

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of Church Knowle Parish Council
held at Church Knowle Village Hall
on Tuesday 13th September 2016

PRESENT

Council Members:

Cllr Mr Colin Page - Vice-chairman
Cllr Mrs Hazel Parker -
Cllr Mr Leslie Bugler
Cllr Mr Anthony Higgins - Chairman
Cllr Mr Derek Burt
Cllr Mrs Kathryn Best
Cllr Ian Hollard

Dr Alastair Wallace – Clerk to the Council

C. K Parishioners & Members of the public:

Mr Richard Brown (D&EDNPT)
Ms Sandra Brown (D&EDNPT)
PDC Cllr Mr Malcolm Barnes

APOLOGIES

296.16 Apologies were received from Cllrs. Mrs Edwards, Mrs Jayne Wilson. DCC councillor Mr Michael Lovell also tendered his apologies.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

297.16 There was a presentation by members of the Dorset & East Devon National Park Team (D&EDNPT) about the possibility of having the “Jurassic Coast” and the Dorset & East Devon hinterland being designated a National Park. The presenters gave a history of national parks in England & Wales and informed the meeting that at the time national parks were first set up in the 1940s the coast and heaths of Dorset were included in the list of areas to be deemed as such. However, the process was not concluded and the status of Dorset & East Devon as a national park was held in abeyance. They then explained the benefits of having the area declared a National Park and the transfer of planning and other powers from the county and district councils (soon to be merged), together with greater influence parishes and the community at large would have over strategic and day to day issues which the county and district councils currently deal with. They gave the meeting an idea of the processes involved and timescale, together with the economic costs and benefits involved. During the Q&A session Members asked about how a new National Parks Authority (NPA) would deal with housing affordability and second homes in the area and were pleased to hear that NPAs in other areas have re-defined “affordable” as prices that are affordable for local people having regard to wages and salaries within the area of the national park; this would probably make “affordable” housing more affordable. A NPA would also take over the transport function of the county council and as such it is likely there would be higher subsidy for local transport. The effect of “Brexit” was also discussed inasmuch as much of the funding for NPAs came from the EU via DEFRA. The meeting was advised that a report had been made on National Park status to DCC and Purbeck DC, and that PDC was currently evaluating the proposals for the Purbeck and its inclusion.

298.16 Following a lengthy Q&A session, the Chairman thanked the presenters and advised them that CKPC’s policy would be discussed later in the meeting. The business part of the meeting then began.

ANNUAL DECLARATIONS OF SERVICE AND OF INTEREST

299.16 Cllrs Parker and Hollard advised the meeting that had not yet finalised their annual declarations for submission.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE MEETING

300.16 Cllrs Parker and Bugler declared pecuniary interests in matters to be discussed under “Planning Matters” later in the meeting. Cllrs Higgins and Best declared personal interests in planning matters to be discussed later in the meeting. Their interests were noted and Cllrs Higgins and Parker they would leave the meeting when the matters were discussed and voted on.

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

301.16 There were no postponements of matters to the September meeting.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12th AUGUST 2016

302.16 The Minutes which had been circulated before the meeting were read and following amendment of a minor typographical omission (which included the error that it was Cllr Higgins and not Cllr Page who closed the meeting – Minute 295.16) were proposed by Cllr Page as a true record of the proceedings. His proposal was seconded by Cllr Parker and unanimously agreed to by Members who had been present.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 12 JULY 2016

303.16 The meeting was informed that some sheds had been built in the grounds of the animal sanctuary at Church Knowle. The Clerk advised the meeting that the sanctuary was not an agricultural unit and, consequently, it is likely that planning permission should be obtained before construction took place. CKPC had not received any request for comment from PDC regarding such developments. The Clerk also advised that during his “trawl” of applications submitted he had not found any application or agricultural notice. It was suggested that the animal sanctuary may have been in breach of planning law and the Clerk would in the first instance contact Mgt Green for an explanation.

PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications:

- 304.16 **6/2016/0406 – Bucknowle Farm, Church Knowle – Change of Use**
Cllrs Bugler and Parker declared pecuniary interests in the application and left the meeting. Cllrs Higgins & Best declared personal interest in the application as neighbours and took no further part in discussions and vote on CKPC’s policy on the application. Three Members remained to discuss the matter and, consequently, the meeting remained quorate. Following discussion of the application, Cllr Hollard proposed that the Council had no grounds for objection and had no observations to make. This was seconded by Cllr Page and the motion was carried.
Cllrs Higgins and Parker were invited to re-join the meeting and returned.
- 305.16 **Cemetery Memorial Application – Ivy Elcombe (Deceased)** Members examined the application and Cllr Best proposed that the memorial should be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Bugler and the motion carried.

Planning Applications Received After Publication of Agenda

306.16 None were received

Unlawful Developments

307.16 It was reported that there may be an unlawful development about to occur at Furzebrook in the area around Eight Houses. Heathland was in the process of being cleared and the reporting Member would “keep an eye” on it and advise the Council of any further development. Members noted the comments.

Past Planning Matters

6/2016/0413 & 0414 – Dorey’s Pit, Grange Road/Bindon Lane, Wareham – Not yet determined by DCC

6/2016/0467 – Barnston Manor, Church Knowle – Replacement of decayed lintel with new oak lintel. Cllr Parker wondered why this had not been approved by PDC. The Clerk advised that the

PDC had a few days left before having to come to a decision. There was then some discussion about the PDC conservation officer and the fact that the window of the Grade 1 house may collapse while the PDC conservation officer made his decision.

6/2016/0164 – Devils Staircase to Barnston Cross – Replace two existing telegraph poles and erect 25 new telegraph poles with associated cabling – Approved by PDC. Cllrs were concerned about the impact of the poles on the amenity of the area and that the views of CKPC had not been taken into account. The Clerk was asked to contact PDC for an explanation and report at the next meeting.

HIGHWAYS

308.16 There was concern about the cutting of overgrowths and roadside verges by DCC. Cutting did not appear to take place at the high growth periods in the Parish with the result that bends in the road were often “blind” with the associated increase in risk to pedestrians, cyclist, horse-riders and motorcyclists from cars & lorries, etc.. It was suggested that even though DCC had reduced verge cutting to only two per year County should be asked to cut the areas at bends and on corners to increase visibility and road safety. PDC Cllr Malcolm Barnes informed the meeting that Bere Regis employs a “banksman” to cut verges when DCC do not. The meeting suggested that DCC bring the second cut forward into the main growing season and that the Clerk contact DCC to suggest this for road safety reasons.

309.16 A part collapsed area of road at the entrance to Church Knowle from Bucknowle was reported. The Clerk advised that this had been previously reported on several occasions to DCC but he would do so again. Cllr Page asked if the bridge at Furzebrook had been tested for safety of use by large lorries. The Clerk advised him that DCC Highways had informed him that the bridge was safe for such vehicles.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

310.16 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 Parker. The motion was passed and the accounts were agreed and accepted.

311.16 The Chairman presented the monthly invoices to be paid. Cllr Hollard proposed that the invoices be paid. This was seconded by Cllr Parker. The motion was passed and the relevant invoices agreed for payment.

312.16 The Clerk reported on the progress of the annual audit of accounts by BDO llp and that he would be in contact with BDO on a weekly basis. The internal auditor would complete the account auditing by the third week in September at the latest and, consequently, BDO would receive his report by the date agreed.

313.16 Cllr Page suggested that the Council should look into what the Playground Fund can be used for. now that the new playground was in use. Members replied that funds are already used for equipment repair and renewal.

DAPTC

314.16 It was suggested by the Chairman that the funding for the Council's website by DAPTC should be “chased up” as nothing had yet been received. The Clerk advised that this would be done and he would report at the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

315.16 PDC had asked the Council to affix notices inviting comments on local government reorganisation on the boards. This led to some discussion about the change from district councils to unitary authorities and how it could affect parishes. No decisions on this was made, but it was agreed that the notices should be displayed

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE

316.16 The presentation by the National Parks Team was discussed. Comments by Mr John Hole, a local farmer, on the National Parks proposal were read and noted by the meeting. Following discussion, it

was proposed by Cllr Higgins, seconded by Cllr Best, that the Parish Council supports the PDC's process of evaluation of the National Park proposal, whilst not yet supporting any PDC comments made. Cllr Higgins' motion was unanimously carried.

- 317.16 Members heard that the old chestnut tree on the village green had succumbed to a disease that kills its species and was currently in considerable stress from the disease. The tree had been inspected by Cllr Burt and it was suggested that the tree be felled and replaced with a sapling chestnut tree. Cllr Page suggested that once felled the ground should be properly disinfected and laid fallow for a year, to reduce any risk to the sapling, before re-planting. This was unanimously agreed to without formal vote. It was proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Page, that Mr John Coffen, who voluntarily manages the village green, be asked to cut down the tree and replant as required.

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR OCTOBER MEETING

- 318.16 Members were reminded that the October meeting would be a "Planning & Finance Mini-Meeting". Members noted.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

- 319.16 .Cllr Parker informed the meeting that she had been advised by a resident of Kimmeridge that the Army intends to extend their road closure regime to the road, bridleway and footpath at the top of Grange Hill. This would cause serious disruption to road traffic along the Church Knowle road. After considerable discussion about the ramifications of such an action Members decided that the Clerk should contact DCC, as highways authority, to express its concern and ask that an investigation takes place.
- 320.16 Cllr Burt advised the meeting of the progress regarding rebuild at Cotness Cottages. Work was due to start in October.
- 321.16 Cllr Best informed Members about serious traffic safety problems occurring in Church Knowle due to poor parking of "wedding cars" outside St Peter's church and its environs. She reported on rude and bad mannered guests' behaviour at being asked to move vehicles so as not to cause obstructions; it was suggested that the Chairman discuss the matter with the rector. He agreed to do so. Cllr Parker suggested that the parking of vehicles was a police matter and that as obstruction of a highway was a criminal offence, the police should be called with a view to prosecution of miscreants.

CLOSURE OF MEETING

- 322.16 There being no further business, Cllr Higgins closed the meeting at 9.30pm