

Minutes of the Meeting of Church Knowle Parish Council
held in the Church Knowle Village Hall
at 6:30pm on Tuesday 11th August, 2026

PRESENT

Council Members:

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

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Mr Andrew Parsons [AP]

C. K Parishioners & Members of the public:

3 Members of the public.

Dorset County Councillor:

Cllr Ben Wilson

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

211.26 Apologies for non-attendance were received from Cllr Thompsett.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

212.26 There were no declarations of interest. The meeting was not recorded.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

213.26 Mr Bailey said that he had written to the Parish Council proposing that additional text plates be added to the existing deer road signs but had had no reply. He had not contacted Dorset Highways. The number of deer casualties continues to rise so emphasis should be added to the existing signs to warn motorists.

VACANCIES FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS AND CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER

214.26 There have been no new applications to join the Parish Council. This will leave two vacancies on the Parish Council and these will continue to be advertised as usual.

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15th JULY 2026

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

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

216.26 The Footpath at Creech Barrow. There is recent active mountain biking activity on the shaped run near the barrow. A historic map of the footpath has been kindly provided by Imerys and will be submitted together with the proposed map to the Dorset Council mapping Department. The Parish Council does not support any change to the map as it cannot see any benefit or reason for the change.

THE CHURCH KNOWLE FETE

217.26 This run entirely by the Fete Committee and the Parish Council extends is congratulations on such a well run event which was a resounding success. Next year's fete is on the 7th August.

REPORT BY DORSET COUNCILLOR

Dorset Councillor Ben Wilson gave a report on items specific to Church Knowle.

218.26 There is a Community Consultation event at Harmon's Cross on 11th September.

219.26 There is a new government planning framework being introduced that removes much of the local decision-making ability of local councils and local people. The Dorset Local Plan is being changed as a consequence of this.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

220.26 Pippa Edwards the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan gave an update on this. She expressed a concern that there was much wrong with housing needs survey figures that varied widely over time and seemed to bear little relation to the realities of the Parish.

221.26 The Purbeck Local Plan is being replaced by a more general plan that has little relevance to the local area. The consideration of a Dark Skies policy would be applicable to rural areas.

PLANNING MATTERS

222.26 There were no new planning applications to consider.

223.26 There was much discussion about application P/FUL/2025/06766 which was still delegated with a recommendation for approval despite strong local protest (some 40 objections) and written representations having been made by the Chair on behalf of the Parish Council to offices in the hierarchy of local government. It was agreed that this gave the appearance of a complete disregard for a proper democratic process the electorate are entitled to expect.

Cllr Grice left the meeting

THE PLAYING FIELD

224.26 The registration of the Playing Field with the Land Registry has been submitted by Ellis Jones despite their not having a formal agreement with the Council. Ellis Jones have been notified of this and advised to keep their costs to a minimum.

225.26 The Clerk is to obtain quotes from other solicitors for comparison.

226.26 A walk around the playing field to assess the work and repair required will be organised in September.

HIGHWAYS AND RIGHTS OF WAY

227.26 A leak in the road by the New Inn has been reported.

228.26 Hedges are growing into and obstructing some of the footpaths.

THE NEW INN

229.26 The Chair reported that she had met with the Dorset Council Enforcement Officer and the publican. It seems that the freeholders Punch Taverns are not providing much flexibility or aid to the publicans. The provision of Statutory Declarations to support overnight camping and motorhome parking is in hand.

THE CEMETERY

230.26 The tree work (remove unsightly, ailing tree) at the cemetery has been completed by Arbor Nature after their quote of £250 was accepted. The work is neat and the site has been left tidy.

231.26 The firewood from the felled sycamores was advertised for tender and two offers were received: one for £20 and one for £40. The offer of £40 was accepted.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

• ACCOUNTS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FROM 14th JULY to C.O.B. 11th AUGUST 2026

- 232.26 The accounts were examined and approved unanimously.
- 233.26 It was agreed that the balance of the Playing Field Instant Access Account t hat earns 0.5% be transferred to the 95 day account with the best rate of interest. The playing field will still be shown in the chart of accounts.
- 234.26 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

- 235.26 - No applicable grants -

CORRESPONDENCE

- 236.26 - No correspondence to consider -

OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DEEMS OF IMPORTANCE

- 237.26 - None -

PERIOD FOR DISCUSSION

- 238.26 - No topics -

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2026 AGENDA

- 239.26 Additional plates on highway deer warning signs.

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

- 240.26 The next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council will be held at the Church Knowle Village Hall on Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 6-30pm.
- 241.26 There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:18pm

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