

Minutes of a meeting of Church Knowle Parish Council
held at Church Knowle Village Hall
on Tuesday 10th April, 2018

PRESENT

Council Members:

Cllr Mr Colin Page
Cllr Mr Anthony Higgins
Cllr Mrs Hazel Parker
Cllr Mr Derek Burt
Cllr Mr Edward Ellwood
Cllr Mrs Elisabeth Edwards
Cllr Mr Ian Hollard

Clerk to the Council:

Dr Alastair Wallace

C. K Parishioners & Members of the public:

PDC Cllr Mr Malcolm Barnes
DCC Cllr Mrs Cherry Brooks

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

105.18 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 Higgins proposed that Cllr Ellwood 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 Page. Cllr Ellwood did not object to such appointment and the motion was carried unanimously.

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

Cllr Ellwood then took the Chair for the meeting.

APOLOGIES

106.18 The Clerk had previously reported he had received apologies for absence from Cllrs Mr Leslie Bugler and Mr Jayne Wilson. Their apologies were accepted and noted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE MEETING

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

108.18 Cllr Hollard informed the meeting about a serious heath fire which had occurred on 24th March between Furzebrook and Creech Bottom during a Swanage Railway event. He reported that 10 fire appliances were in attendance and there had been severe difficulty in fighting the fire, thought to have been caused by a hot ember from one of the steam locomotives igniting the dry heath, because of the lack of access to fire engines, etc. He had been informed by a member of the fire brigade that had the fire occurred during the summer the consequences would have been much more serious and could have resulted in damage to properties. What concerned Cllr Hollard and the fire brigade was the serious lack of access to the heath, managed by the local branch of the herpetological society, due to ground conditions. Cllr Page said that previously there had been much better access to the heath and a good supply of fire beaters which, apparently were now lacking. General discussion about the fire risks from railway engines and inexperienced locomotive drivers who may stoke up the boilers for the increase in gradient at Furzebrook. Recent brushwood and tree felling had been carried out by Swanage Railway along the track and Cllr Burt wondered if fire precautions may have been the reason for this activity. Cllr Parker enquired if Swanage Railway was at fault and Cllr Hollard replied that the fire started immediately after a train went under Furzebrook bridge. Cllr Ellwood proposed that he would write, on behalf of the Parish Council, to Swanage Railway and the Wilts & Dorset Fire Brigade with a view to discussing the problems associated with the prevention and control of fires on the heath. This was accepted by Members.

There was then discussion of the implementation of the Countryside & Wildlife Act 2000 with regard to the heath. Cllr Hollard explained that the CROW Act did, indeed, apply to the heath and, consequently, the gates must not be locked. Cllr Page informed the meeting that he bring this matter up at the next Imerys liaison meeting. Finally, Cllr Ellwood closed the discussion period and added that whilst it was not in the Parish Council's remit to enforce legislation regarding access and fire precautions, it could assist in making sure that such an incident is not repeated.

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

109.18 As Cllr Bugler was not present at the meeting, it was decided to postpone discussion on Planning App No. 6/2018/0106.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13th MARCH 2018

110.18 The draft Minutes, which had been circulated before the meeting were read. Cllr Edwards pointed out some errors:

In Minute No 60.18 "Page" should be replaced by "Higgins"; in Minute No 73.18 the phrase "there were no other" should be the correct phrase; in Minute No 74.18 "Hillwood" should be replaced by "Killwood" and in Minute No 68.18 "March" should be replaced by "April".

There was then discussion about the contents of Minutes No 75.18 and 95.18, in particular what had been discussed regard to whom and when a letter about funding for CKPC's environmental project on the Corfe River be sent by CKPC to both the Environment Agency (EA) and Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT). Cllr Higgins reminded Members that £70,000 had been earmarked by the EA to the DWT acting as trustees for the projects and that a representative of Imerys had spoken with Cllr Higgins. It was the view of Imerys' representative that a letter to the EA may result in the EA withholding the funds altogether.

Cllr Edwards proposed that subject to correction of the typographical errors the minutes should now be accepted as a true record of the proceedings of the meeting of 13th March 2018. This was seconded by Cllr Page and the proposal unanimously carried.

RESOLVED that the amended Minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings of the Parish Council meeting of 13th March 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 March, 2018

111.18 Cllr Burt advised Members that Killwood was within the Parish. He also suggested that DWT be contacted again for information about the work being carried out by their contractors, in particular enquiring as to why DWT are removing mature trees from the local area rather than carrying out coppicing work which they, apparently, indicated they would be carrying out. This suggestion was unanimously approved without formal vote.

112.18 Cllr Higgins asked if the laying of a scalpings/gravel driveway at Rachels Plantation had been reported as a possible unlawful development had been reported to PDC. The Clerk advised this had been done. There was some discussion as to whether or not the activity constituted "unlawful development" and Cllr Hollard confirmed it probably was as it took place within a SSSI

PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications

113.18 None had been received before publication of the Agenda.

Planning Applications Received After Publication of Agenda –

114.18 **TWA/2018/074 - The Old Rectory, Church Knowle, BH20 5NG - Walnut Tree - reduce lateral branches growing over courtyard and towards property by 1-2m - Church Knowle Conservation Area (Note: Plans had not been received from PDC before agenda compilation)**

A report was given by Cllr Burt. Cllr Parker pointed out that the application had been submitted after the "cut-off date" of February 28th set for tree and hedge work to cease during bird nesting period. Cllr Higgins agreed with Cllr Parker on that matter as did Cllr Burt. During report, Cllr Burt indicated he had no objections in principle and added that the work could be carried out after nesting period. DCC Cllr Brook advised the meeting that the date was not definitive but of a strong advisory nature and if birds were showing signs of nesting in the trees/hedges concerned work must cease immediately. Cllr Burt proposed, seconded by Cllr Higgins, that the CKPC have no objections to the tree work in principle but suggests that the work is not carried out until autumn after the bird nesting period.

RESOLVED - that the CKPC have no objections to the tree work in principle but suggests that the work is not carried out until autumn after the bird nesting period.

115.18 **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.**

Cllr Bugler was not in attendance and the Parish Council had not received a report from him on the matter. There was some discussion about the applicant applying for retrospective planning permission on work already carried out but it was generally felt that without Cllr Bugler's input it would be difficult for the Council to give full assessment as to whether they should object or agree to planning permission being granted. It was proposed by Cllr Page, seconded by Cllr Parker, that CKPC ask PDC for another extension of the time period for any consultation in order that the application can be properly reviewed at the May meeting of the Parish Council. The proposal was unanimously agreed to. The Clerk commented that it was unlikely PDC would agree to such an extension being granted as by doing so the PDC's planning dept would fail to comply with the time limits set by HM government's guidelines on planning decisions. Members noted his comments

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

Unlawful Developments –

116.18 No new unlawful developments reported. Refer to Minute No 112.18.

Past Planning Matters –

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

118.18 Cllr Page advised the Meeting that he had still 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 the continued breakdown of his e-mail service which was still causing problems. He hoped to report back to Members at the May meeting.

FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

119.18 The monthly accounts were presented for examination. After checking, it was proposed by Cllr Ellwood, seconded by Cllr Page, 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.

120.18 The invoices due for payment were presented and it was proposed by Cllr Hollard, 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.

- 121.18 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
- 122.18 The Clerk reported that he had at last heard from the new external auditors what they require from "small local authorities" (such as CKPC) in the auditing process. He advised that the Internal auditor would be preparing the accounts and report to external auditors for the year ended 31st March 2018. Members noted his point of information.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT

- 123.18 Cllr Parker reported that she had e-mailed Mr Tim Bowden of SWAG but he had no news news for Cll Parker at the time. He had sent Cllr Parker a copy of "A Community Guide to Water Projects" which she passed on to Members for information.
- 124.18 Cllr Page reported he had been in touch with Viridor to investigate the possibility of funding for the river project. Members noted his report.

OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS OF IMPORTANCE FOR IMMEDIATE DISCUSSION

- 125.18 The Chairman had no matters of immediate importance.
- 126.18 Cllr Burt interjected that he wished to report potholes in the road through East Creech from the telephone box to Grange Road. Members noted and the Clerk advised he would report the problems to Dawn Atkin at DCC.

ITEMS FOR THE MAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

- 127.18 No items were suggested.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

- 128.18 The Clerk reminded Members about the Annual Parish Meeting to take place on 09th May at Church Knowle village hall. He asked that Members give consideration to any matters they wished to bring up so that he could complete the agenda in good time for publication on the notice boards (2 weeks before the meeting). He also advised that the Chairman of the April meeting remained as Chairman of the PC until the start of the May Parish Council meeting and, consequently, it should be he who gives the Chairman of the Parish Council's report. However, there should be input from the past Chairmen from throughout the year (ie. Cllrs Page, Higgins and Hollard). Members noted his point of information and the past Chairs agreed to assist.

PERIOD FOR DISCUSSION

- 129.18 Cllr Parker advised the meeting of an e-mail received from the NFU about the annual "Iron Man" cycle run to take place on 23rd September. It appeared that none of the events would be taking place in Church Knowle parish. Members noted her point of information.
- 130.18 Cllr Higgins advised Members that PDC's presentation of the Volunteer of the Year Award would take place on 12th April and that he and Cllr Page would be in attendance. Members noted his point of information.
- 131.18 Cllr Brooks gave an update about the reorganisation of local government in Dorset. She advised that Christchurch Borough Council had been considering a judicial review of the process but that it would probably not favour that council. She also mentioned that the boundaries review relating to wards and councillors had been deferred pending reorganisation. The working of the new Dorset Council would also not be significantly different for the next two to three years.

Cllr Brooks then advised Members that £1.5 million extra funding had been made available to DCC to fix potholes in the roads and suggested all reports should be made through the dorsetforyou.com website.

Other items of interest from the County Councillor included the fact that new legislation was being brought forward to increase penalties for littering and fly-tipping which includes doubling the current maximum penalties. £1 million is also being allocated for special education at the old Bovington Middle School.

132.18 Cllr Parker asked when CKPC would be meeting with Steeple's Parish Chairman and Arne Parish to discuss the environmental projects and DWT. There was no further discussion on this matter at the time.

CLOSURE OF MEETING

133.18 There being no further matters Cllr Ellwood closed the meeting at 9.20 pm.

Action list– not part of minutes.

ACTION LIST FROM APRIL MINUTES

Minute No	Action	Responsibility
108.18	Letter to Swanage Railway and Wilts & Dorset Fire Brigade regarding heath fire	Cllr Ellwood
110.18	Uploading of March Minutes etc to website	Webmaster/Clerk
111.18	CKPC to contact DWT about "coppicing" at Killwood	Clerk
114.18	CKPC to contact PDC with comments on TWA/2018/074	Clerk
115.18	CKPC to ask again for extension to planning consultation	Clerk
120.18	Invoices to be paid	Clerk
126.18	Contact DCC re highway defects & flooding	Clerk