

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of the Council on 22nd February 2022 held in Knowstone Parish Hall

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

In attendance: W Vigus (to take minutes), 2 members of the public, D/Cllr E Ley (part)

21/133 Apologies for absence – Cllr A Parry, Cllr N Vukic, C/Cllr Yabsley, W Sweet (Clerk)

21/134 Declarations of Interest - None

21/134 Approve Minutes It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2022, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Stanbury seconded, all agreed.

21/135 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda).

Receipt of the following correspondence was NOTED:

- Email dated 28.01.22 from M Harrison, OPCC-VISION ZERO QUIZ:- How well do you know the NEW Highway Code?
- Email dated 01.02.22 from M Harrison, OPCC – Project Wingspan;
- Email dated 02.02.22 from DCC – Devon Climate Emergency February Newsletter;
- DALC Newsletter #06 2022 dated 07.02.22;
- DALC Newsletter #07 2022 dated 07.02.22
- DALC Newsletter #08 2022 dated 11.02.22
- Email dated 14.02.22 from Keep Britain Tidy – Great British Spring Clean 2022: Will You Take Part?

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

- Email from Richard Sables regarding horse riders warning signs in which he advised that there are restrictions on where these can be sited. Typically they have to be sited within the vicinity of an equestrian centre or similar business. It was AGREED that Cllr Pomfret should reply with a list showing the number of horse riding / owning properties within a mile vicinity of his property to demonstrate that there is a need in the Parish.

Cllr Pomfret apologised for the spam emails that other Councillors had received from his email address.

21/136 Public Questions

(i) A parishioner raised the matter of vehicles parked illegally in the parish specifically noting the arrival of an extra vehicle in the picnic area, the long-term vehicle parked in the stone chipping layby and those that had recently arrived on the edge of Inner Knowstone Moor by the Millennium Stone. The parishioner emphasised the need to act quickly to resolve these matters. The parishioner highlighted that Highways had stated that very little could be done about vehicles if they are not deemed to be causing an obstruction. The parishioner highlighted that the vehicle in the layby is causing an obstruction as the layby cannot be used for its purpose of storing stone chippings. The issue of whether the tenancy allows permanent parking at the picnic site was also raised. Cllr Pomfret noted that there are differences in what can be enacted dependent on whether the parked vehicles are caravans or motorhomes. He also detailed that he had spoken with those parked on the moor who had stated that once they have repaired their vehicle they would move on. Cllr Maidment asked if those parked on the moor would be classed as wild campers as this would not be permitted.

D/Cllr E Ley joined the meeting.

It was AGREED that Cllr Pomfret would email Richard Sables to ask if the tenancy of the picnic site had been violated, to highlight that the vehicle in the layby is causing an obstruction and to raise awareness of those parked on Inner Knowstone Moor. Cllr Stanbury suggested that Devon Wildlife Trust, who own Inner Knowstone Moor, also be asked to write to Richard Sables.

(ii) Cllr Pomfret detailed that the resident from Roachill who reported an increase in dog fouling in and around Roachill had seen an improvement and wished to thank residents for their help. A collection of wine

bottles had been seen at Wiston Cross but it was felt these may have fallen there during a recycling collection.

21/137 Finance

(a) Accounts to date and bank reconciliation, previously circulated, were ACCEPTED and SIGNED. Cllr Stanbury proposed, Cllr Maidment seconded, all agreed.

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

- Wendy Sweet - Clerk's pay (Jan/Feb), Working from Home Allowance £163.44
- DALC – Good Councillor 2 webinar on 26/01/22 £18.00

21/138 Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Cllr Pomfret reiterated that the Parish Hall committee plans to hold a street party on Sunday 5th June but that other ideas from residents for ways to commemorate had not been that forthcoming. Ideas suggested were planting trees, decorating planters with union jacks and placing a planter in the village pound. Cllr Maidment suggested that the planting scheme should be purple and white and that a plaque could be purchased for the planter. It was RESOLVED that that a commemorative mug would be purchased for every child aged under 16 in the parish, Cllr Stanbury proposed, Cllr Maidment seconded and all agreed. It was RESOLVED that trees should be planted in the parish in 2023, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Clarke seconded and all agreed. Cllr Pomfret suggested that another prompt to residents be added to the Facebook page and website to allow further ideas to be discussed at the next KPC meeting.

21/139 East Hill - It was AGREED that in order to maintain the number of trustees for East Hill at four Cllr Clarke would replace former Councillor Reg Howe.

21/140 Electric Vehicle Charging Point - Cllr Clarke detailed that approval was required from the landowner of the Parish Hall before the project of an electric car charging point in the village hall car park could be progressed. It was AGREED that Cllr Pomfret would discuss the matter with the Chair of the Parish Hall committee.

21/141 Frequency of Council Meetings – Cllr Stanbury proposed a reduction in the frequency of meetings citing that most other parish councils meet every two months giving Bishop's Nympton and West Anstey as examples. The concerns of Cllr Clarke and Cllr Parry with regard missing planning deadlines and allowing the public sufficient chance to feedback on planning applications was discussed. Cllr Stanbury stated that very few planning applications had been received in the last year and that other parish councils deal with such matters via email. Cllr Clarke asked if parishioners could highlight issues or comment on planning via the Parish website. It was AGREED that the Clerk would contact other parish councils to ascertain how they deal with planning matters if meeting every two months. It was RESOLVED that the next Council meeting would take place in April to test the efficacy of bi-monthly meetings, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Stanbury seconded and all agreed.

21/142 Planning

- (a) Applications notified since last meeting - None
- (b) Applications notified since the preparation of the agenda – None
- (c) Other planning matters – Cllr Clarke stated that temporary permission had been granted for planning application 73623. He asked for it to be recorded that this permission expires on 18th February 2025 and that the applicant needs to prove that it is a viable business in order to become permanent. Cllr Clarke noted the absence of available detail on the business proposal which therefore did not allow anyone other than the case officer to comment on its viability.

21/143 Third Party Reports

- (a) **District Councillor** – D/Cllr Ley stated that parish council meetings can happen as frequently as wished but that in his experience most parishes meet every two months and he was not aware of any issues in doing so. D/Cllr Ley stated that he felt planning applications were more stringently assessed ten years

ago and that now the process has swung the other way. He stressed that it is important to be aware of timescales and to ensure that the regulations of the original application are adhered to. Cllr Ley felt that council tax rises would become a crunch issue for some parishioners who would struggle to pay. In response to the previous discussion regarding illegal parking Cllr Ley reiterated the need to raise the issue with the relevant people in Highways / Planning.

b) **County Councillor** – not present

21/144 Members Reports

a) **Highways** – No representative present to provide a report

b) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – Cllr Pomfret completed the Footpath Survey to meet the 14th February deadline but noted that Storm Eunice and Franklin had caused issues post this date. He noted that landowner Stuart Kingdon had raised an issue regarding a leaning tree close to the Shapcott Wood footpath. Cllr Pomfret had placed a warning sign on the gate and had asked the landowner how much it would be to clear it (c. £300) following which he had contacted Ros Davies to alert her. Discussion ensued over who has responsibility to clear away the tree (landowner, parish council or county council). Cllr Stanbury gave the example of a fallen tree on Shapcott lane which the landowner refused to move from blocking the footpath. It was AGREED that Cllr Pomfret would recontact Ros Davies on her return in a week's time. Cllr Pomfret detailed that he will deal with the latches on the gates on the Roachill footpath.

c) **Moors Management Association** – Cllr Maidment – Outlined that the matter of a bridleway across the moor was discussed at the February meeting of the Association but that it was felt to be a costly and difficult issue to resolve. Cllr Pomfret will feed back to the Parishioner who initially raised the matter.

d) **Welcome Pack** - Cllr Maidment – is on the case in terms of new arrivals in Roachill.

e) **Emergency Plan** – In Cllr Parry's absence Cllr Pomfret detailed that online first aid training is to be considered. He also stated that Cllr Parry had apologised for not providing emergency response details to Cllr Pomfret and the Clerk as they would have been useful during the recent storms and ensuing power cuts. It was noted that Cllr Parry felt that the recent events demonstrated the need for a very specific flowchart on actions to be taken in emergencies and he would look at progressing this matter. Cllr Pomfret suggested putting a thank you message on the Facebook page and website thanking people for the help given to others during the recent four day power cut and this was AGREED.

f) **Parish Hall** – There will be a Film Night on 24th February with the North Devon Hog Roast van in the hall car park between 5.00 and 7.30 p.m. providing food. Issues over parking whilst the Hog Roast is taking place was discussed and felt that it might put off some less mobile people from attending if parking cannot be guaranteed at the hall. The upcoming Coffee Morning, Games afternoon and Easter Bingo were all mentioned. The most recent Coffee Morning was deemed a success.

21/145 Casual vacancy for a Parish Councillor – no expressions of interest have been received.

21/146 Business at the Chairman's discretion – None

21/147 The date, time and venue of the next meeting were confirmed as Tuesday 26th April 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

The meeting closed at 20.55.