

Minutes of a meeting of Church Knowle Parish Council
held at Church Knowle Village Hall
on Tuesday 10th May 2016

PRESENT

Council Members:

Cllr Mr Colin Page (arrived at 7.36pm)
Cllr Mrs Hazel Parker - Vice-chairman
Cllr Mr Anthony Higgens - Chairman
Cllr Mr Leslie Bugler
Cllr Mrs Jayne Wilson
Cllr Mr Ian Hollard
Cllr Mr Derek Burt
Cllr Mrs Billa Edwards

C. K Parishioners & Members of the public:

Mr Maurice Estop (Parishioner)

APOLOGIES

160.16 The Clerk advised he had received no apologies for absence from Cllr Mrs Kathryn Best, DCC Cllr Mr Michael Lovell & PDC Cllr Mr Malcolm Barnes.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

161.16 Mr Estop opened the public discussion period explaining that he had a number of concerns regarding vehicular traffic and parking in the Parish, but in particular in Church Knowle village. He was concerned about the use of his public house's car-park by non-patrons of his pub and felt that the Parish Council or Dorset County Council should intervene in this matter. Members reminded him that the car-park concerned was private land belonging to Punch Taverns and occupied by him. Consequently, the concern was a private matter between him and those "trespassing" on the land he occupied and the Parish Council and, indeed, DCC had no powers in this matter. It was suggested that he could use civil law to charge unlawful "parkers" a fee which could be enforced in a civil court. The Clerk suggested, on a point of information, that the use of a tacit agreement notice similar to those displayed in railway car-parks might be a way forward for Mr Estop and he confirmed that the Parish Council had no powers of action in this matter.

Mr Estop then went on to express concerns about the parking on the pavement through Church Knowle village by building contractors, visitors to the animal sanctuary and visitors to holiday homes, etc. He was advised that Dorset County Council had been informed of the problems and had been asked to take any necessary action.

Concern was also expressed his concern about coaches travelling through the village and wondered whether the operators were permitted to do so. Cllr Higgens advised the meeting that DCC had been contacted and, as a point of information, the Clerk added that when he saw any coaches (apart from the Purbeck School bus) travelling along the valley road he checked its day licence with DCC. On the day Mr Estop was particularly concerned about, the Clerk has ascertained that the coaches concerned were carrying undergraduate and post-graduate students, together with international conference attendees from Southampton University to the Kimmeridge World Heritage pavement beach for study. The coach company concerned had applied for, and been issued with, the requisite licences. Cllr Higgens reiterated that the Clerk would continue to monitor the situation regarding use of the road by coaches.

Concern was also expressed during the period about holiday homes with insufficient parking available for the number of cars associated with them. Members were in agreement with this but it was added that whilst many of them had such problems and that owners were parking on pavements and causing obstruction, the properties did not require specific planning permission for use as 2nd homes and, consequently, there was very little that could be done from a planning point of view. However, if the properties concerned were let as commercial holiday homes the Parish Council would be involved at the planning application stage. Indeed, there was currently an application in Church Knowle village to carry out work to an owner occupied holiday home and the Parish Council had made comments regarding the need for suitable parking facilities to be included in the development.

Mr Estop then expressed his concern that there was insufficient signage for the Corfe Castle Campsite and vehicles regularly turned in his car-park. He wondered if the Parish Council could do anything about the problem. He was advised that the campsite concerned was in a neighbouring parish and whilst CKPC had no powers to require proper signage the Clerk would make his concerns known to DCC and Corfe Castle Parish Council.

- 162.16 Following Mr Estop's expressions of concern about the matters above (161.16), Members discussed in general traffic management in Church Knowle village and the valley road. One of the Members advised the meeting that a Parishioner had suggested approaching DCC to have double yellow lines put through the village. Members generally felt this was a bad idea as to prevent parking in the village would increase the speed of traffic flowing through and therefore increase the risk to pedestrians and horse riders, etc. One Member felt that it would just act as another means of easy revenue for DCC and would have general negative effect on the residents of the village as most of the properties had no off-street parking and there were alternative publicly-owned car parking facilities except for that at the village hall and the apron in front of Knowle Cottage, which was currently being used by builders working on the house. There was also discussion about the events at the animal sanctuary and the possibility of a repeat of the chaos at Easter recurring on the late May bank holiday. It was suggested that Dorset Police be contacted with a view to having temporary prohibition of parking on the road through Church Knowle for the period of the event.
- 163.16 Members discussed the recent cycling event which involved over 2000 cyclists cycling through the Parish.
- 164.16 There were no further brought up by attendees for discussion during this period.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS OF COUNCILLORS FOR THE YEAR 2016 - 2017

- 165.16 No new declarations were made by Members at the time and the Clerk reported no written applications had been made to him other than those declared at earlier meetings. He reminded Members of the need to complete any new declarations for 2016-2017 and send them to Purbeck District Council's monitoring officer. The Clerk was asked to confirm whether or not such declarations can be completed electronically.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR MEETING MATTERS

- 166.16 There were no declarations made specific to the matters to be discussed at the meeting.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 2017-2017

- 167.16 The Vice-chairman, Cllr Hazel Parker, took the Chair for this part of the meeting as the Chairman, Cllr Higgins, had retired at this point. She asked Members if there were any nominations or offers to act as Chairman for the year. There were none. Cllr Wilson opined that each and every one of the Members would rather not the job for several reasons and each of those was a valid reason. She thanked Cllr Higgins for his energetic services to the post during the past year and this was reiterated by all Members present. Cllrs Burt and Hollard expressed their views that they felt like resigning from the Council, with Cllr Burt emphasising that he felt that the attitude of PDC to the Parish Council was intolerable and did not make people wish to be Parish Councillors. There was more general discussion about the general lack of interest of Parishioners in the work of the Parish Council; Cllr Wilson pointing out that at the Annual Parish Meeting there was only one Parishioner in attendance out of about 250 electors. She added that no Parishioners, other than Councillors, attended the meetings unless they wanted the Parish Council to do something that directly affected them. Cllr Higgins suggested that he could act as Chairman once every three years on a rolling basis, but was not prepared to act a Chairman for 1016-2017. Members then gave their positions regarding the office of Chairman and how it would affect their personal and business life.
- 168.16 Cllr Parker asked Members where it left the Parish Council of Church Knowle inasmuch as there would be no Chairman and that she would be retiring as Vice-chairman at the next agenda item.
- 169.16 The election of the new Chairman of the Parish Council being unresolved at this point, the Vice-chairman proposed that election of new Chairman (Agenda item 5) and Vice-chairman (Agenda item 6) be adjourned and that all other items upto Planning Matters (Agenda item 13), items 14 and 15 of the Agenda be postponed for discussion; the items concerned being as follows:

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO POSITIONS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Tree Officer; Public Rights of Way & Highways Liaison; Planning Applications Reviewer; DAPTC Liaison; Swanage Railway Liaison; Affordable Housing Liaison; Cemetery; Police Liaison; Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT), other areas of interest to be decided at the meeting.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12th April 2016– To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on the 12th April, 2016 be signed as correct records of the business discussed and matters resolved.

MATTERS ARISING: To discuss matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 12th April, 2016.

POSTPONEMENT OF LESSER MATTERS ON THIS AGENDA TO JUNE 2016 MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:

This was seconded by Cllr Page and the proposal unanimously approved.

- 170.16 It was proposed by Cllr Parker and seconded by Cllr Wilson that following item 16 of the Agenda (Finance & Administration) that the May meeting be adjourned in order that further thought could be given as to the election of a new Chairman and Vice-chairman of the Council. The Clerk advised Members that from information given to him, the Council could continue without a Chairman or Vice-chairman of the Council being appointed but with a Chairman and Vice-chairman being appointed before each meeting for that meeting. Whilst it was not a very satisfactory arrangement it could continue for an interim period and several parish councils in Dorset and throughout the country had carried out their duties in that manner whilst a new Chairman was sought. Members voted on the issue and the motion was carried.

PLANNING MATTERS

- 171.16 6/2016/0243, etc. Cotness Cottages, East Creech. The applications were reviewed and examined. No objections were voiced and Cllr Parker proposed, seconded by Cllr Wilson that the Council support the applications. The proposal was unanimously carried.

- 172.16 The Clerk advised the meeting he had received no applications following agenda publication

Unlawful developments:

- 173.16 The Clerk reported he had received no notifications of suspected unlawful developments since those discussed at previous meetings.

Past Planning:

- 174.16 The Clerk reported on the outcomes of planning applications discussed and decisions made by the Council at previous meetings.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- 175.16 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 Page. The motion was passed and the accounts were agreed and accepted.

- 176.16 Cllr Higgs proposed that items in the accounts regarding cancelled cheques and those out of date for bank negotiation need no longer be included in the monthly accounts. The motion was seconded by Cllr Hollard and unanimously carried.

- 177.16 The Chairman presented the monthly invoices to be paid including ones which had been presented during the meeting. They were examined and Cllr Page proposed that only those invoices which had been presented and recorded in the monthly before the meeting be paid and that invoices not included in the accounts before close of business before the meeting should be held over for payment until the next meeting of the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Wilson. The motion was passed.

- 178.16 It was proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Page that the valid invoices submitted before the meeting agreed for payment. The motion was carried and cheques accordingly signed.
- 179.16 Cllr Parker proposed that the meeting be adjourned sine die and that it be re-convened at a time before the June 2016 meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Wilson and the meeting duly adjourned.

CLOSURE OF MEETING

- 180.16 There being no further business to conduct at this time, the Chairman closed the meeting sine die at 10.05pm. The next general meeting will be at Furzebrook Village Hall on Tuesday 14th 2016, following the re-convened Meeting, commences at 7.30 pm.