

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of the Council on 27th September 2022 held in Knowstone Parish Hall

Present: Cllr J Clarke, Cllr D Maidment, Cllr A Parry, Cllr J Pomfret (Chair)

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

Before the meeting was formally opened a minute's silence was observed in memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II and five parishioners – Jack Ashton, Sidney Payne, Ken Scoynes, Ruth Lord and Mary Dalton - who had died recently.

22/62 Apologies for absence – Cllr C Dey

22/63 Declarations of Interest (re. matters appearing on this agenda) – Cllr Clarke declared an interest reference Planning item 11(a)(ii).

22/64 Approve Minutes It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2022 and the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 26th August 2022, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Parry seconded, all agreed.

22/65 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda).

To note receipt of the following:

- DALC #33 2022 E-bulletin dated 20.07.22;
- DALC #34 2022 E-bulletin dated 27.07.22;
- Parish Online Newsletter July 2022 dated 28.07.22;
- Devon Climate Emergency August Newsletter dated 1.08.22;
- Email dated 3.08.22 from DALC re. Annual General Meeting;
- Parish & Town Council Highways Newsletter - Summer 2022 dated 3.08.22;
- DALC #35 2022 E-bulletin dated 5.08.22;
- Email dated 17.08.22 from DCT re. North Devon Community Emergency Planning and Flood Warden Training - Monday 19th September;
- DALC #36 2022 E-bulletin dated 19.08.22;
- DALC #37 2022 E-bulletin dated 19.08.22;
- Farming survey from the Rural Affairs Policing Team dated 23.08.22;
- DALC #38 2022 E-bulletin dated 24.08.22;
- Email dated 31.08.22 from DALC re. Annual General Meeting, 5th October;
- DALC #39 2022 E-bulletin dated 31.08.22;
- Email dated 1.09.22 from OPCC - DCC Will Kerr selected as preferred candidate for next Chief Constable;
- Email dated 1.09.22 from DCT re. Village Halls Audit;
- DALC #40 2022 E-bulletin dated 7.09.22;
- DALC #41 2022 E-bulletin dated 8.09.22;
- Email dated 8.09.22 from NDC Chief Executive re. Her Majesty The Queen;
- DALC #42 2022 E-bulletin dated 9.09.22;
- Emails dated 09.09.22 and 10.09.22 re. Local Proclamation for King Charles III. It was noted that Cllr Pomfret had made the proclamation outside the church on 12.09.22 and had also attended a church service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in Barnstaple representing Knowstone Parish.
- Email dated 12.09.22 from NDC re. Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving for Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – Sunday 18 September 2022;
- DALC #46 2022 E-bulletin dated 21.09.22;
- CPRE summer newsletters – hard copies were available at the meeting.
- **Note correspondence received after the preparation of the agenda** – None.

Approved

22/66 Public Questions – No members of the public in attendance.

22/67 Finance

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

(b) Expenditure against budget to date, previously circulated, was REVIEWED. There is currently a small deficit re. the clerk's expenses as this heading includes the Working from Home Allowance which was agreed after the budget had been finalised. There is also a deficit re. insurance as this had increased substantially and unexpectedly at renewal.

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

• Wendy Sweet - Clerk's pay (£206.73) & WFH allowance (£48.00)	£254.73
• Wendy Vigus – website updating	£95.00
• R Ridd – Beaples Stone maintenance for 10 months	£250.00

22/68 Electric Vehicle Charging Point – Cllr Clarke reported that NDC had been delayed making a decision on the grant application KPC had submitted.

22/69 Statement of Internal Controls It was RESOLVED to adopt the Statement of Internal Controls, previously circulated, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Parry seconded, all agreed.

22/70 Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were REVIEWED. In the Standing Orders Item 26 (c) there was a typo and Cllr Pomfret also flagged up reference to thresholds set by the EU in Items 18 (f) and (g) and queried whether they still applied. The clerk will see if an updated S/O template has been issued by NALC.

22/71 Removal of dying Ash trees at Wiston Cross – No response from Highways has been received to KPC's enquiry about the ownership of the trees. As they are not large trees, the policy may be to leave them to see if they grow resistance. Clerk to chase up Highways for a response re. ownership.

22/72 Planning

(a) Applications notified since last meeting:

(i) **Ref. 75875** Proposed shed for the housing of young livestock at Land at Great Wadham, Knowstone, EX36 4RS. The application is for a smaller building than the one that was considered at the last meeting. It was unclear whether this planning application is a replacement for the earlier application or is in addition to it (ref. 75477). If the latter, it was AGREED to that the Council would query this with Planning and respond with the comments and conditions re. landscaping as last time, Cllr Clarke proposed, Cllr Maidment seconded, all agreed.

(ii) **Ref. 75948** Erection of an agricultural storage building at Little Kidland Road From Knowstone Mill Bridge To Little Kidland Knowstone EX36 4RT. This application is subject to consultation because of its proximity to an iron age fort. The proposed building is smaller and less obvious than the one that has been allowed on East Crosside Hill. Having a shed will make the applicants' lives easier by being able to store equipment and their activities are contributing to the local economy. It was AGREED to support this application, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Parry seconded, all agreed (Cllr Clarke abstained as he had declared an interest).

(b) Applications notified since the preparation of the agenda – none.

(c) Other planning matters – No further update from Enforcement re. Tower Farm.

22/73 Third Party Reports:

a) **District Councillor Eric Ley** referred to several government announcements the previous week regarding onshore wind turbines which may, in the future, affect Knowstone parish depending on what regulations are brought in. Cllr Ley flagged up the stalemate at East Hill. After some discussion, it was

AGREED that the Clerk would ask NDC Planning Department whether the planning consent for East Hill has lapsed.

b) County Councillor – not present

22/74 Members Reports

(a) Highways

(i) Cllr Dey had supplied a written report which had previously been circulated. She has met with C/Cllr Yabsley, and it had been suggested by Cllr Pomfret that she contacts former KPC councillor, who was responsible for Highways. The problem with Roachill is that the road is category 9, and has a 60 mph limit but it also has concealed entrances, some elderly people and no pavements. It was felt that concealed entrances signs would be a good idea. D/Cllr Ley explained that Brayford Parish Council managed to get flashing 'slow down' sign installed and it would be worth the Clerk contacting them to see how this was achieved. It was reported that Cllr Pomfret will be undertaking Signing, Lighting and Guarding training in his role as Road Warden.

(ii) Update on correspondence sent to Highways Officer re. cars driving too fast through Roachill as agreed at the last meeting – no response has been received yet.

(iii) Repair of the signpost at the top of Holy Moor – Cllr Pomfret reported that he had contacted a company at Holsworthy who make road signs. The finger pointers, which have been removed, need to be taken over to them which he hoped to do soon. He had found a picture on Google maps of what the sign used to look like. The company will assess if the sign is repairable or needs replacing and will quote accordingly.

(b) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – Cllr Parry had nothing to report re. footpaths. Re. Beaples Stone – the current contractor has retired and an alternative contractor (John Morgan) has been approached to take on its maintenance. The potential new contractor's hourly rate is £35 which includes travel and use / wear and tear of equipment. It was AGREED to appoint John Morgan. He would be informed that there was a limited budget for this work which would cover nine visits over the year. He would be instructed to make sure the area always looks tidy.

(c) **Moors Management Association** – Cllr Maidment reported on the recent MMA meeting. A wooden shelter has been built for the bins at Middlehill so the cattle do not knock them over. MMA has been in touch with HMRC and received a tax number. It has been agreed that Mitchells Accountants will act on MMA's behalf and will submit tax returns for the previous 4 years. Mitchells will also undertake the annual inspection of the accounts and submit them to HMRC. Discussions have taken place to either continue with the RPA 5-year agreement or to look at the higher tier.

(d) **Welcome Pack** - Cllr Maidment reported that she had recently delivered one to the new residents of Birchwood House.

(e) **Emergency Plan** – Cllr Parry reported that following on from the Annual Meeting of the Parish and the suggestion that the hall is used as emergency hub and future proofing it, he had started to think about options including the purchase a generator so it always has power, possible purchase of emergency beds, installing a suitable kitchen and bathroom. It was felt that buying a generator would be a good idea. Cllr Parry will speak with the Parish Hall Chair to discuss the idea further.

(f) **Parish Hall** – Cllr Pomfret read a report supplied by the Hall committee chair, which gave a summary of planned activities in the autumn – coffee mornings, quiz night and Christmas bingo. It had been decided not to continue with Film Nights at the moment. Regular activities in the hall include line dancing, crafting afternoons and Pilates classes. A Ceilidh is being planned for next Spring.

(g) **Police Liaison** – Cllr Vukic – not present

(h) **Snow Warden** – Cllr Stanbury – not present. It was reported by the clerk that the four dumpy bags of salt, which had previously been stored at a parishioner's farm, had been placed at Wiston Cross, part way down Traceys Hill, part way down Holy Moor hill and one other location.

22/75 Business at the Chairman's discretion – none.

22/76 The date, time & venue of next meeting were confirmed as Tuesday, 22nd November at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

The meeting closed at 21.11.