

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors
Wednesday 25th April 2018 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 Trevor Brown Cllr John Hayes Cllr Tony Keet Cllr Tim Sherman Cllr Linda Stocks Lisa Goodwin (Clerk) 0 Members 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 Sam (Anthony) Keet</p>
3	<p>Minutes of the last Parish Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held 26th April 2017 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 2017-2018</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 662 taxable 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. With the increasing pressure, Knowlton Parish Council has managed to set a precept for the coming year at £30.36 pa.</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> Earlier this year, the Secretary of State approved the proposal for the reorganisation of local government in Dorset. Work is in hand to create the two new 'Unitary Authorities' which will replace the current county, district and borough councils. As expected – and subject to any further challenge from the Royal Borough of Christchurch – the councils of Christchurch, Bournemouth and Poole will form one unitary; the other will absorb the mainly rural elements of Dorset, including East, West and North Dorset, Purbeck and Weymouth. The new structure is planned to be in place by April 2019, and an interim council is already formed to plan the transition. Town and Parish Councils will be consultees in the process. Most of the functions now the responsibility of either the county, district or borough councils will be</p>

	<p>transferred to the appropriate new unitary. This may break some of the close ties currently enjoyed by communities not local to wherever the unitary is established. There will almost certainly be structures designed to mitigate this effect, and town and parish councils will be at the forefront of ensuring this is not to the disadvantage of local communities. It is probable that some functions might better be provided by town and parish councils, or combinations of town and parish councils. As long as the money follows the task, this is worth close consideration.</p> <p><u>Future Needs</u></p> <p>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.</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><u>Recycling and Waste Collections</u></p> <p>The domestic waste collection system seems to have served us well over the past 12 months – even when mid-winter weather kept the lorries in the yard for a while.</p> <p>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.</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 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.</p> <p><u>Rural Transport</u></p> <p>Although many rural residents can rely on cars to travel to and from shops and services, there are still a significant minority dependent on some form of public transport for everyday life. The wholesale removal of county subsidy for most rural bus services was countered to a certain extent by the work of Dorset Community Transport and their 'PlusBus' facility. Some services, such as the No 97, operated by DCT on behalf of Damory Coaches, fulfilled both a school delivery and collection service and also a scheduled bus service in the intervening hours to villages in the northeast of the county, connecting onward with Fordingbridge, Salisbury, Verwood, Ringwood, Bournemouth and Poole. It was a shock when Damory withdrew from the No 97 service at rather short notice, leaving communities such as Alderholt, Cranborne and Edmondsham without their connection. This followed the loss of the No 302 service, which had been the sole bus service for Woodlands.</p> <p>The parish councils of Alderholt and Cranborne, together with Knowlton, raised enough money to continue the No 97 service for 12 months, modified to include a route through Woodlands. The uptake has been encouraging, and investigations are ongoing as to how future services might be continued.</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>Councillor J G S Laker, Chairman, Knowlton Parish Council. April 2018</p>
6	<p>County/District Councillor Reports</p> <p>No Annual Reports.</p>
7	<p>Reports by Tree Officers</p> <p>No reports.</p>
8	<p><u>Rights Of Way Liaison Officer Report - Wimborne St Giles</u></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. 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 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.

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 waymarking

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 landholder'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

Projects in Hand for Wimborne St Giles

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 Bowldish Pond to Pentridge being examined. This is mainly on Gascoyne Cecil land.

J G S Laker, Councillor, Rights of Way Liaison Officer, Wimborne St Giles. Apr 18

	<p><u>Rights of Way Liaison Officer Report - Woodlands</u></p> <p>Over the past year most of the rights of way problems have been minor. The problems have been dealt with quickly with the help of Will Holland/Craig Sellwood and their team, who are very knowledgeable and helpful. They are based at Avon Heath Country Park. The footpaths and bridleways in and around Woodlands are in general well maintained and if a problem is reported it is dealt with reasonably swiftly.</p> <p>Linda Stocks, Councillor, Rights of way Liaison Officer, Woodlands. Apr 18</p>
9	<p>Village Hall Annual Reports</p> <p>Horton & Chalbury Village Hall Chairman's Report 2017/18</p> <p>This has been another successful year with the hall operations attracting a variety of regular and individual bookings. Our hall continues to be seen as one of the best in the area and we keep our costs low to ensure we remain competitive.</p> <p>We have continued to build on previous years' work and the volume of bookings for the year to come is looking healthy. During 2017/8 the number of regular hirers has increased, and now include Yoga/Pilates, Art, Flamenco, a local Hospice which organises training days, Breakfast Church, NLP Training, Progressive Movement Practice and Parish Council meetings.</p> <p>We continue to encourage initiatives which will benefit our local community, and the Management Committee has made the decision to consider offering reduced price hires to such events, especially if they are non-profit making or being organised in aid of a recognised charity. The income from wedding bookings subsidises this.</p> <p>Fundraising events such as our monthly Cream Teas throughout the summer, Teas with a Talk during the winter, our Annual Quiz Night and our traditional Village Fete continue to be very popular and bring people back time after time to enjoy our facilities.</p> <p>Our part time administrator, Mrs Zoe Coles, left this month for family reasons and we thank her for her valuable contribution and wish her and her family well for the future. During her time at the hall, Mrs Coles expanded the role with the effect of making the management of the hall bookings more efficient. This also had the benefit of reducing the administrative load on the members of the Management Committee. In the last few days we have appointed Ms Lisa Sheppard as the new Administrator/Caretaker and she starts work on the 1st May 2018.</p> <p>As reported last year, the hall has operated within budget during the period. The financial management has been very successful, thanks to our Treasurer Mrs M Sadler, and we have been able to add to our reserves (held in a CAF interest-paying account) to ensure financial stability when equipment needs updating or replacing etc.</p> <p>Previously adopted strategies to ensure that evening hires which include live music or a disco do not unduly disturb our neighbours have proved very successful. We take this issue seriously and shall continue to be vigilant in our management and control processes.</p> <p>David Shand (Chairman) (25/4/18)</p>
	<p>Woodlands Village Hall Report to 31st March 2017</p> <p>See Appendix A</p> <p>Winnie Stevens – Letting Manager</p>
	<p>Wimborne St Giles Village Hall Report 2016: Charity Number 292473</p> <p>In 2017 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 and Treasurer remain the same but as secretary I have been replaced by a new committee member - Debbie Luscombe. I remain on the committee, but as Vice Chair.</p> <p>Works undertaken in 2017 included PAT testing and repairs to the electric wall heaters (£723.60). The</p>

	<p>major work done to replace the electric meters will fall into the 2018 report.</p> <p>This year, lettings increased by £454, but the teas were down slightly, possibly due to less teas being running in aid of the Village Hall last year. Donations received totalled £775, including £20 from the bell ringers for hire of crockery and the 'double up' amount from Barclays Bank on one of our busiest teas. There were more bookings, partly due to the new table tennis table. Income, gratefully received from Knowlton Solar Fund fell into 2016 and our 2018 period.</p> <p>East Dorset District Council have increased their rates and refuse collection charges. Cleaning costs are up, due to a rise in the cost of materials and also the hourly rate. Gardening costs also up due to a rise in hourly rate. Equipment purchased this year includes commercial dishwasher (£1,436.29), a new projector screen for the choir and also new tablecloths (£309.82). Plus a new table tennis table and outside light (£148.48). 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 the end of October. The dishwasher has proved to be an enormous help at the teas. Regular bookings continue to be yoga, keep fit and now we are pleased to say that Cranborne Community Choir consider us to be their home and meet weekly (they are open to new people joining).</p> <p>There were several parties, wakes and christenings as well as social evenings, organised and attended by villagers. In addition, the table tennis table has increased bookings. There is also a young man who is being supported to access the hall kitchen to pursue his interest in cooking.</p> <p>We have several exciting events coming up, including the premiere of a musical piece about Magellan written and performed by Bob Whitley - 13th October and a celebration of the end of WW1 on 3rd November.</p> <p>In 2018 we hope to move forward and install wifi in the hall. We have been talking with Frank Russell Designs who are moving in to the new business development in the autumn. They would be interested in using the hall for meetings and we will be more attractive to other companies, businesses and groups if wifi is available. We are also looking to replace the existing Post Office door and shop front, which is part of the Village Hall building.</p> <p>We hope that during this year, bookings will continue to increase and more people have the chance to enjoy our beautiful and much loved village hall.</p> <p>Sarah Rampton 23/4/2017</p>
10	<p>Wimborne St Giles Church of England VA First School & Nursery Report 2016-2017</p> <p>Over the past year the school has been transformed, inside and out – no doubt some of you witnessed what seemed to be an endless procession of vans and skips outside the school last summer!</p> <p>We were incredibly fortunate to receive a grant from the Diocese and so, with additional support from Knowlton Parish Council, we have had a brand new heating system installed, new soft flooring for the pre-school, the interior has been given a much needed coat of paint and we are now putting the finishing touches to a newly refurbished office and reception area which will make the school far more welcoming for visitors.</p> <p>As I have mentioned here before, pupil numbers and cuts to educational spending continue to present budgetary challenges and so we are especially grateful for the financial support we have received from bodies such as the Knowlton Parish Council. As you can imagine, the children are delighted with the changes that have been made and we now have a warm staff room, so the teachers are very pleased too!</p> <p>In October we received our long awaited Ofsted inspection which took place over one day just before half term. You may know that the Ofsted inspection framework has changed in the past two years and is more rigorous than ever. We were therefore thrilled to receive a 'Good' judgement once again, which is a real testament to how well we work as a team of staff, governors, parents and children and this was clearly recognised throughout the inspection. The children were a real credit to the school throughout the day and their behaviour and enthusiasm for learning really shone through.</p> <p>Within the Ofsted report, there were many things to celebrate. The inspector recognised the school's determination to provide the very best learning experience for our children, who are placed at the very heart of what we do. It highlighted the fact that children in Nursery are 'making rapid progress and are very well prepared for school'. It also recognised that improvements in the quality of learning and teaching mean that children make good progress across the school.</p> <p>The fact that we never lose sight of our caring, supportive, Christian ethos was also emphasised. We were very pleased that the report states that 'the culture and ethos of the school reflects the values of 'respect, courage, compassion, perseverance and unity' that play a key role in helping pupils to learn and develop across the school day'.</p> <p>The school leadership and governors had already identified the 'next steps for the school' as priorities in the school development plan and, as we move forward, we will continue to consider further ways to improve. Due, in part, to our successful Ofsted, we have hosted a number of schools who have visited us to learn from our practice and we plan to continue to support other schools in this way in the future.</p>

	<p>This year we have also continued to form partnerships with a wide range of people in the local community – from sport coaches and musicians to polar explorers and a Roman Centurion (and local archaeologist!). We have visited Lulworth Castle and Marwell Zoo and we are now looking forward to working with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra again next month. The children have enjoyed their learning themes of ‘Invincible Invaders’ and ‘The Big Freeze’ (although noone at the time realised how prophetic that would turn out to be!) and next term we will be ‘Going Global’ and exploring different countries around the world as part of our work on Global Citizenship. We are so grateful for the ways in which our community supports us in providing 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 an exceptionally rewarding year. 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 sunshine!</p> <p>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 again for your continued support.</p> <p>Philippa Hill Headteacher</p>
11	<p>Knowlton Parish Community Benefit Fund Report</p> <p>The committee have reviewed a number of grants this year and two grants have been made. Wimborne St Giles Village Hall £3500 for electrical work. £400 to refurbish the telephone box at Woodlands. We are currently holding just under £40,000 and we look forward to receiving further applications in the coming year.</p> <p>John Hayes Chairman KPCBF</p>
12	<p>Statement of the Parish Council Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2017</p> <p>The audited accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2017 are available to view on the Parish Council Website www.knowltonparishcouncil.org.uk</p>
13	<p>Public Open Question Time</p> <p>No public questions.</p>

The Meeting closed at 6:50pm

These minutes are to be signed by the Chairman at the Annual Parish Meeting 2019.

Signed;.....

Appendix A over page

16/4/18.

Woodlands Village Hall Report, Year to 31/3/18.
(FROM W. STEVENS)

A steady regular income has been received from Hall Lettings:-

Woodlands Parish Church has hired the Hall regularly for events, as follows, for which we are very grateful.

- 1) A Coffee Morning on the second Wednesday of each month
- 2) An Annual Fete on the second Saturday in May. It has been very successful with stalls and refreshments in the Hall and games outside.
- 3) The Parish Church Flower Festival on the second weekend in September, uses the Village Hall on Saturday and Sunday, for stalls and refreshments, much to our mutual benefit.
- 4) The P. Church used the Hall for performing a Play on a Wed: Evg in October.
- 5) And also held a Quiz Night on Sat: 14/10.

Other regular Lettings:-

- ① "K.9." & "Better Dogs" Dog Training Groups use the Hall and are both well attended.
- ② Adults Art Classes, on Tuesday AM during term-time, are well established and popular.

- ③ Martial Arts Classes began in November, and are held on Monday Ev'gs, more participants would be welcomed.
- ④ Folk Dancing classes are held on various days + dates, daytime and evening.
- ⑤ County Council, and General Elections, took place in the Hall, in May and June.
- ⑥ Daytime Parties (Childrens, Adults, and Christening) were held in the Hall. (In total 13) All without any problems.
- ⑦ The Annual Blue-bell Walk, with Yoga afterwards, (in the Hall) took place on Sat: 4/5.
- ⑧ Four Village Hall Committee Meetings ~~are~~ ^{were} held in the Hall, during the year, (including the A.G.M. on 29/11.)
- ⑨ A young Adult Male with two carers regularly use the Hall on Friday afternoons* (He has learning difficulties, and is happy in the surroundings, and is outside on the grass area in good weather)*. Playing with a soft football.

"One-off" use of Hall during the year, to 31/3/18.

- (10) W. V. Hall Committee hosted a free Sunday afternoon event on 13th August, Boules outside, on the green area, with skittles and refreshments ^{in the Hall}. It was quite successful.
- (11) A McMillan Charity Coffee Morning was held on Friday, 15/9. Very well attended, and generously supported.
- (12) The Methodist Chapel held a Skittles Evening on Friday, 1st December, which proved very popular, and profitable. (Ploughman's Supper was served.)
- (13) Villagers were invited to A Carol Singing Evening, on Friday 15/12, organised by the Hall Committee. Friends helped to decorate the Hall and provided an Xmas Tree. Mulled Wine + Mincee Pies were served, and Raffle prizes donated. The Carol Singing was accompanied with live organ music, provided by John Radford. Altogether a very enjoyable evening, and it has been booked-in again for next December.
- (14) A "Woofability" Trustees Meeting was held in the Hall on Tuesday P.M. 23/1/18.
- (15) Using the Defibrillator was demonstrated on Saturday A.M. 7/4/18, and was well attended, (at the Hall).

The Hall has stacking metal chairs, with plastic seats, surplus to use, and are available for hire off-premises. Also, we are happy to lend various china-ware (not matching sets) for using at "Open Garden" events, etc.

W/V/Hall Expenditure & Repairs, Year to 31/3/18.

I may
have
included
this in
last year's
Report.

The Gents Toilets (2x) were replaced in Jan: 17, costing £580-00. To complete the refurbishment we had new vinyl floor covering, and the cubicle walls and doors were painted, (together costing £434-00) bringing total cost to £1,014-00, making a great improvement to the premises.

In April 17: Glass in one entrance door was shattered (by a gun pellet?) and restrictor on top of door became detached (caused by the windy weather). Repairs together costing £208-00.

The drain at roadside, under approach to Hall, was not working, attempts at clearing it (April 17,) costing the Hall approx £100-00 were not successful, due to a blockage when a new mains water connection was installed, a few years previously. The Water Company was informed and admitted liability; they corrected the problem (eventually).

Oct + Dec 17. Replacing One Emergency Exit Door and repainting the other two, Total Cost £316.

Attending to Sensor Light over entrance door, and adjusting Car Park Gate. Total Cost £128.

Replacing Red Light Unit in Gents Hand Dryer £65.

Membership fee for D.V.H.A. £10-00. (March 18)

Fire Extinguishers servicing £100-00 Approx Annually. PRS fee £120 Approx Hall Insurance £458-61 for the year (Aug 17) / Web Site Hosting £75 ^{per year} for a year.

Cost of grass mowing + hedge trimming £477. for last year (NOV to OCT) _{(2016) (2017)}

A cleaning lady comes in regularly, keeping the Hall in a decent condition, for which we are very thankful.

Unexpected Damage and Expense at Woodlands Village Hall.

On Tuesday 19/12/17, at about mid-day, a car driven by a young man, with young men passengers, smashed into the end wall of the Hall, (the end towards the road) causing considerable damage.

It struck ~~the~~ re-inforced concrete post, cracked + bent it, (one of two posts supporting the Notice-board). Two of the wall panels were dented and warped.

The force ^{of the impact} was so extreme that inside the Hall the stage was knocked away from the wall and split apart.

Fortunately there was no injury to anyone, or other property (the Hall being unoccupied at the time.)

Just by chance I was at the Hall when it happened, I had just locked the door, and about to leave, heard a crash, and saw a car reversing out and driving away.

Our Insurance Company has approved the repair work by Rollalong, costing £6,600-00. so far.

The work, which involved replacing the end wall of the Hall, and repairing the stage was completed on 11/4/18.

Delays were caused by continual wet weather, and snowfalls (twice). Four attempts were made at starting the work, (+ Hall bookings were cancelled causing considerable upset + annoyance.) Thankfully the Hall is in regular use again, now, although some more work is needed outside, replacing the concrete post, and re-erecting the Notice-board, etc.

W.S.