

Minutes of a meeting of Church Knowle Parish Council  
held at Church Knowle Reading Room  
on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2017

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**PRESENT**

**Council Members:**

Cllr Mrs Hazel Parker  
Cllr Mr Leslie Bugler  
Cllr Derek Burt  
Cllr Mrs Kathryn Best  
Cllr Mr Colin Page – Vice Chairman  
Cllr Mr Antony Higgins – Chairman

**Clerk to the Council:**

Dr Alastair Wallace

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

Cllr Mr Malcolm Barnes – Purbeck District Council  
Mr Anthony Byrd – Kimmeridge PM  
Mr Stephen Earwicker – Kimmeridge PM  
Lt Col.(Rtd) Ken Davies – MoD (Army)  
Mr Ed. Ellwood - Parishioner

**APOLOGIES**

033.17 The Clerk reported he had received apologies for absence from the Cllrs Mrs Billa Edwards, Mr Ian Hollard & Mrs Jayne Wilson. His report was noted.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

034.17 The meeting began with a presentation by retired Lt Col Mr Ken Davies of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation, part of the Ministry of Defence which supports the armed forces by building, maintaining and servicing the infrastructure needed to support UK defence operations at home and abroad. These functions, the meeting was told, included the organisation, maintenance and management of the army firing ranges in Purbeck.

Mr Davies had been invited to attend the meeting to explain recent road closures at Steeple and the top of Grange Hill which Councillors and Parishioners reported had resulted in considerable inconvenience to those trying to use the road between Church Knowle and the top of Grange Road. He was told by the Meeting that the road concerned is used as the primary route by Parishioners and others from Steeple, Kimmeridge and surrounding hamlets and farms to access Wareham and beyond. He also heard that it is also used by emergency vehicles to gain access to Kimmeridge and Steeple from Wareham and closure of the road at the army gates would result in a considerable detour – in some cases 17 miles, according to one of the Parish Councillors - which could result in disastrous consequences. It was also pointed out that the Jurassic Coast museum and other similar attractions probably resulted in an extra 80,000 vehicle movements per year along the road concerned. The MoD representative appeared unaware of this.

The MoD representative began his presentation with a history of the army's association with Purbeck and the development of the army firing ranges in the Lulworth, Povington and Steeple areas. He briefly described the sea danger areas associated with the Lulworth range and then went on to talk about the MoD Byelaws relating to the access by civilians to the ranges and the legal background regarding the closure of public roads, whilst not MoD managed, which crossed or were in very close vicinity of the firing ranges. He explained that road closures were for the protection of the Public as many activities involved the use of "live" ammunition. Parishioners and Councillors enquired why the new road closures had come into force since such closures had not occurred in "living memory". Mr Davies responded that during the first Iraq war the road was closed because the type of ordnance used in practices required re-designing of the ranges; such re-designing bringing the roads concerned within temporary danger areas.

Members and Parishioners from Church Knowle, Steeple and Kimmeridge parishes attending expressed their concern about lack of adequate signage giving notice of road closures at firing times and it was suggested that the MoD and Defence Infrastructure were in breach of the law (MoD Byelaws and the Highways Acts) relating to the closures. The MoD representative, whilst regularly mentioning the MoD Byelaws during the presentation, defended his position regarding inadequate signage by stating that these matters were not within his remit but were "higher up the ladder at MoD HQ". The answer was not accepted and considerable heated discussion ensued. It was also raised

by Mr Davies that the MoD may at some time consider altering the byelaws to allow removal of existing signage as a means of reducing the costs involved in manually altering closure signs during closures. It was pointed out by one of the attendees that alteration of byelaws would be subject to public consultation and it is likely that the highways authority as well as road users would formally object to such proposals.

Mr Davies went on to talk about future trends with regard to the use of the firing ranges by not only the UK army but also by other NATO forces, SAS and the police special operations units since the ranges in Purbeck were unique. In the past some areas were not used and as a result gates were open. However, with increased use by the organisations aforementioned the likelihood of road closures would accordingly increase in the longer term. This resulted in further questioning by attendees on why other ranges could not be used.

There was general discussion about how road traffic had changed since the byelaws were written and how the control of closures by the military appeared not to have developed alongside the changes. It was suggested that the current closures *modus operandi* had caused a serious rift between the "locals" and the army/MoD and it was suggested by the District Councillor that there needed to be a proper working liaison amongst the MoD, District, Parish and County councils and the emergency services to ensure that road closures did not significantly impinge on the operation of the roads and ranges. The Chairman agreed with the sentiments of the district councillor and suggested that the Parish Council felt the same; a suggestion which met with the approval of Members attending. He thanked Mr Davies for his presentation and taking part in the question and answer session followed by discussion and suggested that there be a meeting with the MoD to discuss provision of adequate signage.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

035.17            There were no declarations made at this time

#### **POSTPONEMENT OF MATTERS ON AGENDA TO MARCH 2017 MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

036.17            None were suggested at this time in the proceedings.

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017**

037.17            The Minutes which had been circulated before the meeting were read and comments made as follows: (a) Cllr Higgins suggested that in Minute No 008/17 the phrase '*once funding had been established*' be inserted after the phrase '*...forward the project*'. His proposal was seconded by Cllr Page and agreed by Members. (b) Cllr Higgins stated that in Minute No 029/17 it was Cllr Parker and not he who suggested that the Three Parishes Fête organisers could be contacted with a view to supporting the Dorset Regiment memorial. This was supported by Cllr Parker and the Minute duly amended. Following the alterations Members unanimously agreed as being a true record of proceedings by Members who had been present. Proposed by Cllr Page and seconded by Cllr Bugler.

#### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017**

038.17            Ref: Minute No. 010/17 - The Clerk reported on discussions he had with the tenant of the New Inn regarding the possible siting of the cardiac defibrillator. Mr Estop (pub tenant) had suggested that it be affixed to the wall of the disabled lavatory at the side of the 'pub as the unit was open 24 hours a day and would therefore be available for use at all times. The Clerk also had discussions with Punch Taverns PLC (the 'pub owners) who had advised him they had no objection to the unit being affixed to their building. The Clerk also advised that if the unit was fixed to an external wall it may require planning permission because the New Inn was a listed building within a conservation area. Cllr Best and other Members felt the siting in the outside lavatory was unacceptable because it could not be easily seen and that it was down the side of the 'pub and, therefore, less accessible. It was suggested that Mr Estop be contacted again to invite his views about locating the unit on the gable wall of the outbuilding under the village street lamp. If this was unacceptable to Mr Estop, then consideration to having the unit in the telephone box could be reviewed. The Clerk advised he would do this.

039.17            Ref: Minute No. 026/17 - Cllr Burt advised the Meeting that he would be unable to attend the Royal Garden party on behalf of the Church Knowle Parish, if a formal invitation were to be received via DAPTC.

## PLANNING MATTERS

### Planning Applications –

- 040.17 6/2016/0029 **2 Cotness, (ex “Periwinkles”) East Creech, Wareham, BH20 5AW: Proposed renovations, replacement garage, demolition and extension works.**  
Members reviewed the proposal and Cllr Bugle proposed, seconded by Cllr Best, that the Parish Council had no objections to the proposal. The motion was carried.
- 041.17 6/2016/0028 **2 Cotness, (ex “Periwinkles”) East Creech, Wareham, BH20 5AW: Alterations and extensions to house including - demolition of part of existing house, erect single storey extension to the rear and erect replacement garage in house's garden.**  
Members reviewed the proposal and Cllr Bugle proposed, seconded by Cllr Best, that the Parish Council had no objections to the proposal. However, they felt it would have been preferable for the extension to have been designed so that it would be more in keeping with the old building.
- 042.17 6/2016/001 **Hedgehog Cottage Annexe, Animal Sanctuary, Church Knowle.**  
Members reviewed the proposal at length. They were concerned that a hedge had been removed and would be replaced by a fence which all Members felt would be intrusive to the “street scene” and out of keeping with the general built and rural environment. Cllr Best proposed, seconded by Cllr Bugler, that the Parish Council object to the proposal in that (A) The fence as described in the proposal is too high and, (B) it is out of keeping with the village conservation area development. The motion was carried.
- 043.17 6/2016/719 & 720 **2 Cotness Cottages, East Creech – Rebuild existing barn/outbuilding for use as a barn, store and workshop, replace roof on existing outbuilding and erect extension to cottage to form a log store.**

### Planning Applications Received After Publication of Agenda -

- 044.17 **Puddlemill Farm, Church Knowle** - Several applications had been made for development. The Clerk had not received written notification or plans so that the matter could be properly examined. The Chairman proposed that the decisions on plans be put forward to the March meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Bugler. It was unanimously agreed to await all the plans so they could be properly examined and decisions based on a holistic approach be made.

### **Unlawful Developments**

- 045.17 PDC Cllr Barnes gave the meeting an update on the developments at Rachel's Plantation. He expected the matter to go to PDC's full planning board meeting for discussion and suggested that a representative from CKPC attend to voice their comments. The Chairman agreed to do this.

### **Past Planning Matters**

- 046.17 The results of planning applications previously reviewed by the Council were noted

### **East Creech Conservation Area**

- 047.17 The Chairman confirmed he had send a copy of the draft submission from the working party (approved for set-up at the January Parish Council Meeting) to all Members. It was discussed and Cllr Bugler proposed that it be approved by the Parish Council and sent to Purbeck District Council as the submission from CKPC. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Parker and carried unanimously. PDC Cllr Barnes suggested, as the district councillor for the Parish it might be useful for him to meet with Cllr Burt and other CKPC Members before the matter is discussed by PDC's Planning Board.

## FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

- 048.17 The monthly accounts were presented for examination. After checking it was proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Burt that they were accepted as correct. The motion was unanimously carried.
- 049.17 The Chairman of the Meeting presented the monthly invoices to be paid. The Clerk reported that a cheque authorised at the last meeting for payment to Mr Robbie Green had not been delivered by

Royal Mail and he had cancelled the cheque. He recommended a replacement be issued. Cllr Parker proposed that the invoices and be paid and the replacement cheque issued. This was seconded by Cllr Burt. The motion was passed and the relevant invoices agreed for payment.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

050.17 The Clerk presented the correspondence received, e-mails received having been previously circulated to Members. The Chairman suggested that, as time was pressing, this item be carried forward to the March meeting. This was unanimously agreed to without formal vote.

### **PERIOD FOR DISCUSSION**

051.17 Cllr Parker was concerned about the possible closure of Wareham Hospital as an "in-patient" unit and the closure of Poole General Hospital's maternity and A&E units proposed by the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group. A "consultation document" had been issued and comments were to be received by 28<sup>th</sup> February. The Clerk distributed copies amongst Members and other attendees. There was discussion as to whether or not CKPC should comment as a Council and the Chairman suggested that it was probably better for comments to be made as individuals due to the different opinions individual Members may have regarding the minutiae and generalities of the document and the shortness of time available for discussion and agreement. This was seconded by Cllr Best. The proposal was agreed by Members and it was decided to comment individually.

052.17 There was general discussion about the increase in fly-tipping in Furzebrook Road and Holme Lane outwith the Parish and the charging by DCC to householders taking rubbish to the community tips and recycling centres. There was also concern about trade waste now being tipped (builders' rubble, etc) because of the County setting a limit on the amount of hardcore material allowed to be tipped at the recycling centres. It was noted that Arne Parish Council were intending to attend a meeting with PDC on 21<sup>st</sup> February to complain about the charges and limits. And it was suggested that CKPC members could attend the same meeting. The Clerk would contact Dorset Waste Partnership to express CKPC's concerns..

### **CLOSURE OF MEETING**

053.17 There being no further business, the meeting was closed by Cllr Higgens at 10.00pm.