

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of the Council on 28th September 2021 held in Knowstone Parish Hall

Present: Cllr D Barrett, Cllr J Clarke, Cllr D Maidment, Cllr J Pomfret (Chairman), Cllr J Stanbury

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

21/78 Apologies for absence – Cllr Perry, D/Cllr Ley

21/79 Declarations of Interest (re. matters appearing on this agenda) - none

21/80 Approve Minutes It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 24th August 2021, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Barrett seconded, all agreed.

21/81 Correspondence Receipt of the following correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda) was NOTED:

- DALC Newsletter #49 2021 dated 24.08.21 – AGM Notice – 6 October 2021;
- Email dated 25.08.21 from Highway Services Manager, DCC re. Highways Parish and Town Council Events 2021;
- Email dated 26.08.21 from Selaine Saxby, MP re. North Devon Climate Summit;
- Parish Online Newsletter – August Edition;
- Email from R Howe dated 6.09.21 re. Exe Valley Bus;
- CPRE September eBulletin dated 7.09.21;
- Email dated 8.09.21 from OPCC – Bed watch;
- DALC Newsletter #50 2021 dated 9.09.21;
- Email dated 14.09.21 from OPCC - Devon and Cornwall Police are recruiting now for Special Constables;
- DALC Newsletter #51 2021 dated 14.09.21 - DALC AGM and Conference 2021;
- DALC Newsletter #52 2021 dated 16.09.21;
- Email dated 16.09.21 from OPCC - Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel;
- DALC Newsletter #53 2021 dated 17.09.21 - DALC AGM and Conference 2021;
- Email dated 18.09.21 from CPRE – Campaigns update September 2021;
- DALC Newsletter #54 2021 dated 20.09.21 – Details of AGM and Conference 2021;
- Email dated 21.09.21 from Came & Company Local Council Insurance - New name - same people, same service;

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

- DALC Newsletter #55 2021 dated 22.09.21 – Details of AGM and Conference 2021;
- Email dated 22.09.21 from DALC with AGM agenda and meeting papers;
- Email dated 22.09.21 from Exe Valley Mini Bus committee member informing the council that it will cease to operate routes to South Molton and Barnstaple via Knowstone Parish at the end of September due to the fall in passenger numbers. It was noted that KPC previously had agreed to subsidise losses incurred by the EVMB on the Knowstone route;
- DALC Newsletter #56 2021 dated 24.09.21 – Latest news;

21/82 Public Questions

(i) An email from a parishioner, which had been previously circulated, was read out at the meeting in which the matter of live music being played at the Tapas Bar on the B3227 was queried and the parishioner asked if this was permitted and for KPC to take up the issue. Cllr Clarke thought it could be raised with NDC Environmental Services Department as a music licence may be needed. Cllr Barrett had looked into this and reported that there is nothing to stop a venue from having live music if no more than 500 people were attending and it was between 8.00 a.m. and 11.00 p.m. Action could be taken if it causes a nuisance. It was felt that it would be useful to monitor the situation by keeping a note on how often it happens and if it causes a problem and the parishioner would be asked to do this. The information would be passed to Environmental

Approved

Services if it becomes a problem. The Chairman said he would check the Tapas Bar's online presence to see if there is any information regarding the likely frequency of future live events.

21/83 Finance

(a) It was RESOLVED to agree the accounts to date and bank reconciliation, previously circulated, Cllr Stanbury proposed, Cllr Maidment seconded, all agreed. Cllr Barrett signed a copy of the accounts and bank statements.

(b) It was RESOLVED to settle the following account, Cllr Maidment proposed, Cllr Clarke seconded, all agreed:

- Wendy Sweet (Clerk's pay) £148.85

21/84 Internal Audit – It was RESOLVED to appoint Alison Marshal as Internal Auditor for 2021-2022. Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Stanbury seconded, all agreed.

21/85 Planning

(i) Applications notified since last meeting

(a) **Ref: 73890** – Extension to dwelling at Beaples Hill Farm, Knowstone EX36 4RZ – Cllr Clarke had looked at the plans and reported that the property is a large detached bungalow and that the proposed single storey flat roof extension infilling an existing void was totally logical and appropriate. The proposed materials will match the existing bungalow. It was RESOLVED to support this planning application for the reasons outlined by Cllr Clarke, Cllr Maidment proposed, Cllr Barrett seconded, all agreed.

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

(iii) Other planning matters

(a) For future planning applications site visits may be made if felt necessary. If an application needed to be discussed in more detail at a council meeting the plans could be projected from a laptop onto the screen in the hall.

(b) Planning application ref. 73625 – erection of one temporary agriculture workers dwelling is due to be determined in mid-October.

(c) Tower Farm – a response from the Enforcement Department had been received stating that they would update the Council when there were any concrete developments but no progress was expected until October.

21/86 Third Party Reports

a) District Councillor – not present

b) County Councillor Yabsley gave a word of warning re. planning site visits and suggested that these should be done by two councillors not alone. The permission of the landowner should also be obtained. District Councillors are not permitted to go on site visits and if they do they are then not allowed to participate in the decision making process.

C/Cllr Yabsley had attended a recent link road liaison meeting; the work at Borners Bridge is progressing quite quickly. There has been some issues with people making U turns and lorries going up into town and getting snarled up in East Street. The culverts that meet underneath the road will be re-piped. The given timescale is nine months but hopefully it will be completed more quickly than that.

NDC - There is a new head of planning in place who is happy to visit parishes, plus two new planning managers replacing two who have recently retired. There is going to be a debate on local housing next month, although most issues are outside the council's control.

DCC – scrutiny meetings have resumed. Consultations are taking place re. Mental Health care. C/Cllr Yabsley is chair of the County farms committee. The county owns 65 farms. Interviews of internal applicants for five farms have taken place. These are to replace tenants who are coming to the end of their 25 years tenancy. DCC recently bought 16 acres at Rose Ash. Some farms are being amalgamated to make them more viable. The Estate has provided a large benefit to the county.

Highways – C/Cllr Yabsley will be in touch with Cllr Barrett soon to arrange a visit to the parish. He encouraged everyone to keep reporting potholes. Cllr Stanbury raised the problem of the really rough patch

of road in East Knowstone where people drive on the wrong side of the road to avoid it. The Highways Officer will be made aware of it.

21/87 Members Reports

a) **Highways** – Cllr Barrett has passed suggestions to C/Cllr Yabsely of potential locations for horse warning signs around the parish and asked if there is any funding for these.

b) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – Cllr Pomfret nothing specific to report re. footpaths & Beaples Stone. Cllr Pomfret reported that he had emailed Ros Davis about the damaged catch on the gate adjacent to the cattle grid on the road on the other side of link road who passed it to the appropriate department. He had discovered that the website where potholes can be reported other problems like damaged gates etc can also be reported which is useful to know. The MMA's secretary had flagged up a problem with the catch on the gate adjacent to the cattle grid near the moor. Cllr Pomfret has moved the catch again so it will engage and reported it via DCC's website. Notification has been received from the council that both have been/will be repaired imminently.

Following the last Council meeting when a parishioner asked if there was a way of going under the link road on horseback, Cllr Pomfret and a few parishioners met up and walked the route where previously there had been a way of doing this (near to the route of what is now the Two Moors Way) to see if it would be feasible but was found not to be, due to tree growth. It was suggested that a rider could go down the tarmac lane as far as the link road and then go along parallel with link road which would bring them to a couple of pedestrian gates. A lot of clearance would have to take place but it would be doable, perhaps as a KPC / MMA joint venture. It is something that Devon Wildlife Trust may be able to help with. More investigation is needed. It would be appreciated by riders in the parish to have a circular route without having to go across the link road. It was AGREED that Cllr Pomfret will contact Devon Wildlife Trust to see what they thought about the idea.

c) **Moors Management Association** – Cllr Maidment reported back on the meeting of MMA she had attended on 13th September. The Association's Secretary is still in discussions with its Accountants and HMRC with regard to the points raised by the previous KPC rep last year. It would appear to be an unusual situation that the MMA is in, but the issue is ongoing. Next year's schedule of payments has been drafted and the AGM date arranged. The fire plan for 2022 was discussed. It was suggested and AGREED that MMA's Treasurer would be invited to attend a future KPC meeting to explain and take questions about the RPA payments that MMA receives.

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

e) **Emergency Plan** – Cllr Parry had sent the following report. EP questionnaires have gone out to 'In Touch' deliverers for delivery ideally by this weekend. The updated plan has been forwarded to the Clerk for the website. The SAE has Cllr Parry's name and address on it and he will collate the responses and report back at next meeting. Depending on the response to the question about CPR/defibrillator training, this will need to be arranged. The Clerk will make enquiries about potential trainers as well as contacting the person who delivered the training previously.

f) **Parish Hall** – Cllr Barrett reported that attendance at the last coffee morning had been disappointing as many people seemed to be away. The next one will take place on 9th October, 10.30 – 12.00. A couple of people have expressed an interest in coming onto the committee.

g) **PCC Report** – Cllr Barrett reported that the Harvest Festival is being held this Saturday with a cream tea at 4.00 p.m. followed by a service at 4.45 p.m. Food is being collected for the South Molton Food Bank (no baked beans or pasta please). He has mooted the idea to the PCC of 'A Friends of Knowstone Church' type organisation to see if there are secular people who are interested in helping to maintain the church building. 11 people had attended the last service.

21/88 Casual vacancy for a Parish Councillor - nothing to report.

21/89 Business at the Chairman's discretion - None

21/90 The date, time and venue of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 26th October 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

The meeting closed at 20.57.

Approved