

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 24th August 2021 held in Knowstone Parish Hall

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

In attendance: W Sweet (Clerk), 1 member of the public, D/Cllr Eric Ley (part)

21/64 Apologies for absence - None

21/65 Declarations of Interest (re. matters appearing on this agenda) - None

21/66 Approve Minutes It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of meeting held on 27th July 2021, Cllr Maidment proposed, Cllr Parry seconded, 5 agreed, 1 abstention due to being absent from the meeting.

21/67 Correspondence - Receipt of the following correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda) was NOTED:

- Email dated 28.07.21 from Mick Harrison, OPCC – Beating Crime Plan tackles issues that communities care most about;
- DALC Newsletter #43 2021 dated 28.07.21 – Self isolation and council business;
- DALC Newsletter #44 2021 dated 30.07.21 – News bulletin;
- CPRE Country Voices - Summer Newsletter;
- CPRE Devon Voice Newsletter – Summer 2021;
- Email dated 3.08.21 from DALC – Invitation for Applicants to stand for the Board of Directors;
- Email dated 4.08.21 from Mick Harrison, OPCC - Urgent Road Safety warning issued after tragic incidents in Devon & Cornwall;
- DALC Newsletter #45 2021 dated 4.08.21 – DALC AGM and Conference 2021;
- Email dated 6.08.21 from Mick Harrison, OPCC – Alison Hernandez launches survey into Police and Crime Plan;
- DALC Newsletter #46 2021 dated 6.08.21 – News bulletin;
- Email dated 6.08.21 from DCC – Parish Paths Partnership Newsletter Summer 2021;
- Email dated 8.08.21 from Mick Harrison, OPCC – Alert – Vaccine Passport Scams;
- Email dated 11.08.21 from Mick Harrison, OPCC – CrimeStoppers Rural Crime Campaign;
- DALC Newsletter #47 2021 dated 13.08.21 – Latest News;
- Email dated 14.08.21 from CPRE – Latest countryside new round-up;
- Email dated 17.08.21 from Maria Bailey, new Service Manager (Development Management), Strategic Development & Planning – Cllr Clarke flagged up that Maria Bailey had mentioned in this email her intention to come and talk to councils. It was AGREED that the Clerk will let her know future dates of council meetings in the hope that she may be able to attend one of them.
- The Chairman reported that he had received an email forwarded to him by the previous Chairman re. a planned police liaison Teams meeting on 25th August to which Council Chairman were invited; Cllr Pomfret said he would try and attend some of the meeting and will report back.

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

- Email dated 19.08.21 from NDC re. next meeting of the Parish Forum on 14th October via Zoom;

21/68 Public Questions

(a) A parishioner raised problems with gates on bridleways in the area. The handle on the gate adjacent to the cattle grid just past the turning for the log cabin diner is floppy and does not hold the gate. Cllr Pomfret had included this in his recent footpath report submitted to DCC and had sent a photo. He will send a reminder about it. Several problems with gates in Rose Ash were also mentioned and the parishioner was asked to send full details of these to the Clerk who will contact the Clerk of Rose Ash Parish Council.

(b) A question was asked whether there should be access for a horse under the link road as you cannot get

Draft for approval at next scheduled meeting

a horse through following the route of the Two Moors Way. There is no access other than going across the link road which is dangerous. Cllr Pomfret will check whether that part of the Two Moors Way is also a bridleway.

21/69 Finance

(a) The accounts to date, bank reconciliation and expenditure against budget to date, previously circulated, were REVIEWED. It was noted that there was a small overspend to date on memberships which would increase before the year end as a couple more subscriptions were due to be paid later in the financial year.

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

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|--|---------|
| • Wendy Sweet (Clerk's pay) | £161.85 |
| • Wendy Sweet (reimbursement for plants) | £27.90 |

21/70 Civic Pride Working Group

(i) Update – Cllr Barrett reported that they were pleased with how it was going; Cllr Maidment and the Clerk had got half a dozen local people involved who were thanked for their help. Future expense will be bulbs for the winter.

(ii) To discuss putting signs on planters and agree wording, if decide to go ahead – Cllr Barrett said most drivers would have their attention on what was coming the other way, rather than having the opportunity to read any sign on a planter. If signs were put on planters they should be big and easily read with not too much information. It would be a way of making people including visitors aware of the Knowstone website. The Clerk had obtained a ballpark figure from a local sign producer and they would cost approximately £26 each. Cllr Pomfret said he would like to see a mock-up of the sign showing size of text before making a decision. It was AGREED not to proceed at this time. It was pointed out that the planter on Traceys Hill was the most likely one to be seen by walkers.

21/71 Adopt amended Financial Regulations - previously circulated. After amending item 5.3 by replacing "... shall be signed by two of three named members of Council" with "... shall be signed by two Council cheque signatories", it was RESOLVED to accept the amended Financial Regulations, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Barrett seconded, all agreed.

21/72 Planning

(i) Applications notified since last meeting

(a) Ref. 73623 - Erection of one temporary agricultural workers dwelling at Land at Ash Mill, Knowstone EX36 4RT – Cllr Clarke reported that he had looked in detail at the application and would suggest that the following points need to be made to NDC:

- 1) North Devon has a policy relating to planning applications for temporary dwellings which requires a detailed business plan, including budgets and projections to be supplied with the application. A business plan has not been provided by the applicant which means there is not sufficient information for NDC to be able to make an informed decision.
- 2) Should NDC be minded to approval the application they can impose conditions relating to the permitted occupancy and period of time and Cllr Clarke suggested that KPC asks them to impose that condition.

Other points mentioned were that last year slurry from the pigs in the field was running into the Little Oak river and that the proposed temporary dwelling is within 200m of two listed buildings. It was RESOLVED that the council would submit the points raised as its response to this planning application, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Parry seconded, all agreed.

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

(iii) Other planning matters - Town Farm – it was reported that a response had been received from the Enforcement Department which stated that they were going to serve an enforcement notice in September. It

was AGREED that the Clerk would contact Enforcement again to ask for a precise date of when the notice would be served.

21/73 Third Party Reports (if present):

a) District Councillor – D/Cllr Ley advised that when responding to a planning application consultation it was a good idea to include as many points/comments/questions as possible. Comments received from Parish Councils generally carried more weight with the Planning Department than comments from residents.

Re. East Hill where things seem to be dormant, D/Cllr Ley queried who was responsible for the affordable houses and recommended that councillors looked again at the S106 agreement to refresh their memories. Quite often developers of big housing projects go back to the planning department for a reduction in the number of affordables that have been agreed will be built on the grounds that the site is unviable.

Cllr Pomfret raised an issue, on behalf of a parishioner who is concerned about the ragwort growing alongside the A361 and asked whether the District Council or County Council has responsibility in that area. D/Cllr Ley said that they are good from the perspective of insects but very bad for animals that eat it but animals should not be on the highway. Ragwort is everywhere and on road networks all over the country. It is a very resilient plant. DCC no longer has a policy to cut it.

b) County Councillor – not present

21/74 Members Reports

a) **Highways** – Cllr Barrett has been trying to raise awareness on the Knowstone Facebook Group of DCC's reporting tool. He had recently used it to report a section of road that rises from the bridge over the Crooked Oak which is breaking away. He mentioned this on FB and a resident in East Knowstone commented that of 28 potholes reported in East Knowstone, only 1 was repaired. He will bring this up with C/Cllr Yabsley. No feedback has been received yet regarding C/Cllr Yabsley's visit to the parish when he was going to look at a possible reduction of the road verge at the bottom of Crosside Hill. There was no update re. horse riding warning signs and Cllr Barrett will chase up C/Cllr Yabsley on this matter.

b) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – Cllr Pomfret – nothing to report.

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

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

e) **Emergency Plan** – Cllr Parry had taken the feedback he had received at the last meeting and updated the questionnaire and covering letter accordingly. By end of next week the packs will be ready to be handed out to deliverers.

f) **Parish Hall** – Cllr Barrett reported that the hall committee was meeting the following evening to try and get the hall up and running again as much as it can. He will have more to report at the next meeting.

(i) Discuss replacement of battery for door alarm of defibrillator as per email dated 30.7.21 previously circulated. It was AGREED that Cllr Pomfret and the Clerk will get more information the following evening regarding the defibrillator and if felt appropriate the battery will be replaced.

g) **PCC Report** – Cllr Barrett reported that the Team Vicar is leaving to take up a position at Braunton Church. Two people have left PCC which leaves a small group trying to keep church viable.

21/75 Casual vacancy for a Parish Councillor – no expressions of interest have been received. There are notices about the vacancy on the Parish noticeboards and the notice on the website will be updated. A flier about the vacancy will go out with the Emergency Plan pack.

21/76 Business at the Chairman's discretion – none.

21/77 The date, time and venue of the next meeting were confirmed as follows: Tuesday 28th September 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

The meeting closed at 20.56