

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CORFE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 1ST JULY 2014 AT 6PM**

**PRESENT: Cllr Mr J Harrison (Chairman) Cllr Mrs J Hope, Cllr Mr C Brown,
Cllr C George,
Mr D Royle Treasurer Village Hall Committee
Mrs G Lewis Tree Warden
2 members of the public**

3024 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr K Brown, Cllr B Lenthall, Cllr J Richards.

3025 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr C Brown – Village Hall Committee.

3026 MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Meeting 6th May 2014 were approved and signed.

3027 MATTERS ARISING

Tree Warden – Gaynor Lewis.

- a) Any fencing around the oak opposite Newton Lane was the farmer's responsibility and not a parish priority.
- b) High brambles were surrounding the Millennium black poplars and clearance was necessary. Whilst these are on Corfe Estate land they were contributed to by the village and Cllr Harrison agreed to help clear.
- c) The identification and labelling of the trees in Queens Acre would be discussed further with David Royle.
- d) The filling in of the gap in the mixed hedgerow bordering Queens Acre would be discussed further with the Village Hall Committee.
- e) The Council agreed Gaynor should apply for free saplings from the Woodland Trust if still possible, and then propose planting areas when they were received.
- f) The loss of the large conifer outside Corfe House highlighted the need to maintain the village's trees for future generations. The proposal to plant a common oak in the corner of Queens Acre for approximately £50 would be discussed with the Village Hall Committee. David Galley TDBC had confirmed there was sufficient space.
- g) Definitive ownership of the lime trees outside Church Cottages had not been established despite enquiries with the Land Registry. It was agreed that the community should act to prevent the risk from invasive mistletoe without taking on formal responsibility for maintenance or any liability. A quote should be sought from a tree surgeon for the mistletoe removal and to assess future safety and whether normal growth would result.

3028 SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS/ALLOCATION OF PLACES.

Cllr Harrison thanked Chris Pickles for alerting the Council to the urgent issue of school allocation for children living in Corfe. Changes to the

catchment area and selection criteria meant that Chris's son's nearest possible primary school was Wellington. Despite having written to concerned parties including Jeremy Browne MP, SCC and TDBC John Williams, Cllr Harrison had received no acknowledgment or replies. A formal objection had been raised by Cllrs Richards and Hope and this was now with the adjudicators.

Chris Pickles was invited to present his concerns:

His 4 year old son had not received an offer of a place at any school at this time. The catchment area for Thurlbear as well as its admissions criteria had been altered for this year and would cause similar problems for any Corfe children in the future. It prioritised other parishes that were geographically further away than Corfe and also had alternative primaries in their locality. 30th June was the deadline for objections relating to school year 2015/16, 18th July for appeals.

The new criteria had created an educational vacuum in Corfe, the parish falling outside all catchment areas. With no school within a 2 mile radius the Local Authority would be responsible for providing school transport but the Council agreed that the prospect of sending a small child unaccompanied by taxi was daunting and unacceptable.

The Council had not been informed of these changes and enquiries would be made to establish why they had not been publicised. If the adjudication process failed to reach a satisfactory outcome the Council agreed to involve local media. Cllr Hope stated that this would negatively influence families with children considering a move to Corfe. Cllr Brown expressed concern that the criteria also related to secondary education.

Cllr Harrison wished Chris good luck with his appeal and assured him of the Council's determination to seek a positive outcome.

3029 REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

- a) **Planning.** There have been slight changes to the Corfe Farm development but these are internal and no objections were raised.
The Clerk reported that in liaison with TDBC and Compass Construction Ltd Newton Court was proposed as the street name for the Corfe Farm site. The Council voted in favour of acceptance.
- b) **Highways.** Cllr Harrison reported that a complaint had been received of overhanging bushes at the junction of Corfe Hill and the lane to the Golf Club causing a hazard. Cllr Lenthall had been made aware.
- c) **Rights of Way.** Cllr Harrison reported on the closure of the footpath at Mill Lane and concerns were expressed by Mr D Royle that local residents' access to their homes could be affected by the Wessex Water operations. Cllr Harrison would contact Wessex Water for assurances.
- d) **Website.** Cllr Hope reported that the website was up to date.
- e) **Speedwatch.** Cllr Brown would be attending a meeting with the Police on 22nd July and seeking clarification of the speed limit excesses that would result in a warning letter. The SID installation in May was not in place for a full week and the Clerk would make enquiries to establish why and if any readings

were recorded. Any residents interested in partaking in future Speedwatch teams should contact Cllr Brown or the Clerk.

f) Village Hall.

New woodchip would be laid in the swings area later this month.

3030 FINANCES

Santander £5380.05 (incl £3327.87 Village Gateway)	
Britannia Building Society:	£612.34
VAT to reclaim.	£53.73
The Council authorised payments:	
Parsons Landscapes	£322.35
Clerk's salary May/June 2014	£200
Office supplies/postage	£36.20

The Clerk reported that auditors Grant Thornton had sought clarification of the annual accounts including the fall in Precept from £2500 in 2012 to £1500 in 2013. The Precept had increased to £2500 in 2011 to cover anticipated election costs and had remained at that level in 2012. Minutes of the meeting in November 2012 recorded: *'A further vote set the precept for the coming year to remain at £1500'* therefore £1500 was applied for and awarded in 2013. This was repeated for 2014 as only the previous year was referred to. It was agreed to reapply for £2500 for 2015/16.

3031 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.

No reports received.

3032 CORRESPONDENCE.

Nothing to report.

3033 ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Nothing to report.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 6.50PM.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday September 2nd 2014 at 6pm

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J Harrison (Chairman)

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Louise Mackley (Clerk)