

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

CORFE VILLAGE HALL TUESDAY 2ND MAY 2016 AT 6.30PM.

PRESENT. Cllr J Harrison, Cllr B Lenthall, Cllr K Brown, Cllr D Bradbeer, Cllr C Brown, Cllr J Jackson, Cllr T Hosie, Clerk L.Mackley, and members of the public.

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllr J Williams, Andy Fogwill, Gaynor Lewis, Sue Ford.

MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 3rd May 2016 were confirmed and duly signed.

REPORTS OF PARISH ORGANISATIONS.

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

The Village Hall annual accounts for 2016-17 are similar to those of the last few years. Our income was £8329 and our costs came in at £7619, giving us a surplus of £710. Both the income and costs were slightly higher than last year, but the profit is marginally lower. The profit would have been £1250 higher if we had maintained some of the playground equipment before we realised that we had to replace it. We shall have to learn from this.

We have had 330 events in the hall this year just 8 lower from 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 has been very well supported after it was resurrected last year. The Blackdown Hills Youth Club continues to use the hall for their meetings and the children's parties have increased in numbers this year.

We had our usual village events last year, Spring and Summer flower shows, the Corfe Bake Off, pop-up restaurants, wine tasting evenings and another successful Quiz Night. The Christmas Party was again very successful and filled the hall. These events, together with the contribution from the 100+ Club provide about a quarter of our income. Last year we increased the ticket price by £2 and sold 138 tickets. This has enabled us to increase the prize money and also provide an extra £148 for the hall. This year we have sold 136 tickets.

The continued success of the hall depends largely on our full time staff, Andy and Joan Fogwill. As most of you will be aware, they are now living in Churchinford, but still look after the hall and we thank them for that. We are also grateful for the voluntary help we get from the other committee members and friends of the hall. Funding provided as a result of the Newton Court development has been put to good use and we now have a playground with twice the equipment that we had last year. There will be more changes

for the Hall and Queen's Acre during this year. There will also be additions and changes with those people who keep the Hall ticking over, but that will be next year's report.

CHARITY FOR ALLOTMENTS (Mrs A Jeffery)

The income received by the Charity in the last financial year amounted to £2722 compared with £2525 the previous year. Expenditure amounted to £2102.86. The majority of the income is spent on the rental of three Deane Helplines and the Trustees are always made aware of any instance in the Parish where such an installation might be needed to assist the elderly or those with health problems. A grant of £300 was given to the Parish Council to help with the mowing costs of Queens Acre. The Charity also pays the group insurance cover for the volunteer drivers of Corfe Lifts, £96. The annual outing to Stable Cottage for tea was held in the summer to which pensioners are invited as well as helpers in the Parish, and this amounted to £132 as well as the hiring of a small coach.

The Trustees, Mrs Ann Jeffery (Chairman), Mrs Christine Bradbeer, Mrs Audrey Derrick, Mrs Pat Evans and Mr David Royle, and our Clerk Mrs Ann Finchett are always pleased to hear of problems that may need help.

CORFE PITMINSTER AND TRULL ALMSHOUSE TRUST (Mr D Ledger)

During the course of last year our Secretary, Gill Whatmore and Treasurer Heather Jennings retired after many years' service and we are most grateful to them for all their hard work.

We have made very good progress this year in the refurbishment of the Almshouse which, owing to lack of funds, was many years overdue. We refurbished Cottage No1 last year, and in early May, we commence the refurbishment of Cottage No 3. This is only possible with the generous support of Taunton Heritage Trust, giving us a substantial donation which combined with our own funds is enabling us to carry out this work.

Most unfortunately, to make this progress, we have had to take legal action in respect of one of the Residents because of failure to comply with the terms of appointment. As recorded in the Minutes and visits over many years, there was much evidence of non-compliance in respect of looking after the cottage and the obligations set out in the Letter of Appointment.

It was never the Trustees' intention to remove this Resident from the Almshouse but we were forced to take legal action as the Cottage was becoming unfit for habitation. However, we have now moved forward but due to local residents' unfortunate interventions, the legal costs for this were increased substantially.

In addition, after many years of very low Weekly Maintenance Contributions from Residents, we have now, on advice of The Almshouse Association, involved the Rent Officer on two of the Cottages to assess a Fair Rent. This takes into account that it is an Almshouse and therefore does not comply with normal market lettings. It is planned to have Fair Rent reviews on the other 2 Cottages this year so as to increase charges to the Rent Officer level on all cottages and in order to assist the Residents, spread the increased amounts over 3 years.

This action will aid the viability of the Charity to become self-sufficient for everyday repairs and improvements and help secure the future survival of the Charity.

We have also introduced a maintenance programme which includes cleaning upstairs windows and gutters as well as cutting perimeter hedges and tidying common areas of the gardens. The external woodwork and rear elevation have been redecorated and the total cost of the above will now be built into our refurbishment programme for future years. We have now produced a Residents' Handbook in accordance with the Almshouse Association Standards and the Residents' Letters of Appointment and all Residents have now received a copy.

We are very sad to report that Lesley Truscott who lived in cottage No 2 for many years has recently died after a long illness.

We now seek a new Trustee for the position of Secretary with good computer, administration and communication skills. Applicants should ideally reside in one of the three villages and be available to attend meetings at least four times a year. If interested please contact John Harrison or David Ledger.

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

The short mat bowls club continues to cover its cost via the small but loyal membership. Sadly the club has lost one of its oldest members. Jan Hague passed away earlier this year at the ripe young age of 95 and will be remembered as one of our most committed and enthusiastic players. We continue to attend charity events around the county, raising money for local and national organizations, which provides much needed support within the community. Our programme of friendly matches has increased again this year to cover selected clubs in both Somerset and Devon. Again members have attended bowling holidays throughout the south-west, and continue to return with winner's trophies and runners-up shields. As with every club, we continue to seek new members.

CORFE QUILTERS (Clerk for Mrs S Ford)

As usual we continue as a productive group of ladies (no men have joined us yet but they would be made welcome). We still have a waiting list, unfortunately. We will be holding our Biennial Quilt Exhibition in the village hall on Sunday May 28 th and Monday the 29 th. Proceeds will be in aid of The Beacon Centre, Taunton. It is always good to see people from our village at the exhibition and we hope lots will support us this year. Refreshments are available. Over the years we have raised over £11000 for local charities.

CORFELIFTS (Cllr K.Brown).

The number of journeys made is down 10% on last year but as we respond to need this is not an issue. We are extremely grateful to the Charity for Allotments for their financial support for the insurance costs, the main outgoing.

The County Council is still paying the bus concession, subsidising 50% of lift costs of bus pass holders. Thank you to Pat Evans for her hard work in finding drivers and to the drivers themselves, and also to Jacqueline Breslin as Treasurer.

CORFE AND PITMINSTER GARDENING SOCIETY (Mrs A. Finchett).

The group continues to 'flourish'.

CORFE ART GROUP.

The group no longer meets formally but individuals continue to pursue this activity.

TREE WARDEN (Clerk for Mrs G Lewis)

Nothing new to report this year.

ST.NICHOLAS PARISH CHURCH (Mrs A Jeffery).

At the Annual Parochial Church meeting held in the Church on 24th April Keith Vodden and Ann Jeffery were re-elected as Churchwardens for the coming year. Angela Vodden was re-elected Treasurer and reported that we are holding our own from a financial point of view. Thank you to Angela for her ongoing work.

Three major pieces of work have been carried out during the year. Part of the floor at the back of the Church has been replaced due to wet rot; wood throughout the Church has been treated after decay and woodworm were found in the roof of the chancel. We have a written guarantee protecting us for the next 25 years; the east end of the outside of the Church has been repointed. This also involved renewing and replacing the crucifix on the apex of the roof and installation of a concealed gutter along the slope of the roof on the south east corner. All of the work has been paid for so we look forward to an encouraging report from our architect during the summer's quinquennial inspection. We had a very successful Christmas tree event in December and look forward to the Fete on June 3rd and our fundraising weekend 24/25th June which includes a flower festival, open gardens and scarecrow exhibition.

The Revd David Ager our Associate Priest retired in October and we are in the process of making a new appointment. We have a new Youth Worker, James Hall, who runs the monthly Open on Sunday in the village hall.

We thank our merry band of ringers who ring for all Services. Thanks are also due to Shirley Grinter our faithful organist; Angela Yarde our Church Cleaner, Christine Bradbeer who organised door lockers, flower arrangers and the Church electoral roll, and Keith who organises churchyard mowers and bell ringers. Visitors signing the visitors' book remark on how good it is to find a church open during the week. We are so fortunate in having a small friendly place of worship in the centre of the village.

CORFE PARISH COUNCIL (Cllr J Harrison)

Corfe Parish Council convened 6 times and in May 2016 John Harrison was elected Chairman & Brian Lenthall Vice Chairman.

I would like to thank Councillor Portfolio holders for carrying out their duties and Louise our Parish Clerk for keeping us on the straight and narrow and looking after our finances. We also had a new Councillor join us, Trina Hosie, filling a vacancy.

Planning: we were consulted on a number of applications, none of which were contentious and we responded accordingly to Taunton Deane.

Speed Watch: the continued speeding of vehicles in the village remains one of our main concerns, regular SIDs are installed and an occasional Police motor cyclist monitors speeds.

At last we have had some yellow lines placed at the entrance to the village however they may have had more effect had they been of the rumble type but we will wait and see. This appears to be the most we are going to get as extra signage outside the village was declined for lack of funds.

We have discussed installing our own illuminated SID speed sign to be incorporated in the village gateway which with the completion of Newton Court can now be looked into further.

In addition there have been a number of requests to Highways to renew white lines and signs within the village and on the edge of the Parish few of which have been dealt. Highways has however spent some money renewing the gullies near the Race Course to reduce flooding.

TDBC and Somerset CC: thanks go to Councillor John Williams leader of TDBC for his continued attendance at our meetings, his guidance and keeping us up to date with developments within the Borough.

Also thank you to Ross Henley our County Councillor for his assistance with the road signs and markings.

The Precept was unfortunately raised again to cover increased PC costs but not as much as had we not combined the village hall and PC insurance with a more realistic rebuild cost of the hall, making a substantial saving.

Corfe Website is a success and now has clearer contact forms and improved layout and is bringing in advertising revenue.

Twitter also has a number of followers, proving useful for getting announcements out more quickly.

Neighbourhood Watch and Police Liaison continues thanks to Neil Bailey who keeps us informed of activity within our area.

The S106 funds first phase for the children's play area will be completed in the next few days and is proving to be a great success and has come within budget. Thanks go to David Royle for all his hard work completing this project, unfortunately coming in for some criticism along the way but all has turned out well. Not forgetting also, Brian Lenthall for his help with time and machinery.

The Second Phase of the S106 funds for Outdoor Recreation projects is progressing. A container to be placed at the side of the hall, delayed due to the weather preventing base preparation will now soon be installed. This will be used by the hall for long overdue storage and Youth Club equipment. We thank the Club for their financial contribution. Once in position it will be clad and decorated.

A further project is a defibrillator to be located externally to the hall. Our research was helped by a TDBC presentation attended by Cllr Hosie. We can save some of the S106 by applying for a TDBC grant.

Other projects under consideration are exercise equipment, basketball hoop, cricket nets, village hall broadband and refurbishing the football goal mouth. We welcome any other suggestions.

Unfortunately we were wrongly led to believe that long awaited French doors for the hall would come under S106. This is not the case so the work has now been ordered, funding will be by way of a grant and funds from Corfe Fete 2016.

FETE: Corfe held a Fete last June and it was a great success, thanks must go out to Trina & Bill Hosie for the idea and bringing it to fruition, raising £4743.48 shared equally between the Parish Council and St Nicholas Church.

This year's fete on 3rd June will be opened by the Mayor of Taunton. There will be over 50 stalls, an air display, food and drink, birds of prey and music. Thanks again to Trina & Bill and all those involved in the planning and the day itself. Hopefully this event will again be a fun day and a great success.

Trina and Bill have been very busy since moving to Corfe, refurbishing the Old Vicarage, organising the Fete and now opening Corfe's very own tearooms, Wellies and I am sure we all wish them every success.

This year has also seen the addition of two new grit bins, the decorating of the Notice Boards and refurbishment of the Memory Tree on Queens Acre.

Chairman Cllr John Harrison thanked everyone for their attendance and the presentation of reports and closed the meeting at 7pm.

The next Annual Meeting of the Parish of Corfe will be at 6.30pm on Tuesday 1st May 2018.