

Minutes of the Meeting of Church Knowle Parish Council
held in the Church Knowle Village Hall
at 6:30pm on Tuesday 10th March, 2026

PRESENT

Council Members:

Cllr Mr Ian Gilbert [IG] (Chair)
Cllr Mrs Judi Newns [JN]
Cllr Mr Derek Burt [DB]
Cllr Mr Will Slack
Cllr Mrs Hazel Parker

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Mr Andrew Parsons [AP]

C. K Parishioners & Members of the public:

9 Members of the public.

2 Members of Rural Crime Police

Dorset County Councillor:

Cllr Ben Wilson

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

060.26 Apologies for non-attendance were received from Cllrs Wilson, Fry and Grice.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

061.26 Cllr Slack declared that he is employed by Imerys. The meeting was not recorded.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

The Rural Crime members of the Police answered questions about matters in the Parish.

062.26 The investigation into the alleged disturbance of bats in the buildings on the Furzebrook Estate subject to a planning application cannot be continued without a court warrant and the Police are not confident that one could be obtained.

063.26 Reports of off-roaders abusing the rights of way at Cucknowle ridge are best logged on the Police Heritage Crime Portal.

064.26 The Police clarified the law regarding inexperienced people using fire arms on deer shoots. An inexperienced person can legally fire a firearm providing he is accompanied by a licensed person. The rifles used for deer shooting must be high powered.

065.26 Mr. Brown gave a presentation on the Cultural Purbeck organisation's bid to have Swanage and Purbeck nominated for a cultural grant award in 2028. The Parish Council agreed to give written support to this bid.

VACANCIES FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS AND CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER

066.26 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

The report from Dorset Councillor Ben Wilson had been circulated to the Council before the meeting. Items specific to Church Knowle were discussed.

068.26 The implementation of the 30 mph zone in Church Knowle is still progressing and is being managed by Tony Burden of Dorset Council.

- 069.26 The Swanage Railway is taking pre-application advice from Dorset Planning about constructing a railway halt at the Blue Pool. It is likely that a formal application will be forthcoming.
- 070.26 Potholes and road damage owing to the recent storms must be reported through the Highways portal if they are to receive attention.
- 071.26 Dorset Council has approved a "Working with Communities" strategy to improve interactions with Town and Parish Councils.

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10th FEBRUARY 2026

- 072.26 The minutes that had been previously circulated were read. Cllr Newns requested that Item 039.26 be amended to:
An alternative source of funding, not from the Parish Council, must be found for the Plan now that the grant funding has ceased. Cllr Newns suggested that if the Neighbourhood Plan achieves Parish Council approval the Parish Council should consider meeting the expenses, mainly printing, for a Regulation 14 consultation.

It was resolved that the amended minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Passed unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- 073.26 - No Matters Arising -

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

- 074.26 Mrs Pippa Edwards, the Chair of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee said that work on the Plan is continuing well and that Housing will be the next section to be considered.
- 075.26 Mrs Edwards had sent the minutes of the last meeting, accounts and a draft Plan to the Clerk. The minutes were sent to the Council, the accounts and the draft plan will be sent to the Council after this meeting.

PLANNING MATTERS

Two planning applications were considered:

- 076.26 P/HOU/2026/00138 Construct single storey extension at 5 Higher Barracks.

The Council resolved to have no objection but stipulated that the existing playing field fence must be kept in place.

- 077.26 P/FUL/2025/07539 Extend clay mining operations at Imerys Dorey's Quarry.

The Council resolved to have no objection to the application.

- 078.26 The application to have The New Inn listed as an Asset of Community Value was declined by the Dorset Council. However it is possible to submit another application now that the pub is providing more community facilities.

THE PLAYING FIELD

- 079.26 The tree (*prunus sargentii*) has been purchased together with planting mixture and deer protection. It will be delivered next Tuesday. Cllr Fry will be asked to take the delivery.
- 080.26 The new bin for dog waste is awaiting coordination with Dorset Council.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

- 081.26 The clerk has reported the obstruction of a footpath by the Blue Pool by a tree trunk. (MNT71576) which has been investigated by Dorset Council and the path was found to be clear. In fact the obstruction remains so the report will be made again by someone better able to specify the location.
- 082.26 Reports have been made to Dorset Highways about the very poor state of Cotness Road.
- 083.26 Cllr Parker reported that considerable damage, just outside of the Parish boundary, had been caused by off-roaders abusing the tracks rendering the path impassable.

THE CORFE RIVER

- 084.26 Wessex Water is putting works in hand to construct surge tanks to prevent untreated sewage overflowing into the river. Cllr Parker reported that her information was that work would start in May.

THE CEMETERY

- 085.26 Cllr Parker requested an up to date plan of the cemetery.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

• ACCOUNTS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FROM 11th FEBRUARY to C.O.B. 10th MARCH 2026

- 086.26 The accounts were examined and approved unanimously

• SETTLEMENT OF INVOICES PAYABLE AT THE MEETING

- 087.26 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

- 088.26 - No applications -

CORRESPONDENCE

- 089.26 Application for support for Cultural Purbeck covered at 065.26.

OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS OF IMPORTANCE

- 090.26 - None -

PERIOD FOR DISCUSSION

- 091.26 Cllr Newns described Regulation 14 Funding for the Neighbourhood Plan and indicated that any expense attached to this would be moderate, mainly printing and hall hire. Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 says that the draft Plan must be publicised and comments invited for a six week period before being submitted to the local authority.

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- 092.26 The next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council will be held at the Furzebrook Village Hall on Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 6-30pm.
- 093.26 There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:23pm

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