

Minutes of the Meeting of Knowlton Parish Council
2nd August 2023 at 7pm
Horton & Chalbury Hall

Item	
443	<p>Appointment of Chairman</p> <p>Cllr Morgan Antell wished to step down as Chairman. It was proposed by Cllr Linda Stocks and seconded by Cllr Trevor Brown to appoint Cllr Steve Butler as Chairman. RESOLVED unanimously.</p>
444	<p>Attendance & Apologies</p> <p>Cllr Morgan Antell Cllr Steve Butler (Chairman) Cllr Caroline Barnes Cllr Trevor Brown Cllr Anthony (Sam) Keet Cllr Ian Potentier Cllr Linda Stocks Cllr Robin Cook – Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward (Horton & Chalbury) Cllr David Tooke – Dorset Councillor Cranborne & Alderholt Ward (Woodlands & Wimborne St Giles) Mrs Lisa Goodwin (Clerk)</p> <p>23 members of public</p> <p>Apologies received from:</p> <p>Cllr Jerry Laker (Vice Chairman)</p>
445	<p>Co-option to fill vacancy for Horton & Chalbury</p> <p>Members considered the application received to fill the vacancy for Horton. It was resolved with one abstention by Cllr Trevor Brown to appoint Mr Colin Davidson.</p>
446	<p>Declarations of Interest & Grants for Dispensation</p> <p>None.</p>
447	<p>Confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 21st June 2023</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting were circulated to members prior to the meeting for approval. Cllr Trevor Brown however was dissatisfied that his substantial representation regarding the North Farm Solar application was not recorded. <i>The Chairman requested Cllr Brown provide the Clerk with a report to attach as an annex to the minutes of the meeting.</i> The Chairman signed the minutes.</p>

<p>448</p>	<p>Dorset Councillors Reports</p> <p><u>Cllr Robin Cook – Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward (Horton & Chalbury)</u></p> <p>Please see Annex A of these minutes.</p> <p><u>Cllr David Tooke – Dorset Councillor Cranborne & Alderholt Ward (Woodlands & Wimborne St Giles)</u></p> <p>Please see Annex B of these minutes.</p>
<p>449</p>	<p>Public Open Session</p> <p>23 residents attended to express their objection to the proposed Solar Farm at Woodlands Manor Farm; main points raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity requested on the process for this application and its connection to the Mannington sub-station. • Concern with access along bridleway E59/16 to the site with large number of HGV movements during construction. (443 over 28-week period) • Protected landscape in close proximity to the AONB, in the Green Belt and impact on nearby heritage assets. • No special circumstances identified for a renewable development. • Cumulative effect with other sites in area. • Adverse effect on multiple footpaths and bridleways. • This is a money-making exercise for 40 years, would prefer tree planting for lasting benefit to the environment. • 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. 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>Cllr Trevor Brown stated that this country is paying highest energy prices and subsidies to all these different entities. It is disgraceful especially as solar is the least efficient, costing billions yet only 10% output over one year due to global location - power drops to virtually nothing over winter. Dorset Council and the Parish Council have a responsibility to the people of Dorset to minimise the financial burden on its residents. A traffic management plan would need to be in place should this application go ahead to mitigate the destruction of the local roads damaged by HGV traffic. Cllr Brown understands the connection route for the North Farm Solar is via Bagmans Lane across the Heath to Mannington so presumably this site will be same. Cllr Steve Butler added that no permissions are evident at this time to cross neighbouring land.</p> <p>Cllr Colin Davidson referred to the NPPF and Local Core Strategy and stated the industrial scale and nature of the development proposals would substantially harm the special qualities of the site and the valued landscape, cause harm to the setting of heritage assets – Horton Tower and Woodlands Manor Farm and the loss of a valuable and productive landscape resource and risks a gateway for further similar projects.</p>

	<p>Cllr Morgan Antell advised residents to respond to Dorset Council online before the closing date and whilst the Parish Council represents its residents, its views are not always taken into account by Dorset Council.</p> <p>Cllr David Tooke advised that any objections to the proposal should refer to planning policy to assist Dorset Council in their assessment of the proposal.</p>
450	<p>Planning Applications & Matters</p> <p>P/FUL/2023/03415 WOODLANDS MANOR FARM, BH21 8ND Proposal: Construction of Solar Farm and associated infrastructure.</p> <p>Members resolved unanimously to OBJECT to the proposal for this large 63-hectare site.</p> <p>The proposed development in its industrial appearance, scale and positioning would have a detrimental impact on the character, landscape and visual quality of the rural area and would be harmful to the Green Belt location in accordance with <i>NPPF para's 137 & 147 & 150</i> and would not enhance the Cranborne and West Wiltshire AONB (within 370m of the site) <i>NPPF para 176 & 177</i>.</p> <p><i>NPPF 151</i> states, when located in the Green Belt, elements of many renewable energy projects will comprise inappropriate development and we believe this applies with this proposal. In such cases developers will need to demonstrate very special circumstances if projects are to proceed.</p> <p>Members are concerned the proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) designated heritage assets (Grade 2* Horton Tower, Woodlands Farmhouse and Woodlands Park) <i>NPPF para 201 & 202</i>.</p> <p>The proposal would eliminate prime Agricultural Land identified as Grade 2 and Grade 3a and be detrimental to the public enjoyment of the recreational Rights of Way and Bridleways. BW E59/16 is identified as the construction access. A management plan to mitigate the impact of HGV's using the bridleway and local highways is not evident.</p> <p>The proposal would conflict with <i>NPPF para 145</i> which states local planning authorities should plan positively to enhance Green Belts and their beneficial use, such as looking for opportunities to provide access; to provide opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation; to retain and enhance landscapes, visual amenity and biodiversity.</p> <p>We are concerned with the cumulative effect of another development in close proximity at Horton and 8 sites already in existence to the south-east of this site.</p> <p>On balance, members do not believe the public benefits outweigh the harm to the environment and visual amenity (of what is understood to be an inefficient method of renewable energy).</p> <p>We also query where the farm would be connected to the National Grid (Mannington sub-station?) and lack of evidence of the route and necessary permissions from adjacent landowners and impact of potential disruptions caused by the laying of the cable.</p> <p>Members request this application is considered by the Planning Committee if at variance to the Officers recommendation.</p>

	<p>P/HOU/2023/03320 51 CHURCH HILL, WOODLANDS, BH21 8LN Proposal: Single storey rear extension. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>P/FUL/20223/02311 BEAUCROFT, HORTON, BH21 7JN Proposal: Retain replacement barn, together with demolition and removal of two further small buildings and removal of a horse walker. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>P/LBC/2023/01385 67 THE LAST STRAW, CHURCH HILL, WOODLANDS, BH21 8LN Proposal: Installation source of air pump in the position of the existing oil tank in the garden and pressurised hot water tank in the downstairs hall cupboard. Installation of solar panels in the adjoining paddock. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>Notification of Appeal against the refusal by Dorset Council for variation of condition 2 to allow use of park home for holiday accommodation and removal of condition 3 relating to consent on approved planning application 3/80/1808 at Sundown, Slough Lane, Horton, BH21 7JL.</p>
451	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorset Council’s Housing Strategy Consultation is now open and available to view at Housing strategy survey - Dorset Council Residents who take part will have the opportunity to influence the council’s approach to housing over the next five years. • Dorset Council invites members to take part in a survey relating to the Voluntary and Community sector. • Notes from the Climate & Emergency Support Group Meeting held 15th June 2023.
452	<p>Highways Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members discussed replacing faded and damaged village nameplates at Horton and Woodlands. Clerk to obtain quotations from Dorset Council for consideration next meeting. • Cllr Trevor Brown reported the supposedly repaired road at Haythorne is unacceptable even though Dorset Council states it is up to standard and questioned why Grange at Holt was resurfaced when no maintenance has been carried out at Haythorne for decades. • Clerk has re-reported faded white lines at Horton and will ask Dorset Council when they will be re-painted. • Other Highway matters listed in Actions List below.
453	<p>Rights of Way/Open Spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E59/17 Slough House, Clerk will ask Dorset Council Ranger for update on fence which is very close to the bridge, path is accessible but restricted at this point. • Rights of Way matters awaiting action listed in ‘Actions List’ below.
454	<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. Crack on seat on Spring Reindeer, Clerk will arrange contractor to repair.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodlands members have received the Quarterly operational inspection report. <i>Noted.</i> • Grass needs cutting but it has been very wet month.
455	<p>Tree Matters</p> <p>The Remedy Oak Brewery have offered to re-home and display the fallen Remedy Oak wood that is currently laying on the verge. Members agreed.</p>
456	<p>97 Bus Joint Working Group Report</p> <p>Cllr Steve Butler attended the working group meeting on 27th July and reported that the 97 Bus service will be phased out due to low usage and replaced with the PlusBus bookable service. Cllr Caroline Barnes will check if residents of Wimborne St Giles are still using the 97.</p>
457	<p>Wimborne St Giles Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Cllr Jerry Laker has stepped down from the Planning Group. A meeting has been arranged with Dorset Council at end of August to discuss aspects of the Plan following public consultation. Funding has been approved. Cllr Steve Butler and Trevor Brown offered to join the Group.</p>
458	<p>Licensing Application Sawmill, Wimborne St Giles</p> <p>The application proposes opening Friday and Saturday 5pm – 10pm; Sunday 10am – 4pm. Members feel midday opening on Sunday for alcohol would be more reasonable and queried music application for 5pm – 10pm on Sundays, possible error as does not match opening hours.</p>
459	<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

	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.									
460	<p>Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct, Reserves Policy</p> <p>Members resolved unanimously to adopt the revised model Standing Orders 2022 circulated to members in advance of the meeting and amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Knowlton Parish Community Benefit Fund Committee.</p> <p>Members reviewed the Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct and Reserves Policies without amendment.</p>									
461	<p>Financial Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members resolved unanimously to pay items below including Clerk's Salary: <table> <tr> <td>ONLINE Grass & Grounds Ltd</td> <td>Grass cutting Woodlands</td> <td>£169.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE Elite Playground Inspections</td> <td>Quarterly Inspection Play Area</td> <td>£57.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE Clerk</td> <td>Reimbursement of Expenses</td> <td>£109.47</td> </tr> </table>	ONLINE Grass & Grounds Ltd	Grass cutting Woodlands	£169.80	ONLINE Elite Playground Inspections	Quarterly Inspection Play Area	£57.60	ONLINE Clerk	Reimbursement of Expenses	£109.47
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462	<p>Other Information for report only</p> <p>None.</p>									
463	<p>Appointment of Clerk & related expenditure</p> <p>It was resolved to exclude members of the press and the public for this item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).</p> <p>The interview panel conducted 3 interviews in July and reported to members their recommendation for the post. Members agreed a salary to be offered and a probationary period of 13 weeks to the successful candidate with a start date of 1st September 2023.</p>									
464	Next Meeting will be Wednesday <u>13th September 2023</u> at 7pm in Horton & Chalbury Village Hall.									

Meeting closed at 20:54

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

Signed;..... 13th September 2023

Annex A**DORSET COUNCILLORS REPORT FOR KNOWLTON PC MEETING****WEDNESDAY 2nd AUGUST 2023****£121 million into Dorset since 2019**

Cllr Spencer Flower the leader of Dorset Council is constantly lobbying for a better deal for the residents of Dorset. He is aware that some have questioned the tangible benefits, so here is an outline the key financial achievements of this administration since becoming a unitary council and improved value for money for the local taxpayer.

One of the ways councils can make limited resources go further and reduce the burden on local taxation is through actively pursuing and applying for external funding opportunities. Everyone will appreciate these opportunities are often competitive processes requiring bidders to put forward ambitious ideas and demonstrate a commitment to delivery in accordance with the scheme criteria. Successful bidding helps to accelerate and unlock improved outcomes for those who live, work and invest in Dorset.

For the period 2020/21 to 2023/24 Dorset Council has secured £101.3m of grant funding, rising to £121.6m based on future year commitments and the life of the current grants.

Projects include:

- Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Safety Valve - £42m
- Levelling Up Fund (LUF) – Weymouth Regeneration - £19.5m
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme - Main Grant - £18.8m
- Department for Transport (DfT) Transforming Cities Fund - £14.2m
- And other smaller grants totalling - £6.8m.

Fairer funding for Dorset

Cllr Flower also had an opportunity to meet with the Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) again a few weeks ago and asked for a comprehensive review of fairer funding for Dorset.

Dorset Council receives very little revenue support grant (RSG) from government, which is why there continues to be far too much dependency on the local taxpayer. For example, he requested an RSG that reflects the increased costs and pressures of service delivery that gives parity with urban councils. RSG for Dorset Council represents 0.2 per cent of net income, equivalent to £0.7 million pa. Other unitary councils receive an average of 4 per cent which for Dorset would equate to £14 million pa.

Mention was made about the general issue of poor rural funding and what this means to shire councils such as Dorset. For example:

- Rural areas will still receive some 59.4 per cent (£111) LESS per head in Settlement Funding Assessment grant than their urban counterparts.
- Rural residents will pay, on average, 20.6 per cent (£110) MORE per head in council tax than their urban counterparts due to receiving less government grant.
- Rural residents will get 13 per cent LESS per head in social care support overall.

London is getting some £236 million a year more in government grant than the formula says it should (of which £166 million is received by only five boroughs) – this is at the expense of rural and non-London local authorities.

He also mentioned the impact of our older population in Dorset. The latest population data shows that 29.4 per cent of Dorset Council's population are over 65, in comparison with a figure for England of 18.5 per cent.

The demand for adult social care continues to rise dramatically. For example, in 2019, 624 people were discharged from hospital into council care, at a cost of £4.1 million. In 2022, the numbers of discharges have increased threefold to 1,675, at a cost of £15 million. Dorset Council receives no additional funding for this expenditure.

Round 4 of the Household Support Fund

Round 4 of the Household Support Fund (HSF) will reopen for applications today Wednesday 2nd August 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 the council, and vouchers will be issued to residents who meet the eligibility criteria within 6 – 8 weeks.

Residents should apply online and the application form can be found on the council website. Find more details including future application window dates here:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/household-support-fund>

If applicants need help completing the form, they can telephone Customer Services on 01305 221000 or visit a customer access point.

Please share with your communities.

Pop up camping changes

The regulations for temporary recreational campsites or 'pop up' camping sites have changed with the introduction of new permitted development rights. Land can still be used for up to 28 days per calendar year as a campsite with unlimited number of tents only without formal planning permission. This right applies until 25th July 2024.

The new rights also allow land to be used for up to 60 days in any calendar year as a campsite. This latest change permits up to 50 pitches of either tents or campervans. With this usage the council will need to be notified in writing first. There may also be the need for a site licence.

Housing Strategy Consultation

On Monday 24th July we launched our housing strategy consultation. It is primarily a questionnaire, with some space for free text, and takes just minutes to complete. The aim is for as many people as possible to contribute with their views about what is important to them.

Key issues such as housing need, supply, and standards are some of the issues highlighted. The over-arching aim of the consultation is to hear what residents have to say and help us 'home in on housing'.

To complete the consultation please go to our home page, link here, [Dorset residents are encouraged to home in on housing as our Housing Strategy Consultation launches. - Dorset Council news](#) which we will be updating with videos featuring our Voices of Dorset. Please help us spread the word.

Awards for customer services

Our Customer Services team are celebrating winning two awards at the 2023 South West Contact Centre Awards. Hosted by the South West Contact Centre Forum (SWCCF), the showcase event took place on Friday 23rd June in Bristol, the team won 'Best Customer Engagement' and 'Contact Centre of the Year'.

Help from Volunteers wanted

If you work in the volunteer and community sector (VCS), we need your help to develop our new VCS strategy. We want to hear what you think about how we currently work with the voluntary and community sector. To have your say, please complete this survey by 16 August, it only takes 10 minutes! [Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy - Dorset Council - Citizen Space](#)

CLlr Robin Cook

26th July 2023

Annex B

230802 Knowlton Parish Council Dorset Councillors Report

Advocacy service to help people have their interests represented in Health and Social Care services.

Advocacy is a free service for people who need help to understand the care and support process, say what they want, challenge decisions, represent their interests, and obtain services they need. It also builds people's skills, resilience and independence. It is funded by the council or NHS service the person resides in, whilst being confidential and fully independent of the NHS and council.

The new provider, South West Advocacy Network (SWAN), has been delivering advocacy in the southwest for many years and has recently been re-awarded the Advocacy Quality Performance Mark which reflects the quality of independent advocacy provision.

Individuals, family, friends and professionals can all make referrals to SWAN. SWAN will advise on whether advocacy is the right way forward or signpost to other support that best meets the person's needs. People receiving advocacy under the previous contracts continue to be supported by SWAN.

SWAN can be contacted online at www.swanadvocacy.org.uk/dorset by email at dorset@swanadvocacy.org.uk or by phone on 03333 447928.

Housing Team Appointments at Wimborne Library

Face-to-face appointments can be made at some Libraries with members of Dorset Council's housing options team, the sessions will enhance ways in which customers can access their services.

They will take place at a different location each weekday between 10am and 4pm, including libraries in Dorchester, Wareham, Weymouth, Bridport and at Nordon Lodge in Blandford.

The public will need to *book the appointment in advance with housing officers if they need to meet in person.*

Anyone that needs advice about the housing register or to upload documents will continue to speak to customer services.

The extension into the community came about through a consultation on digital transformation and the need to reach out to people in respect of their housing.

People can call 01305 221000 or email housinghelp@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk if they want to help if they are faced with homelessness or need advice and support regarding a housing matter.

These sessions in Wimborne are held at the Customer Access Point location on a Monday.

Healthy Homes, Dorset

Healthy Homes Dorset is funded by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, Dorset Council and Public Health Dorset and is delivered by Ridgewater Energy.

If someone in your household meets the following criteria, then we may be able to help you with loft and cavity wall insulation (subject to an initial telephone interview and then, if necessary, a survey) free of charge. In some cases there may other support we can refer you to or help you with directly:

- Has a cardiovascular condition
- Has a respiratory condition
- Has a mental health condition
- Has a disability
- Is aged 65 or over*
- Has a child under 5 living in the property*
- Is pregnant
- Is living with addiction
- Has attended hospital due to a fall
- Is a recent immigrant or asylum seeker
- Has a low income

*Applicants applying solely under these criteria, are only eligible if their household income is under £75,000 per annum. Applicants can still qualify if they meet another criteria detailed above.

Planning Applications Edmondsham Road, Verwood.

The application for 9 homes at an “infill” site at Eastwood Farm has been rejected, on the grounds that it is detrimental to the Green Belt,

The larger scheme, to the south of Edmondsham Road, which has been approved, requires that half the properties are “affordable” and involve access from phase 2 of the Potters Wood development. It includes proposals for open spaces and a landscaping scheme, as well as parking across the site for 60 cars.

Twelve of the nineteen open market homes will be 3-bed, the rest 2-bed with the ten affordable homes for rent being smaller – six 1-bed and four 2-bed and with nine affordable homes for sale, made up of seven 2-bed and three 3-bed.

Planning Applications, Alderholt

The large and very controversial application by Dudsbury Homes to build 1,700 houses and create a new village at Alderholt has been rejected by Dorset Council Eastern Area Planning Committee. The refusal was on a number of grounds including:

- Impact on Heathland
- Significant Development contrary to the Settlement Hierarchy
- Poor Masterplan with little relationship within the plan
- Insufficient affordable housing
- Would not ensure sufficient choice of school places
- Poor Transport Assessment, using unacceptable methodology, and no mitigation of the impact on Highway Safety
- Environmental impacts on Cranborne Chase AONB

Insufficient information regarding viability of surface water drainage