

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 26th January 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, Cllr J Stanbury

In attendance: W Sweet (Clerk), 2 members of the public, D/Cllr Ley, C/Cllr Yabsley

20/115 Apologies for absence – None

20/116 Co-option of new member

(i) Consider Co-option of Jonathan Clarke: Mr Clarke gave a brief statement about himself and his field of experience which is in planning matters at District and County level. He currently works as a Planning consultant and has had good affiliation with the parish over a period of 20 years. It was RESOLVED to co-opt Jonathan Clarke onto the Parish Council, Cllr Barrett proposed, Cllr Stanbury seconded, all agreed. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Clarke to the Council.

(ii) Consent to co-option and co-option acceptance forms were signed by Cllr Clarke.

(iii) It was AGREED that Cllr Clarke would attend an appropriate training course for new councillors which the Clerk will organise.

20/117 Declarations of Interest (re. matters appearing on this agenda) Cllr Stanbury declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 12(d) (Moors Management Association); Cllr Clarke declared an interest in Planning item 10(i)(a) as he had completed the application on behalf of the applicant.

20/118 Approve Minutes It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2020, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Maidment seconded, all agreed.

20/119 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda).

The following correspondence was NOTED:

- Email dated 4.12.20 from Devon Trading Standards re. Avian Influenza Housing Order
- Letter received 7.12.20 and posters from Devon Climate Emergency;
- Email dated 7.12.20 from OPCC re. Take a virtual tour around the new Exeter Police Station;
- Email dated 9.12.20 from OPCC, Devon & Cornwall re. OPCC Annual Report;
- Email dated 4.01.21 from Environment Agency re. Crooked Oak River;
- DALC Newsletter #01 2021 dated 6.01.21 – latest guidance re. lockdown;
- Email dated 7.01.21 from DCT re. Climate emergency response support network;
- Email dated 7.01.21 from ONS re. Census 2021 – the Chairman encouraged all councillors to read the document that was sent with this email. The Clerk reported that information about the Census had been posted on the Parish website.
- Email dated 9.01.21 from CPRE – Campaigns Update;
- DALC Newsletter #02 2021 dated 11.01.21 re. training opportunities;
- DALC Newsletter #03 2021 dated 11.01.21 re. COVID 19 fund and Oxford vaccines;
- Email dated 11.01.21 from East Anstey landowner re. Whitemoor Stables, forwarded by Cllr Pomfret;
- Email dated 12.01.21 from Devon Highways re. Temporary Traffic Notice - A361 North Devon Link Road, Devon, 8 – 12.02.21;
- DALC Newsletter #04 2021 dated 13.01.21 re. Census 2021;
- DALC Newsletter #05 2021 dated 14.01.21 re. Latest COVID News
- Email dated 15.01.21 from DCT re. Climate emergency response support network – extension to survey deadline to 1.02.21;
- Email dated 18.01.21 from DCC re. Mental Health and Wellbeing Webinar, Tuesday 23rd February 2021 – 6.00 p.m.

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

- Email dated 22.01.21 from Plastic Free North Devon re. Cleanse and Clean Campaign for parishes;

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- Parish Online Newsletter dated 22.01.21.

20/120 Public Questions - None

20/121 Finance

(a) It was RESOLVED to agree the accounts to date, previously circulated, Cllr Stanbury proposed, Cllr Parry seconded, all agreed.

(b) It was RESOLVED to settle the following accounts, Cllr Maidment proposed, Cllr Barrett seconded, all agreed.

Wendy Sweet (pay & holiday pay)	£155.51
CPRE – annual membership	£36.00
Parish Online Renewal	£36.00 (incl VAT).

(c) It was RESOLVED to make a donation to CAB of £25 in response to their email dated 27.11.20, Cllr Stanbury proposed, Cllr Barrett seconded, all agreed.

(d) It was RESOLVED to agree the Clerk's attendance at SLCC training seminar on 24th March 2021, cost £45 plus VAT, Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Maidment seconded, all agreed.

20/122 Litter Pickers To consider the purchase of Litter Pickers for use by residents within the Parish, as per parishioner's suggestion via email dated 13.01.21 (price range £15.00 - £26.00 incl VAT). The Chairman stated that it was good that people within the Parish were prepared to make the effort and pick up litter. He suggested that anyone picking up litter should wear a hi-viz waistcoat. The question of whether volunteers undertaking litter picking would be covered by the council's insurance was raised. C/Cllr Yabsley explained that in Witheridge the Council minutes that there is going to be a litter pick day and then it is covered by its insurance. He also said that NDC has provided them with equipment FOC. It was AGREED that the Clerk would contact NDC to see if they could offer any assistance with equipment and the collection of rubbish gathered. Cllr Pomfret asked if there was a public litter bin in Knowstone village as he often picks up rubbish when walking down there and there is nowhere to dispose of it. It was pointed out by a member of the public that the black wheelie bin in the churchyard could be used. The Clerk reported that there was a litter bin on the ground near the main Parish notice board which she would bring to NDC's attention to see if it could be re-affixed to the adjacent telegraph pole.

Cllr Howe asked whether the strimming and cutting work along the A361 undertaken by DCC Highways which exposes a lot of litter could be dovetailed in with NDC picking the litter up.

20/123 Budget 2021/2022

(a) It was RESOLVED to leave the budget heading and amount for the Community Bus as it had been in the previous budget (£750) and to agree the draft budget for 21/22, previously circulated, Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Stanbury seconded, all agreed.

(b) It was RESOLVED to agree the Precept figure for 21/22 as £4,076.00 which gives a Band 'D' Council Tax charge of £41.19, Cllr Stanbury proposed, Cllr Barrett seconded, all agreed.

20/124 Planning

(i) Applications notified since last meeting

(a) **Ref. 72682**, Construction of new equestrian manege area for exercising horses, Traceys Farm, Knowstone EX36 4RY. Cllr Howe reported that he had made a site visit and looked at what is planned. He said it was an extremely sensible set up with the additional benefit of a fencing to be erected that will guide people on the Two Moors Way down to the side of the churchyard. Cllr Parry asked whether the applicants had spoken with their neighbours about the application and Cllr Howe said that they had. It was RESOLVED to support the application, Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Barrett seconded, all agreed.

(b) **Ref. 72665**, Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling, Poole Farm, Knowstone EX36 4RZ. Cllr Howe reported that he had made a site visit. The dwelling is for the applicants' son who is involved with working on the farm. It is planned to build the house on the footprint of an old Devon long house which is now a

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crumpled heap. The Historic Buildings Officer from NDC has visited and has agreed the plans are reasonable. The property does not overlook anybody. Cllr Parry asked whether it would have an agricultural tie on it and Cllr Howe replied that it would. It was RESOLVED to support the application, Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Stanbury seconded, all agreed.

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

(iii) Note applications determined since the last Council meeting:

(a) **Ref. 72208** – Installation of a Non Domestic Biomass boiler, Pounceys, Knowstone – approved.

(b) **Ref. 72027** – Erection of agricultural building for dry storage, machinery storage and livestock use together with retrospective creation of access & agricultural track, Lane at Ash Mill – approved. The Chairman commented that the Council had not supported this application which had been for a large agricultural building at the top of a field overlooking two Grade II listed buildings. He had spoken to English Heritage regarding the current rules regarding a building's proximity to a Grade II listed building and was told there are no rules; the impact of the proposed building on the listed building is assessed. It had been the view of the Historic Buildings officer from North Devon Council that the impact would be slight in this case. Cllr Pomfret reported that work had just started there and that the bottom gate and 8m of hedging had been removed. This raised concerns that planning consent conditions were not being met and Cllr Pomfret will check to see if this activity is outside the red line on the plans and also what pre-commencement conditions are in place. If conditions are being breached, it was AGREED that the Council will write to the Head of Place to report it.

(iv) Other planning matters – none.

20/125 Third Party Reports

(a) **District Councillor Ley** made the following comments:

(i) The applicant at Oaklands Chicken, East Anstey has appealed against the enforcement notice.

(ii) Re. Traceys Farm planning application, it would be helpful to give a reason why the Council is supporting the application.

(iii) Re. Poole Farm, the applicant needs to show a need as well as providing three years' accounts to show viability of the farm. Rent from the wind turbine and substation on the farm would not qualify towards the viability of the farming business. If approval is given there would be a size restriction for the building, which he thought was 130 sq.m. An agricultural tie on a property does not prevent it from being sold away from a farm but it could be sold on to someone involved or has been involved in agriculture. An S106 agreement could tie a property to a farm.

(iv) The Head of Place at NDC had recently left the North Devon Council. He is likely to be replaced by a Planning Manager.

(b) **County Councillor Yabsley** reported that he had attended a County Council health budget meeting which had been interesting and he would forward a copy of the paper to the Parish Council. The preamble which had been written by officers explains the complexities and where the money goes. The bulk of the budget goes on Adult Social Care followed closely by Children's Social Care. There had been an update on progress regarding COVID-19 vaccinations within Devon. He encouraged everyone to keep reporting potholes.

20/126 Members Reports

a) **Highways** – Cllr Barrett reported that there had been complaints about the new sign at Holy Moor junction which has buckled in the wind and he has passed this onto C/Cllr Yabsley who stated that there is not a great deal of money in the budget for signs but he would pursue it. Cllr Barrett said with regard to potholes if people let him know where they were he would be happy to report them online. Residents can ring or email him the details. The criteria for potholes needing to be filled is if they are at least 14mm deep, 300mm (about 1 ft) across and 40mm wide with a sharp edge. C/Cllr Yabsley said that if a road has had a lot of potholes it would automatically go on to be patched and this information was taken from the online reporting system. The County has a safety audit team that goes round the county but it has a very large area to cover.

b) **Snow Warden** – Cllr Stanbury reported that 3 tonne of grit has been delivered. One pallet has been placed in Roachill, one at the top of Traceys Hill and the rest distributed around the Parish. The damaged

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bin at Wadham Cross has been replaced and filled. Residents should let Cllr Stanbury know if grit is needed anywhere in the Parish.

c) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – Cllr Pomfret reported that he needs to have walked all the footpaths by 15th February in order to complete the annual survey. He has done most of them now. On the Two Moors Way underneath the A361 there are a few places where the boardwalk has slats that have come loose which he will try to fix. Some of the wire mesh needs to be replaced. If anyone knows of any particular problems with a footpath near them to let him know within the next week. He is going to propose that the stile beside Marilyn Cottage should have a dog paddle to allow dogs to go through if possible and the stile at the bottom of that field going into the next field to be replaced with gate which would make it a more dog friendly route. With regard to the path across the Kingdon's field, it will be re-instated when the crop is tall enough to be cut through. In the meantime people are just walking across the field.

d) **Moors Management Association** – Cllr Maidment reported that she had attended the MMA committee meeting in December 2020. The committee wanted to know if Knowstone Parish Council would be happy to put in posts to prevent people from driving onto Haresdown Moor similar to those on the edge of the rest of the moor. Cllr Pomfret said that the Council needs to know how many posts would be needed and the cost. Cllr Howe said that if the cost was reasonable it could come out of the money that the Council receives from MMA and asked Cllr Maidment to ask MMA for its best estimate. Cllr Maidment said it would a length of about 1/3 mile with stakes every 5ft. Prices could be sought from MVF and/or Tom Plume. Cllr Stanbury said that MVF would only quote for the posts not for putting them in. Cllr Maidment said she had received an email from the MMA secretary about the 10 year payments scheme which will soon be coming to an end. Cllr Stanbury explained that it can be rolled over every 12 months for the next three years and all three landowners' signatories are needed in order for this to happen. As the email about this had only just come through it will go on the agenda of the next meeting.

e) **Police Report** – Cllr Howe welcomed Mick Harrison, from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon & Cornwall, to the meeting. Mr Harrison said that pre-COVID in his role as Communications and Engagement Officer he would regularly attend and speak on behalf of Alison Hernandez at Town and Parish Council meetings. The PCC's role is predominantly overseeing what the force does, communicating and engaging with the public, trying to understand what the public want from their police and passing those requests onto the Chief Constable. Responding to the Parish Council's previous difficulty contacting local police officers, particularly in non-emergency situations, he has sent an email to the Clerk with information on the easiest ways to contact the local Neighbourhood team which is run by Sergeant Ian Rowe out of South Molton Police Station. There are a couple of Constables and PCSOs based there and they cover a huge rural area. The information will be circulated to councillors and can be shared with members of the public. Mr Harrison said that if there were problems in the future he could be contacted and he would try to resolve them. There is a problem of low numbers of officers compared to 2010/11 when there were 3,500 officers in Devon and Cornwall; currently there are 3,000 officers. Among the 500 that were cut were the types of officers that would liaise with Town & Parish Councils. He has asked a local officer to make contact with the Chairman which will help to open up communications between the Police and KPC. The Councillor Advocate Scheme was briefly outlined and Cllr Howe's name will be added to the list to receive regular emails. In response to a question about volunteers, Mr Harrison explained that there is a scheme called Citizens in Policing which involves volunteers undertaking various roles and anyone interested should contact him.

f) **Welcome Pack** - Cllr Maidment reported that she had dropped in two since the last council meeting to new residents at Rose Cottage and East Hole. The welcome pack has been amended to reflect the change of chairman and new councillors.

g) **Parish Hall** – Cllr Howe reported that improvements are going to be made to the heating system to stop

it from freezing up. There are no activities taking place in the hall at the moment but the Pilates classes were continuing online.

h) **PCC Report** – Cllr Howe reported that services are not being held in the church at the moment but a Zoom service takes place every Sunday at 10.00 a.m. and a bible study via Zoom on Thursday mornings. The work installing under pew heaters should be finished by the end of the week. Gentle lighting has also been installed in the rood loft steps to illuminate the work that has been done.

20/127 Business at the Chairman's discretion – none.

20/128 The date & time of the next meeting were confirmed as follows: Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 21.10