

## KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of a regular meeting held on Tuesday 26th March 2019 in Knowstone Parish Hall

**Present:** Cllr T Browse, Cllr J Filmer-Bennett (Vice Chairman), Cllr R Howe, Cllr T Moore (Chairman)

**In attendance:** Members of the public x 5, W Sweet (Clerk), C/Cllr J Yabsley (part)

**18/147 Apologies for absence** Cllr J Stanbury, D/Cllr E Ley

**18/148 Declarations of Interest** (re. matters appearing on this agenda) - None

**18/149 Approve Minutes** It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2019, Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Browse seconded, all agreed.

#### **18/150 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)**

- Community Led Planning and Devon Community Resilience email dated 26.02.19 from Martin Rich at Devon Communities Together;
  - DALC Newsletter dated 4.03.19;
  - Note email dated 8.03.19 from DCT re. Devon Rural Futures Conference June 28th 2019;
  - Note receipt of CPRE Campaigns Update dated 9.03.19;
  - Note email dated 10.03.19 from Jane Faust with report back on NDC's Special Overview & Scrutiny meeting for Batsworthy Cross;
  - Note email dated 12.03.19 from NDC Environmental Protection re. Private Contractor Decision to Withdraw Dog Waste Disposal Agreement; the Chairman commented that in light of this email if a decision was made to install a dog bin in the future a solution to how it would be emptied would have to be looked at.
  - Note email dated 13.03.19 from Corporate and Community Services, NDC re. Online Survey on Parish Forum meetings;
  - Note email dated 16.03.19 from CPRE re. A litter-free future;
- Note any correspondence received after the preparation of the agenda:**
- Pre-renewal email dated 18.03.19 from Came & Company Local Council Insurance;
  - Temporary traffic order dated 21.03.19 – only related to one road in Tiverton;
  - Email dated 23.03.19 from CPRE – take action for a litter free future;
  - Email dated 24.03.19 from Alison Marshall confirming date of Internal audit on 17.04.19.

**18/151 Devon Community Resilience Forum**, 13th June 2019 – agree representative from KPC to attend Forum. As Cllr Browse will be unable to attend, the Chairman asked whether any other councillor wanted to. The meeting is being held in Bishops Nympton and has an interesting agenda. Decision on attendance rolled over to a future meeting.

#### **18/152 Public Questions** (*limited to 20 minutes*) **Standing orders suspended.**

Mrs Newton asked for more detail on feedback from NDC's recent Overview & Scrutiny meeting. Cllr Howe gave a brief report of the meeting and its outcome which was that the subject will be on the executive's monthly meeting agenda until the matter is resolved and requirements laid down by the inspector have been met. The minutes of the meeting are available on NDC's website.

Mrs Newton asked re. footpaths whether opening up of the footpath from Harpson Hill to Millhaven could be put on the agenda of the Annual Parish meeting. This had been mentioned in the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 14 January 1977. She said that the deadline for registering unrecorded footpaths is January 2026. The Chairman suggested that it goes on the agenda of the next council meeting by which time more information could be obtained by Cllr Browse. It could also be raised in the open forum section at the Annual meeting of the Parish.

Mr Morgans remarked on the excellent performance by Cllr Howe at the recent NDC Planning meeting

*Approved*

where he had made representation about the retrospective planning applications at Oaklands Poultry farm, East Anstey.

Mr Morgans said that the lines need re-painting at the picnic area and the 'giveaway' signpost should be more obvious as he had nearly been hit by someone pulling out without looking. He also said that a large pantehnicon lorry had been parked near the millennium stone and had caused damage to the bank which he felt needed to be rolled. Cllr Filmer-Bennett will contact Highways about both these matters.

**Standing orders resumed.**

**18/153 Finance**

a) Accounts and bank reconciliation to date, previously circulated, were reviewed.

b) **Accounts to settle**

- Clerk's salary Feb/March (£140.54) & expenses (£25.58) £166.12

It was RESOLVED to settle the above account, Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Browse seconded, all agreed.

c) Note receipt of letter dated 5.03.19 from NDC Exchequer Manager confirming that Parish Grant remains unchanged for 2019/20 at £398.00

d) The Asset Register which had previously been circulated was reviewed. The Council had not acquired anything during the past year. It was RESOLVED to accept the Asset Register, Cllr Moore proposed, Cllr Browse seconded, all agreed.

**18/154 Planning**

a) Applications received after preparation of the agenda - none

b) Applications notified since last meeting - none

c) Applications approved by NDC since last meeting: **Ref. 65094** Demolition of redundant farm buildings; conversion of upper barn 1 to form one dwelling together with erection of detached garage; conversion of lower barn 2 to form one dwelling; erection of two affordable dwellings; creation of an area of public open space & upgrading of access track at East Hill Farm, Knowstone.

Cllr Howe reported that he had contacted the planning officer to ask about the farmhouse itself and had been told that it will be refurbished to bring it up to modern standards. It is a 4 bedroomed standard council farmhouse that has not been lived in since 2001. It is not known when the work is likely to start. Cllr Howe said it would be good if Planning let the Council know for the sake of local residents when it is planned to create the access road.

d) Oaklands Poultry Farm, E Anstey – retrospective planning application – Cllr Howe reported on the recent Planning meeting which had been attended by a large number of residents from E Anstey. He said that the most pertinent point had been made by D/Cllr Worden that if there were no chicken houses there and that it was an application to put chicken houses there then the answer would be 'no'. The application has been rejected and will go to appeal. It is hoped that the inspector will see it from locals' point of view. The developer has withdrawn due to what has been going on there and NDC has had to refund him his money. If/when the applicant goes to appeal then representation can be made again by Cllr Howe on behalf of Knowstone Parish Council.

**18/155 Third Party Reports** (if present):

a) District Councillor – not present

b) County Councillor – C/Cllr J Yabsley was thanked by the Chairman for coming to the parish with Richard Sable to meet and discuss the problem of surface water in East Knowstone with parish councillors and residents. Cllr Yabsley said the best way to progress things was to email Martin Hutchings again, copying him in, to inform him that the problem still exists and ask for a response. He suspected that there is a lack of resources to deal with the issue.

The lack of action regarding the HGV sign for E Knowstone was raised. Cllr Filmer-Bennet proposed that KPC repeats its letter to Tom Vaughan asking what is happening, copy in C/Cllr Yabsley, Cllr Moore seconded, all agreed – Clerk to action.

A reminder needs to go to Richard Sables regarding a new salt bin on Tracey Hill.

Cllr Moore asked C/Cllr Yabsley for advice on the best way to progress the possibility of having an Air Ambulance night landing site in the corner of the field (where there is a weather station) which is part of East Hill Farm, subject to it being deemed suitable by DAA. C/Cllr Yabsley said that the best route would be to write to the County's land agent, Dan Meek at NPS Southwest. Cllr Moore will draft a letter which he will circulate before sending to Mr Meek.

Mr Morgans raised his concern about the Rackenford road; it has been reported but no action yet.

With regard to the purchase of speed signs, C/Cllr Yabsley suggested that KPC writes to him to try and access DCC funding towards them.

C/Cllr Yabsley had recently heard a presentation by a Rural Crime officer and informed the meeting that the best way to contact the police about a rural crime (unless it was an emergency) is to email 101 stating that you are reporting a wildlife or rural crime; it will then be directed to the right team.

## 18/156 Members Reports

### a) **Highways** – Cllr Filmer-Bennett

(i) **Speed Control Signs** - Cllr Filmer-Bennett gave a brief summary of each of the three quotes obtained:

- Messagemaker – works on a simple principle – lights up at whatever speed set at. If driver going above set speed it flashes 'slow down'. It has a data capture facility and records number of vehicles going over the set speed. Cost: £3112.02 plus VAT.
- VARIO – does a lot more than the Messagemaker – it can show a smiley face etc. However DCC does not like the smiley face option, it prefers 'slow down' wording. It comes with its own post plate and locks in place. The 'slow down' message tones down at night. It is solar and battery run. It costs approximately £5,000 for 2 including spare battery. It is unclear how long a solar battery lasts. Data capture not as detailed as the Messagemaker which is a disadvantage if KPC wants to collect data to convince DCC to put in a speed restriction.
- Evolis – this is used by parish councils elsewhere who could be approached for feedback. It has just been approved by another Parish Council in Devon. It is well put together. It is made of polycarbonate so is light weight and will not rust. If set it at 20 miles or less it will flash 'thank you' in green to any car going that speed; if a vehicle is going 1 mile over the set limit it flashes in red, gives speed and displays 'too fast'. The cost is approximately £4,000 for two signs and it is hoped that there would be some financial support from DCC, possibly 50%. The Evolis is Cllr Filmer-Bennett's preferred option.

Cllr Filmer-Bennett explained that existing poles could be used at both ends of Roachill and that as Road Warden he was happy to keep an eye on the signs and change batteries when necessary. The signs can be taken off the poles and moved to another part of the parish should a problem arise with speeding vehicles elsewhere.

Members of the public present were asked if they had any views on the matter. It was asked whether the signs could be easily moved by an unauthorised person. Cllr Filmer-Bennett said that all the options have key locking systems and would be quite difficult to move. It was felt that the signs would encourage people to slow down. In other parts of Devon, there are speed limits in villages and then it reverts to 60. If a village has street lighting or more than 25 houses then more likely to get a speed limit. As Roachill does not have either and KPC collects data that shows a certain number of vehicles going too fast it could help to convince DCC to put in a speed limit, or bring in '20 is plenty' which is not enforceable but DCC is now accepting the concept.

Cllr Howe raised a concern about the position of the signs and whether 8 wheelers would hit them. Cllr Filmer-Bennett explained that there are strict requirements relating to the position of the signs which have to abide by highways law and would be offset from the road.

The timeframe to install will be about a month: the Clerk would write formally to Devon CC, Richard Sables would come and have a look, order signs which will take a week to arrive, install signs. It was suggested that the signs are set at 20 mph as this is a sufficient speed to be able to stop if someone steps out. Although the signs can be on all the time it would probably be a good idea to turn them off from time to time.

It was RESOLVED to agree the written motion submitted and proposed by Cllr Filmer-Bennett: "Having considered the available quotations for speed control technology Knowstone Parish Council agrees to progress the purchase of the agreed products subject to agreement with the Highways Department of Devon County Council and the appropriate owners of the land and the full establishment of installation costs." Cllr Moore seconded, all agreed.

It was RESOLVED to purchase 2 x Evolis signs plus sundries, Cllr Moore proposed, Cllr Filmer-Bennett seconded, all agreed. It was noted that KPC will ask Devon CC for some financial support.

(ii) Potholes - Cllr Filmer-Bennett is reporting them whenever he comes across them.

(iii) Road warden scheme – a couple of people in Roachill would like to clean the entrance walls to Roachill. Cllr Filmer-Bennett said that this was an example of how the scheme would work. It would have to go to Richard Sables and cannot happen until he has done the Chapter 8 course. Protective clothing for this has been purchased.

(iv) TTO for Fair Day has been agreed.

- b) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – Cllr Browse reported that the gate on footpath no 3 is in a bad state. He has reported it to Ros Davis at Devon CC and they will come to look at it. Re. Beaples Stone – Cllr Browse reported that he had obtained a price for a recycled plastic seat which would cost £280. He has contacted Mr J Poole who can create a concrete base, approximate cost £230. He will put forward a resolution for the next meeting. Mr J Poole has offered to spray the area when needed FOC. The tree has been pruned.
- c) **Police Report** – Cllr Moore – police concerned about dog owners & sheep worrying. In police blog says that farmers may look to dog owners for compensation but farmers as a last resort are allowed by law to shot a dog. Calling on dog owners to be sensible around livestock.
- d) **Parish Pound** – Cllr Howe reported that it is being well looked after.
- e) **Parish Hall** – Cllr Howe reported that the main upcoming event was the Spring Market on Saturday 30th March, 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. which he hoped would be well supported.
- f) **PCC Report** – Cllr Howe reported that the church was in the closing phases of getting the rood loft steps sorted out. The conservator will be finished at the end of the week, the scaffolding will come down and then they will do the conservation work to the base. The choir stalls will need to be replaced. Services continue at 8.30 a.m. (communion) on the first Sunday in the month and at 11.15 a.m. (family service) on the second Sunday in the month. The last family service had been very well attended.
- g) **Air Ambulance Site** – covered under 18/155 (b)
- h) **Snow Warden** – Cllr Stanbury not present – no report.

**18/157 Parish Elections – 2nd May 2019** Fliers have been distributed as widely as possible to encourage people to stand. Nomination papers have to be in by 3rd April.

**18/158 Annual Meeting of the Parish** – 28th May 2019 – provisional agenda and flier, previously circulated, were AGREED and will be delivered to all houses in the parish via ‘In Touch’. Cllr Moore proposed, Cllr Browse seconded, all agreed

**18/159 Business at the Chairman’s discretion** – None

**18/160 Date & Time of next meeting:** Tuesday 23rd April 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 21.19.