

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a meeting of the Council on 24th January 2023 held in Knowstone Parish Hall

Present: Cllr D Maidment, Cllr J Pomfret (Chair), Cllr J Stanbury, Cllr N Vukic

In attendance: W Sweet (Clerk), D/Cllr E Ley (part), C/Cllr J Yabsley (part), 2 members of the public

22/100 Apologies for absence - Cllr Dey, Cllr Clarke, Cllr Parry

22/101 Declarations of Interest (re. matters appearing on this agenda) – None

22/102 Approve Minutes It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the last scheduled meeting held on 22nd November 2022 and the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 13th December 2022, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Vukic seconded, all agreed.

22/103 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda).

Receipt of the following was NOTED:

- DALC E-bulletin #55 2022 dated 23.11.22;
- DALC E-bulletin #56 2022 dated 30.11.22;
- North Devon Link Road November / December Newsletter from Griffiths dated 30.11.22;
- Devon Community Resilience Forum December 22 Newsletter from DCT dated 7.12.22;
- DALC E-bulletin #57 2022 dated 7.12.22;
- Highways Parish & Town Council Newsletter - Winter 2022 from DCC dated 7.12.22;
- A message from the Police and Crime Commissioner dated 13.12.22;
- Parish Online Newsletter #36 dated 13.12.22;
- P3 Winter Newsletter from DCC plus presentations from the Autumn workshops dated 21.12.22;
- DALC E-bulletin #01 2023 dated 4.01.23;
- DALC E-bulletin #02 2023 dated 11.01.23;
- Email dated 12.01.23 from Aalgaard Renshaw Business Solutions Ltd re. Auditing Facilities;
- Devon Climate Emergency, January Newsletter dated 16.01.23;
- North Devon Link Road January Newsletter from Griffiths dated 16.01.23;

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

- DALC E-bulletin #03 2023 dated 18.01.23.

22/104 Public Questions

(i) Re. item 12 (a) on the agenda, the applicant of planning application ref. 76371 explained that he wanted a way that his daughter who could not afford to buy a house in the parish to be able to carry on living in the parish. The planned house would be self-build so it would be low cost. The applicant would be happy for the proposed house to be tied to being just for local people in the future. Cllr Stanbury asked whether it would be a one or two storey dwelling but no detailed plans have been drawn up yet. The applicant stated that it would be built in a style in keeping with the rest of the village.

Agenda item 12(a) was brought forward to this point in the meeting.

22/105 Planning - Applications notified since last meeting - **Ref 76371** - Application for permission in principle for erection of 1 local needs dwelling at Land opposite 2 Traceys Cottages Knowstone South Molton Devon EX36 4RY. After hearing the applicant's reasons for the application, it was felt that KPC should support the application wholeheartedly as it was a small opportunity for the Parish Council to make up for the failure of NDC to provide low-cost housing in the parish. It was RESOLVED to support the application, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Stanbury seconded, all agreed.

22/106 Finance

(a) The accounts to date for 22-23 and bank reconciliation, previously circulated, were REVIEWED.

Draft to be approved at the next scheduled meeting

(b) Receipt of £2,628.00 from Hare's Down and Knowstone Moors Management Association was NOTED.

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

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| • Wendy Sweet - Clerk's pay (£157.74), & WFH allowance (£48.00) | £205.74 |
| • DALC – training for Cllr Dey | £72.00 |
| • CPRE – renewal of membership | £36.00 |

22/107 Budget 2023/2024 preparation

(a) It was AGREED that some of the contingency figure in the draft 2023/24 budget (£2,000) could be used for the coronation celebrations that the Hall Committee would be organising. An afternoon tea had been provisionally agreed by the committee to take place in the hall or possibly in the carpark if the weather was good. It was RESOLVED to adopt the draft budget, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Maidment seconded, all agreed.

(b) It was RESOLVED to agree the Precept figure for 2023/24 as £4076 (which gives a Band 'D' Council charge of £39.10), Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Stanbury seconded, all agreed.

22/108 Electric Vehicle Charging Point – The charging point has been installed and needs to be commissioned. This will involve the purchase of a couple of QR codes. It was envisioned that the hall committee / Parish Council would not sign up to a maintenance agreement and incur ongoing costs. The invoice for the installation has been paid in full but a small refund is due to the Council for a distribution board charged for but not fitted. Once the charger is usable various signs will be needed.

22/109 Removal of dying Ash trees at Wiston Cross A response had been received from Richard Sables in which he had stated that the trees are situated within the highway. He has passed on the council's concern but they are not an imminent danger to the highway at the moment. The priority is being directed towards the main roads. The situation will be monitored by KPC. If nothing happens in the future the council could offer to get rid of them and plant some new trees there.

22/110 Annual Parish Meeting It was AGREED that this will take place on Tuesday 16th May 2023. The Annual meeting of the Parish Council will take place on 23rd May 2023.

22/111 Planning

(a) Applications notified since the preparation of the agenda - Ref: 76502 Listed building consent for replacement of front door and surround at Little Owl, Knowstone EX36 4RY. This application was not received in time to be included in the agenda and could not be discussed at this meeting. It was AGREED that it was not necessary to call an Extraordinary Council meeting to discuss it.

(b) Other planning matters – as the recent East Hall planning application has been approved, it was AGREED that the Clerk should let Crosse Wyatt know that the trust that was going to be formed in order for the Council to receive the land under the S106 agreement would no longer be needed.

22/112 Third Party Reports (if present):

a) **District Councillor** – Eric Ley re. planning reference 76371 stated that he thought it would be refused as it stands, getting permission for new build in the countryside is not easy. It will go before the Planning committee and it was important that KPC got involved and attended that meeting. There were three criteria – local need definition, how it related to the existing settlement and the requirement that there has to be a community facility (Knowstone has three). He recommended that the Clerk circulates a copy of the original East Hill decision notice to all Knowstone Parish Councillors. The Planning committee at which it might be discussed could be on the second Wednesday in March.

b) **County Councillor** Jeremy Yabsley reported that DCC was going through its budget process. It had overspent £73m which will have to be reined back and will impact on everything. The upcoming highways budget will be smaller. Most of DCC's money is spent on adult and childcare. The county council will have to borrow money to pay for services. On a more positive note ambulance waiting times have improved.

Draft to be approved at the next scheduled meeting

Cllr Pomfret bought up the issue of the damaged fence next to the cattle grid onto Harpson Lane off the A361 which had been hit by something. There was concern that animals could get out onto the road. Also three pot holes had been reported; Cllr Pomfret had been to have a look and there are 50 potholes in the lane but it is not a metalled road. Previously DCC has tipped material there which was used to fill in the potholes and another load of scalplings now would be helpful. Cllr Pomfret had reported the potholes via the pothole site and the issue will be passed to the local Highways officer. C/Cllr Yabsley will follow this up.

22/113 Members Reports

(a) **Highways** – Cllr Dey was not present at the meeting but had submitted a written report, previously circulated. She is still researching the ‘20 is plenty scheme’. It was AGREED to put a link on the Knowstone website to the DCC map for reporting potholes and other highways issues.

(i) Holy Moor Cross road sign repair – Cllr Pomfret reported that they have now been made and would be couriered to Kings Nympton Parish Council along with their new signs. The chairman of KNPC will then deliver them here. The new signs are slightly smaller and will be less susceptible to the wind. They will be installed by Cllr Pomfret in due course.

(ii) Cllr Pomfret reported that he had written to the organisers of the Rally that came through in October as agreed at November’s meeting to complain that cars were driving at inappropriate speeds. He had copied in DCC highways officers and the police.

(iii) Cllr Pomfret will be attending a traffic safety course (chapter 8) on 8th February.

(b) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – Cllr Parry was not present at the meeting but had submitted a written report, previously circulated. He has undertaken survey of all the footpaths and will report further in due course.

(i) Repair of gate post at top of Shapcott Lane, adjacent to East Knowstone sign – Cllr Pomfret will check to see if this has already been reported to DCC.

(c) **Moors Management Association** – Cllr Pomfret had attended the AGM before Christmas in Cllr Maidment’s place. Cllr Stanbury reported that fire breaks in the gorse are in the process of being done.

(d) **Welcome Pack** - Cllr Maidment was informed that someone would soon be moving into East Hill Farm.

(e) **Emergency Plan** – Cllr Parry was not present at the meeting but had submitted a written report, previously circulated. He has organised an electrician to install the changeover switch in the hall. Cllr Pomfret reported that the cheaper of the two generators the Council had previously been looking at had not received good reviews.

(f) **Parish Hall** – Cllr Pomfret – gave a summary of recent activities including the very successful Christmas bingo. Upcoming events include the usual activities – Pilates, line dancing, crafting afternoons. On Friday 17th February there will be a skittles evening in the hall plus a bar.

(g) **Police Liaison** – Cllr Vukic had details of a cyber bullying roadshow being held in Sandy Park in March if anyone was interested in attending. Cllr Vukic reported that she had met with Cllr Dey to discuss Roachill traffic issues and possible ways forward. There is funding available for traffic slowing procedures but it could be a battle to get it. They are looking at various options. It was noted that the police are busy currently with monitoring speeding in the local area.

(h) **Snow Warden** – Cllr Stanbury reported that salt has been placed in various places - Roachill, top of Traceys Hill, Owlborough Lane, East Knowstone Hill. It would be useful to have some more 25kg bags and it was AGREED that the clerk will order a pallet to be delivered to Cllr Stanbury’s farm.

22/114 Business at the Chairman’s discretion – None.

22/115 The date, time & venue of next meeting were confirmed as Tuesday, 28th March 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

The meeting closed at 21.09.