

Minutes of the Meeting of Knowlton Parish Council
13th September 2023 at 7pm
Horton & Chalbury Hall

Item	
465	<p>Attendance & Apologies</p> <p>CLlr Morgan Antell CLlr Steve Butler (Chairman) CLlr Caroline Barnes CLlr Linda Stocks CLlr David Tooke – Dorset Councillor Cranborne & Alderholt Ward (Woodlands & Wimborne St Giles) Mrs Lisa Goodwin (Clerk) Miss Sarah Forwood (Clerk)</p> <p>No members of public</p> <p>Apologies received from:</p> <p>CLlr Colin Davidson CLlr Jerry Laker (Vice Chairman) CLlr Trevor Brown CLlr Anthony (Sam) Keet CLlr Ian Potentier CLlr Robin Cook – Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward (Horton & Chalbury)</p>
466	<p>Co-option to fill vacancy for Chalbury</p> <p>Members considered the application received to fill the vacancy for Chalbury. It was proposed by CLlr Caroline Barnes, seconded by CLlr Morgan Antell and resolved unanimously to appoint Mr Paul Millett.</p>
467	<p>Declarations of Interest & Grants for Dispensation</p> <p>None.</p>
468	<p>Confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 2nd August 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> <p>CLlr Trevor Brown has written to the Clerk regarding the Parish Council’s response to Planning Application P/FUL/2023/03415 Woodlands Manor Solar Farm proposal requesting that a specific reference of the need for an agreement in respect of the potential for further damage to the existing road prior to any approval being granted as road maintenance needs to be a clearly identified integral cost forming part of the application and a cost for which the developers should be aware of and the high standard which the road needs to be returned to.</p> <p><i>It was agreed, the Clerk should write to the Planning Officers for both the Woodlands Manor Solar Farm and the North Farm Solar proposal with the above comments.</i></p>

469	<p>Minutes of the Knowlton Parish Community Benefit Fund held 4th September 2023</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting having been circulated to members prior to the meeting were accepted.</p>
470	<p>Dorset Councillors Reports</p> <p><u>ClIr Robin Cook – Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward (Horton & Chalbury)</u></p> <p>Please see Annex A of these minutes.</p> <p><u>ClIr David Tooke – Dorset Councillor Cranborne & Alderholt Ward (Woodlands & Wimborne St Giles)</u></p> <p>Please see Annex B of these minutes.</p>
471	<p>Public Open Session</p> <p>None present.</p>
472	<p>Planning Applications & Matters</p> <p>P/FUL/2023/03357 4 CHURCH HILL, WOODLANDS, BH21 8LW Proposal: Change of use of the small road frontage to No.4 Church Hill, Woodlands to become part of garden. Members resolved unanimously to respond with OBJECTION to the proposed residential garden use which would have a greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt than its existing use (NPPF 137). <i>Members will request this application is considered by the Planning Committee if the Officers recommendation is at variance to the above.</i></p> <p>P/HOU/2023/03795 HEDGEROW, VERWOOD ROAD, WOODLANDS, BH21 8LJ. Proposal: Erect detached garage. Members were unable to consider this application by the closing date for comment but had no objection to the previous application for this site.</p> <p>P/CLP/2023/04283 JOANDA, VERWOOD ROAD, WOODLANDS, BH21 8LW Proposed Use: Remove Conservatory and rebuild as a new extension to the same size. Members discussed the location of footpath E59/5 which crosses the site of the current conservatory, Clerk to notify Dorset Council this needs to be resolved.</p>
473	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence received from a resident of Woodlands who has a sewerage and drainage problem due to an issue with Dorset Council maintained facility. This has been actioned by ClIr David Tooke who updated members and the matter is now being dealt with by Dorset Council Officers. <i>ClIr Morgan Antell will visit the resident as a follow up.</i> • Notes from the July C&EE Support Group. <i>Noted.</i> • ‘We Out Here’ Festival August 2023, Community Debrief Meeting 28th September, 19:00 Wimborne St Giles Village Hall. <i>Noted.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Dorset Steam Fair 2024, update from the Managing Director advising they are still working towards finding a way of safeguarding the show for the future. • Notification of an 'Awareness Ride' in Woodlands on September 16th at 15:30 to help raise awareness of how to pass horse-riders and other vulnerable road users in the hope of making roads safer for these groups. Dorset Police supporting.
474	<p>Highways Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members considered quotations from Dorset Council to replace the faded and damaged village nameplates at Horton and Woodlands. It was resolved unanimously to accept the quotation of £962.00. • Notification from Dorset Council of proposed temporary closure of Parsonage Lane, Wimborne St Giles 09:30-15:30 on 31st October 2023 to allow Openreach to carry out pole replacement works. <i>Noted.</i> • 1225112 Clerk to chase up Dorset Council to renew the white lines and SLOW markings in the centre of Horton. • Clerk to chase up Dorset Council to install SLOW markings at Wimborne St Giles First School. • Other Highway matters listed in Actions List below.
475	<p>Rights of Way/Open Spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E59/17 Slough House meeting held with Cllrs Steve Butler, Trevor Brown and Dorset Council Countryside Ranger to discuss bridge access which is impeded by barbed wire fencing. The Ranger will action. <i>Clerk to check progress.</i> • E57/26 Clerk to report several fallen trees obstructing access to Dorset Council. MNT61674 • E59/18 Clerk to report fallen Oak Tree to Dorset Council. MNT61637 • Clerk to report again damaged Dog Waste Bin at Woodlands Green. DWP-PLB547871424 • Rights of Way matters awaiting action listed in 'Actions List' below.
476	<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. Spring Reindeer seat has been replaced as agreed last meeting. • The Clerk has requested a quotation to cut back the hedge however this has not yet been received. Members agreed maximum expenditure of £350.00 for this work.
477	<p>Tree Matters</p> <p>P/TRT/2023/04351 Land adjacent to Spindlewood, Haythorne, BH21 7JG Proposal: T6 Fell Oak, T7 Fell Oak. <i>Noted, no comments.</i></p>
478	<p>Wimborne St Giles Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Cllr Caroline Barnes reported grant funding has been approved. A meeting will be held with Dorset Council next week followed by a meeting with the Planning Consultant to finalise the content of the Plan.</p>

479	Actions List															
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. Sept 23: <i>bridge now completely collapsed, Clerk to contact Landowner.</i>															
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.															
480	Financial Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members resolved unanimously to support the maintenance of Woodlands Churchyard with a grant of £350.00. • Members considered setting up Parish Council email addresses for each individual councillor for Parish Council business (GDPR) @ £18.00 each per annum + VAT. It was resolved unanimously to proceed. <i>Clerk to arrange.</i> • Members noted the Conclusion of the Audit for year ending 31 March 2023 from which there were no matters arising. • Members resolved unanimously to pay items below including Clerk's Salary and pension bonus for 6 months: <table border="0" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">ONLINE ELITE INSPECTIONS</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Playground Repair to Spring Deer</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">£180.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE BDO LLP</td> <td>Limited Assurance Review to 31 March 2023</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£252.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE GRASS & GROUNDS</td> <td>Grass Maintenance Woodlands</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£142.34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE CLERK</td> <td>Reimbursement of Expenses – Laptop</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£399.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE VISION ICT</td> <td>Annual Fee for Website Hosting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£231.60</td> </tr> </table>	ONLINE ELITE INSPECTIONS	Playground Repair to Spring Deer	£180.00	ONLINE BDO LLP	Limited Assurance Review to 31 March 2023	£252.00	ONLINE GRASS & GROUNDS	Grass Maintenance Woodlands	£142.34	ONLINE CLERK	Reimbursement of Expenses – Laptop	£399.00	ONLINE VISION ICT	Annual Fee for Website Hosting	£231.60
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	<p>ONLINE CLERK Reimbursement of Expenses - Stationery £83.76</p> <p>ONLINE CLERK Reimbursement of Expenses – Printer £102.93</p> <p>ONLINE CLERK Reimbursement of Expenses £45.00</p>
481	<p>Inspection of Horton Pump & Woodlands Green</p> <p>Cllr Linda Stocks will inspect Woodlands Green and report any matters next meeting. Cllr Paul Millett will inspect Horton Pump and report any matters next meeting.</p>
482	<p>Other Information for report only</p> <p>Cllr Caroline Barnes reported villagers were happy with the recent ‘We Out Here’ Festival in Wimborne St Giles, there was minimal impact on the village except HGV’s on Park Lane which was due to a signage issue. Community Debrief Meeting 28th September, 19:00 Wimborne St Giles Village Hall.</p>
483	<p>Next Meeting will be Wednesday <u>11th October 2023</u> at 7pm in Horton & Chalbury Village Hall.</p>

Meeting closed at 20:07

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

Signed;..... 11th October 2023

Annex A**DORSET COUNCILLORS REPORT FOR KNOWLTON PC MEETING****WEDNESDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2023****Round 4 of the Household Support Fund**

Round 4 of the Household Support Fund (HSF) opened for applications on Thursday 7th September 2023 for low-income households in the Dorset Council area.

The support is 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.

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.

Housing Strategy Consultation

We are halfway through our housing strategy consultation and want you tell us what is important to you and help shape the council's approach to housing over the next five years.

To complete the consultation click the link below. The consultation closes on 2nd October 2023.

[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.

Financial update

Attached to this report is an appendix which gives a picture of how the Council has performed since the formation of the unitary status in 2019. It is a positive picture and I hope you will find it informative.

CLlr Robin Cook
2023

13th September

APPENDIX TO DORSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2023

We are now four and a half years into the new Unitary Authority known as Dorset Council. I often get people asking why it was done and what's the benefit, especially as so many rate the Councils achievements by the weeds outside their house. Perhaps on the face of things the old system of District and or Borough Councils and a County Council worked well and there is no doubt that it did for many years following a reorganisation in 1974, however, those involved could see the winds of change, the financial challenges on the horizon meant that the old system would fail and public services would suffer.

There has been a lot in the news lately about local councils finances with the recent announcement that Birmingham City Council had declared bankruptcy.

The aim of the Dorset reorganisation was to save the public from service cuts and ensure the continuation of local government in Dorset. The budget that we tackle each year does its best to achieve that goal, but as I have said in many reports over the years government funding for this authority is considerably less than we require and so each year is a fight. Central government needs to change its funding formula and ensure that weighting is given to age of population and rurality and until that happens financial life in this council will always be a challenge.

This also means that so many of the things that we want to do and support in our communities are impossible to fund from our scant resources, this leads to the need to explore external funding sources and each year there are numerous grants and other funding that government releases, but only those who bid with the most ambitious targets and are able to demonstrate the ability to deliver are going to be successful and in Dorset we have been able to bring significant grant funding to this authority.

Based on the committed future funding we have been able to achieve £121.6m, including £19.5m for Weymouth Regeneration, £18.8m for public sector decarbonisation, £14.2m for the Dept for Transport transforming cities fund. This money enables us to do things that under normal annual funding would be impossible and we should thank all those involved in the grant applications that show the professionalism that lives within Dorset Council and the confidence it gives and because of those attributes the money flows to us.

You get nothing for poor grant applications, we are successful because this authority is recognised as excellent.

We have also been working to transform the 6 authorities into 1 and this has meant significant changes and savings and over the short life of this Council we have achieved savings of £96.4m, all of which has been reinvested in front line service. If I go back to where we started and think about the old regime, I cannot see that we would, as individual Councils, ever have been able to make these savings, but as I said at the beginning this was all about the financial crisis on the horizon. As a Unitary authority the future of local government in Dorset been secured and only as a Unitary authority we have been able to make these savings.

Dorset Council is an organisation with a complex structure, from Childrens and Adults Social Services to picking up the bins outside your house. This is an enormous undertaking that deals with everything you see from the moment you leave your house in the morning until you return in the evening.

It's so difficult to explain this, the majority of our budget goes on things that in your daily life don't touch you at all and yet there is so little money left to provide the things that affect you most, the litter, the weeds, the roads, your bins, I would say that this Council has continued to provide the services that matter most in difficult circumstances.

CLlr Robin Cook

Annex B

230913 Dorset Councillor Report for Knowlton Parish Council

Household Support Fund

The latest Round of the Household Support Fund (HSF) will reopen for applications at 10am on Thursday 7 September 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

Stour Valley Park

The Stour Valley Park is intended as a once in a generation opportunity to shape a truly multifunctional landscape that serves people and place. The project aims to create a connected linear park along 25km of the lower River Stour from Kingston Lacy to Hengistbury Head, crossing the boundaries of Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council and Dorset Council.

This landscape holds a vast amount of potential for local people and wildlife. Multiple benefits to the local community could range from improved health and wellbeing to increased economic and transport opportunities; at the same time as offering a major opportunity to regenerate habitats and improve the health of the river, creating conditions for wildlife to thrive.

By establishing a new car free route, the river valley can offer active, sustainable travel for commuters as well as a regional attraction that could boost the local economy and provide lasting employment opportunities. The project also offers an unprecedented opportunity to uncover and celebrate the heritage of the area, creating a new cultural legacy for the future.

On 5th September Cabinet approved this strategy, and said it should be included in the new Local Plan which is under preparation.

Please see [Stour Valley Park](#) for more information.

Joint Local Transport Plan 4 – BCP & Dorset Council

The current joint Local Transport Plan (LTP3) was published in 2011. Many new challenges now face the area and a new LTP is required to set out a long-term vision for moving around Dorset safely and sustainably and make the strategic case for transport investment. Work has now commenced on preparing a new joint Dorset Local Transport Plan with BCP Council.

While the core vision and goals of LTP3 are still relevant today, there are many new challenges facing the area meaning a new joint LTP4 is required to set out a long-term vision for moving around Dorset safely and sustainably.

Some of the most significant changes include:

(a) Brexit

- (b) COVID-19 pandemic
- (c) Increased understanding of threats posed by climate change and biodiversity loss
- (d) Local Government Reorganisation in 2019
- (e) Development of a Dorset wide Local Plan
- (f) Rapid emergence of new technologies and advancement in digital

The Plan must respond to the Governments priorities; to improve connectivity, grow the economy, ensure a safe, inclusive and reliable network, and reduce carbon emissions.

Further Guidance is being prepared by the Government, and is expected to be published this autumn.

Dorset Council Housing Strategy

On 5th September Cabinet approved the establishment of a Housing Board.

More than half of the Dorset Council area is classified as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This makes Dorset a popular place to be, and to retire to. It often features in the top ten places to buy a second home, or a holiday let accommodation. This creates pressures on the local housing market. With national pressures on affordability, coupled with the average Dorset house price being 11 times more than the national average salary, this has put owning a home out of reach for many working age residents. This is also challenging for our younger residents, wishing to stay as well as wanting to return to the area after further education outside of Dorset.

The Council's role in Housing is to support Registered Providers (Housing Associations) to deliver new homes by:

- Allocating government grants.
- Identifying suitable development sites.
- Helping to provide new affordable homes and specialist accommodation on council owned land.
- Supporting landlords to rent their houses.

In addition, the Council needs to:

- Work with private landlords to support them in providing homes and tenancies at a good and affordable standard, taking enforcement action when necessary but focusing primarily on support and encouragement of their provision of homes for rent.
- Plan, secure funding, and deliver infrastructure to support housing delivery. For example, schools, transport links, and recycling and waste provision.

The overlapping nature of housing, property management, finance, adult social care, and children's services requires a unified approach. By establishing a Housing Board, the Council aims to harness the collective expertise and resources across these portfolios to develop holistic solutions.

it is proposed to create a Housing Board composed of Portfolio Holders for:

- People – Adult Social Care,
- Health and Housing;
- Assets and Property;
- Finance,
- Commercial and Capital Strategy;
- People – Children,
- Education, Skills and Early Help;
- Economic Growth and Levelling Up.
- The Lead Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness is also proposed as a member of the Board, with the option to co-opt further Members when their expertise or insight is required.

The Housing Board aims to address, collaboratively, the diverse residential needs encompassing these portfolios. The intention is that by fostering cooperation and shared objectives across Directorates, the Housing Board will bring together matters to support decision making and Cabinet oversight, resource allocation, and strategic planning, ultimately enhancing the quality of housing and residential services provided to our community.

DRAFT