

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes 20/21 Page 25

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24th November 2020, held remotely via Zoom

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

In attendance: W Sweet (Clerk), 5 members of the public, D/Cllr Ley (part), C/Cllr Yabsley (part)

20/98 Appoint new Chairman of the Council Following Cllr Moore's recent resignation from the Council, it was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Howe as Chairman, proposed by Cllr Stanbury, Cllr Barrett seconded, all agreed. Cllr Howe signed the declaration of acceptance of office form.

20/99 To appoint a Vice Chairman It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Pomfret as Vice Chairman, Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Stanbury seconded, all agreed. Cllr Pomfret signed the declaration of acceptance of office form.

20/100 Co-option of new member

- (i) It was RESOLVED to co-opt Andrew Parry onto Knowstone Parish Council – Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Howe seconded, all agreed. AP spoke briefly saying that he had moved to the parish about three and half a years ago and now wanted to become an active member of the community. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Parry to the council and briefly ran through the responsibilities of a Parish Council.
- (ii) Co-option acceptance form was signed by Cllr Parry.
- (iii) It was AGREED that Cllr Parry would attend an appropriate training course for new councillors which the Clerk will organise. Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Pomfret seconded, all agreed

20/101 Apologies for absence – None

20/102 Declarations of Interest (re. matters appearing on this agenda) - Cllr Stanbury declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 15 (Moors Management Association).

20/103 Approve Minutes It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 27th October 2020, Cllr Stanbury proposed, Cllr Pomfret seconded, all agreed.

20/104 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda).

The following correspondence was NOTED:

- Devon CPRE Autumn 2020 Newsletter;
- Letter dated 18.10.20 from The Pensions Regulator acknowledging re-declaration of compliance;
- Email dated 3.11.20 from OPCC re. Police Budget Survey;
- Email dated 5.11.20 from NDC re. Community Support during 2nd lockdown;
- Email dated 12.11.20 from DCC re. Avian Influenza Information;
- Email dated 13.11.20 - Devon CPRE's November's e-Bulletin - Are You Concerned About a Planning Application Near You?;
- Email dated 17.11.20 from OPCC re. North Devon Councillor Advocate scheme to include all parish councils;
- Email dated 18.11.20 from DCC re. Interim Devon Carbon Plan Consultation Comms Pack
- Email from NDC re. problems with the collection of recycling because of absenteeism due to COVID. If recycling is not collected residents are advised to take it back in again and put it out the following week. Cllr Barrett commented that he had written to the Council about a year ago to complain about the inefficient and messy system of recycling collection in North Devon. He will raise the matter with D/Cllr Ley.

The following correspondence, received after the preparation of the agenda, was NOTED.

- Email dated 20.11.20 from NDC re. rising Coronavirus cases in the district;

Approved

- Email dated 23.11.20 from DCC re. 2021 visits from Tiverton Mobile Library – the Chairman asked the Clerk to put a copy of the new timetable on the Parish noticeboards for those people who could not access the information online.
- Autumn/winter newsletter from CPRE

20/105 Public Questions

(a) Mr Morgans asked if D/Cllr Ley could give an update on Oaklands Poultry Farm as he thought that some paperwork was supposed to have been submitted in November.

20/106 East Hill Farm - to appoint two Trustees to be shown on property title registers at H.M. Land Registry to replace J Filmer-Bennett and T Moore. For the benefit of the new councillor, the Chairman gave a brief explanation about the land, and money, to be spent on the land that the Council is due to be given by the developer of East Hill Farm under an S106 agreement. KPC's solicitors will set up a Trust deed to facilitate the Council to hold the land. It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Parry and Cllr Maidment to be replacement Trustees, Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Barrett seconded, all agreed.

20/107 Finance

(a) The accounts to date, previously circulated, were REVIEWED.

(b) It was RESOLVED to settle the following accounts, :

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| • Wendy Sweet (pay £277.64 & exes £60.70) | £338.34 |
| • R Ridd – annual maintenance of Beaples Stone area | £100.00 |
| • Wendy Sweet (pay for Nov/Dec – cheque to be dated 31.12.20) | £161.85 |

(c) It was RESOLVED to make a donation of £50 to North Devon Record Office in response to their email and letter dated 11.11.20; Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Barrett seconded, all agreed.

(d) It was RESOLVED to grant £300 to Knowstone PCC towards the cost of maintaining the parish section of the churchyard as per the secretary's email dated 11.11.20, Cllr Stanbury proposed, Cllr Maidment seconded, all agreed. In his capacity as Churchwarden, Cllr Howe thanked the Parish Council for this donation.

20/108 Budget 2021/2022 preparation – the draft budget for 20/21, previously circulated, was REVIEWED and it was AGREED that a provisional Precept figure of £4076 would be submitted to NDC.

20/109 Planning

(i) Applications notified since last meeting – **Ref: 72027** Erection of agricultural building for dry storage, machinery storage and livestock use together with retrospective creation of access & agricultural track (amended plans & description) at Land at Ash Mill EX36 4RT. The Chairman reported that a comprehensive objection by a local resident had been submitted to the Planning Department and a copy circulated to all councillors. It contained pictures showing damage to the banks of the Crooked Oak river which have been destroyed and flattened, and of the field which is now a muddy mess. It was felt that the activity at the field should trigger a Wildlife Report. The resident described the activity going on in the field and the environmental concerns it raised. D/Cllr Ley said that KPC should only deal with what the applicant has applied for on this occasion. The following points were raised: how could a 4 hectare field warrant three access points and a building of the size applied for; the proposed building would be less than 200m from listed buildings on which there would be a huge negative impact. With reference to the pollution going into the Crooked Oak, Mr Morgans pointed out that it feeds into the River Taw which is part of the North Devon Biosphere Reserve. It was RESOLVED to write the Planning Department expressing the above objections / environmental concerns with a copy being sent to The Environment Agency, North Devon Biosphere Reserve, North Devon Environmental Department and Michael Tichford, Head of Place.

(ii) Applications notified since the preparation of the agenda – none

(iii) Applications determined since the last Council meeting – **Ref: 71951** Change of use of land from agricultural to mixed use of agricultural and equestrian at Moortown Barton, Knowstone – approved.

(iv) Other planning matters – it was noted that Oaklands Farm had submitted an application (ref 72255) for the erection of a steel framed portal building to be used for storing straw and farm machinery which has been approved. D/Cllr Ley explained that this is due to a Government directive as it comes under permitted development / 28 day notice prior approval, under which the Planning Department can only question two things – access and siting. The building will be sited quite close to the original chicken brooder/hatchery position. He stated that no genuine planning objection exists. With reference to Mr Morgans' earlier question regarding documents that had to be submitted, D/Cllr Ley said he could not definitively answer that. The deadline had been 9th November. He is 90% certain that the applicant has lodged an appeal against the enforcement notice. As far as he was aware the six month clock is still running from 9th November. The enforcement process is slow and slack but the NDC is powerless to do anything about it.

20/110 Third Party Reports:

a) District Councillor Ley reminded KPC that there are no parish grants now. Re. the land at Crosside Hill he will fill out a 28 day call-in notice on it so it goes to Planning Committee subject to the Case Officer's view on it.

b) County Councillor Yabsley reported that he had responded earlier in the day to Cllr Barrett's email about the new sign at Holy Moor Cross, which he had been unaware of, and complaints about the HGV routing. The previous promise by the Head of Highways to take down the preferred route signage had been overruled by Richard Sables due to rules and regulations which meant that it had to remain although he did not agree with it. Cllr Barrett queried why it had to be that route and not via the B3227. The matter will be raised again with Richard Sables whom he hoped to be out again in the parish in two or three weeks' time. A parishioner commented that the sign stands 6ft above the hedge and is wobbling around already, it does not say Holy Moor and the mileages are incorrect

There had been some success re. Hittsford Lane – the first part of it is adopted highway and some patching will be done.

20/111 Members Reports

a) **Highways** – Cllr Barrett said that as he lives on the edge of the village he may not be aware of highway problems within the Parish and encouraged people to contact him if they were aware of anything.

b) **Snow Warden** – Cllr Stanbury reported that he had ordered salt for the bins at each end of East Knowstone and ordered a new salt bin for Wadham. He suggested that the Council orders 3 tonne of salt to be delivered to his farm which he will disperse to various locations around the parish.

c) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – Cllr J Pomfret reported that the Beaples Stone area is looking very good at the moment following the Ridds' work there. Re. footpaths, he reported that a parishioner had raised the fact that the footpath was not currently indicated in the Kingdon's field. He would be checking with Ros Davies at DCC about the legality of this. In the next couple of months he will be checking all footpaths within the Parish as part of the annual review.

d) **Police Report** – It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Howe as Police Liaison for the time being, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Barrett seconded, all agreed. It was reported that following recent break-ins of out buildings within the Parish, no progress had been made by the Police to catch the people involved.

e) **Welcome Pack update:** Cllr Maidment queried whether new residents had moved into East Hole Farm yet. It was thought that this was imminent. She will call round with a Welcome pack after receiving more parish maps from Cllr Pomfret.

f) **Parish Hall** – Cllr Howe reported that the hall was clean and ready for use when it is allowed to re-open.

g) **PCC Report** – Cllr Howe reported that a PCC meeting will take place in early December where the Edgemoor Group proposals will be discussed. He said there were concerns that the two monthly services would be reduced to one, meaning that income would also reduce and could lead to the church being closed. There were also concerns about handing over the PCC's responsibilities to a central

committee and they were keen to run the church themselves. He reported that people had been generous in their response to the appeal for financial help that had gone out in the current copy of 'In Touch' and £380 had been received to date. In the December edition of 'In Touch' a flier will be included asking for food donations for North Devon Food bank to be left in the church porch during week commencing Monday 7th December. Tim and Michele Browse will collect the donated food and deliver it to South Molton Food Bank. Thanks to the work of Tim Browse and the Ridds the churchyard was looking marvellous. A brief Remembrance Sunday service had been held at short notice on 8th November in the churchyard.

20/112 Moors Management Association (MMA)

(a) It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Maidment as replacement KPC representative on the committee of the Moors Management Association, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Barrett seconded, all agreed. Their AGM will take place on 7th December 2020.

(b) Cllr Pomfret commented that previously when Tony Moore had been the Moors Management representative he did not know anything about MMA and he did not recall any discussion within the Council about items that were going to be brought up at MMA meetings. It worried him that there would be items at the MMA AGM that may need to be discussed in advance by the Council and perhaps an emergency KPC meeting should be held once the MMA agenda had been produced so that the Council's representative knows the Council's position. The Chairman suggested that Cllr Maidment talks to Cllr Stanbury and the Association's secretary to get more understanding of the MMA. Mr Morgans commented that the KPC's representative attends MMA meetings as a landowner representative only – it is not Parish Council business. The PC should not, in his opinion, play a major role within the association, otherwise it would become complicated and unwieldy.

(c) Questions for KPC raised by MMA at its Special committee meeting – Cllr Maidment reported that the Chairman of MMA had questions for KPC regarding landowner responsibilities, for example regarding fly tipping and illegal camping on the moor – is it the Council or MMA that deals with it / pays for it to be done? Mr Morgans observed that MMA holds back part of the grant given to them in order to pay for such occurrences – a figure of £6,000 he believed. Although he had approached the Parish Council regarding the overnight parking incident, really it was probably something that should have been handled by MMA or a combined effort between the two organisations. Cllr Stanbury said that at the MMA meeting Devon Wildlife accepted responsibility for fly tipping and dealing with illegal camping as part of their payment and MMA's treasurer had asked what KPC were doing with the money they had received from MMA. As DWT take responsibility for fly tipping etc. they are looking to KPC to do the same. In response to Mr Morgans question Cllr Stanbury explained that all money received is paid out and a specific contingency fund as indicated by Mr Morgans does not exist anymore. Mr Morgans said in that case he withdrew his earlier statement and said that KPC should have more involvement on the committee if they were expect to pay for the removal of illegal campers although this was never part of the original agreement. Cllr Stanbury said that MMA was now thinking that KPC should ring fence the money received from MMA in the same way that DWT does. This will be discussed at MMA's AGM.

20/113 Business at the Chairman's discretion – the Chairman said that KPC owed a great deal of gratitude to Tony Moore for the work he did as Chairman of this Parish Council. He did a lot of great work and, on behalf of the Council, he wished him well.

20/114 The date and time of the next meeting were confirmed as follows: Tuesday 26th January 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 21.26.