

Minutes of the Meeting of Knowlton Parish Council
21st June 2023 at 7pm
Horton & Chalbury Hall

| Item | |
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| 424 | <p>Attendance & Apologies</p> <p>Cllr Morgan Antell (Chairman) Cllr Trevor Brown Cllr Anthony (Sam) Keet Cllr Ian Potentier Cllr Linda Stocks Cllr David Tooke – Dorset Councillor Cranborne & Alderholt Ward (Woodlands & Wimborne St Giles) Mrs Lisa Goodwin (Clerk)</p> <p>Apologies received from:</p> <p>Cllr Caroline Barnes Cllr Jerry Laker (Vice Chairman) Cllr Robin Cook – Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward (Horton & Chalbury)</p> <p>Cllr Nicky Sherwood has tendered her resignation with immediate effect.</p> |
| 425 | <p>Co-option to fill vacancy for Woodlands</p> <p>Members considered the application received to fill the vacancy for Woodlands. It was proposed by Cllr Trevor Brown, seconded by Cllr Ian Potentier and resolved unanimously to appoint Steve Butler.</p> |
| 426 | <p>Declarations of Interest & Grants for Dispensation</p> <p>None.</p> |
| 427 | <p>Confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 17th May 2023</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> |
| 428 | <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> |

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| <p>429</p> | <p>Public Open Session</p> <p>30 residents attended to express their objection to the proposed Solar Farm at North Farm, Horton which is being considered by members this evening.</p> <p>The main points raised were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technically the Solar Farm is located in the wrong place on viable food production land at a time of potential food shortages. • Proximity to the AONB, Green Belt and impact on historic features of Horton Tower and Woodlands Farmhouse. • The site is visible at ground level and will impact on the pleasant and well used footpaths with views to historic sites. • Contrary to policy ME5 requiring very special circumstances for a renewable development. • Cumulative effect with proposal at nearby Woodlands. • Disruption during construction to local residents on already over-used and very poor road surfaces. And the installation of the cable to Mannington Substation. • There has not been enough active consultation and the assessment states further assessment is needed. • 40 years is not temporary, once the character of the area is changed it will be irreversible. • How long will it take for tree planting to mitigate? • There is no mention of alternatives that might be considered in the proposal. • Concern with fire hazard with battery storage. • Concern of impact on wildlife. • Strength of feeling by local residents to object to the proposal. <p>Rupert Hardy from the CPRE, whilst supportive of renewable energy, reported on the negative impact of solar farms nationwide that could see a loss of half a million acres industrialising the natural landscape for what is an inefficient method of producing electricity.</p> <p>Local Authorities could protect the countryside and the impact on heritage settings with stronger landscape policies and by making solar panels on rooftops on new builds mandatory or by utilising brownfield sites and poor-quality land.</p> <p>Mr Hardy requested the Parish Council oppose this application which will desecrate the local landscape.</p> |
| <p>430</p> | <p>Planning Applications & Matters</p> <p>P/FUL/2023/02829 NORTH FARM, HORTON, BH21 7HL Proposal: Construction of Solar Farm and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>Members resolved unanimously to OBJECT to the proposal.</p> <p>There is great strength of feeling by residents to oppose this application, 30 attended the meeting of the parish council on 21st June.</p> <p>Members object to the use of quality farmland for this purpose without a direct link to the National Grid.</p> <p>Construction traffic will further deteriorate the already over-used and poor quality local rural roads and impact those who live in close proximity.</p> <p>The impact on the countryside will be detrimental to the enjoyment of the natural landscape, the local footpath network and views of this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty including the historically important, Horton Tower.</p> <p>Members request this application is referred to the Planning Committee if the Officers recommendation is at variance to the above.</p> <p>P/HOU/2023/03005 MILL HOUSE, WIMBORNE ST GILES, BH21 5LZ Proposal: Erect a greenhouse.</p> <p>Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> |

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| | <p>P/HOU/2023/02960 ABBEY HOUSE, HORTON, BH21 7JA Proposal: Erect a two-bay oak framed cart style garage with storage. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>P/FUL/2023/02975 ALL HALLOWS FARMHOUSE, WIMBORNE ST GILES, BH21 5NJ Proposal: Replacement of an existing plant/grain store with new store and plant for temporary storage and conditioning of grain. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>P/FUL/2023/02911 IVY COTTAGE FARM, HORTON ROAD, WOODLANDS, BH21 8NE Proposal: Conversion of existing holiday accommodation to form self-contained, unfettered, residential unit of accommodation to include installation of windows, blocking up of existing openings and erection of boundary wall. Members voted 3 in favour of objection to the proposal due to the change of use and creation of an additional dwelling in the Green Belt. 3 members voted for no objection including the Chairman who used casting vote. It was therefore resolved to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>Notification by Dorset Council that the outline planning application for 1700 homes at Alderholt P/OUT/2023/01166 will be considered by the Planning Committee on 5 July 2023, The Allendale Centre, Wimborne.</p> |
| 431 | <p>Appointment of Representatives for coming year</p> <p>DAPTC (SB) Emergency Planning (AFK/JL/SB) Staffing Committee (MA/AFK/TB) Horton & Chalbury Village Hall (IP) Rights of Way Officers (JL & LS) Tree Officers (MA) 97/PlusBus JWG (LS/SB) WSG Neighbourhood Plan (JL/CB)</p> |
| 432 | <p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Consultation by Dorset Council on a Dog related Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) available to view at Proposed Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order - Dorset Council - Citizen Space until 25th August 2023. <i>Noted, Clerk will circulate on Knowlton New E-network.</i> • We Out Here Festival final information updates for members. <i>Noted.</i> • NALC call for evidence to help produce a planning case study document. <i>Noted, no evidence.</i> • National Grid Mannington delays to overhead refurbishment in the parish. <i>Noted.</i> • C&EE Support Group meeting notes from Thursday 15 June 2023. <i>Noted.</i> |
| 433 | <p>Highways Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed temporary 30mph speed limit at Wimborne St Giles 10th – 14th August to assist access to and from the We Out Here Festival. • Dorset Council has inspected a number of issues in the Haythorne area and provided a report on actions, however the surface on Haythorne hill has not been addressed. <i>Cllr Trevor Brown will prepare a response.</i> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other Highway matters listed in Actions List below. |
| 434 | <p>Rights of Way/Open Spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E59/1 Woodlands partially blocked by vegetation; <i>Cllr Linda Stocks will ask Landowner to cut back.</i> Dorset Council Notice of Confirmation of Modification Order for Footpath 17 at Slough House. <i>Noted.</i> Rights of Way matters awaiting action listed in 'Actions List' below. |
| 435 | <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. <i>No actions.</i> |
| 436 | <p>Tree Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation of TPO/2022/0099 for a group of trees at Abbey House, Horton. Confirmation from Dorset Council that the Remedy Oak is closely monitored to retain this historic tree as safely as possible. |
| 437 | <p>Wimborne St Giles Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>No update this month.</p> |
| 438 | <p>Actions List</p> |
| 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. 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. May 23: MA continues to discuss with DC Ranger. |
| Dec 2020 | E57/5 Maldry Wood, rotten bridge reported to Dorset Council. MNT50359 DC happy to install sleeper bridge if either the PC or Landowner provide sleepers. April 22: DC cannot enforce work to be carried out on the permissive path, only advise and remind landowners of their duties of care and maintenance. Definitive line unobstructed. May 23: MA will speak with Landowner to repair bridge. |
| July 2020 | Water rising in Woodlands opposite 'Four Oaks,' Aug 22: DC plan to install a new gully and pipe to watercourse with adjacent landowners' permission, subject to priority and funding. |
| 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 |

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| | 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. June 23 – inspected and repaired in places. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Water leak opposite Meadow Cottage, Horton Road, Woodlands. Cllr Trevor Brown has reported to Water Co. Apr 22: not yet resolved. May 23: Clerk reported again to SW Water ref 0012685401 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dec 22 | Overgrown hedges Haythorne 1200765 Cllr Trevor Brown met on site with CHO who has written to landowner. March 23 DC spoken with landowner and asked to cut back however on inspection do not believe problem is at intervention level. April 23 Members believe DC has legal obligation as in their view it is overhanging, Clerk to chase up. June 23: DC satisfied | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| April 23 | 1217124 Reported Water is draining from the field from the property Little Haythorne via a gully in the verge onto the highway - we would like to suggest the gully is filled and water is diverted along the line of an old ditch to a manhole cover. DC will inspect and report. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 439 | <p>Financial Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members confirmed they have no conflict of interest with the external auditor BDO LLP. Members resolved unanimously to pay items below including Clerk's Salary: <table> <tr> <td>ONLINE Elite Playground Inspections</td> <td>Repairs as agreed</td> <td>£870.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE Grass & Grounds Ltd</td> <td>Grass Cutting Woodlands April</td> <td>£169.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE Clerk</td> <td>Reimbursement for Advertisement for Clerk</td> <td>£153.19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE Grass & Grounds Ltd</td> <td>Grass Cutting Woodlands May</td> <td>£169.80</td> </tr> </table> | ONLINE Elite Playground Inspections | Repairs as agreed | £870.00 | ONLINE Grass & Grounds Ltd | Grass Cutting Woodlands April | £169.80 | ONLINE Clerk | Reimbursement for Advertisement for Clerk | £153.19 | ONLINE Grass & Grounds Ltd | Grass Cutting Woodlands May | £169.80 |
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| ONLINE Clerk | Reimbursement for Advertisement for Clerk | £153.19 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ONLINE Grass & Grounds Ltd | Grass Cutting Woodlands May | £169.80 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 440 | <p>Vacancy for Clerk & Interview Panel</p> <p>Closing date for applications is 7th July, advertisement placed in Stour & Avon and Blackmore Vale Magazines. Cllrs Morgan Antell, Steve Butler and Trevor Brown will conduct interviews and make recommendations to full council at meeting on 2nd August.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 441 | <p>Register of Interests</p> <p>The Clerk reminded members to check their Registers of Interests online at www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk to ensure they are up to date.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 442 | Next Meeting will be Wednesday 2nd August 2023 at 7pm in Horton & Chalbury Village Hall. | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Meeting closed at 20:30

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

Signed;..... 2nd August 2023

Appendix A**DORSET COUNCILLORS REPORT FOR KNOWLTON PC MEETING****WEDNESDAY 21st JUNE 2023****Savings achieved to protect frontline services**

A total saving of £96 million has been achieved since Dorset Council was created in 2019 through Local Government Reorganisation, which brought together five former district and borough councils and the county council into one new unitary council. The savings were achieved by bringing together similar services, reducing duplication and costs, increasing efficiency, and reducing the number of councillors and senior officer roles.

The savings made to date have been reinvested into essential frontline services, protecting them from cuts, and focussing on sustainable local services over the longer-term. This includes children's social care, road maintenance, libraries, housing, planning and adult social services.

This has been achieved in a climate of increased financial pressures on councils, including inflation, a growing need for housing services due to the cost-of-living crisis, and increasing demand for adult social care due to our ageing population.

Many of the savings have been driven by the council's transformation programme which has been redesigning services with the aim of providing a better experience for residents and more efficient operations with lower costs. Savings of £13.6 million have been successfully delivered over the last two years, with a further £17.4 million projected over the next three years.

To deliver the council plan it is key that the council continues to evolve, to ensure that services are designed around people's needs, access to information is as clear and simple as possible and that the council focusses on delivering services in a sustainable way.

A report detailing the outcomes of the second year of Dorset Council's transformation programme has just been published. Here are some examples of projects undertaken as part of the programme:

- A new care company was set up by Dorset Council in October 2022, and adult care services were transferred from Tricuro to Care Dorset. They offer residential services, day opportunities, reablement services and supported living services. The new company is helping the council to provide the right support, in the right place, now and the future.
- The first two Family Hubs in Tricketts Cross (Ferndown) and Wareham have been opened. Family Hubs make council and partner services easily available, providing a complete experience for families where different services can work together to deliver the right help at the right time.
- The "customer account" went live on the council's website in April 2023 and enables customers to register and access local information personalised to them.
- In October 2022, a new approach to the council's out of hours service went live. This involved using the existing customer services team to provide this service in a more efficient and cost-effective way. In the first 3 months, 100% of out of hours calls were being answered, an increase of 31% on previous arrangements.

Recycling Barbecues

Litter Free Dorset is working with Southern Co-op and W&S Recycling to dismantle and recycle 8,000 disposable barbecues as a reminder of how destructive they can be to the environment. A display of disposable barbecues for sale weighing in at over seven tonnes were taken off the shelves following the devastating heathland fires of 2022 and campaigns from Litter Free Dorset (LFD) and the Urban Heaths Partnership supported by Dorset Council.

Portland Barge

Dorset Council and Dorset Police have set out their shared position on the Home Office's plans to house asylum seekers on a barge in Portland Port.

The organisations have questions about the proposal that remain unanswered and continue to seek clarity from the Home Office on plans. Both agencies have statutory responsibilities to ensure minimal impact on local services when the Home Office's plan go ahead. We are still waiting for answers to questions from the Home Office. If you have specific questions about this matter, if you let me know I will endeavour to get you an answer.

Car Parking Machines upgrade

All our car park and on-street pay and display machines are to be replaced. Replacement of the machines is expected to complete by mid-July, with the new machines offering improved reliability and a consistent user experience.

The machines will provide customers with a range of payment options, including cash, card, Apple Pay, Google Pay, and an online app. Wi-Fi will also be improved in car parks with weak phone signals, ensuring smoother transactions. The payment facilities and display screens will at a height suitable for wheelchair users.

Co-optees wanted

Dorset Council currently has adverts out for a [co-optee to join our Police and Crime Panel](#) and also for two [co-optees to join our Audit and Governance Committee](#). If you know of anyone who may be interested, please send them these links.

CLlr Robin Cook

21st June 2023

Appendix B

230621 Dorset Councillor Report for Knowlton Parish Council

Household Support Fund

Round 4 of the Household Support Fund (HSF) reopened for applications at 10am on Tuesday 6 June 2023 for low-income households in the Dorset Council area.

The support will be in the form of supermarket vouchers. Citizens Advice will be allocating this fund on behalf of Dorset Council and vouchers will be issued to residents who meet the eligibility criteria within 6 – 8 weeks.

Dorset Council households will be able to apply if they have:

- an annual household net income of less than £30,000 and
- savings of less than £16,000 and
- **not applied** for a previous HSF payment within the last 6 months

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.

More details: [Household Support Fund - Dorset Council](#)

Amber Wildfire Alert

Dorset is currently in an amber wildfire alert, yet a fire was started at Stephens Castle, Verwood on Wednesday 24th May, which devastated 4.7 hectares of rare lowland heath.

Crews from Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service fought the flames for 8 hours before bringing the blaze under control. Crews are still on scene today, two days after the original ignition, damping down hotspots. Whilst firefighting, the mains water outlet they were using collapsed, so they had to syphon water from the heathland pond.

When natural water sources are used in this way the crews check and clear the filter regularly. During a regular check they found some rare great crested (*Triturus cristatus*) and palmate (*Lissotriton helveticus*) newts had been drawn into the filter. This meant they stopped immediately and very carefully freed the amphibians back into the pond. Sadly, there were several fatalities, along with more heathland creatures which perished in the flames.

DWFRS Wildfire Tactical Advisor, Andy Elliott said:

“Wildfires at this time of year can be devastating to wildlife with ground nesting birds, reptiles and amphibians all being badly affected. I’m really pleased at how the crews reacted so quickly to this unfortunate incident by immediately stopping all pumping operations and taking action to release the trapped newts. We have to thank our colleagues from Forestry England who provided a tractor and bowser to enable us to continue damping down.”

The Urban Heaths Partnership (UHP) works hard to reduce the impacts of wildfires on heathlands across Dorset and to protect and enhance these areas as well as raise the understanding of their habitat and history. UHP commented: “To put into context how important these sites are, Dorset has just under 2.5% of the world’s remaining lowland heathland, and we can scarcely afford to lose any more to fires like the one today”.

Library Strategy

A new draft strategy for Dorset Council’s libraries has just been published, with a fresh approach to delivering services and no proposed branch closures.

The 2nd phase of the “lets talk Libraries” consultation proposed a new model, with libraries being placed in three categories, with [a core list of services available at each](#). 81 per cent of respondents agreed with this approach.

- **Library:** delivers core library offer, open 18 hours across five days a week
- **Library plus:** delivers an enhanced core library offer, open 30 hours, across five days a week,
- **Library Connect:** library hub which delivers an enhanced core library offer including co-located partner services, open 42 hours across six days a week

To ensure communities have access to the whole range of library services, the proposed model has been designed on where the facilities are based, so that if one library is closed at a specific time there will be another open nearby.

Full details available at: [Dorset Library Draft Strategy 2023 to 2033 - Dorset Council](#)

Funding for Dorset Roads inadequate

Dorset MPs are being asked to help level up Government payments for road improvements in the rural county.

Dorset is third from bottom in the national ‘league table’ for its funding.

It gets just under £2 million a year from the Government for road improvements, including safety measures, for its 4,000km of road – compared to £3m for neighbouring Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole which only has 800kms.

Funding from Government has been unchanged since 2015/6, whilst cost of materials has risen by 30%