

Minutes of a meeting of Church Knowle Parish Council
held in the Church Knowle Village Hall
at 6:30pm on Tuesday 13th July, 2021

PRESENT

Council Members:

Cllr Mr Derek Burt [DB] (in Chair)
Cllr Mrs Hazel Parker [HP] (Vice Chair)
Cllr Mr Howard Fry [HF]
Cllr Mrs Deborah Evans [DE]
Cllr Mrs Jayne Wilson [JW]
Cllr Mr Anthony Higgens [AH]

Clerk to the Parish Council:
Mr Andrew Parsons [AP]

C. K Parishioners & Members of the public:

Mr John Smith
Mr Tom Smith

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

055.21 Cllr Billa Edwards gave her apologies for non-attendance.

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

056.21 None.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

057.21 A representation was made by Mr John Smith of Withy Lakes about the visit of a Planning Enforcement Officer from Dorset Council in response to a complaint from the Parish Council about the construction of a classroom and the running of an educational establishment at the property. He said that his son Tom, a qualified teacher, and his family had moved to Withy Lakes to live with them after he had lost his job and sold his house in Bournemouth. He said that he thought that the Council had acted improperly and that it should have more regard for people's need to make a living. He said that he had lived in the Church Knowle community for 11 years and that he knew he might require a Change of Use – he had just not applied for it yet. He said that his son Tom was on the Purbeck Housing Register and that he regarded his son's need to make a living as more important than planning. It had always been his intention to apply for retrospective planning.

It was pointed out to him by members of the Council that one can only complain when the activity is seen to be taking place and the Smiths could have and should have contacted the Dorset Council and applied for the proper permissions before they commenced the activity.

The Council said that it was still unable to view or comment on the Planning Application that had been submitted as no details of it had been made available by the Dorset Council.

Mr. Smith said that the planning application that had been submitted was for a family house to live in and was nothing to do with the business.

It was pointed out to him that the land was agricultural in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and should not be used for housing.

It was also pointed out to him that the Parish Council took allegations of impropriety very seriously, that it was duty bound to act upon any complaints received and uphold planning law. The proper operation and intention of planning law was that a person applies for planning permission before embarking on the project or activity. Not to act first and then apply for retrospective planning permission.

RESIGNATION OF CHAIRMAN

058.21 Cllr Higgens resigned as Chairman and proposes Cllr Burt as Chairman and Cllr Parker as Vice Chairman. Both accepted the posts and the motion to appoint them was passed unanimously.

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8th JUNE 2021

059.21 The minutes which had been previously circulated were read. Cllr Higgins proposed that they should be accepted as a true record of the proceedings and her proposal was seconded by Cllr Parker. The minutes were duly approved in a unanimous vote.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 25th JUNE 2021 MEETING

060.21 Finger Posts:

The Clerk advised that he had received an estimate from the Dorset AONB Fingerpost project for renewing the fingerposts at the crossroads to Bradle and at the tee junction to East Creech. The estimate for renewing both of these posts is £5,000. Enquiries about any original hardware were unsuccessful, ie no-one knew of any, so the signs will have to be made anew.

It was proposed that Clerk write to Imerys, Biotrack and Perenco seeking external funding help for this project.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Burt and seconded by Cllr. Higgins and passed unanimously.

Action: Clerk

PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications

061.21 Owing to a COVID backlog at the Dorset Planning Department and the installation of a new computer system, which has resulted in the Planning Database being inaccessible for several days no Planning Applications are available.

Unlawful Developments

062.21 It was noted that the planning application at Withy Lakes was still unavailable to the Council. (see 61.21 above)

Planning Applications Received after Publication of Agenda

The Clerk advised the meeting that none had been received (see 61.21 above)

HIGHWAYS MATTERS

063.21 Speed Limit

The Clerk reported that he had written to the Clerks of the adjacent Parishes seeking support for a Purbeck-wide speed limit and their experiences with seeking to have a statutory speed limit imposed within their parishes. He had received replies from: Corfe Castle, Arne, Langton Matravers, Kimmeridge, Worth Matravers and East Holme. They all said that they had, in the past, attempted to have a speed limit imposed but after much effort were ultimately unsuccessful.

The Clerk said that he had researched Speed Indicating Devices (SIDs), that display (and record) the speed of a vehicle and prompt the driver to slow down. These may have the desired effect of slowing the traffic and many of the Parishes contacted already have these in place run by Dorset Council – for a fee.

It was agreed that the Clerk would apply to Dorset Council Highways department for some speed recording devices to be installed at locations where speeding is known to be a problem in order to add the weight of real data to any application for a Church Knowle SID. It was agreed that a condition of paying for these was that the data collected by the recorders must be released to the Parish Council.

THE GRAVEYARD

064.21 Approval of Memorials

It was proposed that the memorials for Elizabeth Symons and Karen Welman be approved.

The motion was proposed by Cllr. Wilson and seconded by Cllr. Parker and passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

065.21 The Clerk reported that the street light outside of the New Inn would be disconnected at the end of August. The Council's column in the Corfe Valley News would note this for the second month running as part of the public consultation.

A proposal for renewal of the Council's insurance policy through Norris and Fisher has been received. It was agreed that the premium of £396.63 represented good value for the Council but that the level of cover for legal expenses should be verified. It was agreed that the clerk would email the Renewal Schedule from Norris and Fisher to the Council and seek clarification on the level of legal cover.

ACCOUNTS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FROM 9th JUNE 2021 TO 12th JULY 2021

066.21 The accounts were examined and approved. Proposed by HP, seconded by JW, passed unanimously.

SETTLEMENT OF INVOICES PAYABLE AT THE MEETING

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

TRAINING FOR CLERK AND NEW COUNCILLORS

068.21 It was agreed that the new Councillors could undertake the training offered by DAPTC and that the Council would pay for this.

069.21 The clerk said that the best recognised training course for clerks was CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) and the Council agreed to fund this.

Proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Wilson, passed unanimously.

COMMEMORATIVE BENCH

070.21 The Council has agreed that it would like to provide a Commemorative Bench in memory of Les Bugler to recognise the care and maintenance he provided for the playground over many years. The funds are to be provided by the Council's Playground fund. Cllr Higgins undertook to research costings for benches. It was suggested that if a tree bench were selected it may tie in with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Green Canopy.

Action: Cllr Higgins – research benches and costs

THE QUEENS GREEN CANOPY PLATINUM JUBILEE INITIATIVE

071.21 Cllr Evans reported that she had sought community ideas and support for the Queen's Green Canopy initiative, that the response was positive and suggestions so far had included a permanent Christmas Tree outside of the Reading Room, planting a Community Wood and a hedgerow in the cemetery. It was noted that what ever was done under this initiative had to be accessible by the public. It was suggested that Margaret Green Animal Rescue be contacted to see if they would be willing to let some of their land be used for a Green Canopy project. Cllr Evans said that she would write a piece for the Corfe Valley News and would continue with community engagement. It was agreed that this was an on-going project that had the full support of the Council.

DISCUSSION PERIOD

072.21 Cllr Burt reported that he had received complaints from the residents near Cotness that what had been for many years a quiet fishing lake run by an angling society had now become an Outdoor Adventure Activity Centre and that the constant noise of the screaming children was severely affecting their quality of life. They said that it was not only the screaming of the children but the noise and disturbance caused by the unnecessarily large coaches that was adding to the disturbance. It was noted that coaches are prohibited up Furzebrook Road.

Cllr Burt declared an interest in that he owns land in the area, but said that he was simply passing on complaints that had been made to him as a Parish Councillor.

It was decided to research the matter further for a more detailed discussion at a future meeting.

ITEMS PROPOSED FOR AUGUST 2021 AGENDA

073.21 The following items were proposed for the Agenda of the next Parish Council meeting:

- Road signage required at Bradle – No Motorhomes
- Clerk's remuneration

NEXT MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

074.21 It was agreed that the next meeting of the Church Knowle Parish Council would be held at the Church Knowle Village Hall on Tuesday 10th August at 6-30pm

075.21 There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:15hr