

Minutes of a meeting of Church Knowle Parish Council
held in the Church Knowle Village Hall
at 6:30pm on Tuesday 14th December, 2021

PRESENT

Council Members:

Cllr Mrs Hazel Parker [HP] (in Chair)
Cllr Mr Derek Burt [DB]
Cllr Mr Howard Fry [HF]
Cllr Mrs Jayne Wilson [JW]
Cllr Mrs Debbie Evans [DE]

Clerk to the Parish Council:

Mr Andrew Parsons [AP]

C. K Parishioners & Members of the public:

Chris and Jill Lill – C.K. Parishioners
Graham and Rachel Seaton – C.K. Parishioners
Bernard and Linda Hammick – C.K. Parishioners
Derek and Geraldine Way – C.K. Parishioners
Ed Ellwood, Tom Trevor, Roy Hooper – C.K. Parishioners

Sam Thompson and Tom Campbell-Hill of Cumulus Outdoors.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

187.21 Cllr Billa Edwards gave her apologies for non-attendance owing to Covid isolation. Dorset Cllr Cherry Brooks gave her apologies for non-attendance.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL – (Current Meeting)

188.21 Cllrs Parker and Evans stated that they are neighbours of the Planning Application for the garage at Bucknowle. Cllr Burt stated that he owned land at Cotness.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

189.21 It was established that no-one was recording the meeting and then the Discussion Period commenced with a presentation by Cumulus Outdoors.

Cumulus Outdoors is a small company based in Swanage that has been operating for over 10 years and holds mainly residential courses for school parties during the summer months. They use several sites and work with the National Trust and the Rempstone estate. Cumulus made a very good presentation and the activities look enjoyable, worthwhile and well adapted to the teenage group target market. The company appeared well run and up to date with regulations and safety.

The Cotness residents say that the noise the activities at the Cotness lakes and the increased traffic are causing is a big problem for them all through the summer, adversely affecting the peaceful enjoyment of their properties. While it is accepted that the noise of young people engaging in enjoyable outdoor activity should not be silent, it is the continual loud unrestrained excited screaming that is both disturbing and distressing. All of the Cotness residents were agreed on this. The residents also complained about the large buses using the restricted roads and the occasions were the buses had actually blocked the roads.

Prior to their recent use by Cumulus Outdoors the lakes had been used for occasional angling.

Cumulus said that they operated their own minibuses but hired larger buses when needed for larger groups. It was pointed out that the roads over which these buses were travelling were restricted and that permits were required. Cumulus said that they had always obtained the necessary day permits without difficulty and were putting in hand work to provide off road parking for their buses at the lakes.

Cllr Burt said that a better route for the buses to the Cotness lakes would be up Grange Road. This would considerably reduce the disturbance to the residents.

Cllr Parker asked if the site needed to be registered as a business activity site and how often the water quality of the lakes was tested. Cumulus said that there are no permanent structures associated with their activities

on the site so there is not a planning consideration. They test the water once a month and they are fully insured with all the correct paperwork and permits required for this outdoor activity business.

One of residents pointed out that the Cumulus website advertised for Stag and Hen parties and that these by their very nature are likely to be noisy events, in the evening and night and involving drinking. It was requested that Cumulus review this offering and that Cotness lakes would not be the best place for this.

Cllr Burt agreed that there is a real problem here that needs to be addressed and that now that the extent and nature of the problem has been made clear Cumulus can consider what changes could be made to the way the Cotness Lakes activities are run with the residents in mind.

Cllr Wilson suggested that the Cotness directors might visit some of the residents properties during the season to gauge the level of disturbance for themselves. The residents said that Cumulus' failure to consult them had not improved matters.

Cllr Evans asked if Cumulus had considered any other sites. Cumulus responded that there were a very limited number of suitable sites and that the Cotness lakes had a lot in their favour where safety and knowledge were concerned.

Cumulus were thanked for their presentation and public engagement. It was agreed that they would engage further with the Cotness residents and would tackle the noise and transport problems. Cllr Burt agreed to be the main liaison between Cumulus and the residents.

- 190.21 Linda Hammick reported that during the summer months when the demand for water at Cotness is high the residents have no mains water for hours on end. Cllr Evans asked whether anyone had consulted the regulator Ofwat about this. It emerged that while complaints had been made to water companies, Ofwat had not been approached. It seems that engineering work, possibly replacing the existing supply pipe with a larger one, will have to be undertaken and that this will not be done lightly. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Ofwat for a way forward.

Action: Clerk to write to Ofwat.

RESIGNATION OF CHAIRMAN

- 191.21 Cllr Parker agreed to continue as Chairman for this meeting in the absence of any other nominations. Cllr Evans agreed to be Vice Chairman. Both accepted the posts and the motion to appoint them was proposed by Cllr Wilson, seconded by Cllr Fry and passed unanimously.

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9th NOVEMBER 2021

- 192.21 The minutes which had been previously circulated were read. Cllr Burt proposed that they should be accepted as a true record of the proceedings and his proposal was seconded by Cllr Fry. The minutes were duly approved by a unanimous vote.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 9th NOVEMBER 2021 MEETING

- 193.21 There were no matters arising from these minutes

PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications

- 194.21 **P/HOU/2021/05011 – Bucknowle Cottage, Church Knowle BH20 5PQ** Erect double garage with car-port.

The Council resolved to support this application and commended the design of the oak framed building.

Unlawful Developments

None

Planning Applications Received after Publication of Agenda

The Clerk advised the meeting that none had been received.

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

195.21 **Speeding**

Nothing currently to report on this ongoing item.

196.21 **Footpaths**

The Clerk reported that he had contacted the Ramblers Association who had responded positively to the request for help with surveying the state of the footpaths and would be in touch with them again to make firm plans.

Action: Clerk to respond to the Ramblers Association

THE GRAVEYARD

197.21 **Approval of Memorials**

No new applications have been received.

198.21 **Administration and Applications**

The Council expressed their condolences over the untimely death of Maurice Estop, the landlord of the New Inn to his family and the Clerk will write to them.

An application (approved) was received together with the correct fee for the interment of Barbera Davis in the grave of her husband at plot G28 on 10th December.

ACCOUNTS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FROM 10th NOVEMBER 2021 TO C.O.B, 14th DECEMBER 2021

199.21 The accounts were examined and approved. Proposed by DE, seconded by JW and passed unanimously.

SETTLEMENT OF INVOICES PAYABLE AT THE MEETING

200.21 The Chairman and Clerk presented the invoices payable. These were examined. DB proposed the invoices should be accepted and paid. This was seconded by CP and they were duly paid following unanimous vote by the Members.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

201.21 The proposed Budget for 2022 was presented by the Clerk and inspected by the Council. The Council runs and maintains the playing field and the graveyard. It is responsible for various Parish assets, phone boxes, noticeboards, signposts etc and ensuring that the Parish is generally maintained to a decent standard. It was agreed that a precept of £12,500 would enable the Parish to meet these commitments. The Council is to apply to the Dorset Council for a precept of £12,500.

Proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Fry and passed unanimously.

COMMEMORATIVE BENCH

202.21 Cllr Parker reported that the commemorative bench had been delivered to Bucknowle Farm in good order and was securely stored. It was decided to site the bench and construct the plinth in the spring when the weather

was more favourable. The clerk would ascertain the whether the bench required the application of a preservative.

Additional donations have kindly been received from Mr. and Mrs. Smith and family.

THE QUEENS GREEN CANOPY PLATINUM JUBILEE INITIATIVE

203.21 Cllr Evans reported that an application for native plants from the Woodland Trust had been successful and that these will be used renew the hedge at the Village Hall. A working party will for this work will be put assembled in Spring when we have the plants and there is clement weather, It is likely that there will be extra plants and approaches will be made to the RSPB and the Furzebrook Village Hall to use these.

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

204.21 This is in hand and the clerk will apply for any grants available.

Action: Clerk to research Neighbourhood Plans from other Councils and apply for grants.

CORRESPONDENCE

205.21 A request for contributions ha been received from the Citizens Advice Bureau. The Council resolved not to make a donation.

206.21 A request has been received Astra Recycling for a site to position a textile recycling bank in the Parish in aid of the Children's Air Ambulance. It was decided that this was a worthy cause and that the Clerk would pass on the request to Peter Dixon of the Church Knowle Village Hall and Cllr Colin Page for the attention of the Furzebrook Village Hall.

Action: Clerk to forward textile recycling bank request.

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR THE JANUARY 2022 AGENDA

207.21 No additions to the standard agenda were proposed.

PERIOD FOR DISCUSSION

208.21 No new topics were introduced.

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

209.21 Owing to the uncertain and ongoing Covid situation the Council agreed not to schedule a meeting in January 2022 unless matters arose that required the attention of the Council and that could not be deferred. The next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council will therefore be held at the Church Knowle Village Hall on Tuesday 8th February at 6-30pm

210.21 There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:50hr