

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

Item	
484	<p>Attendance & Apologies</p> <p>CLlr Morgan Antell CLlr Trevor Brown CLlr Steve Butler (Chairman) CLlr Caroline Barnes CLlr Colin Davidson CLlr Anthony (Sam) Keet CLlr Ian Potentier CLlr Linda Stocks CLlr Robin Cook – Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward (Horton & Chalbury) Miss Sarah Forwood (Clerk)</p> <p>No members of public</p> <p>Apologies received from:</p> <p>CLlr Jerry Laker (Vice Chairman) CLlr David Tooke – Dorset Councillor Cranborne & Alderholt Ward (Woodlands & Wimborne St Giles)</p>
485	<p>Declarations of Interest & Grants for Dispensation</p> <p>None.</p>
486	<p>Confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 13th September 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>
487	<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>The CLlr Steve Butler raised the issue of telephones not being answered at the planning office at Dorset Council. CLlr Robin Cook agreed to take the point up with Dorset Council and recommended that CLlr Steve Butler makes the DAPTC aware of the issue.</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>

488	<p>Public Open Session</p> <p>None present.</p>
489	<p>Planning Applications & Matters</p> <p>P/FUL/2023/05039 Proposal: Installation of an external platform lift to provide disability access to the Club Crane Valley Golf Club, BH31 7LH Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>P/FUL/2022/06291 Proposal: Retention of converted redundant agricultural building into two single storey 2no bedroom dwellings Location: The Old Pit, Kings Lane, Woodlands, Wimborne, BH21 8LZ Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>P/HOU/2023/05340 Proposal: Erect timber garage. Location:8 West View, Wimborne St Giles, Dorset, BH21 5LY Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>P/VOC/2023/05401 Proposal: Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic solar arrays to provide 20.4MW generating capacity together with power inverter systems; transformer stations; internal access track; landscaping; security fencing; access gate; CCTV and ancillary infrastructure. (with variation of condition 4 of planning permission 3/14/0457/FUL to adjust the proposed operational lifespan of the project from 25 years to 40 years) Location: Manor Farm, St Michaels Road, Verwood, Dorset, BH31 6JA Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the variation of condition proposal.</p> <p>P/FUL/2023/04139 Proposal: Construct an equestrian arena with timber fencing & associated change of use of land Location: Woodlands Gatehouse Horton Road BH21 8NF Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p>
490	<p>Correspondence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence received from Woodlands Church thanking the Parish Council for their grant towards the upkeep of the church yard. • Correspondence received from Dorset Highways in relation to Salt bins being filled from mid/end October. <i>Clerk to ask Dorset Highways to move the Woodlands Salt Bin that is near the phone box to a suitable site on the opposite side of the road to the east down the hill.</i>
491	<p>Highways Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members considered quotations from Dorset Council to install SLOW markings at Wimborne St Giles First School. It was resolved unanimously to accept the quotation of £724.00. <i>1225112 Clerk to enquire with Dorset Council if the renewing the white lines and SLOW markings in the centre of Horton can be completed at the same time.</i> • Cllr Sam Keet raised the continued concern on the narrow C2 road. Cllr Robin Cook recommended that members identify the area in detail, construct what they would like done and forward to highways asking for a response. The Cllrs will create a working party to discuss their concerns. • Cllr Trevor Brown raised the concern on the road surface through Haythorne and how do

	<p>the Parish Council get this concern on the highways asset register.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Paul Millett brought to the attention of members the potential need of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) for Chalbury. <i>Clerk to contact SID crew to obtain a quote for a SID in Chalbury and highways for a quote for SLOW markings. Cllr Paul Millett will liaise with the SID crew and highways team for SLOW markings.</i> • Email from member of the public in relation to overhanging hedges by Haythorne Nurseries. <i>Clerk to contact Mark Adams, Dorset Highways noting now that the bird nesting season is safely over can KPC have a date when you are expecting the hedge to be cut back.</i> • Other Highway matters listed in Actions List below.
492	<p>Rights of Way/Open Spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bridge at Maldry Wood that is broken, the landowner has advised the ditch is going to be filled up with gravel due to the water no longer flows through it and will clear the trees across the track. MNT61674 • Cllr Linda Stocks requested at least six new dragons teeth for Woodlands Green. <i>Clerk to contact Roger Cutler to quote.</i> • DWP-PLB547871424 the damaged Dog Waste Bin at Woodlands Green has been replaced with a new bin. • E59/17 Slough House the bridge has had extra railings placed on it to protect walkers from the barbed wire fencing. The Ranger will consult with legal whether the bridge should be moved to be closer to the definitive route to comply with all the regulations. • Rights of Way matters awaiting action listed in 'Actions List' below.
493	<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. • The annual inspection report was received. Cllr Morgan Antell noted that the hedge still requires cutting back. The hedge should be 6ft away from the zip wire it is 5ft away, this contravenes regulations, and the zip wire cannot be used. <i>Clerk to follow up the date when the hedge will be cut back.</i>
494	<p>Tree Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Remedy Oak Brewery are going to ask Cutlers to transport the fallen Remedy Oak wood that is currently laying on the verge. • A member of the public emailed requesting the branch from Remedy Oak be made into a bench was noted. Arrangements have already been made for the branch to be kept at the Remedy Oak Brewery. • Cllr Linda Stocks assured members that the Jubilee Tree is safe and has been checked. • It was agreed that the Queen Victoria's monument requires access to maintain it. <i>Clerk to contact the homeowner to ask what their thoughts are for the Parish Cllrs to have access granted alongside the footpath. Cllrs to visit the site of the monument, obtain photos and bring back to the next KPC meeting in November to discuss.</i>
495	<p>Wimborne St Giles Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>Cllr Caroline Barnes reported they have met with two Dorset Cllrs and the concern raised was the</p>

	<p>gardeners development and they feel the design of the houses and development is not in keeping with the village. The Cllrs are contacting the architect to have another site visit. The new plans, once received from the Architect will be discussed with the Planning Consultant to finalise the content of the Plan.</p>
496	<p>Review the Complaints Procedure</p> <p>Members reviewed and agreed the Complaints Procedure. <i>Clerk to upload the new procedure onto the KPC website.</i></p>
497	<p>Actions List</p>
July 2019	<p>E59/15 Horse safe path needs extending on incline as tarmac not safe for horse. MNT41120 Dorset Council met with Landowner March 3rd 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.</p>
Nov 2020	<p>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.</p>
Dec 2020	<p>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></p>
July 2020	<p>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.</p>
Feb 22	<p>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.</p>
	<p>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</p>
Dec 22	<p>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</p>
April 23	<p>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.</p>
498	<p>Financial Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members considered setting up a .gov web address £135.00 for 2 years and then £65.00 thereafter and email addresses @ £18.00 each per year? It was resolved unanimously to proceed. <i>Clerk to arrange.</i> • Members reviewed the half year spend against budget • Members resolved unanimously to pay items below including Clerk's Salary:

	ONLINE GRASS & GROUNDS	Grass Maintenance Woodlands	£217.24
	ONLINE PLAY INPSECTION COMPANY	Burgess Field Play Area	£99.00
	ONLINE COMMUNITY HEARTBEAT	Horton and Chalbury Defibrillator	£151.20
499	Other Information for report only		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members to review the courses on the DAPTC website. New Cllrs to consider planning training. <i>Clerk to book courses.</i> • Cllr Trevor Brown raised having allocated Cllrs to lead on subjects. It was agreed roles and responsibilities will be added to the November agenda. • Cllr Trevor Brown raised the issue of the dog barking at Little Haythorne. A formal complaint has been raised by a local resident. Cllr Trevor Brown will visit the footpath that runs alongside Little Haythorne. 		
50	Next Meeting will be Wednesday 8th November 2023 at 7pm in Horton & Chalbury Village Hall.		

Meeting closed at 20:44

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 11th OCTOBER 2023****Council Tax Reduction (Local Council Tax Support) Review awareness**

Council Tax Reduction (Local Council Tax Support) was introduced by Central Government as a replacement for Council Tax Benefit previously administered on behalf of the DWP in April 2013.

Each Local Authority is required to agree a local policy for working age applicants with Pension aged applicants being supported by regulations set by Central Government. This has not changed.

Every year we conduct a basic review of the Working Age scheme but wished to let you know that we have this year assessed more comprehensive possibilities for change, consequently we are undertaking a required public consultation. Consultation closes on 25th October which you may have already seen but we wanted to highlight this opportunity to read about the proposals under consideration.

We would like to provide a scheme that provides for 100% entitlement for those most in need as opposed to the current 90% maximum entitlement and are considering moving to a widely adopted, simpler, banded scheme model. Link to the consultation here <https://consultation.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/consultation-and-engagement/counciltax/>

Children due to start Secondary or Upper school in September 2024

Parents/carers will need to apply by Tuesday 31st October 2023 for the best chance of getting a place at their preferred school. This applies to all children moving from primary to secondary school, or middle to upper school in September 2023.

Finding the right school place for their child is important for any parent/carer. The admissions pages will provide all the information needed to apply, and there is our parents' guide for information about the different types of schools and the way to apply to each one.

School application deadlines:

If a child is due to start secondary or upper school in September 2024, applications should be made now to avoid disappointment. Parents/Carers must apply by **31st October 2023**.

For those not able to apply online they can download a Word document from the admissions pages or contact the School Admissions Team on 01305 221060, or admissions@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Latest round of the Household Support Fund

The latest round of the Household Support Fund (HSF) opened for applications on 5th October. This fund is aimed at 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.

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](#)

Polling District, Polling Place and Polling Station Review

Dorset Council is required by law to review all polling districts, polling places and polling stations in the Dorset Council area.

The electoral register for Dorset Council is divided into approximately 400 local areas (polling districts) and by law every polling district must be assigned a polling place where electors can go to vote. Around 320 buildings are used as polling stations by Dorset Council with most being village and church halls, schools, and community centres. This review aims to ensure that voting arrangements for future elections suit the needs of electors in each area, so that electors have access to reasonable facilities for voting.

The Council is consulting the public to seek their comments on the suitability of the polling station where they voted in person. The Council is also consulting local political parties, local party agents, parish and town councils, MPs and local disability groups.

The review started on 6th October and the consultation finishes on the 13th November. We would very much welcome your views.

The consultation document and information about the current polling arrangements are available online [here](#).

Please note that no changes can be made to existing ward or parish boundaries during this review and that any recommendations need to be in alignment with existing parliamentary constituency, ward, and parish boundaries. There will be changes to the ward boundaries in some areas because of the recent Community Governance Review. Information regarding the Community Governance Review can be found here. Therefore, polling districts and polling places will need to be changed to align with these new boundaries. All the proposed changes can be found using the information on our website regarding the review.

Cllr Robin Cook

11th October 2023

Annex B

231011 Dorset Councillor Report for Knowlton Parish Council

Levelling up and Regeneration Bill

The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill proposes a number of changes to the planning system and is currently passing through parliament. There is uncertainty over when this Bill will receive Royal Assent however the expectation is that the changes to the planning system will be put in place by late 2024.

Dorset Council is currently developing its new Local Plan, which is due for draft publication at around the same time in December 2024, with submission to the Planning Inspectorate in April 2025, and adoption planned for Spring 2026.

At this stage it is uncertain what, if any effect, this will have on the production of Dorset Council's Local Plan.

The proposals suggest that Local Plans should:

- Ensure that sustainability is a golden thread running through the plan, directing development to suitable locations
- Establish a locally distinctive vision
- Set out the amount, type, location and timescale for development –meeting key economic, social and environmental objectives
- Include a key diagram – a representation of the plan's spatial strategy
- Only include policies to reflect local characteristics
- Include a digital policies map which should be kept up to date
- Include monitoring and review arrangements

The Government proposals also include the requirement that Local Plans be revised every 5 years, and given the timetables proposed that would mean that 30 months after producing a Local Plan work should begin on the revision.

Devolution

Dorset Council is considering a Devolution Deal with neighbouring Authorities.

This is intended to enable the Council to work with Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole (BCP) Council and Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to bid for a County Deal agreement with the government which will enhance and drive economic development, the skills agenda, and attract additional government funding.

Devolution Deals are a part of the Government's Levelling Up agenda (asset out in the 2022 Levelling Up White Paper). The stated objective of Devolution Deals is "to spread opportunity equally across the UK" through greater devolution of powers and funding. The Government set a policy objective that by 2030, every part of England that wants a devolution deal, will have such a deal offering powers and funding over issues such as transport, skills and economic support. Within the White Paper there is also a strong emphasis on the importance of high profile, directly elected local leadership.

There have been a number of Devolution Deals previously agreed and others are in the process of being formulated. It is likely that these provide a degree of precedent for any devolution deals which may follow in the future.

The devolution deals which have been created thus far typically have the following components:

- A long-term investment fund.
- Devolution of the adult education budget.
- An enhanced role in designing local employment programmes.
- Increased powers over transport and bus franchising.
- A greater role in business support and economic development, taking over the functions of Local Enterprise Partnerships.
- Housing and planning functions, including compulsory purchase powers, the ability to establish development corporations, and the power to create a spatial strategy for the area.
- Energy, environment and climate related areas.

Existing Devolution Deals have included an investment fund. These have a value ranging from £15m to £38m per annum.

Coombe House School

This school which was controversially purchased by Dorset Council for £10 Million had a very troubled start as a specialist SEND School, part of the Dorset Centre of Excellence, however, a recent Ofsted inspection of Coombe House School near Shaftesbury, part of the Dorset Centre of Excellence, has found that new leaders have *“significantly improved the school in a short time.”*

Inspectors visited the school in June 2023 and found that all the necessary (independent school) standards were met.

They wrote *“Since the last inspection, the proprietor has considerably strengthened the leadership of the school and the arrangements for governance. Leaders have the confidence of staff, parents and pupils.”*

Safeguarding was found to be effective with inspectors commenting that *“safeguarding underpins every aspect of school life.”*

During the inspection, pupils explained that they *“like their new school”* and *“see that staff want the best for them.”* The report explains that they have *“formed trusting relationships with staff who have a detailed understanding of their needs.”*

The Ofsted report acknowledged this, noting that leaders have the confidence of staff, parents and pupils and safeguarding was found to be effective.

However, the report did say that the quality of education *“requires improvement.”*