

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a regular meeting held on Tuesday 22nd January 2019 in Knowstone Parish Hall

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

In attendance: Members of the public x 3, D/Cllr E Ley

18/121 Apologies for absence – none

18/122 Declarations of Interest (re. matters appearing on this agenda) - none

18/123 Approve Minutes It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2018, Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Browse seconded, all agreed.

18/124 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

- Note email dated 29.11.18 from Corporate & Community Services Officer, NDC – Minutes of the Parish Forum of 7th November 2018;
- Note email dated 1.12.18 from Jane Faust re. NDC in news re. Batsworthy Cross
- Note email dated 4.12.18 from Devon Communities Together re. Free Emergency Planning Workshop for Parishes being held at Barnstaple Rugby Club – Weds 30th January 2019;
- Note receipt of Parish Online News & Updates dated 6.12.18;
- Note email dated 6.12.18 from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly re. Councillor Advocate Scheme Update;
- Note email dated 13.12.18 from Highways Services Team re. Devon Highways Parish & Town Council Updates;
- Note email dated 18.12.18 from office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – Councillor advocate briefing;
- Note receipt of DALC newsletter dated 19.12.18;
- Note email dated 21.12.18 from Ros Davies with Parish Paths Partnership Annual Finance Forms 2018/19;
- Note email dated 21.12.18 from Ros Davies, Devon CC, P3 Winter Newsletter;
- Note email dated 21.12.18 from Devon Highways re. Temporary Traffic Notice - Road from Beaples Moor Cross to Moortown Cross, Knowstone, Rackenford (TTRO1928785);
- Note email dated 22.12.18 from CPRE;
- Note email dated 27.12.18 from Devon Air Ambulance – Local Volunteer Opportunities 2019;
- Note email dated 4.01.19 from Jane Faust re. NDC's agreement with the operator of 5 Nov 2018;
- Note email dated 4.01.19 from DALC re. Royal Garden Party Nominations 2019: deadline 23rd January;
- Note email dated 7.01.19 with form and letter attached from Exchequer Manager, NDC re. Parish Precept 2019/20; note email dated 8.01.19 sent requesting short extension to deadline for receipt of completed form;
- Note email dated 9.01.19 from Ros Davies, DCC attaching RSN Rural Funding Digest – January 2019 Edition;
- Note email dated 9.01.19 from Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner re. Councillor advocate update;
- Note email dated 10.01.19 from Highway Services, DCC attaching signed Road Warden agreement;
- Note email dated 11.01.19 from Devon Countryside Access Forum;
- Note email dated 11.01.19 to Mrs Selby, 'Friends of the Log Cabin Diner' re. defibrillator and her reply dated 11.01.19;
- Note email dated 12.01.19 from CPRE – Campaigns Update;

Approved

- Note email dated 14.01.19 from CPRE – Invitation to attend housing seminar;
- Note email dated 15.01.19 from Jane Faust re. Noise assessments of the turbines at Batsworthy Cross;
Note following correspondence received after the preparation of the agenda:
- Email dated 16.01.19 re. VAT in connection with Parish elections;
- DCC newsletter dated 17.01.19;
- Email dated 18.01.19 from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner re. Councillor Advocate Seminars – Confirmed Agenda;
- Temporary traffic notice dated 18.01.19 re. A361 closure between Bolham Roundabout, Tiverton and Bish Mill roundabout, South Molton between 4th and 7th February 2019;
- Email from David Morgans dated 18.01.19 with a copy of his letter to Mr Cole re. Batsworthy Wind Farm;
- Email dated 22.01.19 from Jane Faust re. NDC to measure at a third location which the Chairman read in full to the meeting. It would appear that things are finally on the move after a lot of correspondence and pressure from various directions. It was pointed out that noise measurements can only be taken when all turbines are running and it has been a long time since this has happened – there is always 1 or 2 not working and the operator needs to be persuaded to have all running.

18/125 Public Questions (limited to 20 minutes) Standing orders suspended.

Mrs Newton reported that she had only just heard that Clare Hall, a former clerk to Knowstone Parish Council had died about 18 months ago.

Mr Morgans reported that Iris Riley, who had been an excellent clerk to the Parish Council for a number of years, had recently died and her funeral will take place on Friday 8th February at UFC in St Peters Street, Tiverton. It was noted that she had done a lot for the parish and it was agreed that the Parish Council would send a condolence card to her daughter.

Mr Morgans asked if there had been any word on the poultry farm on when it would be heard as the decision had been deferred for 3 months. Mr Morgans informed the council that he had sent a letter to NDC re. Batsworthy questioning definitions of wording etc. In the reply from NDC, in which they had apologised for the delay in responding, it had been recommended that he took his complaint to the local Government Ombudsman. He read out an email he had sent to Jane Faust. He was pleased to hear about Jane's recent email.

Standing orders resumed.

18/126 Investigate possible night landing sites for the Air Ambulance within the parish Cllr Moore referred back to Toby Russell's talk at last month's meeting which he felt had been received positively. He said that if the Council decided to pursue the idea of having a night landing site within the Parish it would take some time to investigate and implement. He would be happy to investigate it further. Cllr Howe said that at end of the last meeting, C/Cllr Yabsley had made the point that the field at top of Tracey's Hill, associated with East Hill Farm, could be a possible suitable site as it was reasonably flat and near the A361. It is owned by Devon County and could be a starting point for KPC. It was suggested that it could be a good idea for Toby Russell to come and speak to May's Annual Meeting of the Parish. Cllr Howe proposed that as a responsible parish the Council investigates the possibility of having a landing site, Cllr Moore seconded, all agreed. Devon Air Ambulance is also looking for volunteers for their shop in South Molton and had sent through a flier which would be put on the website and noticeboards

18/127 Finance

a) Note accounts and bank reconciliation to date, previously circulated.

b) Accounts to settle

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| • Clerk's salary Dec/Jan (£124.92) & expenses (£34.29) | £159.21 |
| • Wendy Vigus, website updating | £76.50 |
| • SLCC Reginal Training Seminar (attended by Clerk) | £90.00 (incl VAT) |

Approved

- Parish Online annual renewal

£36.00 (incl VAT)

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

c) Note receipt of £2,628.00 from Haresdown and Knowstone Moors Management Association.

d) **Budget 2019/20 and Precept 2019-20** Cllr Moore said that in setting a budget the council is looking at things it may spend its money on in the future, but any spending would still have to be agreed at future council meetings. There is £28,000 in the bank at the moment and the council has kept a reserve over the years mainly in case of need re. East Hill and as a general contingency. The Council's spend to date – expenditure against budget - had previously been circulated and an approximate £2,000 excess is projected.

Cllr Moore ran through the draft budget to explain how figures had been arrived at. New items had been added: 'Bench at Beaples Stone' - £500 allowed in the budget, 'Community Road Warden scheme' - £300 allowed in budget to cover things like protective clothing which Cllr Filmer-Bennett will need when he undertakes training, 'Purchase of mobile speed control signs' to be used in different locations – it may possible get some match funding. The budget figure has been slightly increased for 'donations' to cover money for the parish hall for defibrillator pads etc, 'contingencies' and 'website development' to cover the cost of improving the look of website if council decides to do so. It was RESOLVED to adopt the Draft Budget, Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Filmer-Bennett seconded, all agreed.

It was RESOLVED to set the Precept figure at £3650.00 (Band D Council tax at £36.62); Cllr Filmer-Bennett proposed; Cllr Browse seconded; all agreed.

18/128 Planning

- Applications received after preparation of the agenda - none
- Applications notified since last meeting – none
- There had been no determinations or enforcement notices relating to the parish.
- There had been a general email from CPRE inviting members to attend a housing seminar re. SW Devon. Cllr Moore asked if anyone was interested in attending. It was felt that if a similar seminar was to take place specifically relating to North Devon then someone from KPC should attend,

18/129 Third Party Reports (if present):

District Councillor – Cllr Ley started by paying tribute to Iris Riley who had been Parish Clerk from about 2003 for 8 or 9 years.

No further news re. East Hill - 106 still with solicitors. 12 months after the development starts the land is passed to KPC and £10,000. It is unclear who will be running the low cost houses and there is nothing in the agreement. Cllr Ley suggested that KPC writes to Damian Hunter, solicitor at NDC to request that this is included. Cllr Moore and Cllr Howe will look at this and draft a letter to be sent. Cllr Browse queried whether KPC would have to pay to put an entrance into the land which also may have to be secured with fencing.

With regards to the retrospective application for the Poultry Farm in East Anstey (Ref. 64059) there had been a requirement by the Planning Committee for it to come back to be considered again within 3 months. In the meantime a professional valuation of the open market houses was to be obtained by East Anstey Parish Council and NDC. Also it had been suggested and agreed that an air quality survey took place which the applicant has to pay for it. However this ideally needs to be done in summer months and D/Cllr Ley felt it was a waste of time. The application should be considered at the NDC Planning meeting on 13th February.

Re. Batsworthy noise assessment – in August/September he had raised that it should be looked into. The main contributor of ammunition has been Jane Faust. NDC has agreed to look into it but it is unknown what format it will take. In D/Cllr Ley's opinion it should be like a mini public enquiry. Once the format is known the parish council could write to NDC if not happy about it. The proposed date for the meeting is 7th March and it would be good for a few people to turn up to support those involved. This item will be discussed again at next month's meeting.

18/130 Members Reports

Approved

- a) **Highways** – Cllr Filmer-Bennett reported the following:
- (i) The finger board has fallen off at Holymoor Cross, which he will report to Highways.
 - (ii) He is in the process of applying for a road closure between 12.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. on 15th June for the Village Fair. He will ask for a 2 day closure even though it only needs to be closed on the 15th to avoid any potential road closure for road works the day before. All being done in consultation with Highways etc. and in plenty of time. The Village Hall chairman and KPC Chairman will have to sign request.
 - (iii) He is waiting to hear whether he is booked on Chapter 8 course during w/c 14th April.
 - (iv) The pothole repair in East Knowstone only lasted for about 24 hours afterwards. It has been re-reported.
 - (v) Harpson sign – the pole has to be replaced and new signs have to be made to specification and individually which should take 3 weeks to be done. Cllr Howe reported that the signs had been sitting in the ditch since the end of September in perfect condition. Cllr Filmer-Bennett explained that regulations meant that signs cannot not re-used.
- b) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – Cllr Browse reported that one outstanding gatepost (Middlecott Farm yard) and a hanging branch over the Shapcott Barton footpath had been done at no cost to the Parish. The tree, a copper beech, at Beaples Stone probably needs to be pruned/shaped. He has started to do report and forms which need to go into NDC in mid-February
- c) **Police Report** – Cllr Moore read out brief extracts from the latest community policing team blog. There had been some instances of drink driving and theft and the police are asking people to be sensible in the winter with their cars. He had also been passed a couple of items from parishioner – 1. re. deer poaching in Devon & Cornwall, 2. tools had been stolen from vans in Barnstaple. Cllr Moore said he would be happy to attend the Police & Crime Commissioners Office Councillor Advocate Seminar on 14th February, 10.00 a.m. – midday and report back at the next Council meeting. This may be an opportunity to find out more about how money is spent in the area. The clerk to book it for Cllr Moore.
- d) **Parish Pound** – Cllr Howe reported that the Pound is looking tidy thanks to the work of nearby parishioners. He had asked residents of The Pound House to remove the ivy from other side of wall. Cllr Howe said he felt that it would be an ideal site for a Parish War Memorial and is researching how it could be done.
- e) **Parish Hall** – Cllr Howe reported that new curtains would be fitted in the hall on 29th January. Additional second hand red chairs in good condition had been acquired from West Buckland Hall and the old vinyl chairs surplus to requirements had gone to Brayford for use in a barn for community events. Recent activities included films in December and January. On 7th February the ‘Darkest Hour’ is being shown. Future events - Spring Market on 30th March with 25 stalls already confirmed, 15th June annual Village Fair and Show.
- f) **PCC Report** – Cllr Howe reported that Con Spirito had given a great performance at the concert on 7th December. There had been a good turnout for the carol service and good attendance at the recent family service on 13th January. Work continues on the rood loft steps. Bishop Robert will conduct a service in the church once this work has been completed.
- g) **Snow Warden** – Cllr Stanbury reported that grit had been delivered and was being stored in Anthony Vigus’ shed. The grit bin split at Wadham Cross will be replaced once the grit is at a lower level. Cllr Filmer-Bennett will chase request for a grit bin on Tracey’s Hill.

18/131 Casual Vacancy for two Parish Councillors – Cllr Moore said it was important to let parishioners know that the council is 2 people short and if interested to come along to a meeting.

18/132 Business at the Chairman's discretion Cllr Browse reported that the post-box in East Knowstone had been temporarily covered by a black sack as the lock was damaged; this has now been repaired.

18/133 Date & Time of next meeting: Tuesday 26th February 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 20.57