

# CHURCH KNOWLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Church Knowle Parish Council  
held at Church Knowle Village Hall  
on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

---

## **PRESENT**

### **Council Members:**

Cllr Mr Derek Burt  
Cllr Mrs Kathryn Best  
Cllr Mr Ian Hollard  
Cllr Mr Colin Page  
Cllr Mrs Hazel Parker (in Chair until Election of new  
Chairman)  
Cllr Mr Anthony Higgens (In Chair from Election of  
new Chairman)  
Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Edwards  
Cllr Mr Leslie Bugler  
Cllr Mrs Jayne Wilson

### **Clerk to the Council:**

Dr. A. Wallace

### **C. K Parishioners & Members of the public:**

Mr Jeremy Goodall (Parishioner)  
Cllr Mr Malcolm Barnes (PCC)  
Cllr Malcolm Lovell (DCC)

## **APOLOGIES**

148.15 No Apologies for absence had been received by the Clerk before the commencement of the meeting which was then opened by the retiring Chairman.

## **PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

149.15 Cllr Burt brought up the matter of a Treeworks Application he had examined. Because this matter would be discussed as a separate item later in the meeting, Members noted his early comments and the Chairman advised that Cllr Burt would report further later in the meeting when a decision could be reached on the Parish Council's views with regard to the application. No vote was taken at this juncture.

## **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS OF COUNCILLORS FOR THE YEAR 2015-2016**

- 150.15 The Clerk advised Members of the need to complete a form issued by Purbeck District Council on the above matter as soon as possible.

## **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2015-2016**

- 151.15 Councillor Parker's term of office having ended, she left the Chair and the retiring Vice-chairman took the Chair. The Clerk advised on the legality functioning of the Parish Council in the event of a "rolling Chairman" whereby there would be an election every few months as a means of the Parish Council not "swamping" the Chairman with duties. This had previously been suggested by some Members. Cllr Page opined that the Council should have an annual Chairman and such continuity would not occur with a "rolling Chairman". He suggested that the retiring Chairman should be the new Vice-chairman to assist continuity. Cllr Higgins suggested that a benefit of having a "rolling Chair" would be helpful in the new Chairman being able to spread commitments. Cllr Parker was asked if she would agree to being the Vice-chairman for the year if proposed, seconded and invited. She advised Members she would be prepared to do so for a year. There was then general discussion amongst Members about the perceived attitude of the County and District councils to the functioning of, and expressions of opinion made by, parish councils. Further discussion followed and Cllr Higgins was asked if he would be prepared to act as Chairman if invited. He agreed. Cllr Parker proposed that Cllr Higgins be Chairman of the Parish Council for the period of 12 months from that point in the meeting. The motion was seconded by Cllr Page. Members unanimously elected, without abstention, Cllr Anthony Higgins as Chairman of the Parish Council of Church Knowle for the year 2015-2016.
- 152.15 Cllr Wilson rescinded the Chair to Cllr Higgins who then continued as Chairman.
- 153.15 Cllr Higgins proposed a Vote of Thanks to Cllr Parker for all the work she had done over the years as Chairman and this was seconded by Cllr Page. The motion was unanimously carried and all Members thanked Cllr Parker for her years as an "excellent Chairman" and pillar of the Parish Council. Cllr Parker thanked all for their kind thoughts and support over the years.

## **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2015-2016**

- 154.15 Cllr Mrs Jayne Wilson having retired, Cllr Higgins asked Cllr Parker if it was acceptable to her that she act as Vice-chairman for the year 2015-2016 if so elected. Cllr Parker agreed that she would be happy to do so. Cllr Higgins asked the meeting if there were any other members wishing to stand for the position of Vice-chairman. There were none. He proposed that Cllr Parker be Vice-chairman of the Parish Council for the period of 12 months from the date of the meeting. This motion was seconded by Cllr Edwards. The motion was carried unanimously without abstention. Cllr Mrs Hazel Parker was elected Vice-Chairman.

## **CONFIRMATION OF POSITION OF CO-OPTED MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL**

- 155.15 Cllr Leslie Bugler of Church Knowle, having been co-opted on to the Council by election by Members at the April 2015 meeting of the Parish Council, was formally asked if he was still willing to act as a Councillor of the Parish after having had a "cooling-off" period of 1 month. He confirmed his wish to continue.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR MEETING MATTERS**

- 156.15 Cllr Parker, Higgins and Best declared a matter of interest regarding a past planning matter concerning an extant planning appeal against a decision made by Purbeck District Council regarding Bucknowle Farm, at this point in the proceedings.

## **APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS "SPECIAL INTEREST" POSITIONS**

- 157.15 The following Members were appointed to positions of special interest to assist in presentation of parish information to Members & Parishioners at meetings.

### **SPECIAL INTEREST**

Tree Works  
Highways & Ditches  
Rights of Way (Church Knowle etc)  
Rights of Way (Furzebrook etc) & Cycling  
Planning Applications, etc.  
DAPTC Liaison

### **COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Derek Burt  
Cllr Derek Burt  
Cllr Kathy Best  
Cllr Ian Hollard  
Cllr Les Bugler  
Cllrs Colin Page & Jayne Wilson

Parenco, Imeys & Viridor Liaison  
Affordable Housing Matters  
Swanage Railway Liaison  
Corfe BOAT & CK Unclassified Road  
Dorset Police & Police & Crime Commr. Liaison  
Village Halls in Parish & CK Reading Room

Cllr Colin Page  
Cllrs Colin Page & Les Bugler  
Cllr Colin Page  
Cllrs Billa Edwards & Hazel Parker  
Cllr Tony Higgens  
Cllrs Hazel Parker & Jayne Wilson

- 158.15 The Clerk advised Members that pecuniary and other interests must be declared when Members are acting in the above positions. Members noted his comments and advice.

### **MINUTES OF THE 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2015 COUNCIL MEETING**

- 159.15 The Minutes having been circulated and read by Members were proposed by Cllr Burt as being a true record of proceedings of the meeting. A typographical error was pointed out during the proposition that in Minute 128.15 the footpath concerned should be read as "30" and not as typed "3". This was accepted and the minutes amended. Cllr Burt's motion was then seconded by Cllr Page and carried unanimously without abstention.

### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2015 MEETING**

- 160.15 A query regarding any progress relating to discussions under Minute 138.15 was made. The Clerk answered that there had been no progress to date.
- 162.15 A query regarding any progress relating to discussions under Minute 132.15 was made. The Clerk answered that he had no information regarding the uptake of a new tenancy at Long Ground Cottages

### **POSTPONEMENTS OF LESSER MATTERS TO MAY COUNCIL MEETING**

- 163.15 No postponements were proposed at this stage of the meeting

### **PLANNING MATTERS**

- 164.15 *APN – East Creech Farm* – Construction of new agricultural barn. There were comments from several Members about the development. It was suggested that such a development would be extremely visible and that it was hoped that **PDC would call the plans in for intervention.**
- 165.15 *TWA – 2015/0061 – Wild Rose Cottage, East Creech* – Felling of Sycamore tree. Cllr Burt gave a report that he had examined the application and site of the proposed felling. The tree appeared dangerous and at the very least required severe pollarding. Following discussions, Cllr Edwards proposed that the Council should have no objection to the proposals submitted and this was seconded by Cllr Best. The motion was carried. The Clerk advised Members he would communicate this to Purbeck District Council.

### **CEMETERY MEMORIAL APPLICATIONS**

- 166.15 There were none.

### **UNLAWFUL DEVELOPMENTS**

- 167.15 There were no unlawful developments noted in the Parish

### **PAST PLANNING**

- 168.15 Progress of planning applications dealt with at previous meetings of the Parish Council, and appeals against PDC planning decisions, including that relating to Bucknowle Farm were noted. **Cllr Parker repeated her declaration of interest in this matter as a tenant of the farm concerned. Cllrs Higgens repeated his declaration as did Cllr Best.**

169.15 The Clerk advised Members he would send the Council's comments by e-mail to the Dept of the Environment's Planning Inspectorate at Bristol and would contact them by telephone to confirm receipt within the time period allowed for submissions. Members then discussed their submission. It was decided amongst Members that a special extraordinary meeting should be held to enable the Council to give suitable time for discussion of its views on the appeal. The Clerk advised Members on their past submission to Purbeck District Council in which they stated they had no objections to the applicant being given a certificate of lawful use for the farmland. It was proposed by Cllr Page that discussion on the matter be postponed to an extraordinary meeting. The Clerk intervened that it must be sooner than later to be within time for formal submissions to be made, but at the same time to enable Parishioners and members of the public to attend and give their views during public discussion. He suggested that a meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May would give such time and be within the Law. Notices would be put up on 13<sup>th</sup> May to give lawful period of notice of the meeting and also allow sufficient time to notify the Inspectorate of the Council's views before the "cut off" date. **The Chairman adjourned discussion on the matter of the Bucknowle Farm appeal until a special extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council at Church Knowle Reading Room on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm. All Members agreed to the adjournment.**

## **HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

170.15 **Cllr Burt** reported on an overhanging tree at East Creech Triangle. He would contact the farmer and ask him to cut the overhanging branch.

171.15 Cllr Lovell (DCC) intervened from the public area to advise Members that verge cutting will commence in designated areas after nesting has been completed by wild birds and rare plant seeds have set.

172.15 The Clerk advised he had no further information on the current highways maintenance list.

173.15 The Clerk reported that it was still unlikely that DCC would agree to the imposition of a lower speed limit along Grange Road, but he would repeat the concerns to DCC and advise them that there may be support from Imerys and other commercial road users. He also advised Members on progress of the other proposed speed limits for Church Knowle and Furzebrook and would report back as soon as he had any news.

174.15 The clerk reported on progress of discussions with DCC about the badger sett adjacent to the road at Bucknowle with regard to soil clearance and inspection of carriageway damage. Work on resettlement of the badger family could not start until about October.

175.15 Cllr Burt enquired about cost of replacing the fingerposts at East Creech and Grange Road. It was suggested that perhaps Cllr Lovell could allocate some of his Councillor's budget for special parish projects to assist in financing new or repaired posts. It was pointed out during the discussion that several Dorset County Councillors had so made use of a proportion of their budgets. Cllr Burt advised Members that there may be a local resident who may contribute. The Clerk advised that Portland Prison had made fingerposts as part of prisoner rehabilitation for Dorset AONB and he would try and get more information. **Cllr Lovell** mentioned that he may look into the possibility of using a proportion of the "Councillor's budget", but that there was not much available due to county council constraints.

176.15 Cllr Best was concerned about a hole in the road at the zig-zag at Cucknowle Hill. The Clerk advised her that County had been out to examine the damaged surface some time ago following a report from CKPC but had considered it insignificant to road safety despite the Clerk having indicated that it was symptomatic of collapse of an area of the escarpment and could only get worse. **He agreed to report the matter again.**

177.15 Discussion moved on to the cycling event which took part on 10<sup>th</sup> May. It was generally felt that organisation had improved and that the commercial organiser appeared to have taken on board some of the suggestions previously made. Cllr Edwards pointed out a road safety issue in that the event began early in the morning during which time there had been a fog bank but eventers did not have warning lights. There was also concern shown about the lack of clearing up of litter dropped by cyclists. Further during the discussion Cllr Parker commented that whilst there were marshalls at the A351 Corfe Castle junction to Church Knowle she noted that not one "biker" took any notice of their instructions. It was also noted that there was a need for large identity numbers on the backs of eventers so that miscreants could be properly identified. **This suggestion would be included in a report which it was suggested be sent to the organisers.**

- 178.15 Cllr Parker reported on 4X4s using the Corfe Castle BOAT to access the unclassified road along the ridge in CK parish on the early May bank holiday week-end. They appeared to have been driving with some more consideration than in the past.
- 179.15 Cllr Parker suggested that the Steeple TRO gate be brought into Chuch Knowle parish boundary and it is locked by the Parish during closed season. There was general discussion about key holders. The Chairman felt that the discussion about the TRO was a cyclic phenomenon and that the enforcement of the TRO was a county matter. Cllr Wilson asked what would be effect of CKPC taking no action regarding the TRO and it was agreed that probably there would be no effect on the TRO management and vehicle movements. Cllr Page proposed that the Parish Council take no action with regard to the TRO management. This was seconded by Cllr Best and the motion carried with a vote of 8 Members voting for the motion and 1 voting against.

### **AFFORDABLE HOMES**

- 180.15 Cllr Page had nothing further to report on locating a site for affordable houses in the Parish. Cllr Bugler asked if the farmer who owned the field opposite the animal sanctuary had been approached to release that land for affordable housing. Cllrs Parker and Page advised he had been approached but was not interested. Cllr Lovell advised the meeting that the government may be making more money available for affordable homes and it may make landowners more amenable to the idea of land disposal. Following discussion, Cllr Parker advised the meeting that she would approach the owners again.

### **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

- 181.15 The monthly accounts were presented for examination. Cllr Hollard proposed that the accounts were in good order and should be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Parker. The motion was passed and the accounts were agreed and accepted.
- 182.15 The Chairman presented the monthly invoices to be paid including one for £49.22p which had been presented during the meeting. They were examined and Cllr Hollard proposed that the invoices be paid. This was seconded by Cllr Parker. The motion was passed and the invoices agreed for payment.
- 183.15 The matter relating to future maintenance of the playground and playing field was discussed and it was proposed by Cllr Parker and seconded by Cllr Page that that Cllr Bugler be mandated to purchase new nets and be re-imbursed for the same by the Parish Council and continue to maintain the playground and playing field.
- 184.15 The Clerk reported that the identification card processing was in progress and that he had received more photos from Members.
- 185.15 Cllr Parker had nothing more to report at this time on the matter of insurance quotation.

### **DAPTC**

- 186.15 Cllr Page told Members he had nothing to report. Cllr Parker informed Members about transparency grants for parishes to set up their own websites to enable more people access to minutes and reports on what their local council is doing. Studland PC was setting up a website and it might be worthwhile speaking to them. The Clerk advised he would contact Cllr Parsons of that parish council to get more information to enable CKPC to do the same.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 187.15 The Clerk reported on correspondence received. Members noted the temporary closure of Wareham post office and alternative arrangements.

### **BEST KEPT VILLAGES COMPETITION**

- 188.15 The Clerk advised that the inspectors were likely to visit very soon. Cllr Parker told Members that weeds in the village could result in lower marks.

There was further discussion about the need to overhaul the cemetery seats, weed the village hall car park and other public areas before arrival of inspectors.

### **OTHER MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE**

189.15 The Chairman had no matters to present to Members.

### **ITEMS FOR MAY AGENDA**

190.15 It was confirmed by the Clerk that the following items should be added to the July meeting agenda:

- Council Insurance – quote from Insurance company – Clerk to report on current status
- Local council transparency and website

### **CLOSING MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

191.15 Cllr Edwards was concerned about motorhomes and caravans parking overnight in the car park at the top of Grange Hill in Steeple parish. She suggested that the Parish Council formally write to Steeple Parish Chairman to get them removed. Cllr Burt asked who managed the car park and was advised that it was owned by Dorset County Council. There was general discussion with a general view being expressed that the matter was for Steeple Parish Meeting to deal with. There was some consensus that a letter could be written to the Parish Meeting expressing the feelings but this could be discussed at the next meeting as it was not on the main of this meeting.

192.15 Cllr Parker reminded Members that there was to be a pig roast at CK village hall on Saturday at 6.30pm to celebrate the new village hall roof. Tickets were £7.00p each.

193.15 Cllr Best commented on the latest closure of the Wareham – Swanage road as the result of an “incident”. There was no proper one-way system in place and police had very poor traffic directing skills. She felt that the closure of local police stations had resulted in the importation of constables and support workers from other areas (eg Bournemouth) who had little or no idea of the ability of local roads to cope with large vehicles. She suggested that this should be brought up at the next police liaison meeting. The Chairman agreed he would.

195.15 The Chairman then closed the meeting at 9.35 pm. and advised Members that the next ordinary meeting would be at Furzebrook Village Hall on 09<sup>th</sup> June 2015. He also reminded Members that an Extraordinary Meeting would be held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at the Reading Room commencing 7.30pm to discuss the Council’s submission to the planning appeal regarding Bucknowle Farm.