

KNOWSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of the Council on 25th January 2022 held in Knowstone Parish Hall

Present: Cllr D Maidment, Cllr A Parry, Cllr J Pomfret (Chairman), Cllr J Stanbury, Cllr N Vukic

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

21/117 Apologies for absence – Cllr Clarke, D/Cllr Ley

21/118 Declarations of Interest - None

21/119 Approve Minutes It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2021, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Maidment seconded, four agreed, one abstention (Cllr Stanbury who had not been present at the meeting).

21/120 Correspondence (not covered elsewhere on the agenda).

Receipt of the following correspondence was NOTED:

- DALC Newsletter #70 2021 dated 17.11.21;
- DALC Newsletter #71 2021 dated 24.11.21;
- DALC Newsletter #72 2021 dated 25.11.21 – Civility and Respect Project;
- Email dated 01.12.21 from Mick Harrison, OPCC - Vision Zero South West fund 34 road safety projects across Devon & Cornwall;
- DALC Newsletter #73 2021 dated 01.12.21;
- Emails dated 02.12.21 and 17.12.21 from D/Cllr Pearson – Litter workshop;
- DALC Newsletter #74 2021 dated 02.12.21 – Upcoming Events and Training;
- Email from CPRE dated 05.12.21 – Campaigns Update December 2021;
- DALC Newsletter #75 2021 dated 08.12.21;
- Email dated 08.12.21 from DCC Highways - Parish and Town Council Conferences;
- Email dated 08.12.21 from DALC – Recording of DCC Autumn Briefing with John Hart (North Devon Parishes);
- DALC Newsletter #76 2021 dated 09.12.21 – New Covid-19 restrictions;
- Email dated 14.12.21 from Mick Harrison, OPCC – Easy Read Police and Crime Plan 2021 – 25;
- Devon Climate Emergency – December Newsletter dated 14.12.21;
- DALC Newsletter #77 2021 dated 15.12.21;
- Email dated 16.12.21 from DCC – Snow Warden update;
- Email dated 20.12.21 from Mick Harrison, OPCC - How do you go about reporting an incident and what will happen to that information if you do?;
- DALC Newsletter #01 2022 dated 05.01.22;
- Email dated 08.01.22 from CPRE – Campaigns Update;
- Email dated 05.01.22 from parishioner re. Camper van issue etc at Sidemoor Picnic area;
- DALC Newsletter #02 2022 dated 10.01.22 – Member Survey 2022;
- Devon Climate Emergency Newsletter dated 11.01.22;
- DALC Newsletter #03 2022 dated 12.01.22;
- North Devon Link Road Newsletter, 13 January 2022; from Alun Griffiths Ltd;
- Ebulletin dated 13.01.22 from CPRE;
- DALC Newsletter #04 2022 dated 17.01.22;
- Email dated 17.01.22 from CPRE - Planning Surgery reminder: Wednesday 26th January

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

- Email dated 21.01.22 from D/Cllr Pearson - report re. Litter Workshop held on 13.01.22.

21/121 Public Questions

(i) A parishioner had raised the issue via email to the council of a camper van and other vehicles being permanently parked at the picnic area as well as old garden machinery being positioned in such a way that

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access to the picnic tables provided, by DCC, for public use was blocked. This had been reported to the Highways Department and a response received from Richard Sables, the local Highways Officer, who stated that it was not a Highways issue, he had notified the Gypsy Liaison Officer as there was an indication of children and that he had made Joe Deasy at NPS aware of the situation. The resident queried why Richard Sables had felt it necessary to advise the Gypsy Liaison Officer and whether the tenancy agreement included the right for the tenant to control the area. These questions would be raised with C/Cllr Yabsley when he arrived later in the meeting.

(ii) A resident from Roachill reported an increase in dog fouling in and around Roachill particularly in the field through which the footpath runs from the centre of Roachill. Over Christmas and the New Year the resident had picked up large quantity of dog mess from the field. The resident had looked online to see how people can be fined and how much and had also written to Middlemoor to ask for their advice. It was suggested that the NDC dog warden is contacted. A sign indicating fines might be available from NDC. There is already a sign on the gate into the field asking people to clear up after their dogs. Dog excrement in the grass affects the quality of the silage and can also cause serious health issues to sheep including abortion in pregnant ewes. Cllr Stanbury who grazes sheep in the field thanked the resident for taking up the issue. It was suggested that trap cameras could be placed at each end of the path. It was AGREED to put a reminder about dog fouling on the Knowstone FB page and on the council's website. The situation will be monitored.

21/122 Finance

(a) Accounts to date and bank reconciliation, previously circulated, were REVIEWED.

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

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

• Wendy Sweet - Clerk's pay (Dec/Jan), holiday pay, Working from Home Allowance & expenses (£3.75)	£166.78
• Wendy Vigus – website updating	£114.00
• Parish Online – annual subscription	£36.00
• DALC – Good Councillor 1 webinar on 12/01/22	£18.00

(d) It was RESOLVED to donate £25 to the Citizens Advice Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon following their request for funds in their email dated 16.12.21 previously circulated, Cllr Stanbury proposed, Cllr Maidment seconded, all agreed.

21/123 Queen's Platinum Jubilee – The Parish Hall committee plans to hold a street party on the nationally designated day of Sunday 5th June, and it was AGREED that the council would be prepared to contribute £10 per resident and £2000 has been put in the draft budget. Ideas suggested were planting trees in the parish, perhaps at Wiston Cross where Cllr Stanbury reported that the Ash trees there, planted some years ago by the Council, were suffering from ash dieback, or a bench could be placed somewhere in the village or near the millennium stone. If there was no suitable place for planting trees in the parish, it was suggested that a commemorative garden could be created, possibly in the Parish Pound. It was AGREED to put a request on the website and the Knowstone Group FB page for ideas from residents by the next council meeting. It was felt by Cllr Parry that the council should avoid providing something that would need ongoing maintenance and incur costs. It was also felt that it would be good to smarten up the village by cleaning the discoloured road signs.

21/124 Budget 2022/2023

(a) It was RESOLVED to reduce the 'grants' figure in the draft budget, previously circulated, from £600 to £200, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Vukic seconded, all agreed. It was RESOLVED to agree the budget for 2022/23, Cllr Pomfret proposed, Cllr Maidment seconded, all agreed.

(b) It was RESOLVED to agree the Precept figure for 22/23 as £4,076.00 which gives a Band 'D' Council

Tax charge of £40.34, Cllr Parry proposed, Cllr Stanbury seconded, all agreed.

21/125 Electric Vehicle Charging Point – It was AGREED that Cllr Clarke will research the possibility of installing an electric vehicle charging point in the parish as per his email dated 12.01.22, previously circulated, and bring a proposal to a future Council meeting.

21/126 Annual Parish Meeting It was AGREED that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held as a separate meeting on Tuesday, 17th May 2022. It was AGREED that Cllr Vukic will invite Selaine Saxby MP to be the guest speaker at the meeting.

21/127 Planning

- (a) Applications notified since last meeting - None
- (b) Applications notified since the preparation of the agenda – None
- (c) Applications determined since the last meeting:
 - (i) Ref: 74150 – Repair and re-roofing of existing outbuilding at East Hole Farm Knowstone - approved.
 - (ii) Ref: 74327 – Removal of condition 3 (occupancy restriction) attached to planning permission 7448 (outline application for proposed agricultural workers dwelling) at Great Wadham Farmhouse, Knowstone – approved.
- (d) Other planning matters.
 - (i) Ref. 73623 - Erection of one temporary agricultural worker's dwelling at Land at Ash Mill – decision still outstanding.
 - (ii) Tower Farm breach of planning – As no correspondence has been received from the Enforcement Department since last September, the Clerk will chase them for an update.
 - (iii) Cllr Stanbury expressed concerned that a building is going be erected at the Tapas Bar without planning permission. The Clerk will inform Molland Parish Council.
 - (iv) East Hill – It was reported that the refurbished farmhouse has been sold STC which potentially means that the developer will be able to start building the affordable houses.

21/128 Third Party Reports

- a) **District Councillor** – not present
- b) **County Councillor** – C/Cllr Yabsley gave an update on the budget process at NDC which was not looking too bad. There is a potential deficient of £2m which is 500,000 less than it was a few months ago. The Council had recently purchased the Green Lanes Shopping Centre and at present it has enough tenants to bring in a reasonable amount of revenue, although in the next few years £3m worth of repairs will be required. There had been some nervousness about buying an asset for the Council that the private sector was getting out of. There has been Investment in the Planning Department with a good new Head. Things in planning are positive compared to the previous situation. A number of new planners, straight from university have recently been recruited.

The County Council is in a worst situation financially than the District Council. It is in the first phase of budget setting and has to reduce its spend by £40m. Each department must take a % share of that. Social Care budget will have to be cut.

Regarding the situation at Side Moor Picnic area, C/Cllr Yabsley suggested that KPC emails Joe Deasy and asks him to clarify the status of the tenant and the possible sub-letting.

Regarding horse riders warning signs which had been previously discussed, C/Cllr Yabsley did not think there was any money budgeted for signs. The Clerk will contact Richard Sables to let him know what is wanted and to see if there is any funding available. KPC could buy the signs themselves, if the signs and locations were approved by the Highways Department.

It was reported that the East Knowstone finger marker has fallen off at the signpost at Holy Moor Cross – C/Cllr Yabsley has put it on his list.

21/129 Members Reports

- a) **Highways** – It was reported that the police had issued 3000 speeding fines on the A361 between South Molton and Barnstaple where the roadworks are being undertaken.
- b) **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – Cllr Pomfret – nothing to report re. Beaples Stone. The footpaths survey

Approved

is almost complete and there is nothing major to report.

- c) **Moors Management Association** – Cllr Maidment - An email had been received from the Moors Management secretary about the suggestion for a bridleway to go across the moor and under the link road which will be discussed at the next Moors Management meeting. There are seven features that need to be taken into consideration, including the possible impact on the RPA claim. It is not a straight forward process and Natural England and Devon Wildlife Trust would have to be consulted.
- d) **Welcome Pack** - Cllr Maidment – none delivered since the last meeting. The information needs to be amended to remove information about the community bus which no longer stops in Knowstone. It was queried whether information about dog fouling should be included.
- e) **Emergency Plan** – Cllr Parry will share the spreadsheet with all the information collected with the Chairman and clerk. He is waiting to hear back from the British Heart Foundation about the CPR and defibrillator training they provide.
- f) **Parish Hall** – the committee has planned events for next 6 months. There will be a Film Night on 24th February with North Devon Hog Roast van in the hall car park between 5.00 and 7.30 p.m. providing food. Knowstone residents are invited to come to the next committee meeting on Tuesday 8th February to put forward any suggestions they may have relating to the Queens Jubilee celebration in June; or suggestions can be submitted via the Contact Us page of the Knowstone website.
- g) **PCC Report** - Two services are taking place per month in Knowstone church (2nd and 4th Sundays). The Edgemoor Group of churches is in the process of recruiting for a new team vicar. There will be a group joint service, attended by the Archdeacon, on Sunday 6th February, at 10.00 a.m. in Bishops Nympton Village Hall.

21/130 Casual vacancy for a Parish Councillor – no expressions of interest have been received. There are notices on the website and on the Parish noticeboards.

21/131 Business at the Chairman's discretion – Cllr Stanbury asked whether the Council could meet every other month rather than monthly, as other larger parish councils do. This will be put on next month's agenda for discussion.

21/132 The date, time and venue of the next meeting were confirmed as Tuesday 22nd February 2022 at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

The meeting closed at 21.23.