

Minutes of the Meeting of Knowlton Parish Council
4th September 2024 at 7pm
Horton & Chalbury Hall

Item	
682	<p>Attendance Cllr Morgan Antell Cllr Caroline Barnes Cllr Trevor Brown Cllr Steve Butler (Chairman) Cllr Colin Davidson Cllr Anthony (Sam) Keet Cllr Paul Millett (Vice Chairman) Cllr Ian Potentier Cllr Linda Stocks Cllr Will Chakawhata – Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward (Horton & Chalbury) Cllr David Tooke – Dorset Councillor Cranborne & Alderholt Ward (Woodlands & Wimborne St Giles) Miss Sarah Forwood (Clerk)</p>
683	<p>Welcome from the Chairman including housekeeping notices</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
684	<p>To receive and accept apologies for absence</p> <p>Cllr Kevin Minns</p>
685	<p>Declarations of Interest & Grants for Dispensation</p> <p>None.</p>
686	<p>Confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 17th July 2024</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>
687	<p>Minutes of the Knowlton Parish Community Benefit Fund held 7th August 2024</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting having been circulated to members prior to the meeting were accepted.</p>
688	<p>Chairman's Announcements</p> <p>Cllr Steve Butler raised Meadow View Caravan Park and the permission to change it from a caravan park to a park home which has been granted without the Parish Council being notified. Cllr David Tooke will review the application and update the Clerk.</p>

689	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>Please see Annex A of these minutes.</p>
690	<p>Dorset Councillors Reports</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>
691	<p>Dorset Councillors Reports</p> <p><u>Cllr Will Chakawhata – Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward (Horton & Chalbury)</u></p> <p>Cllr Will Chakawhata read through his report at the meeting. Deer Court are asking for a footpath due to the speeding on the road, Cllr Will Chakawhata has liaised with DC highways. Cllr Paul Millett noted that the building developers should be held to account for additional infrastructure.</p>
692	<p>Public Open Session</p> <p>None Present.</p>
693	<p>Planning Applications & Matters</p> <p>P/VOC/2024/04188 Shirewood Store, Park Lane, Woodlands, BH21 8LL. Proposal: Variation of Condition in Planning Permission 3/98/0375 to Include Document Storage (variation of condition 2 of permission 3/02/0329 to remove reference to storage types in 2(a), remove 2(b) which refers to 'self storage' use and to remove the personal restriction at 2(c) so that condition relates to the company Storofile Limited.) Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>P/TRC/2024/04399 Hollow Lane From, The Oaks, Horton Hollow To Bethany Chalbury, Horton, BH21 7EP Proposal: Tree 1 Willow: Complete removal. Tree 2 Ash: Complete removal. Tree 3 Ash: Complete removal. For information purposes only.</p> <p>P/NMA/2024/04536 All Hallows Farmhouse, Wimborne St Giles, Wimborne, BH21 5NJ. Proposal: Non material amendment to PA P/FUL/2023/02975 (The replacement of an existing plant/grain store – with new store and plant for the temporary storage and conditioning of grain) to change building footprint and height. For information purposes only.</p> <p>P/FUL/2024/04185 Burgess Farm Cottage, Jubilee Hill, Woodlands, BH21 8LY. Proposal: Change of use from office building to holiday let. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p> <p>P/VOC/2024/04894 Field southeast of Horton Road, West of Verwood. Proposal: Change of use of land to equestrian, stationing of stables, retention of one existing container and provision of surfaced 'yard (with variation to condition 2 of planning permission P/FUL/2023/05146 : to vary the approved plans for the provision of two stables in alternative locations. Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.</p>

694	<p>Highways Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The water leaks in Woodlands were noted, the Clerk has not received a response from Bournemouth Water since contacting them with the results of the water test completed by the Parish Council. The Clerk will continue to follow this up with Bournemouth Water. The Clerk, wrote to the DC Road Safety Manager on the 1st July 2024 as Cllr Ian Potentier, supported by Cllr Sam Keet, had asked for an on-site meeting over the dangerous C2 road. In Cllr Ian Potentier's detailed email he stated that the Highways Extent map supplied by DC was too small to be decipherable as to where the verges were allegedly privately owned and that he was prepared to ask for funding from the KPCBF if necessary. DC reply of 11th July declined an on-site meeting. The response was very disappointing if not unexpected and it is only to be hoped that a serious accident does not occur. <p><i>Each year Dorset Council receive many more requests for small highway schemes than we can build. This means we need to prioritise to make the most effective use of limited engineering resources and public money. Our funding comes from central government, and is conditional on us setting out strategic objectives, consistent with the Government's transport policy, in a Local Transport Plan and spending our money on schemes which go furthest to achieving those objectives. We therefore evaluate all scheme requests against these objectives.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk is waiting for DC to undertake a site visit to look at the signs at Clump Hill and Kings Lane to see what is required. DC are currently updating a lot of safety critical signage. Cllr Morgan Antell to obtain quotes for the overhanging trees and vegetation on the bends at Heythorne Common to be cut back. <i>Clerk to contact DC to check there are no TPO's on the overhanging trees.</i> The Clerk will forward the email onto Cllr Will Chakawhata to follow up on the flooding on the B3078. Cllr Morgan Antell to email Cllr David Tooke photos of the wooden wall that has been built outside Meadow View Caravan Park which is directly on the road.
695	<p>Rights of Way/Open Spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Linda Stocks noted the grass area on Woodlands playfield has been cut short, this should be left long for conservation purposes. It was noted that whoever cut this grass area should have contacted the Parish Council.
696	<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 basket swing dee shackle has been ordered, since this has happened the other side of the swing has been unscrewed and placed on the floor. <i>Clerk to contact Sovereign Play to arrange for an inspector to visit Burgess Play Field and repair the basket swing.</i>
697	<p>Tree Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Clerk to contact DC to enquire if the two mature Oak trees that have been felled on the West side of Verwood Road have TPO's.</i>
698	<p>Wimborne St Giles Neighbourhood Plan</p>

	<p>The plan has been finalised and it is two weeks into a six week consultation which finishes at the end of September. The plan can be viewed in the Wimborne St Giles church, Verwood Library and on the Dorset Council website. Andrew Mead has been chosen as the examiner for the Wimborne St Giles, neighbourhood Plan.</p>												
699	<p>Jacqui Cuff – Rural Housing Enabler</p> <p>Jacqui Cuff is part of a National Network of Rural housing enablers which is funded by Defra and employed by Dorset Community Action to ensure the role is independent to Dorset Council. Jacqui's services are free to the community, housing associations and landowners for affordable housing schemes.</p>												
700	<p>We Out Here Festival</p> <p>Councillors considered the complaints received by residents in relation to the noise pollution from the We Out Here Festival. <i>Clerk to contact DC environmental health in relation to the noise complaints.</i></p>												
701	<p>Horton and Chalbury Parish Magazines</p> <p><i>Clerk to contact Horton Church to enquire if they would like the seven copies of the 1954-1961 Horton and Chalbury bound magazines.</i></p>												
702	<p>Consider moving of the Woodlands Defibrillator</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed to move the Woodlands defibrillator to a different outside part of the building to prevent the sun and heat from damaging the defibrillator. The Parish Council will support with the cost of moving the defibrillator.</p>												
703	<p>Actions List</p> <p>See action sheet at the end of the minutes.</p>												
704	<p>Financial Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members resolved unanimously to pay items below including Clerk's Salary: <table> <tbody> <tr> <td>ONLINE ELITE PLAYGROUND INSP</td> <td>Burgess Playfield Quarterly Insp</td> <td>£57.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE DAPTC</td> <td>New Councillor Essentials Training</td> <td>£40.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE CLERK EXPENSES</td> <td>Reimbursement of Expenses July – Sept 24</td> <td>£157.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ONLINE DORSET PLANNING CONSULTANT LTD</td> <td>WSG Neighbourhood Plan</td> <td>£552.96</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	ONLINE ELITE PLAYGROUND INSP	Burgess Playfield Quarterly Insp	£57.60	ONLINE DAPTC	New Councillor Essentials Training	£40.00	ONLINE CLERK EXPENSES	Reimbursement of Expenses July – Sept 24	£157.77	ONLINE DORSET PLANNING CONSULTANT LTD	WSG Neighbourhood Plan	£552.96
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705	<p>Other Information for report only</p> <p>None</p>												
706	<p>Next Meeting will be on Wednesday 16th October 2024 at 7pm in Horton & Chalbury Village Hall.</p>												

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Meeting closed at 20:40

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

Forwood.

Signed;.....

.....4th September 2024

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Action No	Date	Action	Assigned To	Status
01/20	Nov 2020	E59/7 Woodlands off Jubilee Hill behind houses is waterlogged all year round.	Clerk	<p>July 21: Ranger has visited with MA and will consider a stone surface to improve this path.</p> <p>Dec 21: Ranger has agreed to this work and the Landowner is on board with helping, ground conditions might mean this has to wait.</p> <p>May 23: MA continues to discuss with DC Ranger.</p> <p>Nov 23: Leave on the action list until next summer.</p> <p>Feb 24: The DC Ranger has a pallet of Geogrid that he is going to put down. This is a rigid plastic grid that can be topped with stone. Water springing out of the field here ends up on the sunken footpath but then is reabsorbed after about 20 metres or so. The DC Ranger intends to support the geogrid on some large supports or perforated pie so that water can continue to do what it currently does (diverting or trying to “plug” it will only move the problem further down the path or into neighbouring land). The grid will give a firm surface above it that can be topped with path gravel – effectively suspended over the water flow below. DC do not tend to install boardwalks these days as they become a maintenance liability as timber rots. The DC Ranger would be looking to undertake this work when it is dry enough to get a vehicle in the adjacent field (to transport stone).</p> <p>June 24: Clerk to contact the DC Ranger to ask when the geogrid will be put down.</p> <p>July 24: DC is waiting to hear back regarding some potential external funding. A DC contractor had a look at the path and once a quote is received DC may be able to use some of this funding. Alternatively, the DC ranger will use rubble and stone to see if this helps with the water logging.</p>
02/20	July 2020	Water rising in Woodlands opposite ‘Four Oaks.	Clerk	<p>Aug 22: DC plan to install a new gully and pipe to watercourse with adjacent landowners’ permission, subject to priority and funding. Nov 23: Clerk to follow up, ask who is responsible and raise an incident number.</p> <p>Feb/Apr 24: Clerk to arrange for the water to be tested along with the water leak opposite Meadow Cottage.</p> <p>June 24: A water sample has been taken and passed to Microtech Services for testing.</p> <p>July 24: The Clerk has contacted Bournemouth Water asking for the water leak to be looked at due to the presence of chlorine in the results from the water sample that was tested.</p>

01/22	Feb 2022	Clerk to report extremely poor surface on Horton Road at Haythorne end, edges of road breaking up further along and at Woodlands Crossroads. 1187924	Clerk	<p>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.</p> <p>June 23 – inspected and repaired in places.</p> <p>Nov 23: Clerk to follow up.</p> <p>Jan 24: Cllr David Tooke emailed DC and received the following response: there is a proposed scheme to resurface this road using a carriageway insitu-recycling system. Currently the contractor for these works has not been appointed and we cannot currently give an exact date of the works but our Asset Team are working on a commencement date of May/June 2024, but this may be subject to changes eg. weather/or other eventualities.</p> <p>Apr 24: Works should be taking place in May/June depending on budget.</p>
02/22	Feb 2022	Water leak opposite Meadow Cottage, Horton Road, Woodlands. Cllr Trevor Brown has reported to Water Co.	Clerk	<p>Apr 22: not yet resolved.</p> <p>May 23: Clerk reported again to SW Water ref 0012685401.</p> <p>Jan 24: This is a fixer that did not work and has broken again.</p> <p>Jan 24: Clerk to contact the water board. June 24: A water sample has been taken and passed to Microtech Services for testing.</p> <p>July 24: The results from the water test showed no sign of treated water.</p>
01/23	April 2023	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.	Clerk	
02/23	Sept 2023	Clerk to chase up Dorset Council to install SLOW markings at Wimborne St Giles First School.	Clerk	It was agreed by the Cllrs to wait until after the speed survey to be completed before deciding on whether the SLOWS will go ahead.
03/23	Oct 2023	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.	Clerk	Oct 23: DC agreed to move the salt bin before it was filled up.
04/23	Nov 2023	Pond is overflowing at Little Haythorne	Clerk	The Clerk spoke DC highways, at the time of speaking the pond was not

		and going onto the road. Clerk to raise a report with Dorset Council.		overflowing.
05/23	Dec 2023	Cllr Ian Potentier to contact Cllr Robin Cook in relation to applying for a grant from the Community and Culture Fund Project for the footpaths that lead onto the C2.	Cllr Ian Potentier	May 24: An email has been sent to DC requesting availability for a site meeting to take place. An email has been received from DC requesting further information in relation to the site visit. July 24: Cllr Ian Potentier has been liaising via the Clerk with DC safer highways team to look at having a footpath alongside the C2.
06/23	Dec 2023	Cllr Sam Keet to take forward the grant from the Community and Culture Fund Project for the bridleway project at Queens Copse.	Cllr Sam Keet	July 24: Cllr Sam Keet and the Clerk have met with James Rose contractors and Cutler Bros to obtain quotes for the works on the bridleway at Queens Copse.
01/24	Jan 2024	Clerk to email the DC highways team noting due to the reoccurring accidents at Sutton Holms DC highways to consider changing the road priority for the B3081.	Clerk	Email has been sent to DC Highways team on 11 Jan and 5 Feb 24. No response has been received. March 24: Phoned DC highways and left message, no response has been received. April 24: An email response was received from DC Highways Team via Cllr Tooke; changing road priorities is very unlikely to occur at this location as it would increase traffic speeds and likely increase collisions and at the most would be slows (although there are already a number there). Collision wise there is only one collision shown in the last five years although this was a serious one, with speed/debris and inexperience put down as the likely reason for the collision by Dorset Police.
02/24	Jan 2024	Clerk to obtain a quote for a new Woodlands sign for Kings Lane.	Clerk	July 24: The Clerk has been in contact with DC and waiting for a response. Sept 24: Another email has been sent to DC asking for an update on when the sign will be put in place.
03/24	Feb 2024	Clerk to request, from the Community Highways Officer at Dorset Council the accident history for Horton Road over the last five years.	Clerk	Sept 24: Email sent to DC highways department.
04/24	Feb 2024	Clerk to contact DC about the progress of the longer layby by Knowlton Church.	Clerk	Mar 24: Clerk spoke to Cranborne National Landscapes and they passed the query onto DC. Clerk to follow up with DC.
05/24	Mar 2024	Clerk to report the bank that is falling	Clerk	April 24: The Clerk has reported the bank issue.

		away along B3081 opposite Deer Park House.		
06/24	Mar 2024	The Clerk to contact DC Planning Department to enquire about the windows being filled in at the Horton Tower.	Clerk	Mar 24: Email sent, no reply was received.
07/24	Mar 2024	The Clerk to contact DC in relation to the site a Jubilee Hill being used for training.	Clerk	
08/24	April 2024	Clerk to request a quote for a new sign at Clump Hill Horton and ask if this sign can be moved further down the road.	Clerk	July 24: The Clerk has been in contact with DC and waiting for a response. Sept 24: Another email has been sent to DC asking for an update on when the sign will be put in place.
09/24	April 2024	Clerk to report the branch that is leaning into the road at Haythornes.	Clerk	May 24: The overhanging branch has been reported and removed by DC ref: 1252913. Cllrs reported that the branch is still there.
10/24	May 2024	Clerk to report to DC the hole left by Cllr Trevor Brown's property which damaged his garden machinery after the grips had been dug out.	Clerk	June 24: Reported to DC via email. Aug 24: DC responded with a map of the highway extents plan which showed the plan makes up part of the publicly maintainable highway. If the grips are placed on the grass verges to drain surface water from the road into adjacent land and watercourses. Residents cutting grass adjacent or outside their homes is carried out at their own risk.
11/24	May 2024	Clerk to follow up when and if the white lines through Horton will be reinstated.	Clerk	June 24: DC has been contacted, ref: 1256554 to ask when the white lines may be reinstated through Horton. June 24: A works order has been raised to refresh the existing road markings, work has started and most elements of this (including the defects meeting the CoP criteria) have been reinstated. DC are unable to advise exactly when the centre line will be reinstated, due to current demands, but hopefully this will be completed during the next couple of months.
12/24	June 2024	Clerk to contact DC highways to get their view on extending the 30mph speed limits in these areas.	Clerk	July 24: An email has been sent to DC Highways, awaiting a response.
13/24	June 2024	Clerk to contact the Speed Partnership	Clerk	July 24: An email has been sent to Dorset Road Safe for support with the

		Team to ask for their support with the speeding issues through Horton Village.		speeding issue through Horton Village, awaiting a response.
14/24	June 2024	Clerk to arrange for the missing bolt to be replaced on the swing.	Clerk	July 24: Cllrs Antell and Stocks have taken photos of the missing bolt and this has been sent to the company for a quote. Aug 24: A quote has been received for the dee shackle from Sovereign Play and is being posted to Cllr Morgan Antell.
15/24	June 2024	Clerk to contact DC to request the hedges to be cut back from the property next to the playfield.	Clerk	July 24: An enquiry has been logged on the Dorset Council Portal. Enquiry number 1260099. Aug 24: The DC highways phoned the Clerk updating them that DC are looking into who owns the property to ensure the hedge is cut back. Aug 24: Work was carried out on 16 th August.
16/24	June 2024	Clerk to contact the landowner of the wood to ask them to clear the felled trees next to the Remedy Oak.	Clerk	July 24: The landowner has been contacted and the felled trees by Remedy Oak will be tidied.
17/24	July 2024	Clerk to email Wimborne St Giles School giving them the results of the speed survey and highlighting that the Parish Council will not be pursuing the 30mph sign. Clerk to enquire if the school still require SLOW signs on the road.	Clerk	Sept 24: Email sent to the school office.
18/24	July 2024	Clerk to contact Bournemouth Water to request another test or a joint independent test for the water leak outside Longacre and note that the water leak only started when the tap was tee'd off for the field.	Clerk	Aug 24: An email has been sent to Bournemouth water with the Parish Councils water test results highlighting the chlorine found in the water. The Clerk requested on behalf of the Parish Council an independent water test.
19/24	July 2024	Clerk to report the over hanging foliage at the Old School House in Woodlands.	Clerk	Sept 24: Clerk has reported the over hanging trees and hedges reference number is 1264356.
20/24	July 2024	Clerk to email the resident asking for	Clerk	July 24: Email sent to the resident and a response has been received. Action

		the invoice to be submitted annually to allow the Parish Councils financial process to work correctly for auditing purposes.		closed.
21/24	Sept 2024	Cllr Morgan Antell to obtain quotes for the overhanging trees and vegetation on the bends at Heythorne Common to be cut back. Clerk to contact DC to check there are no TPO's on the overhanging trees.	Cllr Antell Clerk	
22/24	Sept 2024	Cllr Morgan Antell to email Cllr David Tooke photos of the wooden wall that has been built outside Meadow View Caravan Park.	Cllr Antell	
23/24	Sept 2024	Clerk to contact Sovereign Play to arrange for an inspector to visit Burgess Play Field and repair the basket swing.	Clerk	
24/24	Sept 2024	Clerk to contact DC to enquire if the two mature Oak trees that have been felled on the West side of Verwood Road have TPO's.	Clerk	
24/24	Sept 2024	Clerk to contact DC environmental health in relation to the noise complaints.	Clerk	
25/24	Sept 2024	Clerk to contact Horton Church to enquire if they would like the seven copies of the 1954-1961 Horton and Chalbury bound magazines.	Clerk	

Annex A

Clerks Report
4th September 2024

Correspondence

Road traffic regulation act 1984, temporary 30MPH speed limit, various roads, Wimborne St Giles. This Order will enable We Organise Chaos safe access and egress to We Out Here Festival.

Proposed temporary closure of Horton Road, Woodlands. from Amberon Traffic Management (Agents for Stabilised Pavements Ltd) to close Horton Road, Woodlands between C2 and Kings Lane, a distance of approximately 2250 metres. The closure has been requested to allow Stabilised Pavements Ltd to carry out carriageway maintenance works.

Email received from local resident in relation to speeding traffic email through Horton. The clerk has replied back noting, that the Dorset Road Safe Team has been contact to request the camera enforcement team attend the village to check the speeds.

Email from Dorset Council in relation to registration for A big conversation event.

Temporary closure of Horton Road, Woodlands under the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 as amended. All vehicles will be prohibited from proceeding along Horton Road, Woodlands between C2 and Kings Lane, a distance of approximately 2250 metres. It will come into operation on 16th September 2024 and will remain in force for 18 months, however it is anticipated that the works will be completed by 23rd September 2024. This Order will enable Stabilised Pavements Ltd safe access to carry out carriageway maintenance works.

DRAFT

240904 Dorset Councillor Report for Knowlton Parish Council**Affordable Housing**

Dorset Council have launched a “Home in on Housing” strategy – more information is available on the web at [Home in on housing programme – phase 1 - Dorset Council](#)

The strategy will focus on creating targets for affordable housing based on local need, and supporting Community Land Trusts and link to Care Provision for Children. It will also seek to balance those who need to downsize with those in overcrowded situation, and bringing empty homes back into use by liaising with property owners.

More than 500 affordable homes have been built for Dorset residents in the last financial year as we continue to respond to the significant and growing need for affordable housing.

The developments include rented and shared ownership homes and houses for essential local workers. These sites were provided either by Housing Associations or acquired by the council in the year to March 2024.

We anticipate that the Antler Homes development on the Surplus Stores site in Alderholt, which had the affordable homes requirement removed by East Dorset District Council, will now provide around 30 affordable homes, via Aster.

Planning Committee Scheme of Delegation

Currently, if a Dorset Council ward member submits a representation or a parish or town council submits a representation contrary to the officer’s proposed recommendation, a nominated officer decides, in consultation with the relevant planning committee chair, vice-chair and ward member whether the application should be referred to the planning committee (instead of the application being decided by an officer with delegated powers).

In order to give ward members and parish and town councils a stronger voice in triggering the referral of an application to a planning committee Full Council has decided to amend the Constitution so that all applications for major development (ie 10 units or more) to which a Dorset Council ward member or a town or parish council submits a representation which is contrary to the officer’s proposed recommendation will be referred to planning committee for decision.

For other development not already subject to an automatic committee referral, it is proposed that where a Dorset Council ward member or a parish or town council has made a representation contrary to the officer’s proposed recommendation, the decision to refer an application to committee would rest with the relevant planning committee chair and/or vice chair, in consultation with the relevant ward member(s), as part of agenda management. If the chair and vice-chair the chair’s view prevails. The Council’s own applications and applications on Council land will now be treated in the same way as other applications, rather than being automatically referred to committee.

These changes will take effect from 25th July 2025.

Q.E. Leisure Centre

At the start of the year, Dorset Council announced the decision to stop running the Queen Elizabeth Leisure Centre (QELC), closing the facility to the public from the end of March.

However, the new administration – the Liberal Democrats took control of the Council from the Conservatives during the May local elections – has promised to revisit the decision following a Council Meeting on 18 July.

The Council will commission a fresh report on the decision, with the promise that: “This won’t be a rubber-stamping exercise of the previous decision... We will be asking the officers to produce a new report, not a rehash of the old one”

Full Council voted to refer the matter to the next Cabinet meeting in September. This will be Tuesday 10th September at 18:30, the meeting will be live streamed on YouTube.

Nature Emergency

At Full Council on the 18th July the Council built on the Climate Emergency passed at its inaugural meeting in May 2019, following the motion proposed by Darryl Turner and passed with only 2 votes against.

The Nature Emergency declared will:

- a. Contribute to the national commitment to protect 30% of land for nature by 2030, in line with the UK’s international commitment to biodiversity and the Natural Environment, Climate and Ecology strategy and set out in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Dorset.
- b. Support the Dorset and Cranborne Chase National Landscapes to meet/exceed their apportionment of the Environmental Improvement Plan targets
- c. Make space for nature and the long-term maintenance and expansion of the Nature Recovery Network.
- d. Improve biodiversity on Dorset Council land including our farms, highway verge, country parks and other greenspace by, for example planting trees and hedgerows, lowering soil fertility on verges and encouraging community orchards and the establishment of allotments.
- e. Work with farmers, landowners, town & parish councils and other external partners to improve biodiversity, increase tree cover and woodland, and green our streets.
- f. Remove the use of glyphosate and chemicals damaging to ecosystems/nature where possible.
- g. Reduce pressure on wildlife and develop wildlife corridors.
- h. Improving doorstep access to nature, particularly for those from disadvantaged backgrounds and those wards already identified as having the worst access to nature.
- i. Support communities and businesses to make better decisions and take action to support nature’s recovery.
- j. Develop a strategic perspective on natural flood management solutions, by working with key partners and stakeholders