

Minutes of a meeting of Church Knowle Parish Council
held by telephony on Zoom Platform
on Friday 30th April, 2021

PRESENT

Council Members:

Cllr Mrs Hazel Parker [HP] (In Chair)
Cllr Mr Anthony Higgens [AH]
Cllr Mr Howard Fry [HF]
Cllr Mrs Deborah Evans [DE]

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Dr A W Wallace [AW]

C. K Parishioners & Members of the public:

Mr Andrew Parsons – Parish Clerk-in-Waiting
Mr Niel Wedge (DAPTC – Hosting Zoom Meeting)
DC Cllr Mrs Cherry Brooks [CB]

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

021.21 Cllrs Mrs Edwards, Mr Derek Burt and Mrs Jayne Wilson gave their apologies for non-attendance.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – (Current Meeting)

022.21 Cllr Parker declared her interest in a planning matter 6/2021/0115 as a neighbour and client of the applicant. Members noted her declaration.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

023.21 There was no public discussion at this time

RESIGNATION OF CHAIRMAN

024.20 Cllr Parker advised the meeting that she was prepared to continue as Chairman until the next meeting. This was accepted by Members.

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22nd JANUARY 2021

025.21 The minutes which had been previously circulated were read. Cllr Higgens proposed that they should be accepted as a true record of the proceedings and his proposal was seconded by Cllr Evans. The minutes were duly approved in a unanimous vote.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 20 MARCH 2020 MEETING

026.21 AH enquired about the current status of the project to repair/replace the missing fingers of fingerposts in the Parish. The Clerk advised that he had been in contact with Dorset Timber who advised they could supply and cut wood to comply with sizes required. AH enquired about possibility of financial assistance from the National Farmers' Union (NFU) for such items and fixing. HP advised that the Council could apply for such a grant and would get more information about how to go about it. AH proposed that the Council should apply for such a grant, following HP's research, for the finger posts project and his proposal was seconded by DE. His motion was carried.

027.21 AH enquired about the future of the street lamp which had been previously discussed and suggested that it should be placed on the agenda for the parish meeting. This was unanimously agreed without vote.

PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications

028.21 **6/2021/0115 – Application for Certificate of Lawful Use of Structures in Church Knowle.** At this point HP left the Meeting on Zoom. AH took her place as Vice-chairman. Members discussed the reasons for the application which included the use of the premises for care of an individual on a temporary nature. The temporary nature of the building concerned. The Clerk advised that the permission was for use of the land on which the temporary building was built. The permanency of the use of the land was discussed at length and

AH proposed that the Council would have no objection to a renewable Certificate of Lawful Use being granted but with a recommendation that it should be reviewed for renewal or otherwise every five years and that reasonable arboreal screening is retained to act as visual screening. His proposal was seconded by DE and supported by all Members present. **RESOLVED: That the Parish Council has no objection in principle to the Dorset Council granting a Certificate of Lawful Use with regard to Application 6/2021/0115 but recommends that it is reviewed by the Planning Authority every five years for continuation or determination. It also recommends that a condition that reasonable arboreal screening is retained.**

HP was invited back into the Zoom meeting and advised of the decision. She returned to her position in the Chair.

029.21 **TWA/2021/033 - Application to carry out tree works in Church Knowle.** DB advised Members that the works involved related to the removal of an ash tree which was extending over a house. He could see no reason for the Parish Council objecting to such works. HP mentioned the possible risk to the house due to Ash Dieback disease. Following discussion, HP proposed that the Parish Council should have no objection to the application being granted. This was seconded by DE. Members agreed to the proposal. **RESOLVED: That the Parish Council has no objection to the Dorset Council granting permission for the tree works described in Application No TWA/2021/033.**

030.21 **6/2020/0640 – Report on Parish Council’s Planning Committee (Planning) Decision.** HP reported on a decision made by a quorate number of Parish Councillors attending a telephonic meeting during the current CoVid-19 crisis. The committee had provided minutes of their meeting which are available. The committee’s decision at the time was discussed and AH proposed that the Council should ratify the decision. DE seconded AH’s proposal. The Members present agreed. **RESOLVED: That the Church Knowle Parish Council agrees with the decision made by its Planning Committee and conveyed to Dorset Council.**

Planning Applications Received after Publication of Agenda

031.21 The Clerk advised the meeting that none had been received

Unlawful Developments

032.21 HP asked that the report of possible unlawful development at Furzebrook be postponed. This was agreed.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

033.21 There was general discussion about traffic speeds in the Parish and through Church Knowle village. AH suggested that following opening of the country after “CoVid-19 Lockdown” there is likely to be an influx of traffic along the valley road through the village and on to Kimmeridge and Lulworth. It was suggested that Dorset Council look again at the imposition of a 30mph speed limit at least through Church Knowle. HF reminded Members that the now-defunct Dorset County Council had carried out a traffic speed and use survey through the village some years ago and decided that the village did not warrant a 30mph speed limit. He advised that the census had been carried out in the centre of the village. DE asked why 30mph was the limit suggested previously by CKPC; she suggested that the Parish Council should ask for a 20mph limit. HF advised Members that in Wales there is a 20mph speed limit through rural villages. There was general concern that in theory vehicles could be currently driven through Church Knowle village despite the fact that there are areas without a pavement. There is a children’s play park and playing field with direct access to the road, there is an elderly people’s sheltered housing estate whose service road/car park opens on to the main street / through road. Discussion then centred around the increased traffic in the summer due to the caravan sites and museum at Kimmeridge. The Meeting was also made aware that it is government policy that every village should have a 30mph speed limit and that where there are more than 20 houses involved, that limit should be reduced to 20 mph. The Clerk mentioned that a 20mph limit has recently been introduced in Charminster just outside Dorchester. AH reminded everyone that Harman’s Cross has a 30mph limit

HF mentioned an organisation called “20 Is Plenty” which has researched traffic incidents in rural areas and found that 60% of all RTA fatalities occur on rural roads. HF read out several Dept of Transport recommendations and following further discussion HF proposed that Dorset Council be contacted with a view to reducing the speed limit through Church Knowle to 20mph. This was seconded by AH. The proposal was carried unanimously. **RESOLVED: That Dorset Council be contacted with a view to the highways authority of the council reducing the current 60mph speed limit through Church Knowle to 20 mph.**

034.22 HP suggested that the Corfe Castle Parish Council Chairman be contacted with a view to the Council seeking discussions with Dorset Council to extending the 30mph limit in their parish to beyond the Rings on the road to Bucknowle and that signage be erected to this effect. The Chairman would report further on the matter.

035.21 HF advised Members that guidance on rural speed limits requires that in National Parks and AONBs, a speed limit of 30mph be in place.

ACCOUNTS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FROM 21 JANUARY 2021 TO 20 APRIL 2021

035.21 The accounts were examined. The Clerk advised that the first 6 month tranche of the 2021-2022 precept had been paid into the current account by Dorset Council. AH proposed the amended accounts be accepted and this was seconded by DE. The motion was passed unanimously.

SETTLEMENT OF INVOICES PAYABLE AT THE MEETING

035.21 The Clerk presented the invoices payable. These were examined. AH proposed the invoices should be accepted and paid. This was seconded by DE and duly paid following unanimous vote by the Members.

RETIREMENT OF CURRENT CLERK & PROPER OFFICER TO THE COUNCIL

036.21 The Clerk reminded Members that he had formally announced his retirement as Clerk in March 2020 to take effect one month later although he had advised Members some time beforehand of his intentions. HP announced that a new Parish Clerk and Proper Officer had been appointed following interview. He is Mr Andrew Parsons, BSc(Eng), C.Eng, LLB and the current incumbent would be in contact with him to change over the authority. It was hoped that Mr Parsons would take over the position at the May 2021 meeting. Members noted the Chairman's and Clerk's points of information.

CORRESPONDENCE

037.21 The Clerk advised the meeting that RoSPA were offering a half-price offer to carry out the annual safety inspection which would be due in May/June. Members noted his comments and agreed, without formal vote, that the offer should be accepted.

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

038.21 The Clerk explained again the current CoVid-19 legislation and government guidelines regarding non-telephonic meetings. At the present time they could not be held although the Dept of Communities had given exemption for councils to hold meetings as had been carried out at this meeting. However, it was expected that following partial opening of the current "lockdown" on 17 May, 2021 it might be possible to hold a Parish Council meeting in the open air. He suggested that the next meeting date should be decided upon with reference to the CoVid legislation. The next meeting date was not decided upon pending further confirmation as to whether or not such a meeting could be held. It was suggested however that the May Meeting could be held on 25 May, outside if possible, but if not, telephony could be used as had been recently the case.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21:07hr.