

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a meeting of the Council on 28th March 2023 held in Knowstone Parish Hall

Present: Cllr J Clarke, Cllr C Dey, Cllr D Maidment, Cllr A Parry, Cllr J Pomfret (Chair), Cllr N Vukic

In attendance: W Sweet (Clerk), 3 members of the public (part)

22/116 Apologies for absence: Cllr Stanbury, D/Cllr E Ley, C/Cllr Jeremy Yabsley

22/117 Declarations of Interest (re. matters appearing on this agenda) - None

22/118 Approve Minutes It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the last scheduled meeting held on 24th January 2023, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Vukic seconded, all agreed.

22/119 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda).

Receipt of the following was NOTED:

- Vision Zero email
- DALC E-bulletin #04 2023 dated 25.01.23;
- Email from Devon & Cornwall police re. scams affecting the hospitality sector
- Email dated 27.01.23 from NDC re. Climate week;
- Email dated 31.01.23 from Website Development with new details;
- Parish Online Newsletter dated 1.02.23;
- DALC E-bulletin #05 2023 dated 1.02.23;
- Devon Climate Emergency Newsletter dated 3.02.23;
- DALC E-bulletin #06 2023 dated 8.02.23;
- Councillor Advocate Update February 2023 from OPCC dated 8.02.23;
- DALC E-bulletin #07 2023 dated 15.02.23;
- DALC E-bulletin #08 2023 dated 22.02.23;
- Email dated 24.02.23 from Hedgehogs R Us re. Hedgehogs Highways Project;
- DALC E-bulletin #09 2023 dated 1.03.23;
- Email dated 2.02.23 from DCC re. having right photo ID to vote in May;
- Letter from Crosse Wyatt dated 3.03.23 relating to the files being closed re. East Hill Farm transfer of land and money and the access issue at Middlehill Farm;
- Email from Devon Climate Emergency dated 3.03.23 – March Newsletter;
- Parish Online Newsletter dated 8.03.23;
- DALC E-bulletin #10 2023 dated 8.03.23;
- Email dated 9.03.23 from CPRE – March e-bulletin;
- DALC E-bulletin #11 2023 dated 15.03.23;
- Email dated 17.03.23 from South West Heritage Trust - Invitation to NDRO event – Cllr Dey said that she was planning to attend this event.

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

- DALC E-bulletin #12 2023 dated 22.03.23;
- Email from Chown China Ltd re. Coronation King Charles III.

22/120 Public Questions

(i) Parishioner 1 asked what the Parish Council planned to do regarding the situation at East Hill Farm. The chairman did not think that there was anything the Council could do. It had objected strongly to the most recent planning application to refurbish the barns only but it had been approved by NDC. The parishioner who raised this question thought that there was a binding agreement in place with NDC that the land would be made available to the parish and that it should still remain. The legal agreement (S106) was attached to the original planning application which was not implemented within three years of it being granted. Cllr Clarke will check pre-commencement conditions re. East Hill Farm.

(ii) Parishioner 2, who had been the applicant for permission in principle to build a new dwelling, thanked the council for supporting the application which had been much appreciated. It was noted that NDC planning

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committee members could see the bigger picture although planning officers had had a different view.

(iii) Parishioner 1 wanted the Council be aware that he had appeared at the meeting which discussed the James Pryce application at Stonelands Cross and it had been reported, in error, that he was there representing KPC.

22/121 Finance

(a) It was RESOLVED to agree the accounts to date for 22-23 and bank reconciliation, previously circulated, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Parry seconded, all agreed. The accounts and bank statements were signed by Cllr Vukic.

(b) It was RESOLVED to ratify the following payment - £541.80 to Jag Signs (finger pointers at Holy Moor Cross) – Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Clarke seconded, all agreed.

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

- Wendy Sweet - Clerk's pay (£172.73), WFH allowance (£48.00) & expenses, including ink cartridges (£60.36) £281.09
- Website Development (now trading as Senior Internet Limited) £234.00
- John W Morgan Garden Services (1st cut at Beaples Stone, Oct 22) £35.00
- Crosse Wyatt, Solicitors £1,142.00

(d) It was RESOLVED to agree to donate £750 to the Parish Hall for the Coronation celebrations as per request received from committee chair, Cllr Clarke proposed, Cllr Maidment seconded, all agreed.

22/122 Electric Vehicle Charging Point – A hall committee member is currently chasing Crystal Electronics for a date when they will come back to fit correct machine.

22/123 Annual Parish Meeting – Change of date from Tuesday 16th to Thursday 18th May 2023 was NOTED. The guest speaker will be Selaine Saxby MP. The meeting will probably start at 7.30 p.m.

22/124 Archive Parish Council Minutes – It was RESOLVED to agree to archive parish council minutes from 1963 to 2015 at the North Devon Record Office, Barnstaple Library. Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Parry seconded, all agreed. There would be no cost to council to do this.

22/125 Batsworthy Fund meeting – The Clerk reported that she had attended a meeting organised by Devon Community Foundation for Parish Council chairs and clerks in the area covered by the Batsworthy Fund. The way the fund is now run is much more open and transparent. There has been a build-up of funds over last couple of years, so they are receptive to applications. Full details of all the grants given out since the start of the fund 7 years ago had been given out at the meeting and the clerk will circulate a copy of this to all councillors. The fund may hold grant surgeries in the future. It is also planned to hold a similar meeting with Parish Councils in about 6 months' time and then yearly thereafter.

22/126 Planning

(a) Applications notified since last meeting - None

(b) Applications notified since the preparation of the agenda - None

(c) Other planning matters

(i) Ref. 74086 - East Hole Farm, removal of tree in conservation area – application has been withdrawn.

(ii) Ref. 76371 - Land opposite 2 Traceys Cottages Knowstone EX36 4RY Application for permission in principle for erection of 1 local needs dwelling – approved.

(iii) Ref. 76502 - Little Owl, Knowstone – Listed building consent for replacement of front door and surround – approved.

22/127 Third Party Reports

a) **District Councillor** – not present. The Chairman said that he would personally like to thank D/Cllr Ley for his support and attendance at KPC meetings over the years. He had been a good friend to the parish. It was agreed that Cllr Pomfret would write a letter of thanks on behalf of the PC to D/Cllr Ley who would not

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be standing for re-election at the upcoming District elections in May this year.

b) **County Councillor** – not present

22/128 Members Reports

(a) **Highways** – Cllr Dey said that the main issue is the Roachill area where residents are feeling unsafe due to the speed of traffic. Unfortunately there is a lack of data showing any significant issues and the hamlet is not big enough for DCC to be interested in it. Cllr Dey had been looking into the '20 is Plenty campaign' which the council could do itself if the criteria is met and put up signage. The Council would need to check whose land it was before putting up any signs. The entrance to Roachill could also be made more obvious. A '20 is plenty' starter pack has been applied for. Cllr Dey hopes to meet with C/Cllr Yabsley next week. Knowstone Parish Council would have to make a public statement that it is supporting the '20 is Plenty' campaign. The council has a duty to make sure that people feel safe and supported. At next meeting Cllr Dey will propose that a working party is set up to look into making signs etc. Cllr Pomfret suggested that the provision of horse riding warning signs in the parish is linked in with the '20 is plenty' campaign.

(i) Highway code update – it was AGREED that this information should be made available in the parish by putting it on the website etc.

(ii) Potholes – There are four in Shapcott Hill that need doing and in the road past Shapcott Barton. Cllr Pomfret reported that in discussion with a councillor and a retired councillor on the recent course he had attended he had been informed that there is a product called Viafix which is used to repair potholes. It comes in bags or tubs and is poured into a pothole that has water in it, it is then tread down by foot and driven over. There was a concern that if KPC starts filling in potholes in the Parish, DCC would stop coming to do it. It was agreed that KPC reports as many potholes as it can and then investigate filling the ones that DCC does not fill. It would be interesting to know how long the Viafix solution would last.

(iii) Holy Moor Cross road sign repair update – Cllr Pomfret reported that the sign is in the process of being replaced and will be completed once the weather improves.

(ii) Road Warden report – Cllr Pomfret had attended a Sighting, Lighting and Guarding course in February and learnt where you put signs when working on the highway, what signs have to say, distance they have to be placed etc. There had been a test and a practical exercise.

(b) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – Cllr Parry had undertaken the annual walk of the footpaths. Photos had been taken of any issues and his report submitted to DCC six weeks ago including the rotten gate post in East Knowstone. He will chase this up.

(c) **Moors Management Association** – Cllr Maidment reported that MMA had received an extension of Higher Level Stewardship scheme to 2028.

(d) **Welcome Pack** - Cllr Maidment had delivered a couple recently. It was AGREED to include the Emergency Plan letter with future Welcome Packs. Cllr Parry will supply EP letters and more maps to Cllr Maidment.

(e) **Emergency Plan** – Cllr Parry reported that the local contractor who was going to fit the converter for the generator was now no longer available. Cllr Parry will contact alternative electricians. It is hoped that by the next meeting the Council will be in a position to look at which generator to purchase.

(f) **Parish Hall** – Cllr Pomfret read out a brief report from the hall chair. The hall's finances in good shape. The Hall insurance was recently renewed and the cover for rebuilding the hall was increased from £350,000 to £500,000. Several quotes had been received for rebuilding the wall, one of which was a more affordable option; a grant application will be going into the Batsworthy Fund in due course. The tree branches overhanging the gas tank have been removed. A temporary replacement defib is in place. A small sub team is trying to get the kitchen upgrade project going again. It is planned to buy some outdoor furniture. Hall cleaning has been improved and new equipment has been purchased. Future events – include coffee mornings, a skittles night with bar on 21st April with bar, the Coronation tea party on 6th May and a ceilidh on 19th May which is almost sold out. A Beetle drive, a christening party and a wake have recently taken place in the hall.

(g) **Police Liaison** – Cllr Vukic had nothing to report and asked what information would the council be interested in knowing for future reports. Cllr Pomfret said it would be good to let people know about break ins when quad bikes and other items get stolen from outbuildings.

(h) **Snow Warden** – not present

(i) Discuss possible purchase of grit bin for Crosside Hill as per correspondence with C/Cllr Yabsley and for other locations within the Parish – deferred to next meeting.

22/129 Business at the Chairman's discretion – none

22/130 The date, time and venue of next meeting (annual meeting of the Parish Council) were confirmed as Tuesday, 23rd May 2023 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

The meeting closed at 21.16.