

Knowstone Parish Council – Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th November 2024 at 7.30pm at Knowstone Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Pomfret (Chair), Parry, Clarke, Maidment, and Stanbury.

Jane Mills, Clerk to the Council

Cllr Yabsley County Councillor

Cllr Milton District Councillor

1 Member of the public

Prayers were led by Cllr Pomfret

- 24/11/074 Apologies**
Apologies were received from Cllr McGregor
- 24/11/075 Declarations of interest**
To receive declarations of personal interests and disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) in respect of items on this agenda. Members were reminded that all interests should be declared at the beginning of the meeting and prior to the item being discussed.
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- 24/11/076 To agree the agenda as published**
It was **resolved** to agree the agenda as published
Proposed: Cllr Pomfret, seconded: Cllr Maidment (All in favour)
- 24/11/077 To confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 24th September 2024**
It was **resolved** to confirm and sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 24th September 2024
Proposed: Cllr Pomfret, seconded: Cllr Clarke (All in favour)
- 24/11/078 County Councillor Report**
The County Councillor spoke about the farms owned by DCC. The new Council Leader has made significant savings and these will be used to help highways, it is felt that the benefits will be felt in the next budget. Cllrs raised the issue of the lack of notification of road closures. The County Cllr advised that it is the responsibility of the traffic management companies to advise on road closures. Cattle grids and some fencing are in need of repair. The County Councillor noted the dangerous passing place on the way to the moor from the village as discussed under public participation.
- 24/11/079 District Councillor Report**
The District Cllr spoke about the Batsworthy Wind Farm Devon Communities together, there is funding available and new committee members are being sought. NDC have started work on the local plan and are looking for new development sites, to fulfil the 1400 properties they are required to build a year.

Talks are ongoing to balance the upcoming budget. National Insurance changes have added significantly to costs. There are recent changes to agricultural planning applications.

It is hoped the Link Rd opening will take place soon. The new recycling centre is working efficiently. Devon is not on the first list to become a Unitary Authority, At the last NDC meeting there was a vote to write to the government about its decisions and their effect on the rural economy. Meetings are currently poorly attended.

24/11/080 Public Participation

In accordance with Standing Order 3 (f) members of the public are permitted to make representations and ask questions, the period set aside shall not exceed 15 minutes. It should be noted that answers will generally not be given at the meeting where the questions are delivered, each member of the public is entitled to speak once.

A member of the public spoke about concerns with the increased volume of traffic and the overgrown passing place near West Bowden Farm. This is frequently flooded on the left hand bend and has become very dangerous.

24/11/081 To receive a report from the Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk circulated a brief report with financial information, a bank reconciliation a list of payments and information on go.uk domain names. Gov.uk domain names will be a further agenda item in January with additional information being circulated.

Admin	Scribe Accts 14.40
Staff Costs	256.40
Staff Costs HMRC	70.67
Admin Travel and exp	£106.00
Admin	Scribe accts 14.40
Website	£114.00
Open Spaces Planting	<u>13.00</u>
Total	£588.87

It was **resolved** to agree the payments as listed above and accept the reports
Proposed: Cllr Pomfret, seconded: Cllr Parry (All in favour)

Action Points: Make payments, agenda item Gov.uk domains

24/11/082 To consider draft budget proposals and precept proposals

Having considered all reserves both general and earmarked, it was **resolved** to accept the budget proposals and set the precept at £4076 for 25-26

Proposed: Cllr Pomfret, seconded: Cllr Parry (all in favour)

Action Point: submit precept request to NDC

24/11/083 To consider Action Points

Action Points were noted, and the Clerk was asked to write to NDC planning, to confirm that tree felling in Wild Wood was permitted
Members agreed to note the Action Points

Action Point: Letter to NDC planning re tree felling

- 2411/084 To consider website issues**
 Members considered a report received from the web administrator. It was agreed that the Chair and Parish Clerk would examine the report and agree what needs updating or changing. They will then liaise with the administrator. The Parish Clerk will also prepare a document/records retention policy for consideration at the next meeting.
Action Points: Chair and Parish Clerk to examine the report and agree amendments, liaising with the administrator. Parish Clerk to prepare a retention policy
- 24/11/085 To consider planning applications**
 Application 79262 and 79245
 Moortown Barton Knowstone, South Molton EX36 4RZ
 Installation of solar panels and air source heat pumps
 It was **resolved** that Knowstone Parish Council support the application provided that NDC Heritage Officer is satisfied with the plans
 Proposed: Cllr Clarke, seconded: Cllr Pomfret (all in favour)
Action Point: Write to NDC planning
- 24/11/086 To consider the offer of a free landmark tree from Devon Wildlife Trust.**
 Members agreed to accept the offer with a preference for a cherry or crab apple
Action Point: write to Devon Wildlife Trust
- 24/11/087 To receive Councillor reports**
- a **Highways Cllr McGregor** no update
 - b **Footpaths & Beaples Stone** – The hunting gate and railings on the East Knowstone side of Shapcott Lane (by the Crooked Oak) has been replaced by a full-length metal gate and part railings at the request of the owner of Shapcott Barton. The gate was provided by the owner of Shapcott Barton and the work completed by DCC as requested by the owner on 21st October. In 2016 a hunting gate and railings were put in at this point on the footpath and prior to this there were railings and a stile in situ. There has not been a full-sized gate there for over ten years.
 - c **Moors Management Association – Cllr Maidment**
 AGM is happening shortly
 - d. **Welcome Pack - Cllr Maidment**, One pack has been delivered and another will be delivered to a recently sold property shortly
 - e. **Emergency Plan – Cllr Parry** all up to date
 - f. **Parish Hall – Cllr Pomfret** report attached
 - g. **Police Advocate – Cllr Pomfret** nothing to report
 - h. **Snow Warden – Cllr Stanbury** plenty of salt is available
- 2411/088 To consider the draft newsletter**
 It was **resolved** to accept the draft newsletter as presented and proceed with publication
 Proposed: Cllr Pomfret, seconded: Cllr Parry (All in favour)

2411/089 To consider response to a consultation on remote meetings and proxy voting.

Members wish to respond that they wish to see all options retained.

2411/090 To note the revised salary scales from April 24 as agreed with NALC and the unions

Members agreed to note the information

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9 46pm

Signed.....Dated.....

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