

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes 22/23 Page 17

Minutes of the meeting of the Council on 22nd November 2022 held in Knowstone Parish Hall

Present: Cllr J Clarke, Cllr C Dey, Cllr D Maidment, Cllr A Parry, Cllr J Pomfret (Chair), Cllr N Vukic

In attendance: W Sweet (Clerk), C/Cllr J Yabsley (part), D/Cllr E Ley (part)

22/81 Apologies for absence – Cllr Stanbury

22/82 Declarations of Interest (re. matters appearing on this agenda) - None

22/83 Approve Minutes It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2022 and the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 13th October 2022, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Parry seconded, all agreed.

22/84 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda).

Receipt of the following was NOTED:

- DALC #47 2022 E-bulletin dated 28.09.22;
- Email dated 4.10.22 from Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service – Fire Service Consultation;
- Email dated 4.10.22 from DCT - Devon Community Resilience Forum Newsletter - October 2022;
- Email dated 7.10.22 - Devon Climate Emergency October Newsletter;
- Email dated 10.10.22 from Cornwall & Devon Police - Vision Zero South West road safety e-briefing;
- Email dated 17.10.22 from Devon CPRE - October e-bulletin;
- DALC #50 2022 E-bulletin dated 19.10.22;
- Email dated 20.10.22 from Devon Highways – Snow Warden update
- DALC #51 2022 E-bulletin dated 26.10.22;
- Email dated 31.10.22 from Lucy Back, Sworders - Ref planning application: 76007;
- DALC #52 2022 E-bulletin dated 2.11.22;
- Email dated 2.11.22 from the Rural Services Network - Rural Funding Digest - November 2022 Edition;
- DALC #53 2022 E-bulletin dated 9.11.22;
- DALC #54 2022 E-bulletin dated 16.11.22;
- **Note correspondence received after the preparation of the agenda.**
- A hard copy of the Winter issue of CPRE's newsletter was available at the meeting.

22/85 Public Questions

(i) Cllr Pomfret reported that he had received a complaint from a resident about a car rally at the beginning of October that had travelled between Ash Mill and Wadham Cross late at night. Some residents in the area had been forewarned of the event via a leaflet but not everyone had received it. There were a lot of cars and they were travelling at inappropriate speeds for the type of road. It was AGREED that the Council would write to the organisers, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Parry seconded, all agreed. DCC Highways and the Police will be copied into the correspondence.

22/86 Finance

(a) It was RESOLVED to agree the accounts to date for 22-23 and bank reconciliation, previously circulated, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Vukic seconded, all agreed. Cllr Vukic signed a copy of the accounts and the bank statements.

(b) Receipt of £2,038.00 being the second precept payment was NOTED.

(c) It was RESOLVED to settle the following accounts, Cllr Parry proposed, Cllr Vukic seconded, all agreed:

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| • Wendy Sweet - Clerk's pay (£154.57), holiday pay (£72.85) & WFH allowance (£48.00) | £275.42 |
| • Wendy Sweet – reimbursement for McAfee renewal (for 2 years) | £119.99 |
| • Cllr John Pomfret – reimbursement for de-fib batteries | £24.06 |

Approved

22/87 Budget 2023/2024 preparation The draft budget for 2023/24, previously circulated, was REVIEWED. It was RESOLVED to submit a provisional Precept figure of £4076 (the same as this year), Cllr Parry proposed, Cllr Dey seconded, all agreed.

22/88 Internal Audit It was RESOLVED to appoint Alison Marshal as Internal Auditor for 2022-2023, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Maidment seconded, all agreed.

22/89 Electric Vehicle Charging Point – Cllr Clarke reported that this will be installed on 2nd December. Any signage required will be considered once it is installed.

22/90 Removal of dying Ash trees at Wiston Cross No response had been received to the Council's enquiry regarding the ownership of the trees. It was AGREED that the Clerk will re-send the original email to Richard Sables, copying in C/Cllr Yabsley. If the trees are DCC owned they should already be on their programme to be dealt with.

22/91 Planning

(a) Applications notified since last meeting – None

(b) Applications notified since the preparation of the agenda - None

(c) Other planning matters

(i) It was noted that Planning Ref. 75875 had been approved, with landscaping / bunding conditions being imposed.

(ii) It was noted that Planning Ref. 75948 at Little Kidland had been withdrawn.

(iii) The Clerk had phoned the Planning Department to follow up an email enquiring about the status of the planning consent at East Hill and whether it was considered that work there had started. No definite answer has been obtained and the email has been forwarded to a Senior Planning Officer.

22/92 Third Party Reports

a) **District Councillor Ley** Things are quiet in the Parish re. planning matters. In the past few years Planning officers have been reluctant to refuse any planning applications as any refusal has to stand up to appeal. There has been a recent government directive regarding a 5 year housing land supply target which has resulted in a lot of sites coming forward. Previously only one local needs dwelling has been allowed to be built in a rural settlement like Knowstone Parish, but now open market housing is being allowed which is quite a change. The recent problems with recycling collections have now been resolved.

b) **County Councillor Yabsley** reported that the County Farms Estate committee is busy, with interviews for two dairy farms coming up. The county owns 64 farms in total. The Farms Estate brings in income from letting and also from selling land for development, particularly around Exeter. C/Cllr Yabsley is Chair of Highways in North Devon. He gave an update re. the current upgrading work on the Link road. Some of it is being scaled back due to inflation and the rising cost of materials. The junction at Bishops Tawton will be redesigned - it was going to be an underpass but now will not be. One out of two planned footbridges are not going to be constructed.

The development at Stonelands Cross is going to be considered at the Planning Meeting on 14th December. There is an issue of access. Development along the line of the link road has been resisted in the past.

C/Cllr Yabsley encouraged residents to keep reporting potholes. If they are reported they will be repaired. Regarding broken road signs, there is only a budget for legally required signage on the Highway; there is no budget for directional signposts on minor roads.

22/93 Members Reports

(a) **Highways** – Cllr Dey had met with C/Cllr Yabsley which had been helpful for background information. She had also had a useful meeting with former Parish Councillor Jeremy Filmer-Bennett who had been the Council's Highways lead. The situation in Roachill has been going on for a long time. The Highways officer has not responded to the Council's emails. There have been no serious accidents and there is not enough housing in Roachill to qualify for a lower speed limit. There had been information in a recent DALC Newsletter about the '20 is Plenty scheme' which Cllr Dey intends to look into in more detail. It is unlikely that DCC would be able to support it financially. Another option would be if entrances to properties in

Roachill were more obvious – entrances could be widened but at residents' own expense. The District Council would have to be informed of any entrance widening. Cllr Vukic bought up the Police's road safety scheme whereby they are funding projects within parishes and suggested that she and Cllr Dey get together to look into it and see what could be done. There is funding available from the Police rather than the County Council's Highways Department.

(i) **Holy Moor Cross road sign** update - Cllr Pomfret reported that he had received a quote from JAG Signs, the company he had taken the two sign pointers to for assessment. They proposed to cut off the bent parts, put on new brackets and reinforcing strips. It was felt that it was more sensible to have smaller signs as less likely to bend in strong winds. The quote to repair the existing finger points and produce a new finger pointer is £442.00 plus VAT. It was RESOLVED to accept this quote, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Parry seconded, all agreed.

(b) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – Cllr Parry – nothing to report. He plans to walk all the footpaths over the Christmas period and submit a written report for the next meeting, which he is unable to attend.

(c) **Moors Management Association** – Cllr Maidment – nothing to report. The AGM is being held next month.

(d) **Welcome Pack** - Cllr Maidment – nothing to report.

(e) **Emergency Plan** – Cllr Parry recapped plans to future proof the parish hall by purchasing a generator that could be used in the event of a power cut. This was raised at the last hall meeting and the committee was very supportive of the generator proposal. They would consider installing a shower in the future and will be looking to improve the kitchen facilities. Cllr Parry had obtained two quotes for a generator - £969.99 (including VAT) for a 6/7kw model and £1290 (including VAT) for a 6kw one. He was waiting to receive a second quote from a local electrician for the supply and fitting of a generator switch. It was AGREED that a maximum of £2,000 could be spent on a generator and the fitting of a generator switch, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Clarke seconded, all agreed. There will be ongoing maintenance costs, not included in the £2,000 budget. Cllr Parry will also research how / where the generator will be stored when not in use. The Clerk will check the hall's insurance policy.

(f) **Parish Hall** – Cllr Pomfret reported that there had been a successful and well attended quiz evening on the previous Saturday. There will be a Christmas Afternoon Tea on Saturday 3rd December and Christmas Bingo on Tuesday 6th December. Enough Ceilidh tickets had been sold to make the event viable (19th May 2023). The kitchen subcommittee will be meeting next week to start to discuss how the kitchen can be made more user friendly.

(g) **Police Liaison** – Cllr Vukic said her main point was road safety as mentioned under the Highways Report. There had been a spate of thefts locally with items like chain saws being stolen. It is important to keep outbuildings locked.

(h) **Snow Warden** – Cllr Stanbury – not present, nothing to report

22/94 Business at the Chairman's discretion – None.

22/95 The date, time and venue of next meeting were confirmed as Tuesday, 24th January 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

The meeting closed at 21.34.