

Minutes of a meeting of Church Knowle Parish Council
held at Church Knowle Reading Room
on Tuesday 12th January 2016

PRESENT

Council Members:

Cllr Mr Derek Burt
Cllr Mrs Kathryn Best
Cllr Mr Colin Page
Cllr Mrs Hazel Parker - Vice-chairman
Cllr Mr Anthony Higgins - Chairman
Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Edwards

C. K Parishioners & Members of the public:

Mr Vince Elliott
Mr Alan Bongard ~ 1 Long Ground Cottages
Mrs Jean Bongard ~ Ditto
Mr R Snudden ~ 14 Church Knowle
Mrs V Snudden ~ Ditto
Mrs M Wrixon ~ 16 Church Knowle

Cllr Mike Lovell (DCC) 20.50

APOLOGIES

001.16 Apologies for absence had been received from the Clerk Dr Alastair Wallace, Cllrs Mr Les Bugler, Mrs Jayne Wilson and PDC Cllr Mr Malcolm Barnes.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

002.16 Public discussion began with Mr Vince Elliott expressing his concerns with the flooding adjoining his property in Furzebrook Road and the lack of response from DCC. As the owner of the property that was of traditional cob construction there was the potential for significant structural damage to the cob from floodwater. He had informed DCC of the recurring problem on numerous occasions; DCC surveyor had had looked at the existing 2 gullies and manholes. Mr Elliott was of the opinion that the bore of the under-road pipe was too small and that the metal grill had been removed allowing debris to accumulate in the pipe. He requested CKPC support his concerns, write to DCC Highways and lobby for a permanent solution to the flooding problem. It was also pointed out that with water flooding right across Furzebrook Road for a considerable distance and on a sharp bend there was a serious risk to all road users and pedestrians should it become iced-up in sub-zero temperatures. He was thanked for his input and the matter discussed further under Agenda Item 9 (Highways and Rights of Way).

Mr and Mrs Bongard together with Mrs Wrixon all expressed their concerns regarding the future of the rural bus service from Swanage to Wareham and serving Church Knowle and Kimmeridge. DCC's budget reduction is intended to remove the subsidy for services that only run once or twice a week supporting instead community-based transport schemes. Mrs Wrixon informed CKPC that there used to be a twice weekly bus service many years ago before changing to the Thursday only service in more recent years. It was pointed out that the local villages also used to have a succession of mobile services (shops etc) but these no longer came to CK or Kimmeridge. Church Knowle had no shop and with Long Grounds Cottages having been built to provide sheltered accommodation for the elderly the rural bus service provided the only means of shopping for essential supplies for many residents. It was pointed out that as the majority of the residents were entitled to a Senior Citizens Bus Pass the cost of the service to CK and Kimmeridge was largely met by central government who funded the national bus pass scheme. It was suggested that the parish council write to DCC with a copy to our local MP supporting the essential need for a continuation of the weekly rural bus service to CK and Kimmeridge. A leaflet giving details of the proposed future of rural bus links was circulated which also gave details on completing a survey on affected services at www.dorsetforyou.com/2016-rural-bus-review.

Mr & Mrs Snuddon expressed their concerns over the building application for The Old Cottage which adjoins their property and if building takes place the scaffolding would be on their property. It was pointed out that this would be a civil matter between them, the builders and the owners of the property as this was not a planning issue. Also pointed out was that this planning application would be addressed under Agenda Item 7 (Planning Matters).

Mrs Wrixon thanked the Parish Clerk for the report of the Parish Council's meeting published in the CVN as again the older people of the Parish do not have computers and internet access, and it was very much appreciated. Mrs Wrixon again expressed concern over the overgrown trees in the cemetery and was informed that this will be discussed under Agenda Item 6: Matters Arising from December's Minutes.

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

003.16 declarations were made by Members

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR MEETING MATTERS

004.16 Cllr Page declared a personal interest as a resident in matters concerning flooding of Furzebrook Road

MINUTES OF THE 8th December 2015 COUNCIL MEETING

005.16 The Minutes having been circulated and read by Members; subject to minor amendments on the Public Discussion item Cllr Page proposed and Cllr Edwards seconded they be signed as a correct record by the Chairman. The proposal was carried unanimously without abstention.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE 8th December 2015 COUNCIL MEETING

006.16 Overgrowth in the cemetery was discussed; the offending tree thought to be a yew was in fact a *C.leylandii* and could be, therefore, be removed without notification to the TPO. It was agreed that this together with other cemetery overgrowth be attended to when the weather permits. Mrs Wrixon was informed verbally of Council's decision.

007.16 Councillors enquired as to the current position regarding the finger posts; there was no further information available at this time.

008.16 Cllr Burt confirmed the salt bin was in place, padlocks purchased and would be filled with salt on 13th January 2016.

009.16 Nothing had been received from Natural England re Cycling

010.16 The Chairman advised Council he had received no reply or acknowledgement to his 3 e-mails sent to PDC's CEO (Steve Mackenzie) in December and January re the CPS and the Localism Act. Cllr Parker wondered why no reply had been received to date. Cllr Page proposed and Cllr Hollard seconded the Parish Council write to PDC asking for a response by a given date and if no reply it would write to the Ombudsman with a copy to Richard Drax, and to Garry Suttle, Leader of PDC. The proposal was unanimously carried.
It was agreed without vote to consult PDC Cllr Barnes and PDC/DCC Cllr Lovell on their arrival at the meeting.

011.16 Assets of Community Value. The Landlord of the New Inn had been spoken to by Cllrs Parker and Higgens but was not particularly interested as not many locals supported him. After some discussion it was decided to discuss this again in February as councillor Mike Lovell suggested that we read the government policy first before making a decision. This was proposed by Cllr Higgens and seconded by Cllr Parker and all were in favour.

012.16 The Chairman was awaiting suggested dates for a joint meeting with Corfe Castle PC following their council meeting the previous evening regarding the BOAT

013.16 In the absence of the Clerk there was no further information on the parking area in front of Church Knowle Cottage.

POSTPONEMENTS OF LESSER MATTERS TO FEBRUARY COUNCIL MEETING

014.16 None

PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications:

015.16 The Old Cottage Church Knowle. Concern was expressed over the development of the original garage and the height of the proposed extension over. Proposed by Cllr Edwards seconded Cllr Burt and carried unanimously there was **No Objection**. However it was recommended that provision for off road parking for two cars be made at the eastern end of the property. Currently street parking takes place obstructing access to the drive opposite and obstructing the visibility of the cottage at the western end of the property from their drive. (Mr & Mrs Snuddon)

Unlawful developments:

016.16 Cllr Edwards had noticed that the gates near Cotness Cottages had been replaced by “Factory Type” Gates. Some years ago PDC required the owners to take down metal gates and barriers and erect wooden gates which was done. Cllr Burt proposed and Cllr seconded a letter be sent to PDC informing them of the change and asking why? Cllr Parker suggested the clerk look up when this first came before the CKPC (about 5-10 years ago). Cllr Parker also thought the owners might be the Alfords at Springfield.

017.16 Rachael's Plantation discussed; Cllr Page would take photos provided by Cllr Hollard showing the building to be visible from the footpath to the Imerys meeting 3rd/4th February. Some concern was expressed that no enforcement would be taken as it is alleged PDC cannot afford to go to appeal.

Past Planning:

018.16 None to report.

HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY:

019.16 **Furzebrook Road Flooding:** Cllr Page declared a personal interest as a neighbouring resident before further discussion took place on the flooding at Furzebrook Rd. Cllr Page noted the stretch of road in question contained a sharp bend which could be a severe hazard should the sheet of water across the road become icy. Cllr Best pointed out this would be a low priority for DCC given the extent of flooding across major roads in the county particularly on the A35 at Bloxworth and around Dorchester. Council decided to support Mr Elliott's application to DCC for the work to be done immediately as a permanent job not a “bodge quick fix”; proposed by Cllr Higgs and seconded by Cllr Page and all in favour. Cllr Mike Lovell asked Mr Elliot for copies of all correspondence and emails together with any from CKPC .

020.16 **Long ground Cottages.** The hedge needs a severe cut back proposed Cllr Burt seconded Cllr Best carried unanimously a letter be sent to Stonewater, who have taken over Raglan.

021.16 Further road defects reported but the clerk had been informed anything smaller than a “dustbin lid size” will not get priority.

022.16 Cllr Lovell reported some 100 tonnes of road “planings” from the Wareham Rd and By Pass work would be used to repair the road to West Orchard Farm in the coming weeks with resulting traffic from heavy lorries.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- 023.16 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 Burt. The motion was passed and the accounts were agreed and accepted.
- 024.16 The Chairman presented the monthly invoices to be paid including ones which had been presented during the meeting. 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.
- 025.16 2016/17 Budget and Precept: The Precept for the coming year was discussed and Cllr Page proposed that we raise it by £500 to £5,500. Cllr Lovell informed the council that central government would possibly be imposing a cap or freeze on future budgets. Cllr Higgens informed the Council that the Clerk was having difficulty persuading HMRC to return the VAT. Cllr Lovell confirmed the Council as a Minor Authority was entitled to reclaim the VAT on its legitimate expenditure. Cllr Higgens pointed out the recent increase in the clerk's salary would increase the expenditure by almost £500 per annum. After further discussion Cllr Page proposed an amendment to increase the precept to £6,000 pa. Cllr Best expressed concern that this represented nearly 20% increase. Cllr Page thought the increase would amount to approximately £4.00 per household. Cllr Page's proposal of setting the precept to £6,000 was seconded by Cllr Edwards. 5 Cllrs voted in favour with 1 (Cllr Best) abstaining.
- 026.16 The appointment of internal auditor. The Clerk wishes to appoint Michael Bune a qualified accountant practising in Wareham to carry out the annual audit as David Pierce is so often away when needed. This is for further discussion at the February meeting.
- 027.16 Cllr Higgens read an article from The Clerks "News" stating that Councils who have an annual turnover of less than £25,000 do not have to have an external auditor such as BDO. Suggested this item be placed on February's Agenda.
- 028.16 Cllr Lovell reminded Council that he urgently needed the costs of the Grit Bin and Finger posts returned to him provided they totalled less than £500 in order to settle them against his budget.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 029.16 None of significance was presented

ITEMS FOR FEBRUARY'S AGENDA

- 030.16 The Chairman referred to his & Cllr Lovell's comments regarding external audit (Minute No 027.16) of annual accounts, etc. The matter would be discussed as an agenda item at the next meeting.

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

- 031.16 None was presented by the Chairman

PERIOD FOR DISCUSSION

- 032.16 Cllr Lovell informed the meeting that the 22 Youth Centres in Dorset are likely to close due to funding. Private funding may be available for some.
- 033.16 Cllr Best proposed, and was seconded by Cllr Parker, that the Parish Council support the Bus Link and should write to DCC pointing out the necessity of having such a vital service to a rural community that had a number of older residents with no other form of transport and no other means of getting to shops etc. All Members were in favour of the resolution and the motion carried.
- 034.16 The question of charging CK residents to visit Kimmeridge Bay was raised and Cllr Best informed the meeting that if CK Parishioners bought one ticket at the beginning of the season and presented it on further visits this would be sufficient to allow access without further costs.

CLOSURE OF MEETING

035.16 There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm