

# CHURCH KNOWLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Furzebrook Village Parish Council  
held at Furzebrook Village Hall on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2014

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## PRESENT

### **Council Members:**

Cllr Mr Derek Burt  
Cllr Mrs Kathryn Best  
Cllr Mr Ian Hollard  
Cllr Mr Colin Page  
Cllr Mrs Jayne Wilson  
Cllr Hazel Parker  
Cllr Elizabeth (Billa) Edwards  
Cllr Mr Anthony Higgins

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

Mr Andrew Robson – Arne Parishioner  
Mr David Wade – (Poole Racers) – Wareham  
Mr Mark Singleton  
Mr Raoul Rothmann  
Mr Andrew Philps  
Mrs Lesley Elliott – Parishioner  
Miss Jennifer Barnard – Parishioner  
Mr Vince Elliott - Parishioner

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

Dr. A. Wallace

## APOLOGIES

215.14 No apologies had been received by the Chairman

## PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

216.14 Public discussion began with Mr Robson giving a statement to Members and other attendees about his and his colleagues in attendance with him interest in cycling and his and their concern about an article which had appeared in the Corfe Valley News about cycling events in the Parish and the Parish Council's perceived attitude to those partaking in them. He felt that the discussion reported in the CVN was inflammatory against cyclists and was surprised that no "cyclist" had been invited to attend the meeting with the Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner as reported in CVN. Several of the sports cyclists present expressed concern that the CLPC were "lumping all cyclists together" and that the September edition of the Corfe Valley News seemed to "put cyclists down". Discussion took place about the effect of the cycle "sportifs" organised by commercial companies; apparently for profit, and it appeared that the sport cyclists attending the meeting were not in support of the companies mentioned (ie Wiggle/UK Cycling Events and Pendragon). CKPC and the visitors agreed that there had been no real problems with the organisers of charity "family" events, but the large sportifs with several hundred eventers taking part on the routes which included the narrow roads in the Parish and adjoining parishes did cause serious problems to other road users and farmers, etc trying to run their businesses. It was also explained that during the summer the roads of the parish had to contend with caravans and motor-homes, the drivers of which were probably unaware of such events taking place and having to contend with them.

Mr Philips expressed concern that CKPC were using the Corfe alley News "in a way it is not supposed to be used, ie for political purposes" and "to use it to lump all cyclists together and end up with road rage against cyclists." The Chairman felt this statement was completely unwarranted and explained that the Council has to give an account of its meetings. Mr Philips retorted that the report of the meeting in CVN was "not a civilised way to behave in a parish magazine." The Chairman suggested that it is the editor's decision as to what finally appears in the magazine.

After further heated discussion one of the Church Knowle Parishioners stated that his lawful use of his road had been impeded seriously by event cyclists and whilst he had no problems with cyclists in general it was the sheer number of "events" and large numbers of cycling eventers, many of whom break the Highway Code, which cause the annoyance and distress of the Parishioners.

Cllr Burt stated that the CKPC had no objections to cyclists and cycling, but the Parish Council had serious concerns and issues with the cycling events, time trial and sportifs which appeared to be races but under another name.. He wondered if the terms which excluded the word 'race' were purely for the benefit of the commercial organisers.

Mr Rothmann suggested that that CKPC should deal with Wiggle and Pendragon and Members agreed. Cllr Page asked if Wiggle and Pendragon co-ordinated with local cycling clubs. Mr Wade explained that whilst he had organised cycle races, in Church Knowle and neighbouring parishes, which were governed by Law as races, Wiggles events were not covered. He went on to explain the process of organising road races which had to be authorised by the highways authority and constabulary. Members explained that they were well aware of the process and that was why they had such concerns about the events organised or "sold" by Wiggle & Pendragon. Mr Singleton interjected that whilst those on organised races generally took notice of the brief for such events, the people on the Wiggle events generally did not.

Questions were then raised about insurance cover for "events, "sportifs" and "races" and it was explained that whilst those taking part in races had to be insured, those on "events" etc., did not. It was estimated that only about 20% of those entering "spotifs" had any insurance apart from their own personal injury.

There followed general discussion about "the way ahead" and Cllr Higgens paraphrased the feelings of the Councillors in that they were not at odds with the cyclists attending the meeting. Those cyclists attending agreed that a greater amount of communication was needed and Cllr Burt was given as the CKPC Councillor contact as well as the Parish Clerk.

The Chairman thanked the cyclists for attending and clearing the air and the business of the meeting then continued. The cyclists left the meeting.

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

- 216.14 Cllr Higgins declared an interest in a planning application regarding a certificate of lawful use for land at Bucknowle Farm which was subject to an appeal in that he had sent a letter as a private individual supporting the appellant. It was possible that the matter may be discussed later in the meeting during Members' discussion period. The interest was duly noted by Members and Parishioners attending.
- 217.14 Cllr Parker declared an interest in a planning application regarding a certificate of lawful use for land at Bucknowle Farm which was subject to an appeal in that she had to bring the matter, and an article which had appeared in The Purbeck Gazette, up for discussion later in the meeting during Members' discussion period. The interest was duly noted by Members and Parishioners attending.

#### **MINUTES OF THE 09<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014 COUNCIL MEETING**

- 218.14 The Minutes, which had been previously circulated amongst Members, were read. Cllr Page proposed that the Minutes were a true record of the proceedings. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hollard. Councillors unanimously agreed with the motion.

#### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 09<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014 MEETING**

- 219.14 There were no matters arising from the Minutes

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

- 220.14 No matters of the Agenda were postponed for discussion in November at this point in the proceedings.

## **PLANNING MATTERS**

- 221.14 **06/14/0458 – 162 Furzebrook Road - Change to planning permission 6/2013/0455 (Raise roof height and erect front and rear extensions) to allow amended tree protection scheme.**

Members heard that the trees concerned in the application (which had been received too late by the Parish Council for adequate examination and discussion before the previous meeting and had, therefore, been postponed for discussion to this meeting) appeared to have already been felled. Members unanimously felt that discussion was futile but it was proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Burt that the Clerk should contact Purbeck District Council for an explanation. This was unanimously agreed to by Members.

- 222.14 An application for addition of wording to an existing memorial stone to a deceased Parishioner, Mrs Dulcie Higgens, was examined and Members agreed to a proposal by Cllr Wilson, seconded by Cllr Page that the application be approved and permission given

## **UNLAWFUL DEVELOPMENTS**

- 223.14 There were no unlawful developments noted in the Parish

## **PAST PLANNING**

- 224.14 Progress of applications and appeals against PDC planning decisions were noted.
- 225.14 The Clerk advised he was still awaiting acknowledgement of by the Planning Inspectorate of the Council's objections to the wind farm in Swanage Bay and English Channel off the Isle of Wight.

## **HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

- 226.14 It was reported that the Highways hedging contractor was due to begin his cuts within the Parish within the following weeks.
- 227.14 The Clerk reported that trail bikes continue to use the BOAT at week-ends, especially on Sundays, and Cllr Parker reported that they were not keeping to the BOAT and unclassified road along the ridge but were also riding and driving across the pastures. One of the Members commented that at least the closed the gates behind them.. Members were pleased that, apparently, no field gates had been left open by the users.
- 228.14 The Chairman reported on a working party NFU and Parishioners meeting she attended about drawing up suggestions for the control of cycling "sportifs" in Dorset, etc. The group had submitted its initial recommendations to the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) and had copied its content to the local MP from whom she had received comments. The group was still awaiting a reply from the Constabulary. She read out the minutes of the meeting and the contents of the letter to the PCC and Cllr Burt commented positively on the documents. There then followed discussion about the items in the earlier public discussion period. Cllr Page suggested that a liaison group be set up consisting of parish representatives and the Purbeck Pedalators and Poole Wheelers to deal with the question of sportifs organised by commercial companies. Cllr Higgens suggested that the PCC should invite reps from the Wheelers and Pedalators to join the working group previously reported on by Cllr Parker. There was then further discussion and the Chairman suggested

the matter of sports was an on-going problem that could be discussed at future meetings. A copy of an article in the Daily Mail about cyclists in London was then passed around for interest.

### **AFFORDABLE HOMES**

229.14 Cllr Page reported that Raglan Housing Assn had drawn up a new set of plans for affordable housing development in Church Knowle. There was no timescale as to when work would be completed as the attitude of the Mgt Green Trust was the rate determining step. Cllr Best wondered if there was any land in Furzebrook which could be made available as an exception site. Cllr. Page suggested he would be looking at all opportunities.

### **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

230.14 The Clerk presented the monthly accounts for examination. Cllr Hollard proposed that the accounts were in good order and should be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Edwards. The motion was passed and the accounts were agreed and accepted.

231.14 The Chairman presented the monthly invoices to be paid. They were examined and Cllr Hollard proposed that the invoices be paid. This was seconded by Cllr Edwards. The motion was passed and the invoices agreed for payment.

232.14 The matter relating to future maintenance of the playground and playing field following resignation of Les Bugler as a Councillor was discussed. Mr Bugler had presented a recompense invoice for petrol he had used in the gang-mower. It was proposed by Cllr Page and seconded by Cllr Edwards that the invoice be paid and that further discussion on the matter of playground and playing field maintenance be adjourned until the November meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

233.14 The Clerk reported on a letter from the Boundary Commission for England & Wales asking for comments to proposals to alter electoral ward boundaries of parishes, etc in Dorset. Members noted his report and decided without vote to take no action.

### **DAPTC**

234.14 There was nothing to report from DAPTC

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

235.14 The Clerk reported on correspondence received. Members noted his report and decided, without vote to take no action.

### **OTHER MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE**

236.14 The Chairman had no matters to present to Members.

### **CLOSING MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

237.14 Cllr Page asked if the CKPC would be able to contribute any money for the upkeep of a private road from the Church Knowle Village Hall to the valley road through the village. It was explained that the Parish Council did not have the power to do so and that the upkeep of a private road was a matter for the owners of the properties adjacent to the road to pay their share of the upkeep. This included the village hall committee, but the Parish Council would be unable to do so. Cllr Higgens explained that there is a standard formula available for calculating road usage and share of responsibilities.

238.14 Cllr Parker had previously circulated copies of the October edition of the Purbeck Gazette in which it appeared that a possible allegation of corruption with regard to the Parish Council and Chairman had been alleged. This was in relation to an application for a Certificate of Lawful Use which had been applied for by the occupant of Bucknowle Farm for continued use of two fields for camping, an activity which had been occurring over for a considerable number of years by what were exempted organisations such as the Boys Brigade, etc. Whilst no names had been mentioned, the campsite and occupants of the farm (and thus applicants) could be easily identified and the manner in which the article had been written could in the Chairman's opinion, be perceived as indicating possible corruption in the Parish Council. Cllr Parker asked for advice on how the Parish Council should react and whether or not the Council's barrister, Mr Wragg, should be instructed to take action against the publisher and author of the article.

239.14 Cllr Parker left the Chair for the proceedings and Cllr Wilson (Vice-chairman) continued.

At this point, the Clerk advised that the Council's barrister could only be instructed by the Council if it appeared that that office-holders or employees of the authority were being slandered or libelled with regard to their position in the authority. He also advised Members that there would be little point in registering a complaint with the successor to the Press Complaints Commission as he had found out that the publishers of the Purbeck Gazette had not "signed up" to the standards. Therefore, they could not be subject to investigation or penalty.

Cllr Page suggested that whilst the article was "scurrilous" and should be treated with the utmost contempt it deserved, the Council should ignore the article and that any reply should come from the individual affected. Cllr Higgins took issue with the fourth paragraph. He opined that the Council had acted within the law and there was no evidence that the Council had acted incorrectly. Cllr Best interjected that she wondered why, if the reporter's informants were so concerned, why hadn't they bothered to come to any meetings to voice their concerns. It appeared also that the author of the article had not even bothered to attempt to obtain any form of balance by asking for comments from the Council. Cllr Higgins also pointed out that any planning matters relating to Bucknowle Farm which had come to the notice of the Parish Council were fully discussed and the Chairman had relinquished her position to the Vice Chairman or other Councillor and had left the proceedings whilst discussion and voting took place.

As a point of information, the Clerk advised Members that Cllr Parker had advised the Council about her application for Certificate of Lawful Use, something which Purbeck DC had not, and that her application had been noted and discussed at the Parish Council's meeting. It was also the case that the District Council did not invite comments from parish councils and the matters were delegated to PDC officers for decision. He also pointed out that because the Parish Council was not a statutory consultee, the District Council would not take its comments into consideration.

Cllr Best mentioned that the PDC planning website does not mention when planning enforcement notices are taken out against occupants.

240.14 Cllr Burt wished to express his complete confidence in Cllr Parker as Chairman and this was unanimously agreed to by all Members without a formal vote being required by the acting Chairman. Cllr Burt suggested that the Parish Council wait until the Purbeck Gazette or its reporter pens another scurrilous or defaming article before taking any action and it should ignore the article for the time being. At this point, Cllr Wilson proposed that the Parish Council takes no further action in relation to the article concerned. This was seconded by Cllr Hollard and the motion unanimously agreed to by the Members taking part in the vote, Cllr Parker not being party to the vote.

241.14 Cllr Parker was then invited to take the Chair again.

242.14

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35 pm. and advised Members that the next meeting would be at Church Knowle Reading Room on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 commencing at 7.30pm.