

## KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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### Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 23rd March 2021, held remotely via Zoom

**Present:** Cllr D Barrett, Cllr J Clarke, Cllr R Howe (Chairman), Cllr D Maidment, Cllr A Parry, Cllr J Pomfret,

In attendance: W Sweet (Clerk), D/Cllr Ley (part), C/Cllr J Yabsley (part), 1 member of the public

*To mark the National Day of Reflection a special prayer, supplied by the Bishop of Exeter, was said by the Chairman before opening the meeting.*

**20/142 Apologies for absence** - Cllr J Stanbury

**20/143 Declarations of Interest** (re. matters appearing on this agenda) - None

**20/144 Approve Minutes** It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2021, Cllr Barrett proposed, Cllr Pomfret seconded, all agreed.

#### **20/145 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda).**

(i) Receipt of the following correspondence was NOTED:

- Email dated 2.03.21 from NDC – Public Space Protection Order – dog control – the Chairman mentioned that he had spoken with the Chief Dog Warden for North Devon who had confirmed that churchyards were viewed as public places and therefore official signs could be installed to remind people to keep their dogs on a lead etc.
- Email dated 3.03.21 from Mick Harrison – The latest OPCC Senior Police Officer interview;
- Email dated 3.03.21 from DCC – Draft Resource and Waste Strategy for Devon and Torbay – consultation;
- DALC Newsletter #09 dated 3.03.21 – New partnership with Parish Online;
- Email dated 4.03.21 from Mick Harrison – A virtual meeting with your local Police Inspectors;
- Email dated 4.03.21 from Mick Harrison – National ANPR Survey;
- Email dated 8.03.21 from Mick Harrison – Police Cyber Protect Team issue cybercrime / scam warnings;
- Email dated 9.03.21 – The Rural Bulletin;
- DALC Newsletter #10 dated 9.03.21 – Preparing for the end of the year;
- DALC Newsletter #11 dated 10.03.21 – Change of Date for Parish Online training;
- DALC Newsletter #12 dated 11.03.21 – Briefing and Q&A about remote meetings after 7th May – it was reported that the Clerk and the Chairman would be attending the briefing on 30th March.
- Email dated 11.03.21 from Mick Harrison – Cyber Security Information – Key Protect Advice Concerning the Forthcoming Census'
- DALC Newsletter #13 dated 12.03.21 – Calling all high tourism areas, your views wanted;
- CPRE Campaigns Update March 2021 dated 13.03.21;
- Devon CC's newsletter – 'Connectme' dated 15.03.21;

(ii) The following correspondence received after the preparation of the agenda was NOTED:

- Information forwarded by C/Cllr Yabsley re. connecting Devon and Somerset
- Briefing note on Highway drainage expenditure forwarded by C/Cllr Yabsley.

#### **20/146 Public Questions (limited to 20 minutes) Standing orders suspended**

(a) With reference to the minutes of the previous meeting when it had been agreed that KPC would, as landowner, sign the RPA rolling extension application for the HLS scheme, a parishioner asked the Council to confirm that it had done this before. If not, but the Council is signing it now, he assumed that the Parish Council would be the recipient of the RPA payments but if not, why not? If KPC is going to be the recipient, what is the purpose of the MMA? The chairman replied that the original form had been signed many years ago by, it was believed, the chairman of Knowstone Parish Council or its representative on the MMA

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committee at that time. The chairman was unsure about the other questions raised and would look into it with the Clerk.

(b) With reference to item 10 on the agenda a parishioner asked if he could be allowed to comment under this item, if necessary, as he attends the NDCC Resources and Strategy committee. The Chairman agreed that he would allow that to happen.

***Standing orders resumed***

**20/147 Batsworthy Noise Monitoring Consultation** – discuss and agree Council's response to A Cole's (Service Lead – Environmental Protection) email dated 11.03.21 - this item was brought forward so it could be discussed whilst D/Cllr Ley was still at the meeting. Cllr Clarke raised the point that if planning conditions are breached for more than 10 years then immunity could be gained by the developer and felt that the local authority should serve a breach of conditions notice on them. This was very important as the decision was made in 2012 so the 10 years are nearly up. The Chairman asked Cllr Clarke to speak to Jane Faust of the Batsworthy Noise Working Group about this. With regard to the method of measuring the noise it was felt that these should be actual measurements as specified by the Planning Inspector not predictive measurements as proposed by NDC in order to protect Knowstone residents who are affected by the noise levels. It was RESOLVED to write to respond to the consultation, making the following points:

- Request that the operator complies with Planning Conditions which require that compliance with the noise limits is shown through measurement, not the use of predictions, and flag up issue of immunity, details of which Cllr Clarke will supply to the Clerk;
- The operator is prepared to take more measurements as they have already secured access to the property where the measurements have to be taken.
- The risk in not measuring is that exceedances of the noise limits could go on and on for the next 20 years to the detriment of residents.

Proposed Cllr Howe, seconded Cllr Pomfret, all agreed. D/Cllr Ley said the situation was proceeding in a similar way to the situation at Fullabrook Windfarm He suggested that Cllr David Worden and Mr Ken Miles are sent copies of KPC's response.

**20/148 Risk Assessment** It was RESOLVED to agree the Council's Risk Assessment previously circulated, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Clarke seconded, all agreed.

**20/149 Asset Register** The Asset Register was reviewed. Cllr Parry asked whether the wooden stakes for Haresdown Moor needed to be added to it. The Clerk responded that they would be added once purchased as would anything else bought by the Council during the year. It was RESOLVED to agree the Asset Register previously circulated, Cllr Parry proposed, Cllr Pomfret seconded, all agreed.

**20/150 Finance**

(a) It was RESOLVED to settle the following account, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Barrett seconded, all agreed: Wendy Sweet (pay £154.38 & expenses £1.10) - £155.48

(b) Website Development Ltd - £354.00 (incl. VAT) – this invoice was slightly higher than expected as it included advice given regarding website accessibility and the amending of the Council's website to reduce the amount of spam emails being received via the online enquiry form as well as the annual website hosting charge. It was RESOLVED to settle this account, Cllr Maidment proposed, Cllr Clarke seconded, all agreed.

(c) It was RESOLVED to settle the following account, Cllr Clarke proposed, Cllr Barrett seconded, all agreed: Wendy Vigus – updating KPC website (Oct 20 – Feb 21) - £95.00.

(d) It was RESOLVED to settle the following account, Cllr Clarke proposed, Cllr Barrett seconded, all agreed: M Ridd – stakes for blocking access on to Haresdown Moor - £1,000.00. It was hoped that permission would soon be received from Natural England to install these stakes and the Clerk was asked to contact MMA's secretary to request that they be chased for a response.

**20/151 Civic Pride** The purchase of 6/7 planters to be placed (subject to obtaining the appropriate permission from Highways) in front of each of the signs for Knowstone, East Knowstone and Roachill at an approximate cost of £250-300 per planter plus plants and potting compost was discussed. It was felt that it was important to make sure there were enough people willing to maintain the planters once planted and in position so they continued to look attractive. The appropriate permission from highways would need to be sought as in some cases the bank would need to be dug out to accommodate the planter. It was also proposed that a plaque stating KPC website details could be fixed to the planters. It was AGREED that Highways would be approached to get approval in principle for the concept and a piece about the proposed planters would go on the website / noticeboards to see if any volunteers were forthcoming and the idea will be discussed again at next month's meeting.

**20/152 Litter Pickers** – The Clerk reported that the Waste and Recycling Department still had not phoned her back to arrange the loan of litter picking equipment but the bin that had been removed from a telegraph pole in Knowstone village was now on their list to be reinstated or replaced.

### **20/153 Planning**

(i) Applications notified since last meeting - None

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

(iii) Note applications determined since the last Council meeting - None

### **20/154 Third Party Reports:**

a) **District Councillor** – D/Cllr Ley said that there was nothing much to report relating to Knowstone Parish. A new Planning Manager has not been appointed yet which is causing some delays within the Planning Department.

b) **County Councillor** – C/Cllr Yabsley said he would be happy to talk to the local Highways officer about the proposed planters – he assumed that they would be allowable as long as they are kept off the highway. The best route would be an email to Richard Sables, copying him C/Cllr Yabsley in. In response to a recent query from the Clerk about the buildouts in Roachill, there is no budget at DCC for these and previously it had been agreed that they could be kept but only if the Parish Council paid for them to be repaired.

The County Council has been allowed to come together with the NHS to provide social care, something that has been in progress for years. The merging of the services has taken a significant step forward in the last week or so. From 1st April there will be an integrated care system with NHS in terms of adult social care and domiciliary care. If anyone is interested, he can forward more information. Also looked at by Adult Care Scrutiny recently were dental care and how the NHS is going to get back into gear to deal with postponed operations due to COVID.

He is continuing to deal with Highways matters passed to him by Cllr Barrett and happy to take questions. The Chairman bought up a request from a parishioner that a non-slip surface is used when re-surfacing the road from the picnic area to Rackenford as a lot of horses are ridden along that road. He also reported that the catch is broken on the pedestrian gate at the cattle grid on the same road. The issue of surfacing is a difficult one to deal with, but Cllr Yabsley will bring it up with the local Highways officer. Cllr Barrett asked about signs to warn drivers about horse riders which is likely to become more of a problem as more drivers come into the area who are not used to narrow country lanes. C/Cllr Yabsley responded that although the signage budget is restricted, there is an additional £1.3m from county reserves to aid highways drainage and more patching and £100,000 for street furniture which includes signage and it is hoped that some would be available, via the local Highways officer, for this type of signage. He said it would be helpful if KPC could put together a list of where it would like these signs to be positioned. Once lockdown has been eased a Highways visit can take place.

### **20/155 Members Reports**

a) **Highways** – Cllr Barrett reported that the litter in the layby on the road between the picnic area and Rackenford and the suggestion that 'no littering' signs are put there had been passed onto C/Cllr Yabsley, along with Cllr Howe's suggestion at a previous meeting that average speed cameras are used on the A361

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between South Molton and Tiverton.

- b) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – Cllr Pomfret had little to report but was trying to find out who owned the land where the footpath runs along by the Crooked Oak.
- c) **Moors Management Association** – Cllr Maidment – nothing to report.
- d) **Police Report** – Cllr Howe read out a list of recent crimes in the South Molton area. There is a focus on the illegal off-road driving and riding of motorcycles. He encouraged people to lock up their outbuildings. There have been a number of emails from the OPCC on how to avoid scams.
- e) **Welcome Pack** - Cllr Maidment – nothing to report.
- f) **Emergency Plan** – Cllr Parry reported that he had read through the Council's current Emergency Plan which had last been updated in 2017 so a lot of the information contained within it is out of date. It is also a written document so in the event of an emergency would not be very accessible. He has been liaising with Devon Community Resilience Forum who shared with him best practice examples of good emergency plans, some of which were for small parish councils like KPC. He proposed that KPC undertakes a refresh of its Emergency Plan using some of the good examples of other parishes as a format, doing a survey of parishioners to obtain up-to-date information and creating it in an electronic format so it can be shared and potentially go on the website but with sensitive and confidential information removed to comply with Data Protection regulations. Once this has been done it will be brought back to the Council for review.
- g) **Parish Hall** – Cllr Howe reported that both the Chairman and a long serving member of the committee had recently resigned.
- h) **PCC Report** – Cllr Howe reported that the PCC is very close to finishing the rood loft stairs project. The woodwork for the back of the choir stalls has been taken away by the joiners and it is hoped it will be put back by April 3rd as there is a service planned for Easter Day at 11.15 a.m. There will be a warm welcome as the under pew heating has now been installed.

**20/156 Annual Meeting of the Parish** – it was felt that holding this in May would be too soon for a physical meeting and it was suggested by Cllr Barrett that it is held in September.

**20/157 Business at the Chairman's discretion** – None.

**20/158 The date and the time of the next meeting** were CONFIRMED as follows - Tuesday 27th April 2021 at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom

The meeting closed at 21.27