

Minutes of the Meeting of Knowlton Parish Council
8th January 2025 at 7pm
Horton & Chalbury Village Hall

Item	
777	<p>Attendance</p> <p>Cllr Morgan Antell Cllr Caroline Barnes Cllr Steve Butler (Chairman) Cllr Anthony (Sam) Keet Cllr Kevin Minns Cllr Ian Potentier</p> <p>Miss Sarah Forwood (Clerk)</p>
778	<p>Welcome from the Chairman including housekeeping notices</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
779	<p>To receive and accept apologies for absence</p> <p>Cllr Trevor Brown Cllr Colin Davidson Cllr Paul Millett (Vice Chairman) Cllr Linda Stocks Cllr David Tooke – Dorset Councillor Cranborne & Alderholt Ward (Woodlands & Wimborne St Giles) Cllr Will Chakawhata – Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward (Horton & Chalbury)</p>
780	<p>Declarations of Interest & Grants for Dispensation</p> <p>Cllr Sam Keet declared a pecuniary interest in the Replacement stables, The Barn, Church Hill, Woodlands and will not take part in the discussion or voting of this item.</p>
781	<p>Confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 11th December 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>
782	<p>Outstanding Actions</p> <p>Please see Annex A of these minutes.</p>
783	<p>Chairman's Announcements</p> <p>None.</p>

784	Clerk's Report Please see Annex B of these minutes.
785	Dorset Councillors Reports <u>CLlr David Tooke – Dorset Councillor Cranborne & Alderholt Ward (Woodlands & Wimborne St Giles)</u> Please see Annex C of these minutes.
786	Dorset Councillors Reports <u>CLlr Will Chakawhata – Dorset Councillor Stour & Allen Vale Ward (Horton & Chalbury)</u> No report received.
787	Public Open Session None.
788	Planning Applications & Matters P/FUL/2024/06959 Proposal: Replacement stables. Location: The Barn, Church Hill, Woodlands Members voted 5 in favour of NO OBJECTION, 1 ABSTENTIONS (SK). It was therefore resolved to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal. P/HOU/2024/07464 Proposal: Erect car port and form new driveway off existing with associated landscaping. Location: Ruddlemoor Farm Horton Road Church Hill Woodlands To Horton Lane, Woodlands, BH21 8NE Members resolved unanimously to respond with NO OBJECTION to the proposal.
789	Highways Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLlr Caroline Barnes noted the missing bollards at Pump House Corner, Parsonage Lane in Wimborne St Giles which need reinstating. <i>Clerk to report to DC the bollards that need reinstating at Pump House Corner, on Parsonage Lane.</i> CLlr David Tooke received an update from DC Highways Department in relation to the policy the council are employing a dusting to road resurfacing rather than addressing the road: <i>Our maintenance strategy (supported by the Department for Transport) looks at a hierarchy of road treatments before replacement. Treatments such as surface dressing and microasphalt (which is the treatment that was used here) are cost effective ways of increasing the life of the road before it needs to be dug up and resurfaced. They also have significant carbon savings.</i> <i>Treatments like microasphalt remove minor defects, prevent water ingress and provide better texture for skidding resistance. Micro costs around £5 per square metre compared to £20 for digging up and laying new asphalt. Surface treatments are established good practice and are expected by the DfT.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Morgan Antell noted water that flowed across the Horton Road near the Remedy Oak during heavy rainfall which is due to the culvert being blocked on the Shaftesbury Estate side. <i>Clerk to report to DC the blocked culvert on Horton Road in Wimborne St Giles.</i>						
790	<p>Rights of Way/Open Spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Cllr Sam Keet will count the dragon’s teeth around Woodlands Playfield and let the Clerk know how many need replacing.</i>						
791	<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.						
792	<p>Tree Matters</p> <p>None.</p>						
793	<p>Financial Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The budget and precept demand was unanimously agreed. <i>Clerk to complete to relevant form for DC.</i>• Members discussed KPC supporting local projects to benefit residents. <p>Members approved items of expenditure including Clerk’s Salary:</p> <table><tr><td>ONLINE DORSET PLANNING CONSULTANT</td><td>WSG Neighbourhood Plan</td><td>£276.48</td></tr><tr><td>ONLINE CLERK</td><td>Annual bonus for Clerks Pension year ending 23/24</td><td>£103.43</td></tr></table>	ONLINE DORSET PLANNING CONSULTANT	WSG Neighbourhood Plan	£276.48	ONLINE CLERK	Annual bonus for Clerks Pension year ending 23/24	£103.43
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794	<p>Other Information for report only</p> <p>None.</p>						
795	<p>Next Meeting will be on Wednesday <u>5th February 2025</u> at 7pm in Horton & Chalbury Village Hall.</p>						

Meeting closed at 20:07 hours

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

Forwood

Signed;.....

.....8th January 2025

Annex A

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> <p>Oct 24: Email sent to DC Ranger asking for an update.</p> <p>Nov 24: The DC Ranger will be testing some drainage in one corner of the footpath. The work needs to be scheduled to install the drainage.</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> <p>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.</p> <p>Oct 24: Clerk spoke to the operations team at South West Water. Case no. 0013998244. A works order has been raised to reattend the site and undertake another test.</p> <p>Nov 24: South West water attended and have liaised with DC. South West water listened to the AP box and there was no noise, no water and no leak.</p> <p>Jan 24 (06.01.25): The Clerk spoke to Alex at Bournemouth Water they are requesting a member of their team to contact the Clerk directly by 10 January 2025 to discuss the water leak and possibly arrange to meet up at the leak site with an inspector. ref: 0013998244. 07.01.25: Bournemouth Water are going to visit the site again on a dry day to retrieve several samples of water to test for main water.</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> <p>Oct 24: Clerk spoke to South West Water operations team. They attended in December 23 and were supposed to return but never did. SW Water are sending a team out again case no. 0013525817 for further investigations.</p> <p>Nov 24: Contractor attended on 18th October leak in a chamber which has been repaired.</p> <p>Dec 24: Clerk contacted DC Highways and DC Environmental. A DC Community Highways Officer will visit the site to see if there is anything they can assist with.</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	Clerk	

		manhole cover. DC will inspect and report.		
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. Oct 24: Cllrs Kevin Minns and Caroline Barnes will arrange to speak to the Headteacher at Wimborne St Giles School.
04/23	Nov 2023	Pond is overflowing at Little Haythorne and going onto the road. Clerk to raise a report with Dorset Council.	Clerk	The Clerk spoke DC highways, at the time of speaking the pond was not 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. Sept 24: An email was sent to DC inquiring about the timescale for the additional signs along the C2. Oct 24: Clerk resent the email asking for an update.
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. Oct 24: Quotes have been received from both James Rose and Cutler Bros. Nov 24: A meeting took place with Cllr Sam Keet and Morris Construction and the Clerk is waiting for the quote. Dec 24: The final quote has been received from Morris Construction.
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 away along B3081 opposite Deer Park House.	Clerk	April 24: The Clerk has reported the bank issue.
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.

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	<p>July 24: The Clerk has been in contact with DC and waiting for a response.</p> <p>Sept 24: Another email has been sent to DC asking for an update on when the sign will be put in place.</p> <p>Sept 24: An email was received by DC. DC have a lot of safety critical signing to complete at the moment. DC will get to site as soon as possible and come back a quote.</p> <p>Nov 24: A quote has been received from DC and is on the November agenda for approval.</p> <p>Nov 24: Moved to the December agenda.</p> <p>Dec 24: Members resolved unanimously to the quote for the Clump Hill sign replacement. Members unanimously agreed to request that DC move the Horton Heath sign from its current location to a more visible location. A quote to be received from DC for this to take place.</p> <p>Jan 25: An email has been sent to DC asking for a quote for the relocation of the Horton Heath sign.</p>
09/24	April 2024	Clerk to report the branch that is leaning into the road at Haythornes.	Clerk	<p>May 24: The overhanging branch has been reported and removed by DC ref: 1252913. Cllrs reported that the branch is still there.</p>
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/	<p>June 24: Reported to DC via email.</p> <p>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.</p>
11/24	May 2024	Clerk to follow up when and if the white lines through Horton will be reinstated.	Clerk	<p>June 24: DC has been contacted, ref: 1256554 to ask when the white lines may be reinstated through Horton.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Dec 24: Cllr Will Chakawhata will follow up this enquiry.</p>
13/24	June 2024	Clerk to contact the Speed Partnership Team to ask for their support with the speeding issues through Horton Village.	Clerk	<p>July 24: An email has been sent to Dorset Road Safe for support with the speeding issue through Horton Village, awaiting a response.</p> <p>Aug 24: Dorset Road Safe Team responded; due to the number of locations on the Camera Team enforcement list across Dorset and a small team to cover</p>

				<p>these, we are unable to guarantee how quickly this site will be visited. Clerk to contact Dorset Road Safe Team in November to check if they have any results from this visit.</p> <p>Nov 24: An email has been sent to the Dorset Road Safe Team to enquire if they have visited Horton Village.</p> <p>Dec 24: The location is on the Camera Team's list to visit, however there are nearly 1000 locations to cover across Dorset and limited resources to cover them so we can't guarantee when they will attend.</p>
14/24	June 2024	Clerk to arrange for the missing bolt to be replaced on the swing.	Clerk	<p>July 24: Cllrs Antell and Stocks have taken photos of the missing bolt and this has been sent to the company for a quote.</p> <p>Aug 24: A quote has been received for the dee shackle from Sovereign Play and is being posted to Cllr Morgan Antell.</p> <p>Oct 24: The dee shackle was received but during this time whilst the Cllrs were undertaking their regular checks at Burgess Playfield, the basket swing had been taken completely down. Clerk has arranged for Sovereign Play and Design company to inspect the basket swing, Action Complete</p>
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	<p>July 24: The landowner has been contacted and the felled trees by Remedy Oak will be tidied.</p> <p>Dec 24: An email has been sent to the land owners and a reply received. This will be looked at over the Christmas period with a view to tidying the area.</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>Oct 24: Clerk spoke to the operations team at South West Water. Case no. 0013998244. A works order has been raised to reattend the site and undertake another test.</p> <p>Nov 24: South West water attended and have liaised with DC. South West water listened to the AP box and there was no noise, no water and no leak.</p>
21/24	Sept 2024	Clerk to contact Sovereign Play to arrange for an inspector to visit Burgess Play Field and repair the basket swing.	Clerk	<p>Oct 24: Sovereign Play and Design Company will be visiting Bugess Playfield w/c 14 Oct 24 to inspect and fix the basket swing.</p> <p>Nov 24: An inspector has visited Burgess Playfield and a quote has been received for the work to fix the basket swing. The quote is on the November agenda for approval.</p> <p>Dec 24: A quote to fix the basket swing has been received from Sovereign Play, which was agreed by Cllrs at the November meeting.</p>

26/24	Oct 2024	Clerk to liaise with Cllr Morgan Antell in relation to the rubbish being dumped at Burgess Field, Woodlands.	Clerk	Nov 24: Cllr Morgan Antell will give an update at the November meeting.
28/24	Oct 2024	Cllrs Caroline Barnes and Kevin Minns to liaise with Wimborne St Giles Headteacher to discuss the SLOWS outside of the School.	Cllrs Caroline Barnes & Kevin Minns	Nov 24: An email has been sent to the school to arrange a suitable date and time.
31/24	Oct 2024	Cllr Morgan Antell to liaise with the Woodlands Church warden and obtain a quote for the renewal of the memorial plaque.	Cllr Morgan Antell	Nov 24: An Art Conservator will visit the memorial plaque and make an assessment and will give suggestions as to what might be done. There may be a range of things that could be done including cleaning and possibly some enhancement. The initial visit will be for free. Dec 24: A quote has been received to renew the war memorial plaque for £4570.00. Cllr Morgan Antell will contact the church warden to request a breakdown of the quote and obtain further quotes.
32/24	Oct 2024	Clerk to contact Mark Adams and CC Cllr David Tooke to ask if the road past Remedy Oak is going to be resurfaced and is there a plan to complete the road out of Woodlands and Horton.	Clerk	Nov 24: An email was sent to DC. DC have forwarded the email to the relevant department to respond.
33/24	Oct 2024	Clerk to add to the November agenda the policy the council are employing a dusting to the road surface rather than addressing the road.	Clerk	Nov 24: The Clerk added the agenda item to the November agenda. Update: added to the December agenda due to Cllr David Tooke sending apologies to the November meeting.
36/24	Nov 2024	Clerk to chase up the report MNT66275 on the impassable footpath E59/19 in Woodlands.	Clerk	Nov 24: DC have set the works as a medium priority which will be completed within four weeks from 5 Nov 24.
38/24	Nov 2024	Clerk to contact Aster to fence in the gap and remove the rubbish.	Clerk	Dec 24: An email has been sent to Aster asking them to clear the area and erect a fence in the remaining gap. Jan 25: An email has been received from Aster who are offering to quote for the extra work. The clerk has contacted DC to see who is responsible for the rubbish and DC has reported it as fly tipping DC ref: SR00684092.

39/24	Nov 2024	Clerk to contact Sovereign Play to enquire about a replacement post on the basket swing and confirm if this is still under warranty.	Clerk	<p>Dec 24: Sovereign Play have requested photos of the post that requires replacing. Clerk has asked Cllr Morgan Antell to provide photos.</p> <p>Jan 25: The crack in the basket swing timber post was reported to Sovereign play by the clerk. The crack in the timber is an air crack, as this naturally occurs and does not affect the strength or integrity of the timber, Sovereign Play would not be able to replace this under warranty.</p>
40/24	Nov 2024	Clerk to purchase a padlock for the Burgess Playfield Gate	Clerk	<p>Jan 25: A padlock has been ordered and will be placed on the gate once received.</p>
41/24	Nov 2024	Clerk to contact the owners of the woodland to clear the felled trees next to Remedy Oak.	Clerk	<p>Dec 24: See update on action 16/24</p>
42/25	Jan 2025	Clerk to report to DC the bollards that need reinstating at Pump House Corner, on Parsonage Lane.	Clerk	
43/25	Jan 2025	Clerk to report to DC the blocked culvert on Horton Road in Wimborne St Giles.	Clerk	
44/25	Jan 2025	Cllr Sam Keet will count the dragon's teeth around Woodlands Playfield and let the Clerk know how many need replacing.	Cllr Sam Keet	
45/25	Jan 2025	Clerk to complete to relevant form for DC.	Clerk	

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Annex B**Clerks Report**
8th January 2025**Correspondence**

The Clerk commences CILCA training on 22nd January 2025 and plans to complete this within six months to a year.

CANCELLED TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF BURTS LANE, HORTON DORSET COUNCIL has issued a Notice under Section 14 [2] of the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 as amended. All vehicles will be prohibited from proceeding along Burts Lane, Horton between Brooklyn Lodge and Innisfree, a distance of approximately 670 metres. The Notice is needed in order to comply with health and safety regulations which require the provision of safe working areas and to minimise likelihood of danger to highway users. It will come into operation on 8th January 2025 between 09:30 - 15:30 and remain in force for five days, however it is anticipated that the works will be completed by 8th January 2025. This Notice will enable Openreach safe access to carry out pole testing works in the highway. A locally signed diversion route will be put in place to enable traffic to travel around the closed sections.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF UNNAMED LANE, WOODLANDS DORSET COUNCIL has issued a Notice under Section 14 [2] of the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 as amended. All vehicles will be prohibited from proceeding along Unnamed Lane, Woodlands north of Heythorne Cottage for a distance of approximately 40 metres. The Notice is needed in order to comply with health and safety regulations which require the provision of safe working areas and to minimise likelihood of danger to highway users. It will come into operation on 13th January 2025 and remain in force for five days, it is anticipated that the works will be completed by 17th January 2025. This Notice will enable South West Water safe access to carry out fire hydrant repair works in the highway. A locally signed diversion route will be put in place to enable traffic to travel around the closed sections.

PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF UNNAMED LANE, CRANBORNE I have received an application from Openreach to close Unnamed Lane, Cranborne between Castle Hill Lane and a point approximately 800 metres south. The closure has been requested to allow Openreach to carry out pole replacement works. These works are programmed to commence from 09:30, 24th February 2025 until 15:00, 24th February 2025. Openreach will publicise the road closure in a number of ways: they will place information boards on the road in this area to inform the travelling public of the works; they will carry out a letter drop to local residents directly affected by the works; and they will sign a vehicular diversion route using the local road network. The following map shows the extent of the closure and the diversion route.

PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF C2, WIGBETH I have received an application from Openreach to close C2, Wigbeth between Hillbrook Farm Nurseries and Acorn Drive, a distance of approximately 930 metres. The closure has been requested to allow Openreach to carry out pole replacement works. These works are programmed to commence from 09:30, 10th March 2025 until 15:30, 10th March 2025. Openreach will publicise the road closure in a number of ways: they will place information boards on the road in this area to inform the travelling public of the works; they will carry out a letter drop to local residents directly affected by the works; and they will sign a vehicular diversion route using the local road network. The following map shows the extent of the closure and the diversion route.

PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF C2, FARNHAM I have received an application from Openreach to close C2, Farnham between Horton Inn and River Allen Bridge, a distance of approximately 280 metres. The closure has been requested to allow Openreach to carry out pole replacement works. These works are programmed to commence from 09:30, 11th March 2025 until 15:00, 11th March 2025. Openreach will publicise the road closure in a number of ways: they will place information boards on the road in this area to inform the travelling public of the works; they will carry out a letter drop to local residents directly affected by the works; and they will sign a vehicular diversion route using the local road network. The following map shows the extent of the closure and the diversion route.

PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF LUMBER LANE, KNOWLTON I have received an application from Wessex Internet to close Lumber Lane, Knowlton between B3078 Cranborne Road and a point approximately 1700 metres north. The closure has been requested to allow Wessex Internet to carry out fibre cable installation works. These works are programmed to commence from 24th March 2025 until 28th March 2025. Wessex Internet will publicise the road closure in a number of ways: they will place information boards on the road in this area to inform the travelling public of the works; they will carry out a letter drop to local residents directly affected by the works; and they will sign a vehicular diversion route using the local road network. The following map shows the extent of the closure and the diversion route.

Improvement in the standards and conduct framework that so often hinder local councils and paralyse their ability to deliver for their communities.

Here is an opportunity to help shape work in this area and I'd urge all member councils to get this on your agenda in January 2025; or for employees and councillors to respond personally.

This briefing is also on our website (login required): [Member Briefings](#)

There is also a news item and we will keep reminding you throughout January in the weekly e-News: [DAPTC News Page](#)

Annex C

250108 Dorset Councillor Report for Knowlton Parish Council

New Council Plan 2024-29

Following the elections in May last year Dorset Council has now announced a new Council Plan outlining our four strategic priorities where we want to make a significant and positive difference.

They are:

- Provide affordable and high-quality housing
- Grow our economy
- Communities for all
- Respond to the climate and nature crisis

With a focus on Housing the Council has set the following targets:

- 30% reduction in the number of households in temporary accommodation over the next 5 years
- eradicate use of bed and breakfasts for family households over the next 5 years
- maintain annual homelessness prevention levels consistently higher than the national average
- achieve the desired balanced position of a smaller but sustainable temporary accommodation stock over the next 5 years
- deliver 450 new affordable homes every year through the housing association development programme
- bring forward new housing supply of 100 new accessible homes and 90 larger family homes at affordable rents per year
- implement approved new models of delivery to increase affordable housing supply making best use of council assets
- deliver 100 new supported accommodation homes over the next 5 years secured through grant funding and support from providers

Family Hubs

The Council is introducing Family Hubs which provide essential support to Dorset families, for social, emotional, physical and financial needs

There are currently Family Hubs in Ferndown, Wimborne, Bridport, Dorchester, Swanage, and Wareham, providing families with support.

Later this year there are plans for more Family Hubs to open in locations across Dorset.

The idea behind the Family Hubs is to provide a safe and welcoming space where families can access support in one place, conveniently located in the centre of their local communities.

A visitor to their local Family Hub said, "The Family Hub has become like a family to us."

Dorset Family Hubs will offer a range of support for the local community from maternity services, activities for children aged 0-5, advice for parents and much more.

Family Hubs are open to everyone, no matter their situation and are inclusive and non-judgemental spaces to receive support locally.

Local Government Devolution

The leaders of Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire Councils; Cllr Nick Ireland, Cllr Bill Revans, and Cllr Richard Clewer, said:

"We welcome the publication of the Devolution White Paper as a significant step forward in our journey towards achieving devolution for the Heart of Wessex region. This milestone reflects the Government's commitment to empowering local communities and enabling regions like ours to collaborate on our shared vision."

Government has made it clear that if strategic authorities are going to maximise the funding opportunities available devolution deals will require a mayor and ministers will be able to impose mayors and geographies on local councils.

The establishment of the Heart of Wessex Mayoral Strategic Authority represents a fantastic opportunity to have a champion for the Wessex region who will be able to deliver meaningful change for our residents and

advocate for our interests in Westminster. This will also offer the likely opportunity for increased funding and investment to our council regions. We want to make the Heart of Wessex a thriving region whose unique interests are heard and understood by central government.

If the devolution proposal is approved, Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire councils will continue to exist and are expected to have the same responsibilities as they do now. The offer to BCP Council and Swindon Borough Council to join the Heart of Wessex partnership remains open.

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