

Minutes of the Meeting of Church Knowle Parish Council
held in the Furzebrook Village Hall
at 6:30pm on Tuesday 9th December, 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 Mr Ian Gilbert [IG]
Cllr Mr Carl Grice [CG]
Cllr Mrs Hazel Parker [HP]
Cllr Mr Howard Fry [HF]

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Mr Andrew Parsons [AP]

C. K Parishioners & Members of the public:

13 Members of the public.

Dorset County Councillor:

Cllr Ben Wilson

VOTE OF THANKS

340.25 The meeting started with a vote of thanks by the new Chairman, Cllr Gilbert, for the outstanding work and dedication of the outgoing Chairman, Cll Burt.

Supported unanimously.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

341.25 There were no apologies for non-attendance..

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

342.25 Cllr Grice declared that he had a commercial association with the Blue Pool. Mr Ed Elwood (public) said that he was recording the meeting.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

343.25 There was no public discussion.

VACANCIES FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS AND CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER

344.25 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 gave his report on matters especially relevant to Church Knowle.

345.25 He said a proposed signage for the speed limit in the Village had been sent to the Clerk. The Clerk undertook to forward this to the Council and give an instruction to proceed.

346.25 Consultation is on going with Imerys and other parties on a speed limit or other traffic controls on the Furzebrook road.

347.25 Trief kerbing will be installed at the Furzebrook road over rail bridge early next year.

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11th NOVEMBER 2025

348.25 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 LAST MEETING

349.25 It was resolved unanimously to provide a dog bin in the Playing Field (333.25). The Clerk is to liaise with Dorset Council to implement this.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

350.25 Cllr Newns thanked the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee, Pippa Edwards for all of her hard work on the Plan.

351.25 Pippa Edwards (public) said that the Plan was progressing well and that farmers, landowners and other land custodians were being consulted on the environment part of the Plan.

352.25 The housing demand numbers produced by Jacqui Cuff are being carefully examined in consultation with Jacqui.

353.25 The advantages of a "Dark Skies" policy are being explored.

PLANNING MATTERS

One planning application was considered:

354.25 P/FUL/2025/06766 Convert unused building to Garden Centre (M.Jones)

Cllr Newns (Planning) gave an analysis of this application and reported that she was in active communication with Dorset Council Planning Department and Natural England. The following issues were raised:

- This new business will affect the amenity and quiet enjoyment of nearby homes.
- The increase in traffic and visitor numbers will effect nearby residential properties.
- The access arrangements are poorly planned with inadequate turning space.
- The sewage facilities, being an existing septic tank, are inadequate for a commercial use.
- A condition must be imposed limiting this development to a garden centre use only.
- The BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain) on adjoining land must be secured by way of legal agreement.

A vote on the application is deferred to January's meeting.

355.25 The Council has requested that Article 4 Directions be applied to the site that removes/restricts permitted development rights.

THE PLAYING FIELD

356.25 The selection of the tree to replace the felled tree will be agreed with David Pierces widow, Lisa.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

357.25 The signs for the Cotness ridge have been delivered and Ben Edwards generously undertook to erect these.

358.25 There was discussion of public rights of way, footpaths and bridleways, being used by event organisers to run events for profit and whether a fee could be charged for this.

359.25 Trief kerbing will be installed at the Furzebrook bridge (see 347.25).

THE CORFE RIVER

360.25 - Nothing to report. -

THE NEW INN

361.25 The New Inn has a new landlord for a provisional three month period and is now open and engaging with the community. The registration as an Asset of Community Value is underway. It was resolved to communicate this to the wider community through the monthly Corfe Valley News report.

THE CEMETERY

362.25 - No new applications have been received -

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

• ACCOUNTS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FROM 12th NOVEMBER to C.O.B. 9th DECEMBER 2025

363.25 The accounts were examined and approved unanimously

• SETTLEMENT OF INVOICES PAYABLE AT THE MEETING

364.25 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

365.25 - No applications -

• PRECEPT

366.25 The Clerk presented and analysis of the Parish Council's expenses and recommended that the precept be kept the same as last year at £16,000.

CORRESPONDENCE

367.25 - There was no correspondence to consider -

PERIOD FOR DISCUSSION

368.25 The presence of a large number of crayfish in the wetland lakes was noted and it was thought that perhaps they had been artificially introduced. Cllr Grice said that crayfish spread naturally and that it was almost certain that they had travelled and populated the lakes themselves.

OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS OF IMPORTANCE

369.25 - No additional items -

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE JANUARY 2025 AGENDA

370.25 - No new items proposed -

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

371.25 The next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council will be held at the Furzebrook Village Hall on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 6-30pm. This is a change to usual venue to allow a local planning application to be discussed.

372.25 There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 7:46pm

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