

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CORFE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 3RD MAY 2016 AT 7.30PM CORFE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Cllr J Harrison (Chairman), Cllr B Lenthall (Vice Chairman), Cllr K Brown, Cllr D Bradbeer, Cllr J Jackson.

Also present: Cllr J Williams (TDBC) Mr D Royle (Treasurer Village Hall Committee) and six members of the public.

3156. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllr C George, Cllr C Brown.

3157. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF CORFE PARISH COUNCIL.

The re-election of Cllr Harrison was proposed by Cllr K Brown and seconded by Cllr Bradbeer. This was carried.

3158. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN.

The re-election of Cllr Lenthall was proposed by Cllr Bradbeer and seconded by Cllr K Brown. This was carried.

3159. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Harrison: Almshouse Trust.

3160. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MARCH 1ST 2016.

The Clerk confirmed that corrections had been made to the published Minutes 3150 and 3152 replacing Almshouse Trust with Charity for Allotments. The Charity was thanked again for its contribution of £250 to Queens Acre. The Minutes having been circulated were agreed and signed as an accurate record.

3161. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES.

Specific matters will be addressed in the agenda.

3162. UPDATE ON s106 FUNDING AND PROJECTS.

Cllr Harrison confirmed that funds had been received by TDBC and were being held pending approval of projects. (£23,205 for play area, £13,299 for outdoor recreation) An application had been submitted based on the wish list of equipment drawn up at last year's Village Meeting. The supplier will be instructed once TDBC give the go ahead, with quotations from 2015 being honoured. The Clerk will provide TDBC with up to date accounts.

For the Outdoor Recreation Area various projects could be allowed, including patio doors for the hall, a defibrillator, astro turf for the goal and a basketball net. Cllr Harrison emphasised that discussions could be renewed and invited ideas from the village. Mr Ledger suggested additional seating around the village. Further discussions will take place at July's meeting.

3163. REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

- a. **PLANNING:** Cllr K Brown stated there had been two applications since the last meeting: a two storey extension at Hartsheath, and the demolition/erection of garage/woodshed at The Old Vicarage. Neither resulted in any objections from residents or the Parish Council.

- b. **HIGHWAYS:** Cllr Lenthall reported on the resurfacing of Corfe Hill, since which time temporary traffic lights had been in place as a hole had opened up on the road. Hopefully this will soon be fixed.
- c. **RIGHTS OF WAY:** Nothing to report.
- d. **WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA:** The Clerk reported that last financial year £110 advertising income was raised. Annual renewals will be sought from current advertisers. Anyone with contacts to local businesses is encouraged to promote the website in order to generate more income.
- e. **SPEEDWATCH:** Cllr Harrison had held meetings with Highways and SCC re improving the speeding measures/signage at the northern end of the village. The SID in March/April recorded a serious problem with speeding vehicles; 3000 journeys were between 40-50mph, 85% of all journeys during the period were in excess of 41mph. SCC disagreed with extending the 30mph limit or adding a 40mph zone. If that measure were taken then there would be no future changes at all. Warning hatchings on the approach, or lines giving the appearance of a narrower road were suggested. If these did not have the desired effect SCC confirmed that then the signage could be reassessed. A permanent static speed camera was not permitted on a B road with current traffic volume. A permanent SID with a warning display would be considered again once it is known what funds are raised by the Summer Fete. All Councillors agreed there was a serious problem. The view of the 30mph signs is poor and if drivers do slow down it is within the village remaining a danger. The 40mph/30mph signs to the south of the village are because the road's bends restrict the sightline. Cllr Williams confirmed that the installation of mirrors at junctions is not supported by Highways. Cllr Harrison will follow up with SCC/Highways now that the new SID figures still supported the introduction of speed reduction measures.
- f. **VILLAGE HALL:** David Royle had nothing to report in addition to the Annual Report. The next event is the Flower Show. Members of the public raised concerns about the surfacing outside the hall and poor access to equipment, exacerbated by the presence of Polling Station equipment.

3164. FINANCE.

Balance 3 May 2016: £7745.75 (£3327.87 V.Gateway, £250 Wellbeing Grant, and £365.63 CIL).

Income received: Precept/Grant £2587, Wellbeing Grant £250, CIL £365.63)

VAT pending £90.52 (Claim can only be made once exceeds £100)

Payments to be authorised: Clerk's wages March/April £200, Parsons (March cut) £57.

The Clerk had circulated the end of year accounts for 2015/16.

Total income £5622.49. Total expenditure £5367.80.

Without the Wellbeing Grant which is earmarked for Queens Acre, costs would barely be covered.

The Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements 2015/16 had been circulated. Cllr K Brown proposed the approval of said statements and this was unanimously agreed. The accounts would be audited in due course by Grant Thornton. Documents will be published on the village website in order to comply with statutory requirements and could be viewed in person via the Clerk during a specific 30 day period from June.

The Parish Council insurance policy is due for renewal in June. A recent inspection confirmed the hall's rebuild cost of £300,000. Cllr Harrison and David Royle were researching the possible cost savings by combining the PC and village hall policies, presently both underwritten by Aviva. Cllr Harrison had liaised with Community First/Community Council for Somerset. A decision was needed in the next fortnight.

3165. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.

Cllr Williams commenced his report by praising the groups represented at the Parish Annual Meeting for helping and supporting the community. He also congratulated the Parish Council for their commitment to serving the community of Corfe.

The two new swimming pools and spa at Blackbrook were on schedule to be taken over by TDBC in June and opened in July.

TDBC is working with other Devon and Somerset councils to advance the case for more devolution of powers. A prospectus would be delivered to Central Govt with the aim of a combined authority for Devon and Somerset with a more efficient delivery of services, although the requirement for an elected 'Mayor' was being resisted. The West Country runs at 80% productivity compared with the rest of the country. Taunton is key in improving rail infrastructure to the south west.

Major plans are underway for the redevelopment of the Coal Orchard area, providing retail and restaurants, a new car park at Firepool as well as improved pedestrian access from Taunton station. Connecting Devon and Somerset are embarking on their next phase of high speed broadband delivery, by end of 2017. A new tendering process would determine the qualifying areas.

3166. CORRESPONDENCE.

Pitminster Pageant: This is being organised by Pitminster and will 'recreate episodes of Pitminster life from 1625 to 1689' including the Civil War and The Monmouth Rebellion. A history walk will include locations in Corfe but no specific requests have been made of the Parish Council.

Broadband Voucher Scheme: Connecting Devon & Somerset has launched a Voucher Scheme worth up to £500 for residents and businesses to install alternative broadband technology if current speeds are below 2Mbps. More information available on the CDS website.

War Memorial: Historic England is considering listing Corfe's War Memorial in response to the centenary of the First World War. The memorial will be assessed and the Parish Council updated in due course.

Opens Gardens: Blagdon & Lowton, 11 open gardens, 11am-5pm May 29th/30th.

3167. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Clerk's wage review. Cllr Harrison stated that the Clerk's salary, in place for 3 years, should be reviewed along with providing incidental expenses to cover phone calls made for parish business. The Clerk stressed that she was not seeking an increase in salary. Cllrs will consider the matter for discussion at the July meeting.

Pitminster Parish Council AGM: Cllr Harrison has been invited to give a report on the Almshouse Trust.

Magic Lantern: Cllr Williams detailed a historical archive of 100s of lantern slides held by the Council that can be loaned to communities for fund raising events.

Noticeboard: Ann Jeffrey asked who was responsible for updating notices on the board outside the church. The board is not locked and can presently be accessed by anyone resulting in a cluttered appearance and free adverts that would be better channelled via the website. The current state of repair would be assessed.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8.10pm

Date of next meeting – July 5th 2016 at 7pm.

