a possible response to LGR**  
It was **resolved** to submit the response which had been circulated to Members.  
Proposed: Cllr Pomfret Seconded: Cllr Clarke,(all in favour)

**26/03/113 To consider a planning application 81532**  
**Location: Higher Comfort Nature Reserve Opposite Outer Knowstone Moor Knowstone South Molton EX36 4SA**  
**Proposal: Hedgerow removal notice for removal of 4m of hedge**  
 It was **resolved** to support the application subject to restriction on unauthorised vehicular access

Proposed: Cllr Clarke Seconded: Cllr Pomfret(all in favour)

**26/03/114 To consider purchase of noticeboards**  
 The Chair and Clerk will look at options, long lasting wood, 1 will require posts, 2 will not, options and prices to be circulated.

**26/03/115 To consider purchase of a salt spreader**  
 A spreader suitable for towing behind a quad would be best as it would allow all roads in the parish to be treated more easily. Prices will be circulated to Members.

**26/03/116 To consider Parish Pumps**  
 Quotes to be sought for renovation

**26/03/117 To receive Councillor reports**

- a. Highways Cllr McGregor**, The cattle grids have been cleared out, and potholes continue to be reported
- b. Footpaths & Beaples Stone – Cllr Pomfret**  
 Beaples Stone, will benefit now from regular mtce, The post and style need replacing at Shapcott Wood, P3 returns to be submitted shortly.
- c. Moors Management Association – Cllr Maidment (MMA Meeting update)**  
 The moor environmental scheme comes to an end in 2028 alternatives are being sought, including the Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship scheme, there is nothing in place for commons at present. Advice is being sort from NE
- d. Welcome Pack - Cllr Maidment** Cllr Maidment not present
- e. Emergency Plan – Pomfret, Maidment & the Clerk** covered 26/03/108
- f. Parish Hall – Cllr Pomfret** report attached to the minutes
- g. Police Advocate – Cllr Pomfret** Nothing further to report
- h. Snow Warden – Cllr Stanbury** some salt remains in stock

Members agreed to accept the draft IT policy this will be ratified at the next meeting.

**To confirm the dates of the next meetings**  
**The Electors Meeting will be on 12<sup>th</sup> May and AGM on 26<sup>th</sup> May**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed .....Dated.....