

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 23rd July 2019, Knowstone Parish Hall

Present: Cllr D Barrett, Cllr J Filmer-Bennett (Vice Chairman), Cllr R Howe, Cllr D Maidment, Cllr T Moore (Chairman), Cllr J Pomfret

In attendance: 2 x members of the public, D/Cllr E Ley (part), W Sweet (clerk), C/Cllr J Yabsley (part)

19/50 Apologies for absence - None

19/51 Declarations of Interest (re. matters appearing on this agenda) - None

19/52 Approve Minutes It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 26th June 2019 after amending the heading by removing the word 'Annual', Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Pomfret seconded, all agreed.

19/53 Allocation of councillor roles

- (a) Emergency Plan – Cllr Barrett volunteered to take this on and will meet with Cllr Moore to go through it.
- (b) Welcome Pack - Cllr Maidment said she would be happy to work in conjunction with Cllr Howe on the Welcome Pack. Cllr Howe said they need the 'grapevine' to let them know when new people move into the Parish.
- (c) Snow warden This role had been carried out by John Stanbury when he was a councillor and this could carry on even if he did not come back onto the Council. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman will speak to him to see if he is happy to carry on with the role. As well as snow clearing it involves ordering grit etc.

19/54 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)

- Parish Paths Partnership Summer Newsletter dated 27.06.19
- Email dated 2.07.19 from NDDC re. new planning application search & track facility;
- Email dated 3.07.19 from Jane Faust re. the latest (third set) of noise assessments;
- Email dated 3.07.19 from Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue service re. Proposed Service Changes - 12 Week Consultation;
- Email from the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner re. OPCC community engagement events;
- Emails from D Morgans, J Faust & P Bratby re. NDD's response to D Morgans' queries regarding monitoring at Batsworthy;
- DALC News #14 dated 10.07.19;
- Email dated 12.07.19 from Devon Highways re. Temporary Traffic Order - Cattle Grids – Various Roads, Devon (TTRO1931014);
- Campaigns Update dated 13.07.19 from CPRE;
- Email dated 15.07.19 re. help promoting Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service consultation;
- Email dated 16.07.19 from Zoe Smith, Neighbourhood Team Leader re. Councillor Custody visits;

Note any correspondence received after the preparation of the agenda:

- Email dated 18.07.19 re. notification of Planning Appeals – Oaklands Poultry farm
- Email dated 19.07.19 from Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner re. Councillor advocate invitation - Cllr Moore will attend the event on 3rd September 2019;
- Email dated 19.07.19 from Devon Communities re. Resilience Forum and Neighbourhood Planning Courses;
- North Devon (Council) Weekly Information Sheet dated 19.07.19;
- Email dated 21.07.19 from Jane Faust re. noise monitoring at Batsworthy;
- Email dated 22.07.19 from NDC re. service charge change for online planning applications;
- Email dated 23.07.19 from NDC Planning re. proposed removal of telephone boxes in North Devon including two in the parish of Knowstone – this will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

19/55 Public Questions – None

The Chairman reiterated that the Council's standing orders states that members of the public should only speak on items that appear on the agenda.

19/56 Finance

- a) Financial Report by RFO – the receipts and payments account previously circulated covered the first quarter of the current financial year. The clerk reported that currently the bank balance stood at £27,786.76. A refund of VAT of £381.42 was due to be received. She also reported that the council was just coming to the end of the period of Public Rights whereby the year end accounts had been posted on the website and were available for examination by any member of the public.
- b) Expenditure against budget to date, previously circulated, was reviewed. There had been a small overspend on the bench for Beaples Stone area due to a fixing kit needing to be purchased.
- c) It was RESOLVED to agree the accounts and bank reconciliation previously circulated, Cllr Filmer-Bennett proposed, Cllr Howe seconded, all agreed. Cllr Filmer-Bennett signed a copy of the accounts.
- d) Accounts to settle:
- Wendy Sweet – pay (£145.86) & expenses (£3.20) £149.06
 - SLCC membership renewal £63.00
 - DALC – Cllr Barrett’s attendance at Good Councillor course £66.00 (incl £11 VAT)

It was RESOLVED to settle the above accounts, Cllr Moore proposed, Cllr Pomfret seconded, all agreed

19/57 Planning

- a) Applications notified since last meeting – None
- b) Applications received after preparation of the agenda – None
- c) Applications determined since last meeting – Cllr Howe reported that of the two applications relating to Ford Farm, the one re. the erection of manège had been approved. The other proposed work did not actually need planning permission. There had been nothing received re. West Hill.
- d) **East Hill** – Cllr Howe reported that all councillors had met with Simon and Sam Kingston that afternoon and had been shown the farmhouse which they are in the process of refurbishing, the site of the two affordable houses, the area that will be allocated to Knowstone Parish should the council decide to accept it and the two open market barn conversions – one stone barn and the other stone and cob. The latter will be converted into 4 bedroom dwellings, one of which will have quite a large parcel of land attached to it.

Cllr Barrett suggested that the piece of land might be a good spot for a night landing site although it would have to be levelled. KPC will invite Devon Air Ambulance to have a look and give their preliminary thoughts. If it was deemed to be viable it could be put into the mix of possible uses. There are power lines crossing the field so would need to get advice.

It was reported that the developer would be undertaking the conversion of the higher barn himself but was considering selling on the other barn undeveloped. The time frame of the conversion is 9 - 12 months. There is a 3rd barn for which Mr Kingston thought it would be possible to get planning permission to convert but he felt it would spoil the site for the other two properties. Regarding the issue of access, Kingstons are going to use smaller lorries which they are expecting to come through East Knowstone. However there is a clause in the planning permission which says they have to drive a road through the field for access. As lorries cannot use a grass track this requirement is expensive for the developer. The developer has created a working track and access for DCC’s farming tenant who farms the adjacent land.

In conclusion it had been a valuable visit and councillors felt the site represented a good addition to the community.

It was RESOLVED that the council, having visited the site, agrees to accept the offer of land and £10,000 and will deal with the land in terms of the Section 106 agreement, Councillor Moore proposed. Cllr Filmer-Bennett seconded, all agreed.

- e) It was reported that the Oaklands Poultry Farm appeals will be dealt with by written representation not in an open enquiry.

19/58 East Hill Working Group – It was AGREED that Cllr Moore, Cllr Howe and the clerk would form the Working Group and would open it up to interest parties as well as calling on other people’s expertise when needed. The group will have no formal status and will report back to the Council.

19/59 Third Party Reports:

a) **District Councillor** With regard to East Hill, Cllr Ley said that the S106 agreement was in place to ensure that the affordable houses went ahead. They could come under a housing association or local needs occupancy, although he said housing associations were reluctant to take on the odd one or two houses and said it would be of benefit to the parish if it did not go down the route of being managed by a housing association. He said that KPC needs to keep an eye on it and take a view on how the council would like it to progress. He also said that the Council should get a solicitor lined up for the transfer of the land. With reference to access to the site for trucks, Cllr Ley will speak to NDC's enforcement officer about it who would come out and have a look after checking the planning permission conditions with the case officer.

With regard to the Chicken farm appeals he said that experience showed it was an undemocratic process and the odds in favour of the applicant were 70/30 if dealt with behind closed doors, with the odds reversed if it was an open hearing. He said he was trying to arrange a meeting one evening the following week for Mike Kelly to meet the developer at Blackerton Cross which Cllr Howe was invited to attend, to sort out the necessary paperwork. Everything already submitted to the Planning departments gets passed onto the Planning Inspectorate.

Cllr Ley asked what the situation was regarding the planning application at West Hill; Cllr Howe briefly outlined the previous situation and the current owners' plans to raise the roof so it becomes a proper two storey dwelling. KPC had supported the application. Cllr Ley said it was not straightforward if applying for an extension to a barn and was concerned that it may be refused. He said he would speak to the case officer about it.

b) **County Councillor** Cllr Yabsley reported that KPC's grant for funding towards the mobile signs is progressing. He is planning a Highways parish visit late afternoon on Tuesday 30th. With reference to the Fire service consultation there is no change proposed for South Molton or Witheridge. The whole consultation is very complex and each decision is being looked at separately. There is further pressure on old people services. He requested that residents keep reporting potholes and said that there is a lot of work going on in the county. The large pothole in East Knowstone has been marked indicating that it is going to be repaired.

19/60 Members Reports

a) Highways

(i) Cllr Filmer-Bennett reported that there was nothing happening re. East Knowstone signposts.

(ii) There had been no response from Highways officer re. siting of the mobile speed signs.

(iii) The horse/cattle gate at the cattle grid closest to Roachill had been smashed. It was reported to DCC as an emergency as the next day TB testing was due to be carried out and a local farmer needed to move a lot of cattle around. Nothing was done so the farmer dismantled the gate temporarily so he could move his cattle.

(iv) All cattle grids are due to be cleaned – no dates have been notified.

(v) The council had received a request from East Anstey's Parish Clerk for the volume of lorries through Roachill to be monitored by a resident. Cllr Filmer-Bennett said he felt it was not KPC's problem although the council is concerned with the speed lorries travel through Roachill. Since the last meeting no lorries have come through Roachill. It was felt that the stables in East Anstey had almost come to the end of the amount of spoil that is going to be deposited on their land. Cllr Filmer-Bennett reported that he had spoken to one concerned resident after the last meeting about having a solicitor's letter drawn up but they were not keen to go down that route. He had yet to go round and speak to other people in Roachill. Cllr Ley said he had been in contact with the Environment Agency several times over past months but had got a different answer every time regarding the amount of tonnes allowed to be dumped there. He felt that there was 5 or 6 times more spoil there than the site can take. He suggested that people who were unhappy with the situation phoned the Environmental Agency Complaints number which would increase the chance of curtailing it.

b) Footpaths & Beaples Stone

(i) Cllr Pomfret reported that all paths have been cut since the last meeting. He has been in touch with Ros Davies who plans to visit the parish in early September. He had mentioned to her the amended two moors

route as he had seen workmen working on the former A361 crossing. The path under the viaduct is sometimes not usable when it gets too muddy.

(ii) Beaples_stone – Cllr Pomfret will pass photos of the stone and the new bench to Wendy Vigus to go onto the website.

(iii) It was RESOLVED to investigate and obtain costings for restoring the clarity of the text on the information stone at the Beaples Stone site. Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Moore seconded, all agreed.

(iv) Cllr Moore felt it was important that people were tick aware as he had seen people wandering on the outer moor in shorts. He asked Cllr Pomfret to ask Ros Davies if tick warning signs were available.

c) **Police** – Cllr Moore read out a brief list of local crimes from the police blog. There were reminders for farmers re. machinery theft etc and how to keep everything safe. There was also instruction on how to deal with dogs being left in hot cars – people should phone the police first on 999 and only break into a car to rescue a dog as a last resort, and if so advised by the police

d) **Parish Pound** – Cllr Howe reported that he is pressing on getting everything ready for the war memorial.

e) **Parish Hall** – Cllr Howe reported that a meeting was due to take place on Thursday this week when the main topic to discuss will be the future of the Knowstone Fair and Dog show which had not been very well supported by parishioners. Also to be discussed were Film Nights and how to expand the hall's carpark.

f) **PCC** – Cllr Howe reported that the PCC had not yet submitted an application to Batsworthy fund for the Under pew heating and needed to get on with that. The PCC also needs to source some more money for repair of the choir stalls. Devon Historic Churches Open Day will take place on September 14th organised by Bishop Robert's secretary.

19/61 Vacancy for a Parish Councillor The Chairman encouraged anyone who might be interested in being a Parish Councillor to come along to a council meeting.

19/62 Business at the Chairman's discretion – None

19/63 To confirm date & time of the next meeting – 27th August 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 21.08