

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors
Wednesday 26th April 2017 6:45pm
Horton & Chalbury Village Hall

	<p>Attendance</p> <p>Cllr Jerry Laker (Chairman of the Parish Council) Cllr Morgan Antell (Vice Chairman of the Parish Council) Cllr John Hayes Lisa Goodwin (Clerk) 0 Members of Public</p>
1	<p>Welcome & Introduction by the Parish Council Chairman</p> <p>Cllr Jerry Laker welcomed those present.</p>
2	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Cllr Linda Stocks Cllr Trevor Brown</p>
3	<p>Minutes of the last Parish Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held 27th April 2016 were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman.</p>
4	<p>Matters Arising from the minutes of the last Parish Meeting</p> <p>None.</p>
5	<p>Chairman's Report to the Electors for the Municipal Year 2016-2017</p> <p><u>Constitutional Matters</u> Knowlton Parish Council is a group council representing the electors of the newly-reunited Horton East and Horton West, Chalbury, Woodlands and Wimborne St Giles. The Council has an electorate of around 1230 in 633 households, represented collectively by up to 10 councillors. Councillors are elected or appointed by co-option. At present, 8 out of the 10 positions are filled, one by co-option. We are always keen to encourage members of the community to serve on the Council and would like to fill the 2 vacancies.</p> <p><u>Precept</u> The loss of central government funding for principal authorities has begun to make calls on the parish council precept element of council tax demands. Despite the increasing pressure, Knowlton Parish Council has managed to set a precept for the coming year at £28.96p pa, below the 2% maximum suggested. The approach of devolution of responsibilities from whatever new structure replaces county and district councils means an inevitable loss of elements of the services we currently enjoy. Parish councils are already encouraged to take responsibility – and the cost – of some of the items which fall down the lists of priorities of the principal authorities.</p> <p><u>Community Benefit</u> The Community Benefit Committee has been active this year with the disbursement of funds from the solar farms. A separate report is available on request.</p> <p><u>Devolution</u> The extensive consultations on the future administrative structure for Dorset led to a conclusion that the most likely arrangement to be presented to the Secretary of State would involve the option of 'Dorset Rural' and 'Dorset Urban' unitary authorities, the 'Urban' uniting Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole and the 'Rural' the remaining parts of the county. This was expected to be offered to the SoS in February but concerns raised by, amongst others, Christchurch and East Dorset councillors put the issue in doubt. Entering the pre local election 'purdah' prevented the matter being taken forward on time. No doubt the upcoming general election will do the same. In the meantime, the Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils (DAPTC) has been helping parish</p>

	<p>and town councils to examine the methods used by other counties with unitary authorities. Wherever the new authority is based, this council will be working hard to encourage the placing of decision making on local matters as close as possible to the people likely to be affected.</p> <p><u>Future Needs</u></p> <p>This council is intending to carry out a survey of residents anticipated needs, particularly but not exclusively for affordable housing for local people and housing where more elderly residents can be better accommodated and supported without leaving their familiar surroundings and friends. The survey is not lengthy, but all residents are asked to participate.</p> <p><u>Planning</u></p> <p>Knowlton Parish Council are 'statutory consultees' on planning matters within the parish. Your council tries to assess each application for planning permission put to it for consultation in the light of the individual and community needs, as well as the needs of those likely to be affected. Where necessary, we have supported applications by public speaking at Planning Committee meetings.</p> <p>A relatively new phenomenon has been the introduction of a system of 'permitted development' described in a UK Statutory Instrument in 2015 which allows small landowners to carry out changes within quite narrow criteria without formal planning permission. This can lead to some concerns from people who observe development under way but cannot see evidence of planning permission. This council is seeking clarification of the development management procedure for permitted development so that the community is well-informed if needed.</p> <p><u>Recycling and Waste Collections</u></p> <p>Concerns over the operation of the refuse and recycling collection system of Dorset Waste Partnership seem to have died down a little. The introduction of charges at waste sites may have been instrumental in the increase of the incidence of flytipping in rural areas. Dorset currently has one officer for the whole county with responsibility for the issue of flytipping. This number is expected to be increased by 100% in September 17.</p> <p><u>Roads</u></p> <p>The Dorset Highways 'Working Together' initiative allows parish and town councils to carry out work on the highways where they consider the work scheduled by DCC as not adequate. These works may only be undertaken under very strict safety management conditions and are at the expense of the local precept payers. Work can be undertaken by DCC, by contractors and by volunteers.</p> <p><u>Thanks</u></p> <p>I would like to offer my personal thanks to my colleagues on the council for their participation and support during the past year. I have particular thanks for our parish clerk, Lisa, whose guidance as the council's 'proper officer', and her dedication to her work, have supported both us as a council, and you as a community, throughout.</p> <p>The new municipal year offers a lot of challenges. Electors may be assured that your council will continue to do its best to further the interests of our community in the future.</p> <p>J G S Laker Councillor Chairman, Knowlton Parish Council April 2017</p>
6	<p>County/District Councillor Reports</p> <p>No Annual Report.</p>
7	<p>Reports by Tree Officers</p> <p>No reports.</p>
8	<p>Reports by Rights of Way Officers</p> <p><u>Report to the Electors for the Municipal Year 2016-17</u> <u>Rights Of Way Liaison Officer - Wimborne St Giles</u></p> <p>As ever, the best way to keep a footpath or bridleway open is to use it. A steady procession of sturdy boots and bobble hats seems to be effective for a while, and I would encourage the occasional use of a pair of secateurs if absolutely necessary.</p> <p>If a favourite part of the system is becoming difficult to use for walking or horse or bike riding as appropriate, try reporting the matter to our local ranger, Will Holland, using the following link:</p>

<https://www.dorsetforyou.com/413287>

or call their office in the Avon Heath Country Park on 01425 483809.

Responsibilities for the Rights of Way Network

Dorset County Council's Greenspace Management Teams investigate reports received from members of the public and user groups and carry out practical work across the county.

Signposting and way-marking

Dorset County Council has a duty to signpost public rights of way where they leave a metalled road.

Rights of way are also signposted or waymarked particularly where the route is not obvious.

Stiles and gates

It is the landowner's responsibility to maintain stiles or gates on public rights of way on their land. Dorset County Council usually contributes a minimum of 25% of costs.

Obstruction

It is an offence to intentionally obstruct a public right of way.

Ploughing and cropping

Crossfield paths may be ploughed or cropped as long as the path is reinstated within 14 days. Headland paths should not be ploughed or cropped.

Overgrown vegetation

Landowners are responsible for cutting back hedges, trees or shrubs overhanging a public right of way.

Surface vegetation or undergrowth on rights of way, such as nettles or brambles, are the responsibility of Dorset County Council.

Bulls

A bull can only be kept in a field crossed by a right of way if it is under 10 months old OR it is accompanied by cows or heifers.

Bridges

Dorset County Council is responsible for the maintenance and repair of foot and bridle bridges.

Surfaces

Dorset County Council is responsible for the maintenance of the surface of rights of way according to the status of the path; for example a footpath will be maintained up to footpath standard even if it may also be used by private vehicles

J G S Laker
Councillor
Rights of Way Liaison Officer
Wimborne St Giles
Apr 17

	<p><u>RIGHTS OF WAY ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - WOODLANDS</u></p> <p>Most of the stiles are now in quite good repair.</p> <p>In the summer we try to keep down the tall weeds and brambles so as not to obstruct certain footpaths</p> <p>There has been no major problems in the past year.</p> <p>Recently we have made sure that there is adequate access to footpath E59/3. It passes across three landowners land. William Holland came to check on this footpath and was happy that there was access.</p> <p>The person whose property right of way E59/5 goes through would like it to be extinguished. It is a short path just the length of his garden. He will be getting in touch with John Williamson to hopefully start the process.</p> <p>Linda Stocks Councillor Rights of Way Liaison Officer Woodlands Apr 17</p>
9	<p>Village Hall Annual Reports</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report to Knowlton Parish Council</p> <p style="text-align: center;">from the Horton & Chalbury Village Hall</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2016/17</p> <p>The successful operation of the Hall has continued and our objectives have been achieved during 2016/7 as evidenced by the increasing number and variety of bookings. We have continued to build on previous years' work and the volume of bookings for the year to come are looking healthy.</p> <p>The hall has operated within budget during the period. Tight fiscal control by the Management Committee together with increased one-off bookings and some successful repeat bookings such as Cream Teas have resulted in a stable financial position which is set to continue throughout 2017.</p> <p>The Management Committee are grateful for the support of the Knowlton Parish Community Benefit Fund as our finances having benefitted from two grants. The first was late in 2015 for £4550 for external decoration and refurbishment of the hall's wooden floor. The second was in 2016 for £3573.60 for repair work on the foul water drainage system. All the repairs carried out with these grants were very successful.</p> <p>David Shand (Chairman) 15/4/17</p>
	<p>Woodlands Village Hall Report to 31st March 2017</p> <p>It has been another successful year for the village hall, the regular events continuing to be well supported also there are a good number of other lettings. Regular Events: Adult Art Classes/Folk Dancing/Dog Training Classes/Election Days/Parish Church monthly coffee mornings/Parish Church Village Fete in May, outside and in the hall (stalls, refreshments etc.) Parish Church Flower Festival weekend in September (stalls, refreshments in the Hall).</p> <p>One-off Events: Family Parties (adults and children)/Skittles Evenings x 3/Quiz Evening/Various Committee Meetings/UK Cycling Events refreshment stop/MacMillan Coffee Morning/Show Rehearsal/Blue Bell Walk/Yoga Class.</p>

	<p>Exterior Improvements: New fencing at roadside and around car park and lawn area. New exterior noticeboard and signs. A defibrillator available for public use in an emergency.</p> <p>Interior Improvements: New toilets and new vinyl flooring in the gents, also redecoration of cubicle panels and doors. New LED lighting throughout the hall, also in the toilets and emergency exit signs. A new automatic boiler for making refreshments.</p> <p>Hall Committee Meetings are held 4 times per year on the premises, new members are always welcomed.</p> <p>I am pleased to received enquiries regarding hiring the Hall (Tel 01202 813763) Winnie Stevens.</p> <p>Gazebos, spare chairs and some chinaware are available to hire for use off premises. Thankyou.</p> <p>Winnie Stevens – Letting Manager</p>
	<p>Wimborne St Giles Village Hall Report 2016: Charity Number 292473</p> <p>In 2016 the Hall Committee held four ordinary committee meetings and an AGM as required by the Trust Deed with a short special meeting following the AGM to elect officers for the new committee. The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary remain the same.</p> <p>Works undertaken in 2016 including sorting out of damp and redecorating of the back kitchen. A major drainage issue was also rectified. We also replaced the very ancient fridge freezer and bought a new floor polisher.</p> <p>In 2016 there was an increase in income of £5716 compared to 2015. The increase is mainly due to the receipt of £5155 in grant money from the Knowlton Parish Community Benefit Fund for which we are extremely grateful. This has allowed us to rectify major problems with the drainage systems and redecorate and damp proof the back kitchen. A dishwasher (2017) and new fridge freezer have also been purchased to help us cater more effectively and make the hall more attractive to potential hirers. This seems to be paying off as we have had an increase in income from lettings of £366 and takings from Sunday Teas have increased by £181 on the 2015 figures.</p> <p>The hall continued to be well used and as usual, various charities and local organisations held fund raising teas in the hall from March to end of October. Regular bookings continue to be yoga, keep fit and flower arranging. There were several parties, wakes and christenings as well as social evenings organised and attended by villagers. In addition, there are some new regular bookings from Cranborne Community Choir, a music group for children and a man who practises his dancing.</p> <p>We hope that bookings will increase further in the year to come, as we now have more of an online presence on the new Wimborne St Giles Website.</p> <p>Sarah Rampton 17/04/17</p>
10	<p>Wimborne St Giles Church of England VA First School & Nursery Report 2016-2017</p> <p><i>Our Vision – ‘To create an OUTSTANDING school in which everybody thrives and which is firmly grounded in its Christian VALUES and COMMUNITY’</i></p> <p>This year we have had a number of ‘highlights’ and many occasions where our motto ‘Working Together, Sharing Together, Growing Together’ has rung especially true!</p> <p>We started the year with a real focus on the values that the children, staff, parents and governors had chosen as our Core Christian Values in the previous term. These were Respect, Courage, Compassion, Perseverance and Unity. The school has focused on one of these values every half term, linking all of them to all aspects of the curriculum. Each class has a values tree with branches to show which value is child is exhibiting. We also hold a ‘Spiritual Journey Day’. The aims of these days are to give our whole school community a chance to reflect on our Core Values and explore them in real depth. Children can already name all five values and relate them to real life contexts. Even our very youngest learners can talk about the importance of Persevering and not giving up!</p>

As part of our work to widen the opportunities for the children in the school, in October, at the Barrington Court Theatre in Ferndown, we were invited to perform in the District Council Chairman's First Schools Choir Competition. Whilst facing stiff competition from 5 other local schools, the panel of judges unanimously decided that our children were the winners! Although the youngest choir members were only four, what stood out was the children's confidence, their enthusiastic singing and their enjoyment during the performance. As a result, we were invited to record a Christmas single, proceeds from which went towards a number of the Chairman's charities.

In November, our oldest pupils took a (very!) long coach trip to the Houses of Parliament in London as part of UK Parliament week. We also had an unexpected opportunity to observe a real live debate in the House of Commons! We tiptoed quietly as mice to sit in the member's gallery and were so excited to be sitting in such an important and historic place at the heart of British democracy. We left the Houses of Parliament with not just a much better idea of how the political system works in Great Britain but also how we all have an important role to play in our country's future. Who knows, one day we might have an ex-WSG pupil sitting on those famous red or green benches?

We have also broadened the sporting opportunities offered to the children and this year our children have participated in several tournaments including rugby, football, netball and swimming. We were especially proud of winning our very first football tournament in the Spring term!

As well as exciting visits, we have also welcomed many visitors to the school. In January, an 'alien space ship' mysteriously 'crash landed' in the school grounds and as part of our space mission we also welcomed a mobile planetarium into the school hall. This was a fantastic learning experience for the children (I think some of our Nursery children are still convinced they actually went to space!) Over the past year all of our visitors to the school, have commented on the children's friendliness, their welcoming manner and how polite they all are. They have also been really impressed with the standard of work seen in books across the school.

You will all be aware, no doubt, of the fairly dramatic cuts being made to education over the next three years. This is a particular challenge to small, rural schools and we are more grateful than ever for the support of the wider community, such as the Parish Council. With this support, we were able to complete the fencing around the playground, which is now looking very smart!

As well as being supported by, we have also explored ways in which we might serve our local community. Each class has embarked upon a longer term citizenship project and is linked to a local charity. Through the year each class has received a visit from their charity's representative and has thought about fund raising opportunities. We have already been able to make donations to the Trussell Trust via Harvest Boxes, Shelter Box through cake sales and sponsored bike rides and to Julia's House. The local community has gathered together to create a new village website and continues to explore how we can all support each other and share our various resources. This work will continue into next year and we are now looking at ways in which we can develop the children's understanding of global citizenship through an E-twinning project with the British Council.

Almost inevitably, there has been more change this year too. In September we welcomed Miss Deakin, a new Reception teacher and Mrs Lucas a Nursery Assistant. At the end of the Autumn term, we sadly said farewell to the wonderful Mrs Mack who had been with the school for nearly 25 years. So much a part of all things WSG, she is very much missed by us all - although pops back regularly for a cup of tea! From the five children in Reception at the start of 2015, we welcomed 12 new children in 2016 and are predicting 14 children for September 2017 - so we are definitely moving in the right direction. A huge asset to the school continues to be our Nursery and fantastic team; they are now very much part of the school and enable a seamless transition from Nursery to 'Main School'.

So, we look forward to next year with a renewed sense of purpose as we continue to ensure that the children have the very best start in life possible.

This year there has been so much to celebrate. On behalf of us all here at Wimborne St Giles First School and Nursery, may I just thank you again for your continued support.

Philippa Hill

Headteacher

<p>11</p>	<p>Knowlton Parish Community Benefit Fund Report</p> <p>Grants made in the past 12 months:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. £3693 to Horton & Chalbury Village Hall to cover costs of new drainage system. 2. £2000 Relate to fund counselling for families in Knowlton Parish. <p>Funds in hand, just over £31,000</p> <p>Future grants; no applications outstanding but we anticipate from Wimborne St Giles Cricket Club to assist in refurbishing the Cricket Pavilion.</p> <p>John Hayes Chairman KPCBF</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Statement of the Parish Council Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2016</p> <p>The audited accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2016 are available to view on the Parish Council Website www.knowltonparishcouncil.org.uk</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>Public Open Question Time</p> <p>No public questions.</p>

The Meeting closed at 8:58pm

These minutes are to be signed by the Chairman at the Annual Parish Meeting 2018.

Signed;.....