

Minutes of the Meeting of Knowlton Parish Council
11th January 2023 at 7pm
Horton & Chalbury Hall

Item	
334	<p>Attendance & Apologies</p> <p>Cllr Morgan Antell (Vice Chairman) Cllr Caroline Barnes Cllr Trevor Brown Cllr Steve Butler (Chairman) Cllr Jerry Laker Cllr David Tooke – Dorset Councillor Cranborne & Alderholt Ward (Woodlands & Wimborne St Giles) Cllr Robin Cook – Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward (Horton & Chalbury) Mrs Lisa Goodwin (Clerk)</p> <p>Apologies received from:</p> <p>Cllr Rupert Andrews Cllr Anthony (Sam) Keet Cllr Nicky Sherwood Cllr Linda Stocks</p>
335	<p>Public Open Session</p> <p>3 present in respect of P/FUL/2022/07956 for Manor Farm, Horton. It was explained the proposed barn conversion is to provide a home for the family's son who is getting married this year.</p>
336	<p>Declarations of Interest & Grants for Dispensation</p> <p>None.</p>
337	<p>Confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 7th December 2022</p> <p>It was resolved unanimously that the minutes, having been circulated to members prior to the meeting, are confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.</p>
338	<p>Dorset Councillors Reports</p> <p><u>Cllr Robin Cook – Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward (Horton & Chalbury)</u></p> <p>Please see Appendix A of these minutes.</p> <p><u>Cllr David Tooke – Dorset Councillor Cranborne & Alderholt Ward (Woodlands & Wimborne St Giles)</u></p> <p>Please see Appendix B of these minutes.</p>

339	<p>Correspondence circulated to members in advance of the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DAPTC – update from NALC on the finance settlement for 23/24. • Notes & Recording from the December C&EE support group meeting.
340	<p>Planning Applications & Matters</p> <p>P/FUL/2022/07748 FIELD SOUTH-EAST OF HORTON ROAD, WOODLANDS Proposal: Change of use of existing land to equestrian, stationing of stables, retention of existing containers and provision of surfaced ‘yard. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>P/FUL/2022/07956 MANOR FARM, HORTON, BH21 7JA Proposal: Conversion of part of farm building to dwelling. Members resolved unanimously with NO OBJECTION to the proposal but would wish to see an agricultural restriction placed on the dwelling.</p> <p>It has been brought to the Parish Council’s attention that there are building works on a number of out-buildings at the property ‘Little Haythorne’, it is not believed there is anyone living in the property. Clerk to report to Dorset Council Enforcement to check if planning permission is required for the works.</p>
341	<p>Highways Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members resolved unanimously to approve and sign the amended s72 Licence from Dorset Council in respect of the deployment of SID units around the parish. • Dorset Council has made the Clerk aware that there is a proposal by the AONB to extend the layby by 12m to allow parking for 2 more cars at Knowlton Church which members agree would be beneficial as it is a popular destination for visitors. • Dorset Council have placed an emergency closure on the unnamed road from The Corner House, Wimborne St Giles to the A354 due to severe flooding of the highway. There is concern that The Mill House at Wimborne St Giles is in danger of flooding and the owners are not in residence. • Dorset Council have installed SID posts in Woodlands and Wigbeth but not in the agreed locations? Clerk to also to check when the solar fittings will be installed. • Clerk to inquire with Dorset Council if they are able to clean dirty road signs around the Parish. • Members discussed the pinch-point at Wigbeth C2 where tree trunks are growing immediately adjacent to the highway and damaging vehicles. Clerk to ask Dorset Council to request landowner take action to cut back the trees. (TB) 1209504 • Members discussed water draining from the verge onto the highway at Haythorne, the gully needs to be filled and the water re-directed along the line of an old ditch to the manhole discovered by the Community Highways Officer some time ago. (TB) 1209498 • Clerk to report the appalling road surface at Haythorne and deep potholes. 1209500 • Other Highway matters listed in Actions List below.
342	<p>Rights of Way/Open Spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council is recommending the modification order as proposed to parts of footpath 17 at Slough House. The report is available to view at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk ref T724

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorset Council has confirmed the definitive map modification order on footpath 16, Woodlands. The changes are shown on the interactive GIS map at DorsetExplorer (geowessex.com) Rights of Way matters awaiting action listed in 'Actions List' below.
343	<p>Burgess Field Play Area, Woodlands – Inspections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly visual play inspections completed by Cllrs Morgan Antell and Linda Stocks. Quarterly Inspection report circulated to Woodlands Councillors, noted. The hedge has been cut back and cleared as arranged.
344	<p>Tree Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P/TRC/2022/07738 to fell an Ash Tree at West View, Wimborne St Giles, BH21 5LY. <i>Noted</i> TPO/2022/0099 New Tree Preservation Order, provisional at Abbey House, Horton, BH21 7JA for all trees, whatever species in area A1 as marked. <i>Noted</i> P/TRT/2022/07992 to fell a number of trees at Abbey House, Horton, BH21 7JA. <i>Noted</i> P/TRT/2022/08031 to fell an Oak Tree at Spindlewood, Horton, BH21 7JG. <i>Noted</i>
345	<p>Wimborne St Giles Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>A draft of the Plan is hoped to be presented to the Parish Council shortly.</p>
346	<p>Actions List</p>
Sept 2018	E59/22 Report missing fingerpost at footpath by Haythorne Nurseries. MNT42137/45415/48272 Feb 2019: DCC has written to Landowners. Aug 2019 – recent correspondence with DCC forward to Cllr David Tooke. Oct 2019 – TB to monitor. Jan 20: Clerk to report fingerpost still missing and not sure if access is clear along this path. <i>Feb 21 Ranger has confirmed the way-marker will be done (priority 6). May 22; Clerk to chase up.</i>
July 2019	E59/15 Horse safe path needs extending on incline as tarmac not safe for horse. MNT41120 Dorset Council met with Landowner March 3 rd and have agreed actions to resurface where necessary and place appropriate signage for horse riders. March 21: Dorset Council advises funding is hoped to be allocated out of 2021/22 maintenance budget. Dec 21: The Ranger is awaiting an amended quote as one crossing was omitted, then put Contractor in touch with the Golf Club to arrange timings etc. Apr 22 – awaiting update from the DC Ranger.
Nov 2020	E59/7 Woodlands off Jubilee Hill behind houses is waterlogged all year round, suspected sewerage. Cllr MA to investigate further, take photo evidence and report to Dorset Council. Public Health visited but too wet from rainfall to establish source of contamination. Officers will visit again in Summer. Clerk to report to Rights of Way for inspection. MNT50385 June 2021 Clerk to report again as waterlogged now and request site visit. July 21: Ranger has visited with MA and will consider a stone surface to improve this path. Dec 21: Ranger has agreed to this work and the Landowner is on board with helping, ground conditions might mean this has to wait.
Dec 2020	E57/5 Maldry Wood, rotten bridge reported to Dorset Council. MNT50359 (priority 3) June 2021 DC has suggested the landowner is contacted directly as the bridge is on a permissive path. DC happy to install sleeper bridge if either the PC or Landowner provide sleepers. The definitive path is not accessible due to five bar gate and wire fence. Nov 21: Land is understood to be for sale so no further developments. Oct 22: bridge has collapsed and is dangerous also stiles at each end need

	repairing and there is a tree down. Clerk to report to DC MNT57858 Nov 22: A countryside officer has visited and agreed DC actions on this path. The landowner will also be made aware of their responsibility to repair the stile on the permissive path.																					
July 2020	Water rising in Woodlands opposite 'Four Oaks,' unsure if a spring or mains water leak. Feb 22: DC advises coming from BT Openreach plastic ducting. It would cost in the region of £5000 to install a brand-new drainage system. March 22: problem is worsening, Clerk to ask DC to continue to investigate and add to Requests List if necessary for new drainage scheme. May 22: Clerk to request update. Aug 22: Clerk to forward correspondence to Cllr David Tooke to take up with DC Highways as this is still a problem. Dec 22: a new leak has now appeared on opposite side of the road, Clerk to report to Highways Team Leader with photos.																					
Feb 22	Clerk to report extremely poor surface on Horton Road at Haythorne end, edges of road breaking up further along and at Woodlands Crossroads. 1187924 Mar 22: DC has marked up areas for repair. TB has contacted DC.																					
	Water leak opposite Meadow Cottage, Horton Road, Woodlands. Cllr Trevor Brown has reported to Water Co. Apr 22: not yet resolved. Dec 22: Clerk to chase up SW Water.																					
	E59/3 access blocked by fencing. Clerk to report MNT57859																					
Nov 22	Verwood Road, Woodlands outside 'Four Oaks' new water leak appeared. LS will supply photos.																					
Dec 22	Overgrown hedges Haythorne 1200765 Cllr Trevor Brown met on site with CHO who has written to landowner.																					
347	<p>Financial Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members considered the budget for 2023/2024 and resolved unanimously not to increase the precept demand per household for the forthcoming year currently at £30.71 per Band D property. The Clerk will therefore submit to Dorset Council a request of £21,337.00 Members resolved unanimously to pay items below including Clerk's Salary: <table> <tr> <td>ONLINE Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd</td> <td>Project Work WSG Neighbourhood Plan</td> <td>£1121.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE Grass & Grounds Ltd</td> <td>Hedge-cutting Burgess Field</td> <td>£294.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE Horton & Chalbury Hall</td> <td>Hire of hall for meetings 2023</td> <td>£308.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE Clerk</td> <td>Reimbursement of Expenses Oct – Dec 2022</td> <td>£49.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE Elite Playground Inspections</td> <td>Qrtly Inspection Burgess Field</td> <td>£52.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE Normtec</td> <td>Refurbishment Bull Bridge Fingerpost</td> <td>£437.49</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE Grass & Grounds</td> <td>Grass Cutting Woodlands Green & Play Area</td> <td>£83.23</td> </tr> </table>	ONLINE Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd	Project Work WSG Neighbourhood Plan	£1121.70	ONLINE Grass & Grounds Ltd	Hedge-cutting Burgess Field	£294.00	ONLINE Horton & Chalbury Hall	Hire of hall for meetings 2023	£308.00	ONLINE Clerk	Reimbursement of Expenses Oct – Dec 2022	£49.50	ONLINE Elite Playground Inspections	Qrtly Inspection Burgess Field	£52.80	ONLINE Normtec	Refurbishment Bull Bridge Fingerpost	£437.49	ONLINE Grass & Grounds	Grass Cutting Woodlands Green & Play Area	£83.23
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348	<p>Information for Report Only</p> <p>None.</p>																					
	Next Meeting will be Wednesday 8th February 2023 at 7pm in Horton & Chalbury Village Hall.																					

Meeting closed at 20:37

These minutes are to be signed by the Chairman after approval at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Signed;..... **8th February 2023**

Appendix A

A very Happy New Year to all at Knowlton parish council.

2023/2024 Budget

Dorset Council has published its initial proposals to deliver a balanced budget next financial year, 2023-24. The council's total net budget for 2023-24 will be £348 million.

The proposals would see essential frontline council services continuing to be provided to residents and businesses, protected from cuts. Dorset Council provides around 450 different services to just under 380,000 residents. The proposals are in contrast with many other councils nationally, which face the prospect of cuts to services, such as library closures and reduction of road maintenance, to balance their budgets.

The council is required by law to set a balanced budget which means its expenditure must be balanced by income without unsustainable use of one-off, or short-term sources of finance.

This year's budget setting exercise once more takes place against a national background of extreme pressures for councils. These pressures include the high level of inflation which affects the cost of delivering council services, and also the continued growth in need for social care services as a result of the ageing population.

Dorset Council's cost pressures have been well documented in the quarterly financial management reports to Cabinet and in the budget update provided last October.

The council proposes to increase council tax next year by just under 2% and to levy the adult social care precept of 2%. This is less than the maximum 5% increase outlined in the Government's Spending Review in December 2022. The increase would be equivalent to £1.41 extra per week for a Band D property.

The budget setting process takes place in several stages. The proposals are considered by the two scrutiny committees, then reviewed and submitted to Cabinet on 23 January 2023, and then to Full Council in February for final approval.

Village Hall fund

Village halls across England can now apply for grants to improve and modernise their facilities, as the Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Fund is open for applications.

Launched to mark the occasion of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022, the fund recognises the important role that village halls play in supporting rural communities.

Village halls are key cornerstones in the fabric of rural life, providing essential services and bringing people together through social and recreational activities. They are vital resources for those unable to travel great distances and are key drivers of community cohesion which positively contribute to the health and wellbeing of rural communities. But many are in poor repair and in need of modernisation to better serve the communities that they represent.

The fund is managed by the charity 'Action with Communities in Rural England' (ACRE). It is anticipated that the fund will support around 125 village halls over a three-year period creating bigger, better, and brighter village halls for communities to enjoy.

Village halls interested in applying can request grants from £7,500 to £75,000, and up to a maximum of 20 per cent of eligible project costs. Capital grants will be allocated to support infrastructure improvements, the refurbishment of facilities, such as kitchens and toilets, and measures to improve energy efficiency

The deadline for the fund is **20th January 2023**. This fund is not connected to any funds administered by Dorset Council so unfortunately, they will not be able to answer any questions about the detail.

For further information, including how to apply for the fund visit: <https://acre.org.uk/platinum-jubilee-village-halls-fund/>

Household Support Fund - round 3

Low-income households in the Dorset Council area can apply for the next round of the Household Support Fund to help with rising costs. Applications open at 9am on Monday 9th January 2023.

We have been awarded funding from the Governments Household Support Fund to support households in the most need. The support will be in the form of supermarket vouchers. Citizens Advice will be allocating this fund on our behalf and vouchers will be issued to residents who meet the eligibility criteria.

Residents can apply if they have:

- an annual household net income of less than £30,000 and
- savings of less than £16,000 and
- not already applied to the fund in November 2022

Calculations for the annual net income should not include Personal Independence Payments, Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, Carers Allowance or Child Benefit. Applications are limited to one per household.

Do you qualify for financial assistance?

Qualifying for benefits can not only unlock income but could lead to additional assistance where outgoings become reduced. Even if you think you are not entitled to any assistance or have previously applied, you should still check if you haven't done so recently. It takes a few minutes and could have an impact on your day-to-day life. Below are just some examples of where our Welfare Benefits Team has helped residents.

An older council resident who did not qualify for Pension Credit due to his assets, was entitled to the highest rate of Disability Living Allowance where once he had a lower amount. The rebanding of this benefit unlocked £92 a week in income, which in turn allowed him to claim Pension credit, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support totalling £220 a week. The entitlements also led to a free TV licence, reduced tariff utility bills, assistance with glasses, dental treatment, and hospital transport. The resident also got access to technological devices in his home to notify others if he fell.

In another example, a resident with a learning disability who was assisted with a benefit check when her circumstances changed, was owed tens of thousands of pounds due to previous unanswered claims from the Department of Work and Pensions. This led to an additional £180 benefits which unlocked Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support, assistance with glasses, free dental treatment, and prescriptions as well as hospital transport.

The children of families with changing circumstances may be able to benefit from free school meals if they qualify for certain benefits. In addition, school holiday activities may become available and some after school activities become free.

The qualifying benefits includes Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Child Tax, and some Working Tax credits. Qualifying criteria here: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/free-school-meals>

How to report abandoned vehicles

Following several enquiries about abandoned vehicles in our areas, here is a link that you can use to report any abandoned vehicles you may come across.

https://dorset-self.achieveservice.com/service/Abandoned_Vehicles

Cllr Robin Cook

11th January 2023

Appendix B

230117 Dorset Councillor's Report to Knowlton Parish CouncilFinancial Position

Dorset Council Budget setting is underway. Place & Resources Scrutiny Committee of which I am a member will meet on Thursday 12th January to examine the proposals officers will be placing before Cabinet. At the time of writing (10/1/23) this meeting has not yet taken place, however the Parish Council meeting is the day before, I hope to be able to offer further updates following the scrutiny committee.

However, headline information released in advance shows that the Council is looking to set a budget based on the following parameters:

	Original assumption 2023/24	Revised assumption 2023/24
Council tax increase	<2%	<2%
Council tax base growth	0.75%	1.2%
Social Care Precept	1%	2%
Business rates growth	0.50%	4.67%
Pay award	2.00%	4.00%
General inflation	2.50%	6.00%
Increase in fees & charges	2.50%	5.00%
Employer pension contribution	0% +£750k	0% -£988k

These budget proposals include a core council tax increase of 1.9987% and an adult social care precept increase of 1.9987%. The proposed total increase is therefore 3.9974%, which results in an annual band D council tax charge of £1,905.93. This is an increase of around £1.41 per week on the 2022/23 charge. The council tax charges proposed for each band for 2023/24, for Dorset Council only, are set out in the table, below.

2023/24	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
Core	£1,110.84	£1,295.98	£1,481.12	£1,666.26	£2,036.54	£2,406.82	£2,777.10	£3,332.52
Social Care Precept	£159.78	£186.41	£213.04	£239.67	£292.93	£346.19	£399.45	£479.34
Total	£1,270.62	£1,482.39	£1,694.16	£1,905.93	£2,329.47	£2,753.01	£3,176.55	£3,811.86

It may be worth noting that Adult and Children's Social Care – statutory responsibilities in the main – account for around 58% of the Councils total spend. It's also worth noting that these services are demand led, and it's not actually possible to cap spend. The more help people need the more the Council must spend.