

Minutes of a meeting of Church Knowle Parish Council
held at Church Knowle Village Hall
on Tuesday 13th March, 2018

PRESENT

Council Members:

Cllr Mr Colin Page
Cllr Mr Anthony Higgens
Cllr Mrs Hazel Parker
Cllr Mr Derek Burt
Cllr Mr Edward Ellwood
Cllr Mrs Elisabeth Edwards
Cllr Mrs Jayne Wilson

Clerk to the Council:

Dr Alastair Wallace

C. K Parishioners & Members of the public:

DCC Cllr Mrs Cherry Brooks
PDC Cllr Mr Malcolm Barnes

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

060.18 There being no Chairman of the Parish Council, and the Clerk having declared the meeting quorate, it was necessary for those Councillors attending to elect a Chairman of the Meeting. Cllr Page proposed that Cllr Higgens take the Chair for the meeting, there being no general wish by Members present to stand as Chairman of the Parish Council. His proposal was seconded by Cllr Edwards. Cllr Higgens did not object to such appointment and the motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED that Cllr Higgens should act as Chairman for the March Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Higgens took the Chair for the meeting.

APOLOGIES

061.18 The Clerk had previously reported he had received apologies for absence from Cllrs Mr Ian Hollard, Mr Leslie Bugler. The apologies were accepted and noted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE MEETING

062.18 There were no declarations of interest made by Members regarding matters to be discussed and resolved at the meeting.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

063.18 There being no Parishioners present, the Public Discussion Period was opened and closed without discussions.

POSTPONEMENT OF MATTERS ON THIS AGENDA TO APRIL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

064.18 There were no proposals for postponements at this time

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13th FEBRUARY 2018

065.18 The Minutes, which had been circulated before the meeting were read. Cllr Page proposed that the minutes could now be accepted as a true record of the proceedings of the meeting of 13th February 2018. This was seconded by Cllr Wilson and the proposal unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings of the Parish Council meeting of 13th February and they be duly published as such. The Clerk would arrange for them to be uploaded to the Church Knowle Parish Council Website and where, appropriate, would arrange for copies be affixed on the notice boards.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 13th February, 2018

066.18 There were no matters arising from the Minutes

PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications

067.18 None had been received before publication of the Agenda.

Planning Applications Received After Publication of Agenda –

068.18 **6/2018/0106 - Cameron Furniture, Old Blacksmiths Workshop, Grange Road, Wareham - Change of use of part of ground floor to Artist's Studio, change of use of first floor mezzanine and part ground floor to Art Gallery/Furniture Showroom. Insertion of two windows.** Members were advised that the Parish Council had not yet received formal requests from the District Council's planners to assess and comment on the application despite it having been made to the PDC on, apparently, 27th February and registered by PDC on 07th March. The Clerk had not received hard copy plans or the application from PDC to enable him to circulate them to Members before the meeting. He advised that this was similar to other applications regarding the site. Members were concerned that insufficient time had been made available to the Parish Council for adequate consultation by PDC and that this incident was just one of many which had occurred during the past. It was proposed by Cllr Higgins, seconded by Cllr Parker, that CKPC ask PDC for an extension of the time period for any consultation in order that the application can be properly reviewed at the April meeting of the Parish Council. The proposal was unanimously agreed to.

RESOLVED – That the CK Parish Council formally ask PDC for an extension to the consultation period in order that the Parish Council can properly consider the planning application at the April 2018 meeting of the Parish Council.

069.18 Having regard to minute 068.18, the meeting discussed the length of time that PDC take to post copies of applications to CKPC's Clerk and the apparent coincidence of what may be controversial applications arriving a day or two after the monthly Parish Council meeting despite the PDC having received such applications in plenty of time to send them to the Clerk to the Parish Council for distribution beforehand. Councillors felt that there was no acceptable reason for such plans to be delayed in distribution, and that PDC's "policy" of only sending out such post once a week was unacceptable, especially from the point of view of "transparency". The matter was discussed at length and PDC Cllr Barnes asked that copies of correspondence between PDC and CKPC be forwarded to him for his action. DCC Cllr Brooks (also a PDC Councillor) advised the Meeting that she would also like to be kept informed and would investigate the matter herself. The Chairman suggested that the Clerk contact PDC's planning manager (Mr Alan Davies) for an explanation and also address the lack of apparent "transparency" with PDC's monitoring and transparency officer (Mr David Fairbairn). The meeting agreed with Cllr Higgins' suggestion.

Unlawful Developments –

070.18 Cllr Edwards reported that what appeared to be a gravel driveway had been laid at the entrance to Rachel's Plantation. The Clerk advised the Meeting he would report the matter to PDC with a view to them taking any action as may be necessary.

Dorset Draft Minerals Extraction Plan

071.18 Cllr Page reported on a meeting he had with representatives of Imerys plc during which there were discussions Arne Parish Council appeared happy with the projects being carried out by Imerys. He also mentioned that Imerys expected that very little clay would be hewn from Hawkes' Post Pit during 2018. Members noted his report.

Corfe River Environmental Project

072.18 Cllr Page reported that he had met with Dorset Wildlife Trust and Imerys and that both he and Cllr Edwards would be visiting the area of the river at Vineyard Farm, Corfe Castle to view improvements

being carried out in association with the National Trust. Cllr Parker expressed her disagreement at what was happening at Vineyard and was concerned that the National Trust et al had been taking down mature trees in the vicinity and after the 28th February which is the general “cut-off date” for felling due to effects on nesting birds. Cllr Parker was also concerned, along with other Members, on being told that Church Knowle and Steeple parishes river projects were apparently earmarked for funding of approximately £20,000 although £70,000 had been made available from the Environment Agency via the Dorset Wildlife Trust for environmental projects within Steeple, Arne and Church Knowle parishes. Cllr Page was asked to get clarification on the matter from DWT. Cllr Page advised the meeting that DWT would “pick up” the administration costs. Cllr Parker then expressed her serious concern that the “original pot” was £70,000 and asked where the other £40,000 had been allocated bearing in mind that Arne would probably get £10,000. Cllr Edwards explained that she understood DWT would be spending money on projects at Killwood and Tadnoll. This then led to heated discussion amongst Members about why DWT were spending a large proportion of money provided by the Environment Agency on DWT projects outwith the three parishes for which the money had been apparently allocated. She wanted to know who was responsible for the allocation of the funds once distributed from the EA. Cllr Page replied that responsibility rested with the DWT. Cllr Edwards interjected that DWT were planning to carry out coppicing at Hillwood. There then continued general discussion about the allocation of funds for the environmental projects.

073.18 PDC Cllr Barnes suggested that the funds should be coming to the three parishes (Church Knowle, Steeple and Arne) and not Tadnoll which was clearly outside the parishes concerned by several miles. The pollution incident, for which the funds were intended as “compensation” for the incident occurred in the area of the three parishes and not Tadnoll. Cllr Higgins opined that for the sake of transparency DWT must demonstrate where the funds are being distributed and asked if Members thought it feasible to ask the DWT or the Environment Agency for an explanation as to where the money is to be spent. Cllr Ellwood wondered if, apart from the “river project”, there were no other areas on which to spend the funds. Cllrs Burt and Page (in unison) answered Cllr Ellwood in the negative, explaining that the funds were to be spent on the river project.

074.18 PDC Cllr Barnes suggested that CKPC should hold a meeting with the other parishes and subsequent to that meeting, if they were in agreement, require DWT to explain why £40,000 is to be spent outwith the three parishes concerned. Cllr Burt then interjected that he would also like a meeting with DWT about coppicing at Killwood and other areas in the Parish.

075.18 Further discussion ensued over PDC Cllr Barnes’ suggestion and Cllr Wilson proposed that Church Knowle Parish Council arranges for a joint meeting of representatives of Steeple, Arne and Church Knowle Parish Councils to take place as soon as possible to discuss the sending of a joint letter requiring DWT to explain why only £30,000 of the £70,000 apparently allocated for distribution by Dorset Wildlife Trust for specific environmental projects within Steeple, Arne and Church Knowle Parishes by the Environment Agency is to be spent within those parishes whilst the remaining £40,000 is likely to be spent on other DWT projects outwith those parishes. Copies of the letter will be sent to the Environment Agency and Imerys. A letter seeking information about allocations would also be sent to DWT by CKPC. Her proposal was seconded by Cllr Parker. The motion was carried with abstentions of Cllr Page and Cllr Edwards. There were no votes against the proposal.

RESOLVED that Church Knowle Parish Council arranges for a joint meeting of representatives of Steeple, Arne and Church Knowle Parish Councils to take place as soon as possible to discuss the sending of a joint letter requiring DWT to explain why only £30,000 of the £70,000 apparently allocated for distribution by Dorset Wildlife Trust for specific environmental projects within Steeple, Arne and Church Knowle Parishes by the Environment Agency is to be spent within those parishes whilst the remaining £40,000 is likely to be spent on other DWT projects outwith those parishes. Copies of the letter will be sent to the Environment Agency and Imerys. A letter seeking information about allocations would also be sent to DWT by CKPC.

It was suggested that Cllr Higgins or the Clerk would write the letter of enquiry to the DWT and Cllr Page would arrange the meeting with Steeple and Arne parishes.

076.18 Cllr Page advised the Meeting that Dorset Community Action may consider an award for the Corfe River project and he would be looking for further funding elsewhere as well. He would also give the Clerk further information when available.

East Creech Conservation Area

077.18 Cllr Higgins reported on the PDC meeting where the case put forward by CKPC against the proposal by PDC to reduce the area and amend the boundaries of the East Creech conservation area was lost by 1 vote. Members noted his report with disappointment. He thanked, on behalf of the Parish Council, PDC Cllr Barnes and DCC Cllr Brooks for their support at the PDC meeting, and also Cllr Edwards, Cllr Burt et al. Dr Peter Cox was also thanked for his support and expert views. PDC Cllr Barnes additionally reported on the District Council's meeting. His report was noted and Members of the Parish Council expressed their thanks.

Past Planning Matters –

078.18 The Clerk reported on the results of applications as listed on the Agenda. These were noted.

079.18 Cllr Page advised the Meeting that he had not yet been able to raise CKPC's concerns regarding planning application **6/2017/0612** (The Old Blacksmith's Shop, Grange Road) and the manner in which Purbeck District Council dealt with a suspected unlawful development at the site with DAPTC due to due to a breakdown of his e-mail service. He hoped to report back to Members at the April meeting.

080.18 **TWA/2018/011 – “Denora”, Church Knowle** – Removal of Cypress tree to ground – Approved by PDC. – Approved by PDC

081.18 **6/2018/0036 – Land at Stoborough and Furzebrook** – Replacement by SSE of defective electricity poles – Approved by PDC

082.18 **6/2017/0717 - West Bucknowle House, Bucknowle, Church Knowle** - Installation of a lean-to greenhouse at rear to replace existing free-standing greenhouse and potting shed – **Approved by PDC**

083.18 **6/2017/0732 - Furzebrook Openpit, Furzebrook, Wareham, Dorset** - Continued working of the Western Extension area until 31 December 2030 (Note – The Parish Council has not been invited by PDC or DCC to comment on this application.) – **Not yet determined by DCC.** Cllr Page informed the Meeting he had discussed potential dust problems and their mitigation with a representative of Imerys and had received a positive response. Members noted his comments.

084.18 **6/2018/052 – Land opposite Old Blacksmith's Shop, Grange Road** – Create new opening – **Not yet determined by PDC**

HIGHWAYS & RIGHTS OF WAY

085.18 No overgrows of highways or rights of way were reported.

086.18 Several defects, mainly of a drainage nature, were reported. These included:

- a) A drainage gully and culvert beneath the road between Mr Hull's farm and St Peter's church at the entrance to Church Knowle village was blocked and causing constant flooding across the road. The Clerk advised the meeting that this was a “core” matter for DCC Highways and had been already reported for action by “County”. Work was due to commence in the next few days.
- b) Cllr Wilson reported that a drain/inspection cover in the vicinity of the Grange Road notice board had been raised by recent flooding and kept doing so. Several other covers had become raised and were obstructions. The Clerk advised he would contact Dorset Highways to organise their levelling whether or not the covers were of water company or BT responsibility.
- c) Cllr Page reported that road flood water was flowing down Furzebrook Road due to inability of drains, gullies and culverts of being able to cope with run-off due to blockages by roots and other items. DCC Cllr Brooks told the meeting that a DCC highways officer had been inspecting the roads in that area on the day of the meeting and would, no doubt, be arranging remedial works.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

087.18 The monthly accounts were presented for examination. After checking, it was proposed by Cllr Page, seconded by Cllr Ellwood, that they were accepted as correct. The motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the accounts as presented are approved and that the Chairman of the meeting be authorised to sign them as such.

088.18 The invoices due for payment were presented and it was proposed by Cllr Page, seconded by Cllr Edwards, that cheques for their payment to creditors be duly validated and invoices paid.

RESOLVED that the invoices and fees as presented be paid.

089.18 There was no update on remedial work carried out at the playground as Cllr Bugler was unable to attend the meeting. The item was postponed until the April meeting

090.18 Members reviewed the budget headings for the year 2018-2019 and in addition Cllr Page proposed that £100 be donated to the Corfe Valley News. This was seconded by Cllr Parker and unanimously approved.

RESOLVED that £100 be donated to Corfe Valley News.

091.18 Following resolution 090.18 minuted above, Members continued to review the budget headings. Cllr Ellwood proposed that the budget for 2018-2019 be approved. This was seconded by Cllr Wilson and unanimously agreed to.

RESOLVED that the budget for 2018-2019 is approved.

092.18 The Clerk advised the meeting that as recorded in Minute 51 (February 2018) Cllr Page had proposed that the appointment of Curtis Website & Design, webmasters for the year 2017-2018 be re-appointed as such for the year 2018-2019 and that extra duty of conversion and uploading of minutes, agendas and financial documents previously carried by Cllr Higgins on behalf of CKPC should be added to the webmaster role. Cllr Wilson had supported the motion which was carried unanimously. Because his account had been paid without a codicil attached, a tacit agreement, holding the same status in Law as a duly signed written formal contract, had been made by Church Knowle Parish Council and there was therefore no need for a formal signing by the Proper Officer of the Council. Members noted his point of information.

093.18 Cllr Wilson gave the meeting a report on booking arrangements for Furzebrook Village Hall and the problems which had arisen in February when the organisers of a whist drive at Furzebrook had not booked the hall beforehand according to the village hall's own booking arrangements. This had resulted in the Parish Council having to hold its meeting in the kitchen of the village hall. This had been a most unsatisfactory arrangement. She explained that she had checked the bookings for the evening concerned and had confirmed that the fault lay with the whist drive organisers and Church Knowle Parish Council's meeting should have taken precedence. There was general discussion about bookings and Cllr Parker proposed that CKPC maintain its meetings as booked and Furzebrook Village Hall should be asked to resolve the errors. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Edwards and unanimously agreed, Cllrs Page and Wilson abstaining.

094.18 The Clerk gave an outline of the Parish Council's responsibilities with regard to general data protection guidelines which are shortly to come into force. Members noted his report.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

095.18 Cllr Page advised the Meeting he was not happy with the outcome of the earlier discussion and resolution on the Corfe River Project (see Minute Nos 072.18 – 075.18 inc). Members noted his opinion and it was suggested that Cllr Higgins send the CKPC letter to Dorset Wildlife Trust.

096.18 Cllr Parker reported on a meeting with Mr Tim Bowden of FWAG where FWAG were in support of CKPC's proposals for the project. It was possible that the Environment Agency could match funding. She reported that FWAG would be happy to have another meeting and if "the pot grew" there might be further funding available. FWAG may be able to get farmers to test the river water and soil this summer.

DEFIBRILLATOR

097.18 The Clerk advised Members not present at the February meeting that Cllr Mrs Parker had received a request from the tenant of the New Inn, Church Knowle (Site of the village defibrillator) that consideration be given to train residents in the use of the defibrillator. The Clerk had taken advice from E&A, MIU staff and a senior member of St John's Ambulance Assn who advised that if "training"

is given to laymen in its use, the risk of misuse may be raised inasmuch as people may use their discretion and not follow the instructions given by the machine to the letter. The Chairman suggested that an item be published in the Corfe Valley News explaining the predicament and that users should only follow the instructions given by the machine when operational. Members accepted this without a desire for a vote. The Clerk agreed to incorporate it into his report on the Church Knowle Parish Council meeting.

OTHER ITEMS OF IMPORTANCE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

098.18 Cllr Higgins commented that the agenda for this meeting had been uploaded with errors. He suggested that it should be the agenda corrected of "typos" which should be uploaded. His comments were noted.

ITEMS FOR THE APRIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

099.18 No items were suggested.

PERIOD FOR DISCUSSION

100.18 Cllr Parker advised the meeting of a fallen tree in the cemetery. Mr Robbie Green, the Cemetery Gardener would be repairing the fence and would deal with the fallen tree.

101.18 Cllr Parker reported on the handrail of the raised pavement in Church Knowle village near the New Inn. It was very rotten in places and risk of injury to individuals using it was quite severe. DCC Cllr Brooks advised that this was a "core" responsibility of "County" and she would arrange remedial action to be carried out as soon as possible.

102.18 Cllr Brooks gave a presentation about the reorganisation of local government in Dorset which will result in a unitary authority for rural Dorset and one for the urban/metropolitan area of Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch. The current district councils of North Dorset, Purbeck, Weymouth & Portland, West Dorset, East Dorset, together with Dorset County Council would cease to exist and their functions would be taken over by a new "Dorset Council" which would be a district council with county council functions. Christchurch would be subsumed into Bournemouth and Poole to become part of another urban authority. She explained the possible workings of the new authority and how it may result in more responsibilities given to parish and town councils, but this was still "work in progress". She would report progress each time she attended CKPC meetings. There then followed general discussion amongst Members.

103.18 Cllr Wilson reported on clearance of mature trees as well as scrub along the Swanage Railway between Creech Bottom (Grange Road) and Furzebrook. She was very concerned about felling of mature oaks, etc.. Cllr Burt also expressed his concern as Parish Council Tree Officer and could not believe that PDC were unaware of the activity. Both PDC Cllr Barnes and DCC/PDC Cllr Brookes were shown photographs taken of the activity and the Clerk advised he would contact PDC's tree officer as soon as possible.

CLOSURE OF MEETING

104.18 There being no further matters Cllr Higgins closed the meeting at 10.20 pm.
