

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of the Council on 26th July 2022 held in Knowstone Parish Hall

Present: Cllr J Clarke, Cllr C Dey, Cllr D Maidment, Cllr A Parry, Cllr J Pomfret, Cllr J Stanbury, Cllr N Vukic

In attendance: W Sweet (Clerk), C/Cllr J Yabsley (part), D/Cllr E Ley (part), 4 members of the public

22/38 Declaration of Acceptance of Office by Vice Chairman – Cllr Parry signed the form of acceptance of office of Vice Chairman.

22/39 Co-option of new member

(i) Chris Dey spoke briefly about her career as a school head, her experience of working in communities and the importance of building relationships within the community. It was RESOLVED to co-opt Chris Dey onto the Parish Council, Cllr Parry proposed, Cllr Vukic seconded, all agreed.

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

(iii) It was AGREED that Cllr Dey will attend an appropriate training course for new councillors, details of which will be supplied to Cllr Dey by the Clerk.

22/40 Apologies for absence - None

22/41 Declarations of Interest - None

22/42 Approve Minutes It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2022, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Clarke seconded, all agreed (Cllr Parry abstained as not present at the previous meeting).

22/43 Appointment of members to serve on Parish Committees:

Parish Hall – Cllr Pomfret

Moors Management Association – Cllr Maidment

22/44 Allocation of Roles:

Footpaths & Beaples Stone – Cllr Parry

Planning – Cllr Clarke

Highways – Cllr Dey

Snow Warden – Cllr Stanbury

Police liaison – Cllr Vukic

Emergency Plan – Cllr Parry.

Road Warden – C/Cllr Yabsley explained how the scheme works; Cllr Pomfret agreed to undertake Chapter 8 training.

Welcome Pack – Cllr Maidment,

Tree Warden – Cllr Stanbury

22/45 Review the Council's and staff subscriptions to other bodies:

- DALC (Devon Association of Local Councils)
- SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks)
- CPRE (Council for the Protection of Rural England)
- Parish Online.

It was RESOLVED to continue with the membership of all the above organisations, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Stanbury seconded, all agreed.

22/46 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda).

Receipt of the following was NOTED:

- Parish Online Newsletter – May Edition dated 26.05.22;
- DALC #25 2022 E-bulletin dated 25.05.22;
- Email dated 30.05.22 from Go North Devon Ltd re. donation towards Go North Devon Cancer Care Car Service;
- DALC #26 2022 E-bulletin dated 1.06.22;
- Email from Griffiths dated 3.06.22 re. NDLR Traffic & News Bulletin - May 2022;

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- DALC #27 2022 E-bulletin dated 8.06.22;
- Email dated 11.06.22 from parishioner thanking the council for Jubilee mug;
- Email dated 14.06.22 from Information Commissioner’s Office – Latest News;
- DALC #28 2022 E-bulletin dated 15.06.22;
- DALC #29 2022 E-bulletin dated 22.06.22;
- DALC #30 2022 E-bulletin dated 29.06.22;
- Email dated 30.06.22 from the Secretary of the Moors Management Association re. Vehicles parked on the moor;
- Devon Climate Emergency – July Newsletter;
- Email dated 1.07.22 from NDC re. Climate and Environment grants from North Devon Council;
- Email dated 1.07.22 from parishioner re. planning ref. 74775 Stonelands Cross. It was commented by Cllr Pomfret that the proposed location of the application is a bad place to create an increase in traffic; as it is not in this Parish there is nothing this council can do about it. C/Cllr Yabsley informed the meeting that Rackenford Parish Council is dealing with it and that the application is going to the Planning committee as it is a major application
- Email from DALC dated 4.07.22 – DALC Annual Report 21/22;
- DALC #31 2022 E-bulletin dated 6.07.22;
- DALC #32 2022 E-bulletin dated 13.07.22;
- **Correspondence received after the preparation of the agenda.**
- An email from Website Development dated 25.07.22 had been received and circulated to all councillors. In response to a query from Wendy Vigus, whereby Website Development were proposing to charge for rectifying a problem with KPC’s website which was felt to be caused by Website Development’s design of the website, a Teams meeting was suggested by Website Development to discuss charges etc and was planned for the following morning. Cllr Pomfret agreed to attend with Wendy Vigus and report back at the next Council meeting.

22/47 Public Questions

(a) A parishioner felt that Mr Deasey’s response (Devon Highways) regarding Sidemoor Picnic Area dated 23.05.22 in which he stated: *“Although the site is owned by the County Council it is not part of the public highway and there is no public funding available from the highway budget for its ongoing maintenance”* was incorrect. He said it went back to the Link Road enquiry when the two picnic areas were part of the building of the link road as they contributed towards road safety. The responsibility for the picnic areas was handed over to Highways by the Department of Transport in 2002. Therefore he believed that DCC is still responsible for their maintenance and upkeep. The road signage and lines on the Sidemoor site need repainting. C/Cllr Yabsley was asked to take this up with Highways/DCC to see who is responsible for the picnic areas; some maintenance falls to the tenant.

22/48 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 two bank statements.

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

- Wendy Sweet - Clerk’s pay (£201.66), expenses (£84.94) & WFH allowance (£48.00) £334.60
- W Sweet – reimbursement for plants & hanging planter for E Knowstone sign £119.58
- SLCC membership £70.00

22/49 Electric Vehicle Charging Point – Cllr Clarke reported that he had received a quote from Green Energy via a hall committee member. He has been having difficulty obtaining a quote from elsewhere. He will clarify some details regarding the Green Energy quote relating to the charging point being a commercial one with users being charged and ongoing costs before submitting an application for a grant from North Devon Council’s Environment Fund.

22/50 Correspondence from Crosse Wyatt

(a) Letter dated 15.06.22 re. Notice of application to register Easement (previously circulated). It was AGREED to respond as the suggested draft, previously circulated. It was AGREED, following Cllr Stanbury suggestion, that KPC will write every year to the owner of the property reminding him that KPC owns the land, he owns the surface of the track and the right to use it. The Clerk will discuss the contents of this letter, before sending it, with Crosse Wyatt.

(b) Letter dated 15.06.22 re Land at East Hill Farm, Knowstone (previously circulated) – it was AGREED to send suggested response, previously circulated.

22/51 Removal of dying Ash trees at Wiston Cross It is the responsibility of the landowner to remove the trees. It was AGREED that the clerk will contact Richard Sables to ascertain whether they are owned by DCC. If they are not owned by DCC, the Clerk will contact the other possible owner.

22/52 Planning

(a) Applications notified since last meeting – **Ref. 75477** Erection of a livestock building at Land at Great Wadham Knowstone EX36 4RS. Cllr Clarke had looked at the design and access statement. The proposal is for a large building, within 400m of two properties to the south, Little Wadham & Great Wadham, which are protected buildings. The justification seems fine as the applicant has a large holding. The building would be of traditional construction with good screening to the south. Nearby dwellings would be unable to view it due to its orientation. Cllr Pomfret raised a concern about increased traffic but it was felt that this may not be a result of the building. It was felt that it should be screened on the north side (to prevent it being seen from Molland Common) as well as on the south side and subject to that condition, it was RESOLVED to support the application, Cllr Clarke proposed, Cllr Stanbury seconded, all agreed.

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

(c) Other planning matters – It was reported that an email had been sent to the Enforcement Department re. Tower Farm; an acknowledgement had been received but no update on the situation which would follow in due course.

22/53 Third Party Reports:

(a) **District Councillor Eric Ley** stated that he will see if he can find out anything about the situation at Tower Farm. Re. Stonelands Cross – there is no Highways objection, but a lot of local people are not happy about the application. C/Cllr Yabsley is aware that the Highways officer had withdrawn previous objections as sufficient funds had been made available to upgrade the junction. East Hill – it is now 20 years or more that it's been going on but there is nothing that can force the issue.

(b) **County Councillor Jeremy Yabsley** – gave a summary of what he does in his role as County Councillor and which committees he serves on – Farm Estate Committee (Chair) which provides opportunities for people to come into farming, North Devon Highways and Traffic Orders committee, now making actual visits to site instead of remotely, Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee – challenging health service/primary care providers, Development Management Committee which covers county planning – minerals, waste etc. There are 23 parishes in the South Molton Division which C/Cllr Yabsley represents.

Cllr Stanbury – asked about East Hill Farm land and mentioned a couple of problems that had arisen recently from tenant of the land. C/Cllr Yabsley asked him to email him about the problems so they could be monitored.

22/54 Members Reports

(a) Highways

(i) Discuss problem of cars driving too fast through Roachill as raised in parishioner's email dated 14.07.22, previously circulated. C/Cllr Yabsley suggested that KPC raises this issue with Richard Sables in order to get some more recording undertaken as vehicles are travelling at inappropriate speeds. Roachill will not qualify for a 30-mph or 20-mph limit as it does not have enough houses. However, a 20-mph limit has recently been granted in four areas in Devon (Newton Abbott and Atherington) and things are moving towards the time when a 20-mph limit will be the norm in communities. DCC is waiting to see what happens in the four areas that have been granted lower speed limits. Roachill would not qualify for 40 mph limit either. The rules say that limits are put where naturally they will be obeyed. A sign that flashes "slow down" could possibly now be allowed but the Parish Council would have to fund it themselves. It was AGREED that

Approved

the clerk will write to Richard Sables to progress a reduction in speed restriction in Roachill, as the speeds of vehicles and agricultural traffic are beyond what residents feel are reasonable and safe. He will also be asked about the criteria for Quiet Lane status. C/Cllr Yabsley will find a date to visit Knowstone with the Highways Officer and will let the Clerk know in due course.

(ii) It was AGREED that the Council would pay for the repair of the signpost at the top of Holy Moor which used to have 3 fingers; the one pointing to E Knowstone is missing. C/Cllr Yabsley suggested that the Clerk contacts the Clerk at Romansleigh Parish Council as they have recently had some new signs made to Highways specification.

(b) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – Cllr Pomfret – the footpath at the bottom of Shapcott Woods has been strimmed by DCC; it is hoped the rest will follow.

(i) Follow up on concerns raised in parishioner's letter dated 6.06.22 re. walker deviating from the footpath, previously circulated. After the community walk had taken place, a letter had been received complaining that one participant had not kept to the footpath. Cllr Pomfret has been in touch with the landowner to apologise as well as to suggest a couple of things that could be done to make the footpath more obvious. Walkers need to be aware that they should stick to footpath as closely as possible.

(c) **Moors Management Association** – Cllr Maidment – nothing to report

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

(e) **Emergency Plan** – Cllr Parry stated that it is important that the village hall is future proofed and made a central point of safety in the event of an emergency, like a lengthy power cut. In view of the recent fire in the parish, residents are reminded that it is not a good idea to light fires in the present warm climate. A resident had made the suggestion of putting a beacon on the land that the Council will be given at East Hill Farm but this was not felt to be a good idea given how close the land is to thatched properties.

(f) **Parish Hall** – the next meeting of the hall committee will be held on Tuesday 2nd August.

22/55 Business at the Chairman's discretion

The Chairman noted that the Jubilee mugs had been appreciated by those who had received them.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked the hall committee for making the Queen's Jubilee such a successful celebration.

22/56 The date, time and venue of next meeting were confirmed as Tuesday, 27th September at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

The meeting closed at 21.38