

Minutes of a meeting of Church Knowle Parish Council
held in the Church Knowle Village Hall
at 6:30pm on Tuesday 12th March, 2024

PRESENT

Council Members:

Cllr Mr Derek Burt [DB] (Chair)
Cllr Mrs Jayne Wilson [JW] (Vice-chair)
Cllr Mr Carl Grice [CG]
Cllr Mr Howard Fry [HF]
Cllr Mrs Hazel Parker [HP]
Cllr Mrs Billa Edwards [BE]
Cllr Mr Will Slack [WS]
Cllr Mr Ian Gilbert [IG]

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Mr Andrew Parsons [AP]

C. K Parishioners & Members of the public:

Mr Graham Seaton
Ian Gilbert

Dorset County Councillor:

Cllr Cherry Brooks

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

053.24 No apologies for non-attendance were received.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

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

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

055.24 Mr Seaton raised the problem of flooding at East Creech. It appears that the culvert under the road is undersized and that although Dorset Highways regularly clear this with a suction machine it soon blocks again. A permanent solution of a larger properly sized culvert is required.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

056.24 Cllr Burt continues in the Chair, proposed by HP, seconded by JW
Cllr Wilson was nominated as Vice Chair, proposed by WS, seconded by HP
Their nominations were passed unanimously.

VACANCIES FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS AND CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER

057.24 Mr Gilbert has submitted a letter of application to join the parish council. His co-option was proposed by Cllr Wilson, seconded by Cllr Slack and passed unanimously. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took his place on the council.
This leaves one vacancy for a Parish Councillors which will continue to be advertised through the usual channels.

REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR

058.24 Cllr Brooks made a report from the Dorset Council that included:

- Highways propose to apply preventative surface treatments to some of the roads (chip and spray).
- The necessity of voters providing photo ID at the polling stations for the May 2nd elections.
- The decision at the latest Dorset Council meeting to apply 100% council tax premium to empty houses and second homes. These will effectively pay double council tax. Holiday let properties will continue to be classed as business.

- Dorset Council is operating with a balanced budget and no services will be cut.

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15th FEBRUARY 2024

059.24 The minutes which had previously been circulated were read.

It was resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting.
Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Grice and passed unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING

060.24 The requested contribution (item 041.24, declined) of £3,000 by Dorset Highways to the expense of implementing the approved 30mph speed limit through Church Knowle village was revisited.

Cllr Brooks agreed to take this up with the Highways department.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

061.24 Cllr Grice reported there will be public meeting on April 10th at 10am in the Church Knowle Village Hall to prepare a draft plan. Letters with open questions on topics that are of interest to the community that can be incorporated into the plan will be delivered to households before this meeting.

062.24 It is unlikely that the current tranche of the grant will be used in this grant period and any unspent remainder will be returned.

PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications

063.24 There were no new planning applications for consideration.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

064.24 The problem of deer roaming free across the highways and the parish was raised. It was stated that there are some 2m deer in UK causing 75,000 car accidents a year. The number are so great that it is generally accepted that management and culling is a necessity. There is no department at Dorset Council dealing with this and it does not fall into the remit of DEFRA.

065.24 The ongoing problem of road flooding owing to blocked culverts was discussed.

067.24 A report will be made on the Dorset Council website querying the compliance and adequacy of the barriers on either side of the railway bridge at Furzebrook.

068.24 The possibility of a speed limit on Grange Road was discussed.

THE CEMETERY

070.24 Administration and Applications

- No new applications -

071.24 Cllr Parker had received a query whether cremation plot 131 was available. The clerk undertook to consult the records and report back to her.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

ACCOUNTS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FROM 14th FEBRUARY 2024 to C.O.B. 12th MARCH 2024

072.24 The accounts were examined and approved.

Approval proposed by HP, seconded by WS and passed unanimously.

SETTLEMENT OF INVOICES PAYABLE AT THE MEETING

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

ITEMS IN PROGRESS

074.24 - The Cemetery Easement
The Clerk reported that Ellis Jones had been contacted.

075.24 - The Footbridge.
The Clerk reported that Suttles Civil Engineering had visited the site, were enthusiastic about the project and would be providing an estimate that could be used for fund raising.

CORRESPONDENCE

076.24 The Clerk reported that the Dorset Council is seeking community consultation via a survey for the Local Transport Plan. As Church Knowle has no public transport services it was agreed that this was not applicable to the Parish.

OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS OF IMPORTANCE

077.24 The Chairman welcomed Cllr Gilbert to the Parish Council.

PERIOD FOR DISCUSSION

078.24 Cllr Wilson noted that a contact list of Councillors would be useful. It was agreed to put this in hand.

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR APRIL 2024 AGENDA

079.24 The following additional items were proposed for inclusion in the April 2024 Agenda:
- The damage being done to the Cocknowle ridge by the irresponsible use of 4 wheel drive vehicles.

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

080.24 The next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council will be held at the Furzebrook Village Hall on Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 6-30pm. The clerk will be unable to attend this and will arrange a suitable cover.

081.24 There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:30pm

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