

# KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 23rd February 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), D/Cllr Ley

**20/129 Apologies for absence** - C/Cllr J Yabsley

**20/130 Declarations of Interest** - Cllr Stanbury declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 11(d) (Moors Management Association).

**20/131 Approve Minutes** It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2021, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Stanbury seconded, all agreed.

### **20/132 Councillor Roles**

(i) It was AGREED that Cllr Parry will take over the Emergency Plan.

(ii) It was AGREED that Cllr Clarke will take over the lead on Planning matters, with Cllr Pomfret deputising where necessary if a conflict of interest arises.

### **20/133 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda).**

(i) Receipt of the following correspondence was NOTED:

- DALC Newsletter #06 2021 dated 26.01.21 re. Remote Meeting regulations;
- Devon CPRE Winter newsletter dated 27.01.21, electronic and hardcopy;
- Email dated 27.01.21 from Mick Harrison, OPCC, Warning - NHS / Coronavirus Scam;
- Email dated 28.01.21 from Mick Harrison, OPCC - The results from the Police and Crime Commissioner's recent annual survey;
- DALC Newsletter #07 2021 dated 4.02.21 re. Training survey;
- Email dated 5.02.21 from Mick Harrison, OPCC – Unanimous approval for Police Commissioner's plans to boost frontline staff;
- DALC Newsletter #08 2021 dated 7.02.21, Reflections on parish council meetings and professionalism;
- Email dated 8.02.21 from Mick Harrison – Special Constables / Recruitment now open;
- Email dated 11.02.21 from East Devon Citizens Advice re. Covid Winter Grant Scheme;
- Email dated 17.02.21 from Mick Harrison - Any questions for T/ACC Glen Mayhew;

(ii) Receipt of the following correspondence received after the preparation of the agenda was NOTED:

- Email dated 18.02.21 re. Latest insights from Came & Company Local Council Insurance;
- Email dated 22.02.21 re. Community Emergency Plans event - Thursday 4 March – Cllr Parry and the Clerk will be attending this event;
- Email dated 22.02.21 from Citizens Advice acknowledging receipt of the Council's recent donation.

**20/134 Public Questions** - None

### **20/135 Finance**

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

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

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| • Wendy Sweet (pay - £168.28 & expenses - £2.84) | £171.12           |
| • DALC (Good councillor training for Cllr Parry) | £72.00 (incl VAT) |

**20/136 Litter Pickers** – The Clerk reported that she was waiting for someone from the Waste and Recycling Department of North Devon Council to ring back to arrange the loan of litter pickers etc. The Chairman

*Draft for approval at next scheduled meeting*

suggested that the Clerk arranges for information to be put on the Knowstone website about the planned litter picking.

### **20/137 Planning**

(i) Applications notified since last meeting - None

(ii) Applications notified since the preparation of the agenda - None.

(iii) Note applications determined since the last Council meeting

(a) **Ref. 72682** – Construction of new equestrian manege area for exercising horses, Traceys Farm, Knowstone EX36 4RY – approved. The Chairman reported that the applicant had phoned him to thank the Parish Council for its support of this application.

(iv) Other planning matters – Ref. 72027 - Cllr Pomfret reported that the framework for the agricultural building is up. A letter had been sent to the Enforcement Department at NDC about a possible breach of planning regarding the gateway and hedging.

### **20/138 Third Party Reports:**

a) **District Councillor** Ley asked Cllr Barrett if there were still problems with recycling collections which he had previously raised or had it been a one-off incident. Cllr Barrett said that things had improved and felt that items being dropped in the area had been as a result of the flaps on the lorry not being properly closed by the operatives. He felt that the whole system of recycling collection is poor compared to other counties like Norfolk where everything goes into one wheely bin but accepted that it would be costly to implement a new system.

On planning matters, D/Cllr Ley flagged up a potential blatant breach of planning at the edge of the Parish at Tower Farm where someone was living in a caravan which did not have planning permission. He thought it had been put there about three years ago after an agricultural building had been erected. Cllr Clarke pointed out that in the past when a person applied for a postcode this would be flagged up to the District Council in order for them to collect Council Tax which in turn would flag up to Planning if there was no record of a dwelling at that site. After a brief discussion, it was AGREED that this should be brought to the attention of the Planning Department, Cllr Howe proposed, Cllr Clarke seconded, all agreed. D/Cllr Ley advised the Clerk to address the email to Fred Shelton.

b) **County Councillor** - not present

### **20/139 Members Reports**

#### **a) Highways**

(i) Cllr Barrett reported that he had been informed that the fencing along the A361 at Haresdown needed renewing and he had taken the matter up with C/Cllr Yabsley. He understood that DCC is responsible for the fencing along this part of the A361.

(ii) The signage at Holy Moor has been corrected although it was not completely satisfactory as it does not have the name of the junction on it as the previous one did. These comments have been passed on but it was felt that financial constraints meant that it was unlikely to be remedied.

(iii) Cllr Howe reported that he had been informed by a traffic police officer that average speed cameras are going to be installed along the A361 between South Molton and Barnstaple. He felt that it would be a good idea for similar to be installed on the stretch between South Molton and Tiverton. Cllr Barrett will raise this suggestion with C/Cllr Yabsley.

(iv) In view of the recent problem of a car getting stuck down Harpson Lane, Cllr Pomfret asked whether there was a 'Unsuitable for Motor Vehicles' sign at the Harpson end. Cllr Howe informed him that there is one on the right-hand side just beyond the cattle grid.

(v) Cllr Pomfret asked whether the Council could investigate getting 'Caution horses' signs put up in the Parish as there are a lot of residents who have horses and ride along the lanes. Cllr Barrett said he would find out the situation regarding this question.

b) **Snow Warden** – Cllr Stanbury – nothing to report. There is still plenty of salt available within the Parish.

**c) Footpaths & Beaples Stone**

(i) Cllr Pomfret reported that he had now completed the footpath survey for another year. There had been a few issues which he has drawn to DCC's attention. Some of the repairs he will try to do himself, eg latches. He was not sure if the work was DCC's responsibility or KPC's and if necessary KPC may have to get a contractor in to do what is needed. He had been told by Ros Davis at DCC that KPC has £300 from a previous grant. If funding is needed during the year the council can ask DCC.

(ii) It was RESOLVED that the ongoing maintenance of the Beaples Stone area this year to continue to be provided by Ridd & Son Garden Maintenance as outlined in their quote dated 21.02.21, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Stanbury seconded, all agreed.

**d) Moors Management Association**

(i) Cllr Maidment reported that she had attended the MMA committee meeting held on 8th February. The minutes of this meeting had been circulated to all councillors by the Clerk.

(ii) Quotes had been received from Tom Plume and Matt Ridd to supply and install wooden stakes along the edge of KPC's part of Haresdown Moor. The quotes were both very similar in amount and it was RESOLVED to accept Matt Ridd's quote of £2,100, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Barrett seconded, all agreed. Cllr Stanbury thanked Cllr Maidment, Cllr Pomfret and Cllr Howe for coming up to the moor and looking at what was required.

(iii) It was RESOLVED that KPC will sign, as landowner, the RPA rolling extension application for HLS funding for a further year as per the Secretary's email dated 26.01.21, Cllr Maidment proposed, Cllr Pomfret seconded, all agreed.

**e) Police Report** – Cllr Howe reported that he had invited a local police officer to attend this evening's meeting but had been told that they are not allowed to participate in Zoom meetings. He spoke to the OPCS about this and was told that there are too many Town and Parish council meetings being held each month for officers to attend. There are only four officers covering the South Molton area. A list of crimes in the South Molton rural area was read out.

**(f) Welcome Pack** - Cllr Maidment said she had nothing to report as she had not been advised of anyone new moving into the Parish in the last month.

**(g) Parish Hall** – Cllr Howe reported that nothing was taking place in the hall at the moment. The Hall committee had decided to cancel the planned summer Fair and Show and to hold a 'pop-up' event in its place once restrictions had been lifted. An online digital photography competition is also being organised and information about this will soon be appearing on the Knowstone website.

**(h) PCC Report** – Cllr Howe reported that the under pew heating has now been installed and the three big overhead electric heaters had been removed. The PCC is looking forward to being able to re-open the church. One last piece of outstanding work was the reinstating of the choir pews which woodwork expert Hugh Harrison will be soon undertaking.

**20/140 Business at the Chairman's discretion** – none

**20/141 The date and time of the next meeting** were confirmed as follows - Tuesday 23rd March 2021 at 7.30 p.m. via Zoom

The Chairman thanked everyone for their participation and the meeting closed at 20.58