

Minutes of a meeting of Church Knowle Parish Council
held in the Furzebrook Village Hall
at 6:30pm on Tuesday 13th August, 2024

PRESENT

Council Members:

Cllr Mr Derek Burt [DB] (Chair)
Cllr Mrs Jayne Wilson [JW] (Vice Chair)
Cllr Mr Carl Grice [CG]
Cllr Mr Will Slack [WS]
Cllr Mr Ian Gilbert [IG]
Cllr Mrs Judi Newns [JN]
Cllr Mr Howard Fry [HF]
Cllr Mrs Hazel Parker [HP]

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Mr Andrew Parsons [AP]

C. K Parishioners & Members of the public:

Mr T. Bailey
Mr and Mrs Elliott
Mrs Gilbert
Mrs Burt
Mr M. Jones
Mr T. Leach
Mr R. Cawley
Mr and Mrs Edwards
Mr S. Trewella

Dorset County Councillor:

Mr Ben Wilson

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

223.24 No apologies for non-attendance were received.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

224.24 It was established that no-one was recording the meeting. Cllr Wilson said that she would abstain from voting on Blue Pool planning as she has previously been employed there. Cllr Grice said that he was a close neighbour.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

225.24 Mr Jones (Blue Pool) presented the three planning applications.

1. The Rope Bridge (P/FUL/2024/03999). He said that this had been built to high standards of safety, Natural England had been consulted and that the application had been made on his behalf by Morgan Carey a local firm of architects and planning consultants.

It was observed that these consultants would have made it clear at the outset that the proper authority for planning permission is Dorset Council and not Natural England. Natural England (letter 9th August) objects to the application on planning and environmental grounds.

2. Camping (P/HABR/2024/04075). He said that camping at the Blue Pool provided local employment and fulfilled a demand for camping that would otherwise be met by wild camping.

It was observed that prior to camping at the Blue Pool there had been no instances of wild camping and that this was not perceived to be a problem.

The notes from Natural England point out that the proposed site is within 400m of the Dorset Heathlands and sensitive areas that are subject to many other environmental restrictions.

3. The Tree Houses and the Toilet Block. He said that Natural England had been consulted, that the buildings had been constructed from wood from the estate and that ecological considerations had been uppermost in their design and construction.

He concluded his presentation by noting that the Blue Pool had been a Tourist Attraction for over 100 years, that as a business it had to make a profit and commercial opportunities should not be unreasonably shut down. The Blue Pool should be an integral part of the community providing activities and employment.

It was pointed out that the Blue Pool is in a Site of Special Scientific Interest, Dorset Heath RAMSAR and the Dorset Heath Protected Area. It is also in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and part of the Poole Harbour Nutrient Catchment Area. The EC legislation overrides RAMSAR and a scheme can only be considered if it does not impact the integrity of the site and that mitigation cannot be considered as mitigation implies that there has been disturbance.

226.24 Mr Elliot spoke objecting to these retrospective applications on the grounds that the proper environmental regulations which are strict in the area had been ignored and that there had been no attempt to follow due process.

227.24 Mr. Edwards spoke objecting to the applications saying that he had consulted with other parishioners and he was speaking on behalf of 4 households in Furzebrook, 1 at Creech and 2 at Cotness. He urged anyone with an objection or comment on the applications to log their views on the Dorset Planning website. Given that the application contravenes all of the regulations he requested that the Parish Council oppose the application.

228.24 He noted that a similar planning application for camping (P/HABR/2024/01984) had been submitted for camping from 3rd May 2024 earlier in the year and had been refused on the grounds of the environmental regulations. The area is within the 400m heathland buffer zone and this application must be refused on the same grounds as the previous application.

PLANNING MATTERS

The Chairman deemed it appropriate for the Parish Council to consider planning at this point of the agenda. All of the applications are from the Blue Pool.

229.24 Councillors considered that as the Blue Pool is the largest visitor attraction in the parish more community consultation especially with close neighbours affected would be appropriate. Camping will involve families with dogs and the heath and the SSSI regulations preclude these. Councillors stressed that the correct procedure, which is to apply for planning permission before an activity, is well known to all and that the retrospective nature of these applications did nothing to recommend them. That the applications made no account of the very strict environmental regulations applicable to area was the main factor in the Council's opposing them.

Planning Applications

230.24 P/FUL/2024/03999 Blue Pool BH20 5AR Retain Rope Bridge.

The Parish Council resolved to oppose the application.

Voting: 3 for, 0 against, 5 abstentions.

231.24 P/HOU/2024/02849 Blue Pool BH20 5AR

The Parish Council resolved to oppose the application.

Voting 2 for, 0 against, 6 abstentions.

232.24 P/HABR/2024/04074

The Parish Council resolved to write to Dorset Council objecting to the application on the grounds of the environmental legislation, and requesting that there be consultation with the responsible environmental agencies and authorities.

VACANCIES FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS AND CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER

233.24 There have been no new applications to join the Parish Council and the one remaining vacancy will continued to be advertised as usual.

REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCILLOR

234.24 Cllr Ben Wilson presented his report that had been previously circulated. He noted that there had been a change to the delegation scheme at planning and that there was a Big Conversation event at Wareham on 31st August.

COUNCILLORS ASSUMING SPECIALIST ROLES

235.24 Councillors undertook to assume responsibility for the following parts of the Council's business:

Cllr Burt	Trees
Cllr Grice	Perenco and Imerys liaison
Cllr Parker	Cemetery
Cllr Slack	DAPTC
Cllr Wilson	DAPTC
Cllr Gilbert	Highways and Rights of Way
Cllr Fry	The Playing Field
Cllr Newns	Planning and Environmental Matters.

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9th JULY 2024

236.24 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 Newns, seconded by Cllr Gilbert and passed unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING

237.24 The moving of the see-saw and swings was discussed. It was agreed that the working party would assess sites and feasibility (240.24)

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

238.24 Cllr Grice reported that the Neighbourhood Plan was progressing, a Housing needs survey is being prepared and they are working with Jacqui Cuff.

THE PLAYING FIELD

239.24 It was agreed that a working party of Councillors would do the work, mostly sanding and applying preservative to the woodwork, recommended by the last two professional surveys.

240.24 The expense and feasibility of moving the swing and see-saw, which have been in place for some 70 years will be assessed by the working party.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

241.24 The communication with Dorset Council is up to date and the speed limits and deer signs are in hand.

THE CEMETERY

Administration and Applications

242.24 The additional lettering for the Vye headstone was unanimously approved by the Council.

243.24 The application to inter the ashes of Natasha Lummes in a new plot in the Cemetery near her grandmother was unanimously approved by the Council.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

ACCOUNTS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FROM 12th JUNE 2024 to C.O.B. 9th JULY 2024

244.24 The accounts were examined and approved.

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

SETTLEMENT OF INVOICES PAYABLE AT THE MEETING

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

ITEMS IN PROGRESS

246.24 The Footbridge. - In hand.

CORRESPONDENCE

247.24 A notice of a public meeting at the Studland Village Hall on 4th September to discuss the proposed ferry fare increases had been received.

248.24 An agenda for a Perenco Liaison Committee meeting on September 7th has been received. Cllr Grice agreed to attend.

249.24 A request for volunteers to work with the Caring for Communities and People department of the Dorset Council has been received.

OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS OF IMPORTANCE

250.24 - No other items.

PERIOD FOR DISCUSSION

251.24 Cllr Parker asked that the Parish Council filing cabinet in Jill Bugler's garage be collected. The Clerk undertook to move this to the Council archives by the Church Knowle Village Hall.

252.24 Cllr Gilbert raised the subject of shooting at the Blue Pool. He raised concerns that shooting was taking place in close proximity to public footpaths and potentially over these footpaths. There were no signs indicating that shooting was taking place in the area and, since it appeared that the activity was being advertised to a private members club in Mayfair, questioned the training and qualifications of the shooting parties.

253.24 Mr Jones responded that anyone with a firearms license must have proper training and qualifications. The shooters receive a map and local guidance on where they can shoot. The Blue Pool has a deer management qualification. There is no shooting from or over footpaths and there is no restriction on the public use of the footpaths as a consequence of shooting. Further the deer shot are not wasted but used to provide fare for the cafe/restaurant.

254.24 Mr Jones offered to meet Cllrs Burt and Gilbert on site and give them a tour of the shoot.

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR AUGUST 2024 AGENDA

255.24 There were no additional items proposed for inclusion in the September 2024 Agenda:

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

256.24 The next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council will be held at the Church Knowle Village Hall on Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 6-30pm.

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

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