

Minutes of a meeting of Church Knowle Parish Council
held in the Church Knowle Village Hall
at 6:30pm on Tuesday 16th May, 2023

PRESENT

Council Members:

Cllr Mrs Hazel Parker [HP] (Chair)
Cllr Mrs Jayne Wilson [JW] (Vice-chair)
Cllr Mrs Billa Edwards [DB]

C. K Parishioners & Members of the public:

4 Members of the public were present.

Dorset Council

Cllr Cherry Brookes

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Mr Andrew Parsons [AP]

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

154.23 The Clerk opened the meeting with the election of the Chair. Cllr Wilson proposed Cllr Parker who accepted the nomination and it was seconded by Cllr Edwards. Cllr Wilson agreed to be Vice-chair.

Cllr Parker took the chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, AND VACANCIES

154.23 There were apologies for non-attendance from Cllr Grice and Cllr Fry.

155.23 Resignation letters have been received from Cllr Evans, Cllr Pitcher and Cllr Pippa Evans.

156.23 Cllr Burt's place on the Council has become vacant as the Dorset Council Monitoring Officer has ruled that he was in breach of Local Government Act 1972 s83(4)(b) by not having signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office at or before the Extraordinary Meeting on 3rd April for which he sent his apologies for non-attendance. Cllr Brookes was asked who had sought her advice on Cllr Burt's eligibility on 9th May but would only say it was a member of the Parish Council.

157.23 The Parish Council now has four vacancies, the Dorset Council elections department has been informed and the correct notices have been displayed.

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

158.23 There were no declarations of interest. It was established that no-one was recording the meeting.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

159.23 Mrs Sue Lewis thanked the Council organising the H-bar on the road near to their house.

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11th APRIL

160.23 The minutes which had previously been circulated were read. It was proposed that they be accepted as a true record of the proceedings and the proposal by BE was seconded by JW and passed unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 11th FEBRUARY MEETING

161.23 There were no matters arising.

ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

162.23 It was agreed to defer the review and adoption of these to a meeting of the full Council.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

163.23 There is no report on the Neighbourhood Plan as the Chair of the Steering Group has resigned from the Council and was not present.

In her resignation letter Debbie Evans requested confirmation that she still had the support of Parish Council where the Neighbourhood Plan was concerned.

The Council resolved to continue to support the Neighbourhood Plan and Debbie Evans role in it.

PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications

164.23 **P/FUL/2023/01811** Russett Hollow – Change rural building to residential dwelling.

The Council examined the application and resolved to have **No Objection** to the application provided it was subject to the same Natural England and run-off standards as the Withy Lakes application.

Proposed by BE, seconded by JW passed unanimously.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

165.23 The Council resolved to defer discussion of Footpath 30 until the next meeting.

166.23 The H-bar and road markings have implemented and repainted. Cllr Brookes was asked if another H-bar could be placed Eastwards from Cottages 11 & 12 Church Knowle as cars are now parking there and blocking the entrances on the Northern side of the road. Cllr Brookes undertook to ask Highways about this but thought it might require a Traffic Regulation Order.

THE CEMETERY

167.23 **Administration and Applications**

168.23 The details for the headstone for Mary Wrixon were presented to the Council for approval.

The Council resolved to Approve the headstone. Proposed by JW, seconded by BE and passed unanimously.

ACCOUNTS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FROM 12th APRIL 2023 TO C.O.B, 9th MAY 2023

169.23 The accounts were examined and approved. Proposed by BE, seconded by JW and passed unanimously.

SETTLEMENT OF INVOICES PAYABLE AT THE MEETING

170.23 The Chairman and Clerk presented the invoices payable. These were examined and the resolution to accept and pay the invoices was proposed by BE, seconded by JW and passed unanimously. All of the invoices were duly paid.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

171.23 No additional matters.

ITEMS IN PROGRESS

172.23 Creech Bottom Post Box – Cllr Wilson reported that the post box while installed was still covered by a black plastic bag and not operational. The Clerk and Cllr Brookes are to look into this.

173.23 Council website – Clerk is working on this.

174.23 Painting archive container – quotes will be sought for specific contractors.

REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR

175.23 Cllr Brookes gave a report on Dorset Council items that may have an impact on the parish. This included:

- The Low Income Support Fund. This is available to low income families and details may be obtained from the Citizens Advice Bureau.
- Community grants of up to £5,000 for activities that bring communities together are available.
- Poole Harbour Oil Spill. The clean-up is going well and much of the contaminating oil has been collected and removed.
- Foster carers are needed and there is a 15% increase in their financial payment.
- Dorset Council is opposing the plan to house asylum seekers on the Portland barge.
- The danger of wildfires being started by campfires and barbeques is being highlighted.

CORRESPONDENCE

176.23 A piece from the Dorset Echo dated April 7th 2023 which misrepresented the Council's position on the Withy Lakes planning application has been received.

It was resolved to defer the Council's response to this until the next meeting.

177.23 A letter has been received by email from Amaya Everett drawing the attention of the Parish Council to the commercial camping and motor home activities at the New Inn.

It was resolved that this letter would be forwarded to the Dorset Council Licensing Department who could undertake an investigation into the legitimacy of these activities and the points raised.

178.23 A request for financial support was received from the Purbeck Film Festival. It was decided not to make a contribution.

OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS OF IMPORTANCE

179.23 No other items.

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR JUNE 2023 AGENDA

180.23 The following additional items were proposed for inclusion in the June 2023 Agenda:

- Footpath 30
- The Council's response to the Dorset Echo article dated 7th April 2023
- The Adoption of the new Standing Orders.

PERIOD FOR DISCUSSION

181.23 The planning department have been contacted about deer fencing but have indicated that there is no breach of regulations and that no enforcement action can be taken. Cllr Parker noted that DEFRA are offering grants for deer fencing.

182.23 Many of the direction road signs are being obscured by hedgerow growth. Cllr Brookes said that the location of these would have to be specified before any action could be taken.

183.24 The question of the strict compliance with LGA 1972 s83(4)(b) regarding the signing of Declarations of Acceptance of Office was considered. While of the Declarations made for councillors who had joined the Council since May 2021 are on record, the previous clerk has no recollection of having witnessed or seen a Declaration made by Debbie Evans who was co-opted at the Zoom meeting in January 2021. Dr Jonathan

Evans (husband) from the floor assured the Council that a Declaration had been signed on 10th February 2021. He produced an image of the document on his phone but this did not show that the document had been witnessed.

Since the Declaration may be made “in the presence of a member of the council or of the proper officer of the council” it is quite possible that the Declaration was made in the presence of a member of the Council.

The Council resolved to request a copy of this Declaration for its records.

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

184.23 The next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council will be held at the Furzebrook Village Hall on Tuesday 13th June at 6-30pm.

185.23 There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 19:46hr

Approved by Chairman :..... Date:.....