

Minutes of a meeting of Church Knowle Parish Council
held at Furzebrook Village Hall
on Tuesday 14th May 2016

PRESENT

Council Members:

Cllr Mrs Kathryn Best
Cllr Mr Colin Page
Cllr Mrs Hazel Parker - Vice-chairman
Cllr Mr Leslie Bugler
Cllr Mr Ian Hollard
Cllr Mrs Billa Edwards

Apologies:

Cllr. Mr Derek Burt
Cllr. Mr Tony Higgins
Cllr. Mrs Jayne Wilson

C. K Parishioners & Members of the public:

Viop Unlimited – Managing Director
Viop Unlimited – Technical Manager

PDC Cllr Mr Malcolm Barnes (from 9.35pm – after
discussion of Asset of Community Value (Min. 231))

STATEMENT FROM CLERK

191.16 The Clerk advised the meeting that there being no elected Parish Council Chairman or Vice-chairman it would be necessary for Members present to elect a Chairman for the Meeting before the continuation of the meeting.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING

192.16 Cllr Page proposed that past Vice-chairman Cllr Parker be Chairman for the Meeting. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Edwards.

193.16 Cllr Parker had no objection to the nomination and advised Members she would be willing to act as Chairman of the Meeting.

194.16 The Clerk asked Members if there were any other nominations. There were none.

195.16 Members voted unanimously in agreement of the motion (see Minute 192.16) that Cllr Parker be Chairman and she was duly appointed to the position for the June meeting of the Parish Council.

196.16 Cllr Parker took the Chair of the Meeting.

APOLOGIES

197.6 The Clerk advised the Meeting he had received apologies for absence from Cllrs Derek Burt, Jane Wilson and Tony Higgins and an apology for possible late arrival from Purbeck DC Cllr Malcolm Barnes.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

198.16 The Council listened to a presentation by representatives from the microwave internet broadband providers to Parenco Ltd. Parenco had contracted Viop Unlimited to provide a broadband internet system based on microwave radio link between its oil site at Kimmeridge and Furzebrook and other sites. BT, apparently, would not provide suitable broadband service for them. Parenco and Viop were prepared to extend the microwave link so that residents and businesses in the areas of Church Knowle, Furzebrook, Grange Road, Steeple, Creech ((inc East Creech) Kimmeridge, Bucknowle and Glebe (the Corfe Valley) could benefit from a 50 Megabyte/sec broadband service. As an addition, residents and businesses could link into a microwave telephone system (whilst retaining their current telephone number) for about £6.00 per month with no call charges. Those people who wanted inclusion in the Parenco/ViopUnlimited scheme would have a small microwave antenna (about the size a small dessert plate) either fixed on a pole or to their house in line of sight with the repeater or main transceiver. The MD of the company explained that the greater the number of those "signing up" to join, the better the service that could be provided. There was also a grant from DCC for those signing up. Members were advised that DCC has clawed back grants from BT as they were not happy

with the rate of Dorset Superfast Broadband installation and the fact that many areas would not be covered, especially along the rural Jurassic Coast and immediately inland. Members asked for more details about how the coverage would compare with that of BT and were advised that as long properties were in line-of-sight with the main unit or any repeater which would be installed on poles similar to telegraph poles approx. 3km apart (or closer to give more coverage) then a transmission speed faster than that currently envisaged by the BT fibre optic system would be available to rural communities. The company went on to advise Members on the costings of providing a complete service to the community in addition to the Parenco project and grant aid from BT. ViopUnlimited were working with DCC, Purbeck DC, Dorset AONB and other agencies to provide a viable high speed broadband service which is now available and the service area would be increasing. A general Q & A session then followed and Members expressed their support for the project. The Clerk was asked to put posters up announcing the service and contact telephone numbers on the notice boards. Cllr Parker then thanked the presenters on behalf of the Council and gave them the support of the Parish Council.

ANNUAL DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

199.16 The Clerk reminded Members of the need to complete Declarations of Interest and submit them to the Purbeck District Council monitoring officer. Whilst there was currently no facility available from PDC to complete such forms "on-line", Members could "fax" completed and signed forms to PDC. Members noted his information.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE MEETING

200.16 None were made

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

201.16 The Clerk reported on advice he had received regarding the position of a Parish Council without having either a Chairman of the Council or Vice-chairman of the Council. Church Knowle Parish Council was a Councillor-led local authority with authority vested in the entire Council. He advised Members that several Parish Councils in England and Community Councils in Wales had successfully operated without formal Chairmen being appointed. At each and every meeting of the Council a Chairman of the Meeting had been elected by Members present and at that meeting, when applicable, individual Councillors would perform the functions the titular head of the parish council (e.g. representative of Members of the Council at inter-council meetings, working parties, liaison committees, etc.) and the Clerk, being the Proper Officer of the Council would perform some of the delegated administrative functions until a formal Chairman of Council was elected.

202.16 The Clerk reported he had received no formal nominations for the position of Chairman but had been advised Cllr Higgens (past Chairman) that in the event of no other Member being willing to be nominated he would accept nomination for appointment. Cllr Parker advised the meeting that she had also been in discussion with Cllr Higgens on this matter. However, Cllr Higgens was not present at the meeting and as the Clerk had not received a signed agreement for nomination from Cllr Higgens his election would be invalid.

203.16 Cllr Parker proposed, seconded by Cllr Bugler, that both the election of the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Parish Council be postponed until the July meeting when Cllr Higgens would be present. The motion was carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO POSITIONS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

204.16 Cllr Parker proposed, and Cllr Bugler seconded, the motion that as only 6 Members were present out of 9 of the Council, the matter should be adjourned until July when a full complement of Members should be present. Following discussion, the motion was agreed to by all Members present.

POSTPONEMENT OF MATTERS ON AGENDA TO JULY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

205.16 Members decided unanimously without need for a vote to postpone items as and when they came up for discussion on the agenda and confirmed existing postponements.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12TH APRIL 2016

206.16 The Minutes had been previously discussed and agreed during the reconvened May 2016 meeting and were not discussed again.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH APRIL 2016

207.16 There were no further matters arising from those discussed during the reconvened May 2016 meeting.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10TH MAY 2016

208.16 These, having been previously circulated, were discussed and Cllr Page proposed, seconded by Cllr Edwards, that they were a true and accurate record of the proceedings of the the meeting of 10th May and should, therefore, be adopted. The motion was carried unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 10TH MAY 2016

209.16 Cllr Best commented that a road sign indicating the Corfe Castle camping site had now been affixed.

210.16 Cllr Parker referred to Minute 161.16 and advised the meeting that the animal sanctuary in Church Knowle had been organising another event to be held on 02nd July. On the same day there would be a wedding in the village and this could result in serious traffic problems. The use of the valley road by coaches was also discussed and Members queried whether or not licences to use the valley road (normally prohibited to coaches except for the Kimmeridge to Corfe Castle & Purbeck Schools) were issued to the coach operators. The Clerk reported that he had been checking validity of licences held by coach operators for specific journeys when seen by him, and he had found they had been licensed. It was proposed by Cllr Parker and seconded by Cllr Page that the Clerk contact DCC to withhold any licences for coach operations on 2nd July not already issued (except for those taking guests to and from the wedding at St Peter's Church) to reduce traffic problems which may occur . The motion was carried. There was then general discussion as to whether or not the management at the animal sanctuary had learned lessons from past chaotic traffic management as a result of their events and whether or not they had taken advice from DCC.

PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications:

211.16 **App No: 6/2016/0164 – Devils Staircase to Barnston Crossroads C27 – Replace 3 existing telegraph poles and erect 26 new telegraph poles with associated cabling** - Members discussed this application at some length and were concerned that the poles were to be erected in “zigzag” manner on either side of the road. This would result in the telegraph wires “criss-crossing” the road and could result in the contents of high-sided lorries colliding with them. It was suggested by several Councillors that this could be especially the case with tractor trailers carrying rolls and bales of straw & hay during harvest periods. It was also felt that the aesthetic appearance of the road would be greatly diminished by the new development. Several Members were concerned as to why the cabling was not to be put underground as has happened with other telephone installations. They felt it was only a cost reduction exercise. Cllr Bugler proposed, seconded by Cllr Page that ***the Parish Council objects to the development as currently described due to possible traffic hazard, aesthetic diminution of the area caused by a series of 26 new telegraph poles and associated wiring. They also required a reason from BT as to why, apart from costs to BT, the cabling is not to be laid underground.*** The motion was unanimously carried.

212.16 **App No: 6/2016/282 – Puddlemill Farm, Church Knowle – Erect rear extension and external alterations and refurbishment of farmhouse. Change of use and conversion of agricultural buildings to three holiday homes and associated facilities.**
App No: 6/2016/0283 – Puddlemill Farm, Church Knowle – Erect extension, internal alteration and refurbishment of existing farmhouse.

Members examined both applications simultaneously as they referred to two different projects on the same site. Cllr Parker proposed, seconded by Cllr Bugler, that ***whilst the Council had no objection to each development in principle, they were concerned that the applicant had made no comment in the application to the proximity of a tributary of the Corfe River so close to the effluent treatment equipment for the farmhouse. They are also concerned about the disposal***

of foul water and sewage for the holiday homes and risk to the environment from flood plain flooding causing ingress to the treatment units and resultant pollution of the waterway. It is suggested that PDC should seek further information from the applicant and not give permission unless completely satisfied that provision of effluent treatment and disposal is in conformity with Environment Agency requirements.

- 213.16 **App. No: 6/2016/0296 – Kata Lodge, Grange Road, Wareham** – Following examination of the plans and application for the development by Members, Cllr Bugler proposed and Cllr Best seconded the motion that the Council has no objections to the proposed development. The motion was unanimously agreed to and carried.
- 214.16 The Clerk advised the meeting that no applications had been received after publication of the Agenda.
- 215.16 The Clerk advised the meeting he had received no new reports of alleged unlawful developments in the Parish. He also reported that there had apparently been no further action by PDC on the development at Rachel's Plantation or resultant of CKPC's complaint about industrial style gates at Cotness Pond. Members noted his report.
- 216.16 Members noted the information given in the Agenda on the results of past planning applications decided since the May 2016 meeting.

HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY

- 217.16 Councillors heard that the highway severe overgrowth at Plumtree Cottage had been cut back. They also heard that there was highway overgrowth at Chiplands Campsite. The Clerk advised that it is likely little could be done until August since there was a moratorium in place (Wildlife & Countryside Act) on cutting hedges before August due to nesting birds.
- 218.16 The Clerk had no further reports on highways maintenance
- 219.16 Cllr Parker had nothing to report on the Corfe Castle BOAT. He did, however, report that on two occasions there were 6 SUVs seen to be using it during the past month, and there may have been more.
- 220.16 The Clerk and Cllr Best both reported that the new heavy/large vehicle "prohibition" sign had been put in place at Cucknowle crossroads.
- 221.16 There was no further information on the refurbishment of the East Creech/Grange Road fingerposts. The Clerk was awaiting a date from the contractor.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- 222.16 The monthly accounts were presented for examination. Cllr Edwards proposed that the accounts were in good order and should be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Bugler. The motion was passed and the accounts were agreed and accepted.
- 223.16 The Chairman of the Meeting presented the monthly invoices to be paid including ones which had been presented during the meeting. They were examined and Cllr Page proposed that the invoices be paid. This was seconded by Cllr Edwards. The motion was passed and the invoices agreed for payment.
- 224.16 The Clerk reported on the progress of auditing the accounts by the accountant. The auditing had not yet been completed but would be in time for the submission to BDO. Cllr Parker proposed, seconded by Cllr Bugler, that the presentation of annual accounts be held over until the next meeting. This was unanimously approved.
- 225.16 The Clerk reported on the annual inspection of the playground equipment and advised Members it would be carried out by a safety auditor appointed by RoSPA during August. Members noted his report.
- 226.16 Cllr Parker proposed that the agenda items relating to alteration of the Parish Council's Standing Orders be postponed for discussion and decision until the July meeting when it was expected more Members would be present. This was seconded by Cllr Edwards and the motion carried.

227.16 The Clerk reported on the rejection by Purbeck District Council of the Parish Council's application to have the apron outside the front of Knowle Cottage formally declared an Asset of Community Value. He advised Members that he had received a formal notification of rejection of the application, but Cllr Higgins had comments which he wanted to discuss at the Council meeting. Cllr Parker proposed that further discussion on the matter be postponed until the July meeting when Cllr Higgins would be able to give further information. This was seconded by Cllr Page and the motion carried. (Cllr Malcolm Barnes arrived at this point in proceedings).

CORRESPONDENCE

228.16 The PDC had produced a consultation document on Proposed Infrastructure Levies to be raised on planning applications and new developments within the district. The document was passed to Members for reading and comment. Cllr Parker asked that all Members read the document and make comments both individually and to the Parish Council so that the Council can make a corporate comment to PDC and also individual comments. Members noted her suggestion.

DAPTC

229.16 The Clerk had nothing to report from DAPTC

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

230.16 Cllr Parker had no matters she wished discussed.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

235.16 Cllr Parker explained to the PDC Councillor the current status of the Parish Council with regard to lack of Chairman and Vice-chairman. She also explained the proposals available to CKPC and the possibility of altering Standing Orders with a view to altering the formats of future meetings such that, whilst following good practice, there may be fewer "general" meetings but meetings to discuss and resolve particular matters would intersperse the periods between "general" meetings. The matter would be discussed in July. Cllr Barnes expressed his sadness that CKPC could not appoint a "full-time" Chairman yet but he could see why, and respect the reasons, for Members not wishing to stand and the lack of interest shown by the public in local democracy matters unless, of course, a matter to be discussed directly affected them (usually in a negative way). Members and Cllr Barnes discussed the apathy of the public and parishioners and the continuing downward spiral in civic pride and localism.

Cllr Barnes then went on to report on the PDC meeting (quite well attended for once – about 40 members of the public) during which the proposed 3000 houses (most of which would be pretty unaffordable for young people as most would be 3 bedroomed plus) in Purbeck was discussed. He felt there were too many bungalows and 2 up 2 down houses being built in Purbeck; these would be of the league for young singles or couples without children wishing to stay in the area of their childhood. Members agreed with his thoughts and the fact that most would end up as second homes or retirement houses for those from the home counties where income and personal investment was higher than in Purbeck. He suggested the Parish Council could rally its Parishioners to write comments to the PDC on the proposals since, apparently, the government will "take account of all comments". Cllr Parker wondered if the PDC planners and those in the Dept for Communities had, perhaps, misunderstood the suggestions coming out of Brussels and also wondered if the suggestions were "set in stone". She and Members then went on to ask if the levy fund would be ring-fenced for use in Purbeck or if it would go into the "coffers of national government". Cllr Barnes expected it to be used for local infrastructure. He also advised that PDC had brought in to assess the "housing need" of the District; "housing need" being a phrase very much open to interpretation, but he said that the government was "holding a gun to Purbeck's head" over the 3000 new houses in Purbeck. He urged everyone in every parish to write their comments to PDC, the MP and the government.

231.16 Cllr Barnes then mentioned the possibility of having Purbeck declared a National Park. Apparently, the Isle of Purbeck was supposed to have been declared part of one (East Devon and South & West Dorset) when the Act forming such parks came into existence but was left out. He mentioned that there are moves afoot to reopen the proposal. He also advised that such a density of housing could not be built in a National Park. PDC were discussing the matter and he invited CKPC's support in the proposal.

CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business, Cllr Parker closed the meeting at 10.25pm