

**Minutes of the Meeting of Knowlton Parish Council**  
**8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7pm**  
**Horton & Chalbury Hall**

Item	
367	<p><b>Attendance &amp; Apologies</b></p> <p>Cllr Rupert Andrews  Cllr Morgan Antell (Vice Chairman)  Cllr Caroline Barnes  Cllr Trevor Brown  Cllr Steve Butler (Chairman)  Cllr Anthony (Sam) Keet  Cllr Jerry Laker  Mrs Lisa Goodwin (Clerk)  Cllr Robin Cook – Dorset Councillor Stour &amp; Allen Vale Ward (Horton &amp; Chalbury)</p> <p><b>Apologies received from:</b></p> <p>Cllr Nicky Sherwood  Cllr Linda Stocks  Cllr David Tooke – Dorset Councillor Cranborne &amp; Alderholt Ward (Woodlands &amp; Wimborne St Giles)</p>
368	<p><b>Public Open Session</b></p> <p>None present.</p>
369	<p><b>Declarations of Interest &amp; Grants for Dispensation</b></p> <p>None.</p>
370	<p><b>Confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b></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>
371	<p><b>Dorset Councillors Reports</b></p> <p><b><u>Cllr Robin Cook – Dorset Councillor Stour &amp; Allen Vale Ward (Horton &amp; Chalbury)</u></b></p> <p>Please see <b>Appendix A</b> of these minutes.</p> <p><b><u>Cllr David Tooke – Dorset Councillor Cranborne &amp; Alderholt Ward (Woodlands &amp; Wimborne St Giles)</u></b></p> <p>No report this month.</p>

<p><b>372</b></p>	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members are invited to the Dorset Council Planning Engagement Session for Town &amp; Parish Councils on Thursday 27 April 2023 at the Allendale Centre, Wimborne at 2:15pm. <i>Chairman to confirm if available to attend.</i></li> <li>• DAPTC invitation to complete a survey on the area committee meetings and to nominate representatives at the Parish Council AGM in May.</li> <li>• Letter of thanks from Life Education Wessex for the recent donation from the Parish Council toward their work with Wimborne St Giles First School.</li> <li>• Guidance to members from DAPTC on how to contact Dorset Council via their website and a dedicated telephone number if a matter hasn't been resolved.</li> <li>• Resident of Woodlands is concerned with trees overhanging the highway and those touching cables. The Clerk will respond advising concerns can be reported either to Dorset Council for highway matters or BT/SSE if lines effected.</li> </ul>
<p><b>373</b></p>	<p><b>Planning Applications &amp; Matters</b></p> <p><b>P/FUL/2023/00938 CLUMP HILL FARM, BURTS LANE, MANNINGTON, BH21 7JX</b> Proposal: Replacement of existing commercial/industrial building by a building of substantially the same size (34sqm) larger. The building will remain in the same sui generis commercial/industrial use. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p><b>P/HOU/2023/01003 HEDGEROW, VERWOOD ROAD, WOODLANDS, BH21 8LJ</b> Proposal: erect detached garage. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>Members discussed the prior notification application to construct a digestate storage lagoon for recycled food waste which will be spread on farmland at Wimborne St Giles, there were some concerns from a resident but the applicant has been able to address these.</p>
<p><b>374</b></p>	<p><b>Highways Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notification of proposed works on C2 from A354 Thickthorn Cross to B3078 at Horton to repair the most damaged sections of road. The road will be closed daily between 09:00 and 16:00 but will be open overnight and weekends from 13<sup>th</sup> March to 14<sup>th</sup> April. The diversion sends traffic via Wimborne St Giles.</li> <li>• Notification of proposed works between 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May at Kings Lane, Woodlands for surface dressing.</li> <li>• Members approved the Risk Assessment for the Woodlands Parish Litter Pick on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March however a large amount of rubbish is very kindly cleared on a regular basis by two local residents so there is likely to be much less this year.</li> <li>• Employees of St Giles Estate have cleared a large amount of rubbish on B3078.</li> <li>• Clerk to report to Dorset Council that the white lines need renewing through Horton village.1214286</li> <li>• Damaged nameplate at Wimborne St Giles at Baileys Hill reported to Dorset Council ref 1212586 who have suggested it would be for the Parish Council to replace. <i>Clerk to go back and question this.</i></li> <li>• Notification of proposed temporary closure of lane at Wimborne St Giles between Coach Road and Bottlebush Lane for approx. 500 metres to allow Openreach safe access 09:30 - 15:30 on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members agreed the Clerk should thank Dorset Council for the excellent resurfacing work from Edmondsham Crossroads through to Creech Hill.</li> <li>• Clerk has asked Landowner at Kings Lane to cut back overhanging brambles but they are unhappy that the road has been made wider by large vehicles, there is now no verge and water from the highway floods owner's field. <i>Clerk to report to Dorset Council to correspond directly with Landowner. 1214293</i></li> <li>• Other Highway matters listed in Actions List below.</li> </ul>
<b>375</b>	<b>Rights of Way/Open Spaces</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rights of Way matters awaiting action listed in 'Actions List' below.</li> </ul>
<b>376</b>	<b>Burgess Field Play Area, Woodlands – Inspections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly visual play inspections completed by Cllrs Morgan Antell and Linda Stocks.</li> <li>• Members considered and accepted the 10% increase in cost of quarterly inspections.</li> </ul>
<b>377</b>	<b>Tree Matters</b> None to report.
<b>378</b>	<b>Filming &amp; Safeguarding Policy Review</b> Members reviewed the policies with no amendments.
<b>379</b>	<b>Annual Parish Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 6:30pm</b> Members approved the agenda for the Annual Meeting which will be held before the next Parish Council Meeting. The Chairman will prepare the Annual Report.
<b>380</b>	<b>Wimborne St Giles Neighbourhood Plan</b> The Plan is now open for consultation until March 31 <sup>st</sup> and can be viewed with supporting documents at <a href="http://www.knowltonparishcouncil.org.uk">www.knowltonparishcouncil.org.uk</a>
<b>381</b>	<b>Actions List</b>
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 <sup>rd</sup> 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. TB very disappointed that Grange at Furzehill has been prioritised for resurfacing over this area as has Kings Lane and will write to Cllr David Tooke on this. Clerk will report again so that it will be inspected again 1214291									
	Water leak opposite Meadow Cottage, Horton Road, Woodlands. Cllr Trevor Brown has reported to Water Co. Apr 22: not yet resolved. Feb 23: 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. Clerk reported to Bournemouth water who confirmed 4 Jan that no leak found.									
Dec 22	Overgrown hedges Haythorne 1200765 Cllr Trevor Brown met on site with CHO who has written to landowner. March 23; Clerk to chase up DC for latest.									
<b>382</b>	<p><b>Financial Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members reviewed and updated the Asset Register.</li> <li>• Members reviewed reserves for end of year without amendment.</li> <li>• Members reviewed and approved the Annual Financial Risk Assessment.</li> <li>• Members resolved unanimously to pay items below including Clerk's Salary:</li> </ul> <table> <tr> <td>ONLINE Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd</td> <td>WSG N/Plan Work</td> <td>£1121.70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE Alderholt PC</td> <td>97 Bus Q3</td> <td>£351.67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE Wimborne Villages PCC</td> <td>Horton Noticeboard</td> <td>£704.19</td> </tr> </table>	ONLINE Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd	WSG N/Plan Work	£1121.70	ONLINE Alderholt PC	97 Bus Q3	£351.67	ONLINE Wimborne Villages PCC	Horton Noticeboard	£704.19
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<b>383</b>	<b>Information for Report Only</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Annual Parish Meeting of Electors will be held at <u>6:30pm on 12<sup>th</sup> April</u> prior to Parish Council meeting.</li></ul>
	Next Meeting will be <u>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023</u> at 7pm in Horton & Chalbury Village Hall.

**Meeting closed at 20:31**

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

Signed;..... **12<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

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**Appendix A****Dorset Council Budget**

Dorset Council's budget of £348m for 2023-24 was approved by councillors at the full council meeting on 14 February. This continues the council's commitment to maintain frontline services, without the need for cuts to balance the budget. Dorset Council provides around 450 different services to just under 380,000 residents. This year's budget setting exercise took 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.

Council tax will increase next year by just under 2% and the adult social care precept by 2%. This is less than the maximum 5% increase available to councils, as outlined in the Government's Spending Review in December 2022. The increase is equivalent to £1.40 extra per week for a Band D property. This is a balanced budget in a national context of significant financial challenge. Our overriding aim has been to protect the essential frontline council services on which local residents and businesses rely. The proposals do include a council tax increase; however, we have kept to it to the minimum possible despite the high level of inflation and we continue to provide a range of support for those residents hardest hit by the cost of living.

Since becoming a unitary council in 2019, we have made efficiency savings of £76 million. This money has been reinvested to protect frontline services, including funding the growing need for adult social care with our ageing population. Our prudent budget management has meant that Dorset has not faced the same cuts to essential services as many other areas. However, we continue to lobby Government for fairer funding for Dorset so that we can reduce the burden on local taxpayers in future.

**Council Tax and second homes**

A decision whether to recommend a 100% premium in council tax on second homes in the Dorset Council area (subject to Royal Assent on the bill currently at Westminster) was deferred by the cabinet at their meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. The decision was made to allow time for more councillors to comment on the proposals which, if agreed, would come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. This was debated further by the Place and Resources Overview Committee at their meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February.

The cabinet considered committee responses at their meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February and agreed to recommend the adoption of the policy to full council who will vote on it on 30<sup>th</sup> March. It promises to be an interesting debate!

Dorset has 5,722 second homes. If this was extrapolated into a revenue uplift, it would equate to around £10m.

**Cost of Living Help**

We have set aside £2M from our reserves to help residents with the cost-of-living crisis. This is a one-off allocation, and we will use this to target financial support in the short-term and include some longer-term solutions to issues such as the challenge of energy costs for residents through property improvement schemes. More details will be published in due course.

**Alternative Fuels Payment (AFP)**

The government has given more details on another scheme to help with the cost of living with a £200 Alternative fuels Payment. You may be eligible for this payment if

- You use alternative fuels as your main form of heating
- Your household is not connected to the mains gas grid

Most homes that are eligible for the AFP will get it automatically via their electricity supplier. Those who do not have a direct relationship with an energy supplier will need to apply for the Alternative Fuels Payment (Alternative Funding) scheme by searching ***“Apply for energy bill support if you do not get it automatically”*** into the GOV.UK webpage search bar. For those unable to use the internet to apply or for any enquiries there is a helpline on 0808 175 3287 – Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm.

### **Dorset Local Plan update**

A summary of comments from the consultation of the draft Dorset Council Local Plan is now published. All of the comments received from the 6,000 respondents have already been searchable on the council’s website, but they have now been categorised against the draft policies and relevant areas of Dorset.

The consultation, which took place in early 2021, resulted in over 50,000 comments on the separate policies, more than all of the most recent former district and borough local plan consultations combined.

The summary can be viewed at

[www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/dorset-council-local-plan-consultation-2021-summary](http://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/planning-buildings-land/dorset-council-local-plan-consultation-2021-summary)

Although the timescale for the development of the Dorset Council Local Plan has been extended, evidence gathering has continued. This supporting evidence is published on the council website. Once adopted, the plan will guide decisions on planning applications in Dorset for the next sixteen years.

**CLLr Robin Cook**

**8<sup>th</sup> March 2023**