

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF  
THE PARISH OF CORFE.**

**CORFE VILLAGE HALL TUESDAY 3rd MAY 2016 AT 7.PM.**

**PRESENT.** Cllr J Harrison, Cllr B Lenthall, Cllr K Brown, Cllr D Bradbeer, Cllr J Jackson, Clerk L.Mackley, TDBC Cllr J Williams and six members of the public.

**The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr J Harrison opened the meeting and welcomed those present.**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Cllr C Brown, Cllr C George, Andy Fogwill, Pat Evans, Sue Ford, Sheila Andrews, Gaynor Lewis.

**MINUTES.**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 19th May 2015 were confirmed and duly signed.

**REPORTS OF PARISH ORGANISATIONS.**

**VILLAGE HALL AND QUEENS ACRE COMMITTEE (Mr D Royle)**

The Village Hall annual accounts for 2015-16 look very similar to last year's and to the year before that. Our income was £7983 and our costs came in at £7083, giving us a surplus of £900. However the costs included a project which involved us replacing the hall's hot water system. This has been needed for many years and has proved to be very successful. Without this expenditure our surplus would have been £2330 but with it we have some satisfied customers. We have also had to replace some of the cabling for the heating for safety reasons, so hall maintenance is being looked after.

We have had 338 events in the hall this year up from 304 last year.

We are still well supported by our regular customers, the Quilting and Dressmaking Groups, the Mature Movers, Gardening Club, and Short Mat Bowling. The Toddler Group did actually fold before Christmas as no one wanted to take over the management of it. Fortunately, by moving it from Friday to Tuesday we were able to resurrect it and it is now running well. The Blackdown Hills Youth Club continues to use the hall for their meetings and the children's parties have increased in number this year. We had our usual village events last year, the Spring and Summer flower shows, and another successful Quiz Night. The Christmas Party this year was very successful and filled the hall.

These events, together with the contribution from the 100+ Club provide about a quarter of our income. We have sold 138 100+ Club tickets this year, raising the cost of a ticket, which enables us to increase the prize money, and also provide an extra £138 for the hall.

The continued success of the hall depends largely on our full time staff, Andy and Joan Fogwill and we thank them. As most of you will be aware, they are now living in Churchinford, but still look after the hall and we also thank them for that. We are also grateful for the voluntary help we get from the other committee members and friends of the hall.

### **CHARITY FOR ALLOTMENTS (Mrs A Jeffery)**

During the last financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 the income received by the Charity amounted to £2639.50 compared to £2525.47 the previous year. Expenditure amounted to £2853.18 compared with £2331.39 last year. The majority of the income is used to rent Deane Helplines to assist parishioners who are infirm - these Helplines give reassurance to those who are less able-bodied, but still living unassisted at home and enables them to call for help in emergencies. £250 was given to the Parish Council to help with the mowing costs of the Queen's Acre. Christmas vouchers were given to some parishioners and this year the group insurance premium was paid for drivers who give their services voluntarily to Corfelifts, a greatly valued help to parishioners who are not able to drive, giving lifts to those needing medical appointments, weekly shopping, and journeys to the bus and train stations. A summer afternoon outing for a cream tea was also arranged.

The Trustees meet three times a year but are in touch when necessary by telephone and are quickly made aware of any problems being faced by parishioners. Advice can be sought from any of the Trustees - Mrs. Ann Jeffery (Chairman of the Trust), Mrs. Christine Bradbeer, Mrs. Audrey Derrick, Mrs. Pat Evans and Mr. David Royle, or the Clerk, Mrs. Ann Finchett.

### **CORFE, PITMINSTER AND TRULL ALMSHOUSE TRUST (Mr D Ledger)**

The Charity has continued to meet regularly during the year but with low contributions from the four Residents and no endowment income it is proving increasingly difficult to maintain and improve the cottages to a reasonable modern standard.

To comply with minimum health & safety standards and keep the Residents safe, a more formal approach is being adopted by the Trustees with regular inspections to all the cottages but this is meeting with resistance from some Residents.

From 1 April 2016 maintenance contributions were increased by 10% based on the retail price index of 1.2% and a discretionary increase. In view of the low contributions made by the Residents compared with local authority housing, steps are being taken to obtain Equivalent Fair Rent reviews from Valuation Office Agency for comparison purposes.

Following the Quinquennial Inspection Report undertaken by Mr Crockett last year, a detailed cost of essential and other work to be carried out over the next five years has now been made. Trustees will concentrate on further maintenance work and improvements for cottages 1 & 3 which are in poorer condition.

During the year, maintenance work to make the chimneys and roof watertight was carried out and also some outside paint work. An electrical inspection of the cottages was also undertaken and necessary action taken. The largest expense during the year was the installation of a new damp proof course in no 1 and following this a new night storage heater has been fitted to replace the old existing one. An individual water meter was provided in cottage no1 but none of the other residents took up the offer for individual water meters.

An ongoing problem during 2015 was the damp patches in the new lime render. No solution has been found to date but it is hoped to remedy this during 2016.

Roger Neale, our Chairman for many years, resigned on health grounds and John Harrison has kindly agreed to take this on. We are currently seeking a new Treasurer

and a new Trustee to replace two Trustees who wish to stand down after many years' service and invite local applicants to apply.

A visit to the Almshouses was recently made by the Director of the Almshouse Association who agreed with the Trustees that there is much work to do to raise the standard of the cottages and this and possible alternative ways to finance were discussed.

### **SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB. (Clerk for Mr A Fogwill)**

The Short Mat Bowls Club is pleased to announce that its membership has again increased in the past year with new members from Corfe and the outlying villages. The Club still attends charity events around the county, raising money for local and national organisations, providing much needed support within the community.

At the request of the membership an increased programme of friendly matches has been played against local clubs and this will continue in the coming year.

Some members have again attended bowling holidays across the south west.

Our costs are covered but the Club continues to seek new members.

### **CORFE QUILTERS (Clerk for Mrs S Ford)**

We had another successful exhibition in May 2015 and raised £2138 for Braemar House, a local day centre unit which caters for clients with Alzheimer's and dementia. We are already planning our next exhibition for May 2017.

As usual we enjoy meeting in the village hall on Mondays, having monthly workshops where we learn new techniques and skills.

### **CORFELIFTS (Clerk for Mrs P Evans)**

Corfelifts is into its 11<sup>th</sup> year. Never in all that time have we let down a passenger, although in really bad weather it has been a near thing. Some of the original drivers are still giving of their time – thank you for staying the course. 2015 got off to a bad start with the death of June Hope, our very able treasurer. It was a relief that Jacqueline volunteered and has given us a seamless transition.

Last autumn our drivers had to work overtime as four drivers gave up due to age and health and I thank all drivers who did extra runs. Fortunately two new drivers, Sheila and Nicola joined us in January and health issues have been resolved so we are back at full strength and hopefully will not have to ask you more than once a month.

The County Council is still paying the bus concession, so anyone with a bus pass has their far subsidised when they use Corfelifts. Each year we hold our breath as more and more Council cuts are announced, but we are able to give the drivers 50p per mile.

Thanks to all who donate to Corfelifts and Corfe Charity for Allotments which pays for the insurance.

I thank Ken for all he does as Secretary, and Jacqueline who keeps the accounts so well, both Ken and Jacqueline also chase up any financial help we could receive. I thank Keith for auditing the accounts and all the drivers (who must dread 7pm !) who willingly give up their time to take passengers to the doctor, hospital shopping etc. Thank you Ann, for collecting and delivering prescriptions to people in Corfe and Pitminster. The majority of our requests are medically related and our system of making two runs works

very well. The doctors and hospital will make the necessary call if the passenger has no mobile phone.

All the officers were willing to stand again and were unanimously re-elected. Thank you all very much.

### **CORFE AND PITMINSTER GARDENING SOCIETY (Clerk for Mrs S Andrews)**

Average membership is in the twenties, and meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month. Evening Meetings begin at 7.30pm, doors open at 7pm

Trips are arranged for May and September and a garden party in August therefore there will be no evening meeting in the hall.

An Open to all Spring Flower show is usually held on the last Saturday in March.

Income is achieved by an annual membership fee, monthly raffle, and refreshments provided at workshops and the show. Most of this is spent on speakers/demonstrators. 2015/2016 has been a successful year with members enjoying talks on various aspects of gardening, plants, their origins and maintenance.

### **CORFE ART GROUP.**

No report.

### **TREE WARDEN (Clerk for Mrs G Lewis)**

David Bradbeer has kindly offered to remove the brambles around the two black poplars, planted for the millennium, in the far end of the field west of Queens Acre. This should encourage better growth.

The three lime trees outside Church Cottages although pruned last year still need the mistletoe growth reduced. David Galley TDBC states that they are not in good health and in time may need to be removed. These are notable trees in Corfe & replanting of limes is recommended.

I have identified and surveyed all 30 perimeter trees growing in Queens Acre, they are as follows:

- 1/11. Whitebeam – sorbus aria
- 2/20. Field maple- acer campestre
- 3/10/19/21/23/24. Horse chestnut (3: looking slightly worse for wear)
- 4/22/25. English oak (4: tie will need loosening)
5. Rowan.
- 6/8/18. Lime - tilia species.
7. Copper beech.
9. Hornbeam - carpinus betula.
12. Red leafed acer
13. Wild cherry - prunus avium.
- 14/15/17. Silver birch.
16. Cherry - prunus species.
- 26/27/28. Rowan sorbus – (26: not in good health. 27: needs replacing. 28: formative pruning.)
29. Acer maple.
30. Plum - prunus cerasifera.

Young trees should have trunk protectors, as well as those planted directly in the grass. This list does not include the thicket in the bottom right corner.

I am looking into the best and most informative way to label the trees so that visitors, especially children are able to identify them. Each tree could be numbered and referenced to a key on the village website or a display on Queens Acre, or durable labels sited at the base of each tree or a combination of these methods.

It is encouraging to observe that the hedging saplings planted along the field side of Queens Acre are looking healthy, although there is one obvious gap near the football goal (Clerk: this is for ball retrieval from the field)

The notable oak of Corfe still remains a concern to some locals. It is a magnificent and significant tree but the growth of ivy is of concern. Advice is being sought from a reputable tree specialist. Obviously any remedial work would have to be through consultation with the land owner.

As I stated in the 2015 report there are few public areas in Corfe where new planting can occur. I encourage Corfe residents to plant indigenous species on their own land.

### **ST.NICHOLAS PARISH CHURCH (Mrs A Jeffery for Mr K Vodden)**

At the Annual Meeting of the Church held on 24<sup>th</sup> April Keith Vodden and Ann Jeffery were again elected as Churchwardens and Angela Vodden was appointed our very efficient Treasurer. We are just managing to hold our own from a financial point of view but have appointed a small fundraising committee to organise events in 2016/17. We are looking forward to the Summer Fete on June 4<sup>th</sup> being organised by the Hosie family at which the PCC are running a bric-a-brac stall.

New doors have been installed, the gift of a parishioner and these have been much admired. Faculty has been applied for to re-point the outside east end of the church and woodworm infestation at the east end will also be dealt with.

During the past 12 months we have had four weddings, two funerals and five baptisms. 'Open on Sunday', held in the village hall once a month for young families is well attended, run by the Revd David Ager and our Youth Worker Cheryl Govier.

The bells are rung for every service and we than our merry band of ringers. Thanks are also due to our faithful organist Shirley Grinter and our church cleaner, Angela Yarde. Christine Bradbeer efficiently organises flower arranging and door locking rota and the church electoral roll. Keith organises the rota for churchyard mowers, volunteers are always welcome.

Our Rector, the Revd Jim Fallon has now been with us for 12 months. We are so fortunate in having a small and friendly place of worship right in the middle of the village.

### **CORFE PARISH COUNCIL (Cllr J Harrison)**

The Parish Council convened six times over the year with a special Open Village Meeting in October to discuss the expenditure of the S106 funds on items of play equipment for the Queens Acre playground.

At the AGM in May 2015 John Harrison was elected Chairman and Brian Lenthall Vice Chairman. I would like to thank the Councillors for carrying out their portfolio duties during the year and our Parish Clerk Louise for carrying out her duties diligently and looking after our finances as well as keeping Councillors informed of events taking place in Somerset.

#### **PLANNING**

During the year we were consulted on a number of planning applications none of which were contentious and our responses were forwarded to TDBC. The change of use of the

Old Vicarage ground floor to tea rooms created some interest and was eventually given the required approval after some alterations to the application.

#### SPEEDWATCH

Vehicle speeds are still a concern in the village and that is why you will see the SID being deployed on a regular basis along with a Police motorcyclist.

We approached Somerset Highways who unfortunately did not appear interested in our request to either move the 30mph sign further north of Corfe or install a 40mph sign prior to it, giving drivers warning to slow down.

We contacted County Cllr Ross Henley and had a meeting on site resulting in a further meeting with two representatives from Highways. However they were still not convinced further signage or moving signs was the answer but did at last appreciate we had a problem and felt some form of road markings across the highway or lines to reduce the width would be the answer.

The result was the installation of speed boxes prior to our 30mph sign and on the corner of Mill Lane for two weeks. These have just been removed so we are awaiting the thoughts of Highways. Thank you to Ross Henley for his help.

#### TDBC

Thank you again to Councillor John Williams, leader of TDBC for his continued attendance at our meetings, keeping us informed of developments within the Borough and giving guidance to the Parish Council in their decision making.

#### PRECEPT

This was unfortunately raised for 2016/2017 to cover increasing costs and build up a fund as mentioned last year for the unforeseen. We are looking at measures with the Village Hall Committee to assist in reducing expenditure.

#### VILLAGE AGENT

Our Village Agent Trudi Morgan has announced her retirement and we thank her for her hard work and wish her all the best for the future. Her successor has yet to be announced.

#### CORFE WEBSITE

This has been a great success and is now producing advertising income all be it small, but it is early days. Thank you to all involved.

#### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH & POLICE LIAISON

Thank you to Neil Bailey for keeping us informed of Police reports involving Corfe and surrounding area.

#### £106 FUNDS

As previously advised the funds are £23,205 for the Children's Play Area and £13,299 for Active Outdoor Recreation. We have five years to spend this from the 5th property on Corfe Farm being sold, which we understand was August 2015.

A Village Meeting on the 6th October was attended by parents and children to discuss what additional play equipment is required and by the end of the evening a wish list was produced. Meetings were held with suppliers but we had not been able to progress until recently as we had been awaiting TDBC confirming funds were available.

We have now placed an application with TDBC to progress with the order and thankfully the contractor has held the price quoted last year. This project is ongoing but an early result is hoped for and may I thank Ross Henley for the additional SCC Wellbeing Grant of £250 towards the play area.

In respect of the Outdoor Recreation project this is now open again for discussion as the funds are finally in place. The delay allowed us to have further meetings with TDBC and it appears they have relaxed the criteria for the use of this fund which could include

French doors for the village hall, a defibrillator, Astro Turf for the goal mouth in Queens Acre and a basket ball stand. Further thought can now be given to items to benefit the village within the Active Outdoor Recreational parameters. Please forward ideas to me, the Clerk or David Royle for discussion at our July meeting.

#### HELPING HAND REGISTER

The idea of a list of volunteers willing to help out others in the village with sudden and unexpected problems was discussed and Councillors agreed it was a good idea and should proceed with a list of volunteers on the web site.

#### CORFE SUMMER FETE

Finally Corfe will have its own Village Fete on June 4th. The event will be held in the field to the rear of the church with profits raised going to the church and village. So far there are 80 stalls taken, a full sized glider and classic cars to view, aeronautical displays etc.

Our thanks to Trina and Bill Hosie and the fete committee for bringing this event together and all we can hope for is good weather and that it will be well attended and a fun day for all, who knows, it could become an annual or bi annual event.

Chairman Cllr John Harrison thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.20pm. The next Annual Meeting of the Parish of Corfe will be at 7pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017.