

Minutes of the Meeting of Church Knowle Parish Council
held in the Furzebrook Village Hall
at 6:30pm on Tuesday 14th October, 2025

PRESENT

Council Members:

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

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Mr Andrew Parsons [AP]

C. K Parishioners & Members of the public:

Mr and Mrs Thomas
Mr Trevor Bailey
Mrs Bolton
Alexandra Anderson
Ann Gilbert

Dorset County Councillor:

Cllr Ben Wilson

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

265.25 Apologies for non-attendance were received from Cllr Hazel Parker.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

266.25 Cllr Gilbert declared that had received a written “banning order” from the Furzebrook Estate (Blue Pool) which he attributes to an incident involving a deer shot close to walkers on a footpath, wrongly ascribed to him.

267.25 Cllr Newns declared that she has had calls and emails from Mr Jones (Blue Pool) inferring that she is corruptible.

268.25 It was established that the meeting is not being recorded.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

269.25 Mr and Mrs Thomas noted that the Parish Council intends to register the ownership, together the covenants, of the Playing Field. They asked that an easement allowing access from their house to the isolated portion of their garden north of the house be included in the registration.

270.25 Mr Bailey asked for an update on progress in having a speed limit applied to the Grange and Furzebrook Roads.

271.25 Concerns were raised about shooting very close to the public footpath on the Furzebrook Estate and the safety of the users of this public right of way.

272.25 It was noted that the gates to the Blue Pool have been locked preventing the access by emergency services on one occasion.

VACANCIES FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS AND CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER

273.25 There is still a vacancy on the Parish Council. There have been no new applications to join the Parish Council and the vacancies will continue to be advertised as usual.

REPORT BY DORSET COUNCILLOR

Dorset Councillor Ben Wilson reported on matters affecting the Parish.

274.25 The results of the speed survey have been assessed by the Highways Department who have concluded that there is insufficient evidence to justify the imposition of a speed limit on these roads. It therefore remains at the National Speed Limit of 60mph.

The campaign for a speed limit would be helped if “near miss” incidents were logged on the Dorset Council website. A note to this effect will be included in the Corfe Valley News.

275.25 The consultation period for the Dorset Council Local Plan has been extended until the 31st October.

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9th SEPTEMBER 2025

276.25 The minutes that had been previously circulated were read. It was resolved that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Passed unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING

277.25 The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Parker for her excellent work and guidance on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee and in particular the experience and representation of the interests of agriculture in the Parish.

Passed unanimously.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

278.25 Cllr Newns reported that the figures produced by Jacqui Cuff were being investigated.

279.25 NP is continuing and the topics are being examined one by one.

PLANNING MATTERS

280.25 One planning application for the Parish was considered:

P/CLE/2025/05665 Install services in trench across the access track past Russet Hollow.

Council voted to SUPPORT the application noting it was to supply services to an already approved project.

281.25 The Clerk provided an update on the new windows at 5 the Old Cottage. The Planning Department confirmed that they are working with the owners to approve windows that satisfy the conservation requirements

282.25 The Parish Council expressed its concern over the lack of any enforcement action by the Dorset Council Planning Department despite several reports having been made of patent major breaches of planning, environmental and health and safety regulations.

283.25 Cllr Ben Wilson (Dorset Council) said that the Dorset Council was aware of these breaches but was developing a long-term strategy. It was suggested by the Parish Council that a planning enforcement office from outside of the area be brought in to advise.

284.25 The Parish Council as the layer of government closest to and with most knowledge of the affairs of the Parish will continue to report to Dorset Council.

THE PLAYING FIELD

285.25 It was agreed that any right of way over the playing field to link the gardens of No 5 Church Knowle would be included in the registration of the field and that Ellis Jones solicitors would assist with this registration.

286.25 It was agreed that the firewood produced by the felling of the ash tree would be sold to the highest bidder in order to recoup some of the expense of felling the tree. This would be posted on the Council's website and in the Corfe Valley News. The deadline for offers will be the 7th November.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

287.25 The Parish Council has all of the data from the speed surveys. Unfortunately the Dorset Council Road Safety Team was unable to justify the imposition of any speed limits so the speed limit throughout the Parish remains at 60mph.

288.25 It was observed by Mr Bailey (public) that there is a government policy of 30mph speed limits through villages. If Furzebrook is a village this policy should be applied and may assist with the speed limit campaign.

289.25 Winter road salt may be ordered from the Dorset Council now. It was agreed that having used none in recent years the Council's stock, held by kind courtesy of Imerys in their yard, was sufficient. Cllr Slack said he would check this.

290.25 The signage for the Cotness Ridge roads is being agreed by the interested parties and the signs should be ready soon.

291.25 A notice has been received from BT that part of the Church Knowle road will be closed for one day in January 2026.

THE CORFE RIVER

292.25 Cllr Newns reported that she is continuing to liaise with Wessex Water on their future plans to improve the quality of the processing plants.

THE CEMETERY

293.25 - No new applications have been received -

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

• ACCOUNTS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FROM 13th AUGUST 2025 to C.O.B. 9th SEPTEMBER 2025

294.25 The accounts were examined and approved.

• SETTLEMENT OF INVOICES PAYABLE AT THE MEETING

295.25 The Chairman and Clerk presented the invoices payable. These were examined and the resolution to accept and pay the invoices was passed unanimously. All of the invoices were duly paid.

• APPLICATION FOR GRANTS

296.25 - No applications -

• CLERK'S REMUNERATION

297.25 It was agreed that Clerk's remuneration be set at £600 per month. This is in line with other parishes.

CORRESPONDENCE

298.25 - There was no correspondence to consider -

PERIOD FOR DISCUSSION

Cllr Fry raised two items needing attention:

299.25 The security lights at the Longground Cottages are excessively bright, seem to burn all night and are causing a nuisance to nearby residents. The Clerk is to write to the owners of the cottages requesting that they remedy this.

300.25 There are plants growing through the roads in Church Knowle village and damaging them. The Clerk is to contact Dorset Council Highways to have these plants removed or destroyed

OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS OF IMPOTANCE

301.25 Cllr Burt said he was happy to continue as Chairman until the Annual General Meeting and then the Council may consider a change of Chair.

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE NOVEMBER 2025 AGENDA

302.25 - No new items proposed -

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

303.25 The next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council will be held at the Church Knowle Village Hall on Tuesday 11th November 2025 at 6-30pm.

304.25 There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7:56pm

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