

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors
Wednesday 24th April 2019 7pm
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 Caroline Barnes Cllr Trevor Brown Cllr Steve Butler Lisa Goodwin (Clerk) 1 Member of Public</p>
1	<p>Welcome & Introduction by the Parish Council Chairman</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed those present.</p>
2	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>Cllr John Hayes Cllr Linda Stocks</p>
3	<p>Minutes of the last Parish Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held <u>25th April 2018</u> 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 2018-2019</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 1120 in 662 taxable households, represented collectively by up to 10 councillors. Councillors are elected or appointed by co-option. At present, all 10 out of the 10 positions will be filled for a period of 5 years from 2 May 19. The willingness of people to give their time as councillors is important. More than 20 town and parish councils in Dorset will go into the local elections in May with no candidates at all. As we have a required percentage of councillors, and our Clerk holds the needed professional qualifications, we can exercise a 'general power of competence' to make decisions and spend money in your interest.</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. With the increasing pressure, Knowlton Parish Council has managed to set a precept for the coming year at £31.01pa, a rise of 2.13% on the previous year.</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>Local Government Reorganisation</u> As I write, we are in the interim period between the demise of East Dorset District Council and the election of the councillors for the new unitary 'Dorset Council' or 'DC'. The relationships between the town and parish councils and Dorset Council are not yet developed, so we are as yet unsure as to how we will act on your behalf in some circumstances. There have been several meetings across the county on the subject and we are quietly confident that local influence on distant decision making will be a part of the scheme. At the closing of East Dorset District Council, a number of assets held by them were offered up to town</p>

and parish councils for future responsibility. In many cases, this included recreational facilities and, in our case, the Burgess Field play area. This is now owned and operated by Knowlton Parish Council.

Future Needs

As indicated last year, Knowlton carried out a structured survey of current and expected housing need for the parishes. The outcome has been passed to the team reviewing the Local Plan for incorporation. This redresses a lack of attention to rural housing issues identified in the first version of the Plan. The plan review has been passed on to Dorset Council and will form a part of the Plan for the foreseeable future.

Planning

Knowlton Parish Council are consultees on most 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, and the requirements of central government planning law and guidance, local government plans and neighbourhood plans where they exist. Where necessary, we have supported applications by public speaking at Planning Committee meetings.

We are yet to see how this will operate under the new regime. Our DC planning committees for Purbeck and East Dorset will meet in Wareham and Wimborne respectively, and planning services will continue to be available from Allendale house in Wimborne for the local area.

Recycling and Waste Collections

The domestic waste collection system seems to have served us well over the past 12 months.

Dorset Waste Partnership have the responsibility to clear tipped rubbish on the highways and to 'litter pick' the verges. 'High Vis'-clad operators have been seen doing this on Facebook, but mainly very near to Dorchester. In the meantime, the opportunity for community teams to litter pick their own roads has been constrained by the inevitable health and safety restrictions, effectively making picking next to the highway an activity requiring traffic control measures and beyond the means of volunteer groups.

The news that Hampshire County Council intend to charge non-Hampshire residents for access to the Somerley House Waste Recycling Centre from the beginning of 2020 was unwelcome and continues to be a subject of discussion.

Roads

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 but, as with litter picking, the safety constraints are significant and expensive. It seems likely that the only way to deal with this will be to form groups of councils willing to let joint contracts.

The re-surfacing of the adopted parts of New Road and its adjoining roads came after a lengthy series of approaches to DCC to make good the seriously damaged areas.

We continue to be concerned about the usage and maintenance of some of our local feeder roads which come under the category of 'Classified Un-numbered'. These include the C2, which runs from Ashley Heath roundabout to meet the B3081 near Ashmore, carrying a fair amount of traffic for which it is unsuited. This is illustrated regularly at Wigbeth, where HGV traffic passing in opposite directions can cause significant tailbacks as the lorries manoeuvre to squeeze past. This concern was also expressed by us at the hearing into the further extraction of sand and gravel from Horton Heath planned for the future.

Rural Transport

The two rural transport schemes operated by Dorset Community Transport in our area – the PlusBus and the No 97 bus – continue to provide services to people described as being in 'rural isolation'.

The 2018 operating year brought in a significant income from the concessionary fare responsibilities of both Dorset and Hampshire councils. This reflects in many cases that the No 97 bus is serving successfully the people who are dependent on public transport for their daily lives. The service still needs to attract support from other users and financial sources.

Thanks

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.

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.

J G S Laker
Councillor
Chairman, Knowlton Parish Council

April 2019

6	<p>County/District Councillor Reports</p> <p>Cllr Steve Butler reported that the past year has been spent in the main preparing for the formation of the new Dorset Council Unitary Authority from 1st April 2019. East Dorset Council ended the financial year however with a balanced budget.</p> <p>Elections for the new Dorset Council are being held 2nd May and Cllr Steve Butler will be standing. The Planning Departments of the former East Dorset and Purbeck Councils will be combined and committee meetings will be shared between Wimborne and Wareham sites.</p> <p>The Furzehill (former Council Offices) site has not yet been sold.</p>
7	<p>Reports by Tree Officers</p> <p>No reports.</p>
8	<p><u>Report to the Electors for the Municipal Year 2018 - 19</u> <u>Rights Of Way Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Knowlton currently has two councillors acting as Rights of Way Liaison Officers (ROWLO) covering the joint parish area.</p> <p>ROWLOs do not have to be councillors, so anyone who has an interest in the monitoring and maintenance of our footpaths, bridleways, and even Byways, is welcome to apply. Contact the Knowlton Parish Clerk (details on the website) in the first instance. A stout pair of boots and all-weather clothing is recommended.</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 Greenspace Team rangers, using the following link: https://mapping.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/rightsofway/reportproblem/LocateArea or call their office in the Avon Heath Country Park on 01425 483809.</p> <p>Knowlton councillors and others have joined the Greenspace Team to help with the clearance of rights of way on several occasions this year.</p> <p><u>Responsibilities for the Rights of Way Network</u></p> <p>Dorset Council's Greenspace Management Teams investigate reports received from members of the public and user groups and carry out practical work across the county when funds permit.</p> <p><u>Signposting and waymarking</u></p> <p>Dorset 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.</p> <p><u>Stiles and gates</u></p> <p>It is the landholder's responsibility to maintain stiles or gates on public rights of way on their land. Dorset County usually contributes a minimum of 25% of costs.</p> <p><u>Obstruction</u></p> <p>It is an offence to intentionally obstruct a public right of way.</p> <p><u>Ploughing and cropping</u></p> <p>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.</p>

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

Surfaces

Dorset 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

Projects in Hand

The last major review of public rights of way in East Dorset, which gathered a significant amount of the historical evidence required to establish rights of way, was suspended in 1973. This process has been resurrected and the full legal process to test the evidence is shortly to be assessed by DCC lawyers. The only significant part for St Giles is in the Crane Valley, with routes extending from Squirrels Corner and Bowdish Pond to Pentridge being examined. This is mainly on Gascoyne Cecil land. As with most of the work undertaken by the Definitive Map Team in Dorchester is lengthy (measured in years, usually) we are yet to see an outcome.

We are eagerly anticipating the start of work to repair and improve a piece of bridleway which has proved almost impassable for most of the year because a lack of adequate drainage. The 300 metre section is in what Ordnance Survey call Ferndown Forest, but is better known to users as Queen's Copse. This is a popular area for locals and visitors. The land is mostly managed by the Forestry Commission, who have been very helpful in progress so far. In cooperation with the British Horse Society and the Knowlton Community Benefit Fund we have managed to obtain a grant from the recycling company Veolia to undertake the necessary ground work and installation of a suitable surface for folks – and horses – to use without sinking into the mud.

J G S Laker
Councillor
Rights of Way Liaison Officer
Wimborne St Giles
Apr 19

Rights of Way Liaison Officer Report - Woodlands

No report.

9	<p>Village Hall Annual Reports</p> <p>Horton & Chalbury Village Hall Report</p> <p>Again we have had a very successful year with an increasing number of new hires, including one group hosting a four day Hindu Festival which is now in its second year and seems destined to be continue for a few years. St James's School OF A have also used the Hall a few times for holiday activities. Our regular hires still continue to enjoy the ambience and excellent facilities of the Hall.</p> <p>Although we have not had the number of Wedding hires as in previous years our other fund raising events such as Cream Teas, Quiz nights, Speakers and the Annual Fete mean that our running costs have come well within our budget.</p> <p>We were also very fortunate to have been given a £3,000 Grant from Knowlton Parish Council which has enabled us to build an Audio and Lighting Control cupboard. This allows the equipment to be permanently installed including the large speakers, rather than having to remove and set up the equipment (which was in kit form) every time it was required. The Hirers can now operate their own sound and Lighting requirements, including the Hall microphones and to play their own music via Bluetooth.</p> <p>We have also had additional support from Knowlton Community Fund to install lighting at the entrance gate for both safety and security.</p> <p>Lisa Sheppard, our new part-time Administrator/Caretaker started on 1st May 2018 and has settled in very well providing a professional and well organised service to Hirers and Visitors alike.</p> <p>We were very lucky to welcome two more members to join the Committee. Claire Robinson and Andy Downes. Claire has assumed the role of Treasurer taking over the position from Marilyn Sadler, who has very successfully managed our financial affairs for many years. On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank Marilyn very much for all her hard work. I am also very pleased to report that thus hard work has enabled us to add to our reserves held in our CAR interest paying account, ensuring financial stability.</p> <p>It recently became apparent that we needed more professional help with our website, so I am pleased to confirm that Bethany Nash is now providing that help on a part time basis.</p> <p>We continue to successfully manage events such as parties and live music in compliance with Local Authority requirements, which in the past have caused some issues with local Residents.</p> <p>Colin Agnew Chairman 25/04/2019</p>
	<p>Woodlands Village Hall Report</p> <p>See Appendix A</p> <p>Winnie Stevens – Letting Manager</p>
	<p>Wimborne St Giles Village Hall Report</p> <p>No report.</p>
10	<p>Wimborne St Giles Church of England VA First School & Nursery Report</p> <p>Headteacher's Annual Report Knowlton Parish Council</p> <p>It only seems like yesterday that I was compiling the report for this meeting and yet here we are, another year on and with lots to celebrate!</p> <p>To commemorate 100 years since the end for World War 1, in November, we gathered together in our Spiritual Garden to remember those who had lost their lives in the conflict, especially the 24 young men who left Wimborne St Giles' Village to fight for our country and never returned. As part of the 'There but not there' project, we were presented with a silhouette of a soldier to help us think about the many lives that were, and still are, affected by conflict around the world. The children shared some really moving poems and prayers that they had written, after which we held a minute's silence. It was a really moving experience and the children were incredibly respectful and thoughtful throughout the morning. Thank you too all of you from our wider school family who were able to join us; it was a really special moment.</p> <p>The school has continued its outreach work with the wider community and in December, we were thrilled to be invited to Salisbury Cathedral to join with schools across Salisbury Diocese for a very special Cathedral Christingle service, hosted by Bishop Nicholas and the Children's Society, in celebration of 50</p>

	<p>years of the Christingle. The Duchess of Gloucester was also in attendance and, of all the schools present, our children were invited to talk to HRH about what our school was doing for The Children's Society and for Christingle this year. Support for the charity is our Citizenship project and also formed part of our Autumn term 'Time Travellers' topic exploring the work of Victorian reformers. We were also chosen to read the prayers during the Christingle service, no mean feat in front of 1000 people! The whole occasion was a huge honour and accolade for our little school.</p> <p>Another highlight during our Christmas celebrations took place on Thursday 20th December when we gathered together in St Giles' Church to celebrate Jesus' birth with our annual carol service. We re-told the Christmas story through Bible readings, prayers, poems and carols, and, for the first time in St Giles Church for a very long time, some of the carol service took place by candle light. It was utterly magical and such a special way to end what was a truly incredible 2018.</p> <p>Since the start of the academic year, we have really focused on designing a curriculum to meet the needs of our current children. For example, we have just finished a hugely successful topic entitled 'Farm to Fork' which allowed our children to explore and develop a deep understanding of the rural communities in which they live and of farming communities around the world. The topic really helped develop the children's geographical skills and their understanding of their role as global citizens. It inspired them to think about the food on their plates and the role of farming in today's society. One of the issues we were really keen to emphasise for the children was that of social injustice around the world and what we could do as a school to help challenge this. With that in mind, we held a very successful coffee morning as part of Fairtrade Fortnight to help raise funds for Cocoa farmers from the Cote D'Ivoire. The children organised this entirely and thoroughly enjoyed waiting on their families!</p> <p>As part of our Curriculum Design we are very keen to take full advantage of the superb outdoor environment in which our school is located. This year we have drawn up a Forest School Action Plan and are working with specially trained Forest School teachers to support all of our 'Learning Outside the Classroom' initiatives. The children have made shelters, learned how to build fires and worked as teams to build problem solving skills. It has been a great adventure and we look forward to sharing with you how our outside areas have been further developed over the year to come.</p> <p>As I have mentioned here before, pupil numbers and cuts to educational spending continue to present budgetary challenges for all schools nationwide. Like all of our other local schools, we have had to make some very difficult decisions this year regarding budgets to safeguard the quality of education and the future of this very special small school. We are very fortunate to have a very supportive parent community and are always thankful for offers of support or volunteers within the school.</p> <p>We continue to be especially grateful for the financial support we have received from bodies such as the Knowlton Parish Council. We really value the ways in which you have supported us to provide the very best learning experiences for the children here. We are still continuing to explore ways in which we can also serve and we very much look forward to strengthening our partnerships with you in the coming year.</p> <p>To sum up, it has been another exceptionally rewarding year. This year we have had a number of highlights and many occasions where our motto 'Working Together, Sharing Together, Growing Together' has especially rung true. It has been a privilege for us all to watch the children as they take the next step on their learning journeys and we are very much looking forward to the Summer term, with hopefully, some more sunshine! If you would like to keep updated with school events and news, please do visit our school website at: www.wimbornestgiles.dorset.sch.uk.</p> <p>Many thanks, as ever, for your continued support.</p> <p>Kind regards, Philippa Hill Headteacher</p>
11	<p>Knowlton Parish Community Benefit Fund Report</p> <p>The following grants have been paid for the year 2018 to 2019.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Woodlands Bus Shelter £2499. Wimborne St Giles Village Hall and Post Office grant for new shop front £1200. Horton & Chalbury Village Hall cost of defibrillator £1826.20. Grant to Relate for family counselling in the Parish £2000. Horton & Chalbury Hall grant towards Sound System & Lighting £3000. <p>The Committee has also approved a grant of £3525 toward the resurfacing and drainage of bridle path E46/16 in Queens Copse. This grant has yet to be paid as the work is yet to be completed.</p> <p>Taking into account the unpaid grant, the fund has a sum of just over £35,000 available.</p> <p>John Hayes Chairman KPCBF</p>

12	<p>Statement of the Parish Council Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018</p> <p>The audited accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2018 are available to view on the Parish Council Website www.knowltonparishcouncil.org.uk and on display this evening.</p>
13	<p>Public Open Question Time</p> <p>A member of public inquired about progress with the proposed gravel extraction site at Horton. The Chairman responded that the Parish Council was represented at the recent public hearings and the Inspector gave the impression that she is likely to recommend the site is included in the Sites Plan. There will be further consultation on the Plan and if it is selected planning permission will be required. This will be the opportunity for the Parish Council to have greater input on its concerns with impact on the immediate residents and the C2 Horton Road.</p>

The Meeting closed at 19:17

These minutes are to be signed by the Chairman at the Annual Parish Meeting 2020.

Signed;.....

Appendix A over page

16/4/19.

Woodlands Village Hall (AN APPEAL)

Our Hall Committee numbers need boosting, due to some of the members moving from the village.

We would welcome anyone wishing to attend (four meetings per year).
(I can provide details of times and dates.)

I would be pleased to receive enquiries regarding hiring the Village Hall, on the usual Tel. No: 01202 813763. (W. Stevens).

Please leave an Answerphone message, if necessary.

We have some various china-ware which can be hired-out for Open Garden Events, etc.

Also, stored in the shed, are spare chairs, and gazebos available for hire.

The shed was broken-into recently, nothing missing that we are aware of,

(No valuables stored there).

Note in the Hall.

W.S.

16/4/19.

(1)

Woodlands Village Hall Report for the past year.

The Hall finances are in a healthy state due to income from lettings, which we hope will continue. The Hall has had a pleasing number of childrens' Party Bookings. The refundable deposit scheme (for parties of all sorts) and a checking-off list usually ensures the Hall is left in a satisfactory condition.

Other one-off bookings:-

Annual mid-Sept: Macmillan Coffee morning.

A Wedding reception, with evening Party, for ^a young local couple.

A Horse Tack sale for Charity.

2 Meditation bookings.

A Christening Party.

A Skittles Evening, for Village friends.

A Methodist Church Skittles Evening.

-- (Ditto)--- Quiz Night.

Annual Blue-bell walk, with yoga afterwards, in the Hall.

In Mid-Dec: the Hall hosted a Second Carol Singing (free) Evening, mulled wine + other refreshments were served.

John Radford kindly accompanied on an electric Organ.

A well-attended evening, enjoyed by everyone there.

16/4/19.

(2)

Regular Bookings:-

Dog Training has continued very satisfactorily, separate trainers fitting-in alternately, on Saturday and Sunday mornings (mostly held from OCT: to April).

The Parish Church has supported the Hall with a number of regular bookings:-

- 1) Monthly Coffee Mornings.
 - 2) Annual Fete in May.
 - 3) Annual Flower Festival Week-end (Sat+Sun) in Sept: with Stalls and Refreshments.
 - 4) A Charity Quiz Evening.
 - 5) A Lent Lunch, this year (instead of in own homes).
- Friends of the Church held a Play commemorating the ending of the 1st World War.

The Weekly Adults Art Class Mornings (during Term Time) are still happening, bringing in a regular reliable income.

Also the monthly Folk Dancing Evenings, ^{on Thursdays} and some on Saturday evenings.

There is a weekly booking for Martial Arts Evenings which we hope will continue.

16/4/19

(3)

Repairs and maintenance.

We have recovered from the upsets experienced due to a car smashing into the end of the Hall, (towards the road.) The total cost was nearly £9,000-00.

We received Insurance compensation amounting to £8,544-80p.

The Hall Insurance will be increasing considerably, due to our claim, and also a review of cover needed for property and personal injury.

There has been a 5 year Electrical Inspection, a qualified electrician will be carrying out any necessary work.

The Fire Extinguishers are serviced annually and replaced when needed.

The cost of a PR38PPL Licence is paid annually.

Indoor repairs and maintenance are seen to, as quickly as possible, including a misted window being replaced.

We have a cleaning lady who regularly keeps the Hall in a decent condition.

General exterior maintenance is kept up to date, as far as possible, re: rainwater drainage, grass mowing, hedge trimming, mole catching, painting the shed, and gates, etc.

DRAFT

DRAFT