

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF CORFE PARISH COUNCIL  
TUESDAY 1st MAY 2018 at 7.15pm CORFE VILLAGE HALL.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Harrison (Chair), Cllr B Lenthall, (Vice Chair) Cllr K Brown, Cllr C Brown, Cllr J Jackson, Cllr D Bradbeer. 11 Members of the public and representatives of Parish clubs and associations. Clerk L. Mackley  
SC Cllr J Thorne.

**3314: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Cllr J Williams (TDBC)

**3315: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Harrison, Almshouse Trust. Cllr C Brown, Village Hall Committee.

**3316: ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.** Cllr Harrison stood down as Chair and invited any volunteers to stand. Cllr Lenthall proposed Cllr Harrison for another term. This was seconded by Cllr Bradbeer. Cllr Harrison was duly elected as Chair.

**3317: ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN.** Cllr Lenthall stood down as Vice-Chair. Volunteers were invited to stand. Cllr C Brown proposed Cllr Lenthall for another term. This was seconded by Cllr K Brown. Cllr Lenthall was duly elected as Vice-Chair.

**3317A: CASUAL VACANCY/CO-OPTION VOTE OF NEW COUNCILLOR.** Corfe resident Wayne O'Brien had expressed interest via the recent Questionnaire in standing as Councillor. Cllr Harrison invited him to address the meeting. Mr O'Brien had grown up in Cornwall, moving to Exeter and then last June to Corfe with his family. He has worked for 14 years as a radiographer. He wished to have a greater understanding of what happens in Corfe and would like to contribute to the community. Cllr K Brown stated the importance of having a willing volunteer and it was important the Council was complete with seven Councillors as often, with absences decisions could not be agreed. He proposed that Mr O'Brien be co-opted to the Council with immediate effect. This was seconded by Cllr C Brown. Cllr O'Brien was invited to join the Council for the remainder of the meeting, receiving an enthusiastic welcome from the audience. A Declaration of Office was signed.

**3318: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 6TH MARCH 2018.** There was one correction to Minute 3310 - defib is £1066. The Minutes having been circulated and published were duly approved and signed as an accurate record.

**3319: MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES.** There were no matters arising.

**3320: CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM LIMITED ASSURANCE REVIEW.** The Clerk had circulated the Annual Accounts as well as the Annual Governance & Accounting Statements. Last years external audit cost £200. Parish Council's with income and expenditure each less than £25,000 can certify themselves exempt from a limited assurance review. This was agreed and the Certificate of Exemption was signed by the Chairman.

**3321: APPROVAL OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2017/18.** Having been circulated to the Council by the Clerk it was duly approved and signed by the Clerk and the Chairman.

**3322: APPROVAL OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENT 2017/18.** Having been circulated to the Council by the Clerk it was duly approved and signed by the Clerk and the Chairman. All the statements will be published on the village website and a period of public inspection advertised.

**3323: FINANCES & ANNUAL ACCOUNTS SUMMARY 2017/18.** The Annual Accounts had been circulated to the Council and distributed to the audience with this evening's Agenda. Payments made between meetings: £240 Grant Thornton audit, £11.97 defib cabinet cleaner, £365.76 Mountstephens Electricals (Hall).

Payments to authorise: Clerk wages £220, Marquee £1671.80 incl VAT (refunded to Clerk), Zurich Insurance (Hall) £697.55, Tony Dewhirst (Hall drainage) £522.50, Andrew Moloney (Online survey hosting) £22, SALC Fees (2018/19) £84.33, Corfe Fete Fund (VAT refund) £19.08. Income received: £3000 Precept, £304.80 V. Hall for electrical works, £205.99 VAT refund. VAT claim pending: £379.59. CURRENT BALANCE AFTER ALL TRANSACTIONS: £11,037.50.

### **3324: CHANGE OF NAME OF BLACKDOWN & NEROCHE COUNTY ELECTION DIVISION.**

Cllr Thorne explained that division names were under review with adoption requiring a special meeting of the CC. 'Blackdown & Neroche' reflects its rural nature but not the quarter of Wellington that is also included. A new name was suggested by SCC to incorporate that area e.g. 'Neroche & Wellington East'.

'Blackdown & Neroche including Wellington East' had been deemed 'too long' by the Monitoring Officer. 11 interested Parishes are being consulted, until 25 May. Cllr K Brown explained how the area covered both rural and urban communities and the name should reflect all three areas, and by leaving out 'Blackdown' the title no longer accurately represents the area. The view of the PC was that 'Blackdown, Neroche & Wellington East' was preferred.

ACTION: Cllr K Brown/Clerk to draft reply to the consultation.

Change to order of Agenda to accommodate Cllr Thorne's other commitments:

### **3326: REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR.**

**BROADBAND:** No figures had been provided for the number of Phase 2 connections. Progress was delayed and the matter would come before a Scrutiny Committee by the end of May. Cllr Thorne was arranging to meet with two other companies specialising in rural connections.

**POTHOLES:** An extra £4million was provided in Feb/March because of the exceptional weather. This year's budget is £3.66million without any extra pledged, equating to approx £203 per pothole. Cllr Thorne would be investigating this high figure.

**AONB:** Local organisations are encouraged to contribute reports, blogs etc to the new website.

**SCC HQ:** Full meeting of the Council on May 16 at Taunton Rugby Club as emergency repairs are underway to Shire Hall. Other A Block works require most meetings to be in the Library Committee Room.

**SIDS:** 60% of parishes have expressed interest in joining the new scheme.

**SMALL IMPROVEMENTS SCHEME:** Corfe's wish to construct a Village Gateway is still subject to approval by the SIS. There are 40 'old' schemes still to be completed in the next 12-20 months, some dating back to 2014. There have been 85 new submissions for approval, with overall cost £7.5million with a budget of £1.5million. Although Corfe hopes to self finance the Gateway the SIS has to first approve a design. The Councillors agreed this was causing unreasonable and excessive delay. Cllr Thorne confirmed that by self financing the scheme is more likely to be approved, however a decision on schemes in Ruishton and Hatch Beauchamp has been delayed again and again so no true time scale is known.

**HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND:** SCC is seeking to secure £80million from Govt. as 'forward funding' on infrastructure ahead of house building.

**LIBRARIES:** Consultation extended to 13 June. No decision until autumn.

**SPEEDWATCH:** suggest liaise with Stoke St Mary who are arranging their own training.

**POLICE:** A&S Police Commissioner, Public Drop In, Iron Duke, Wellington, 3pm 21 May.

**NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK:** Staplegrove development - may be affected by current discussions to relax conditional requirement for affordable housing.

### **3325: REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS.**

**PLANNING:** Cllr K Brown - (1)The dumping of waste materials, windows etc on the land opposite Pickeridge Farmhouse had been reported to TDBC. The land's use is restricted to agriculture. The landowner was served with a 28 day notice on 26 March. The enforcement officer is due to inspect the land to confirm compliance.

(2)A358 Consultation: HE has just reported their preferred route will be announced in the autumn. They may set up a community forum for discussion. However this needs to be before the announcement to have any merit. The decision is significant for Corfe depending on the junction location. Pressure needs to be maintained on HE.

(3) Newton Court road surfacing still not resolved. It appears the buck is being passed between Compass, TDBC and Corfe Estate. A letter to residents from Compass implied disagreement with conditions set by Corfe Estate. Another resident has highlighted this complaint to Cllr K Brown,

having lived with the conditions for 3 years, which are hazardous for children. The road should have been adopted one year after the sale of the final property (April 2017). Whilst the PC has no powers it can highlight the residents' views on their behalf.

ACTION: Cllr K Brown will draft a letter to TDBC Planning.

**HIGHWAYS:** Cllr Lenthall reported the repair of several potholes. Mill Lane repair still pending. There have been more accidents at the crossroads (Holman Clavel/Chard). Although this is within Otterford Parish the PC needs to maintain pressure on Highways to remedy the problem, requiring Stop rather than Give Way signage, and rumble strips on the B3170.

ACTION: Clerk to write again to SCC to highlight continuing concerns.

**RIGHTS OF WAY:** Nothing to report.

**WEBSITE:** Cllr Jackson explained that owing to the new General Data Protection Regulations (May 25) all subscribers to the village mailing list will receive an email directing them to a link to renew their consent to receive future communications. If that link is not followed the email addresses will need to be deleted.

**VILLAGE HALL:** Cllr C Brown thanked Judith for her thorough Annual Report. The village party for the Royal Wedding on 19 May will have a large screen. The BBC has waived the requirement for a licence. Judith reiterated that all are invited and it is an ideal opportunity to meet new people. A grant application will be made to Somerset Community Foundation by 11 May to seek help towards the refurbishment cost of the hall toilets.

**3327: CORRESPONDENCE/QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS.** The Clerk thanked everyone who had helped with deliveries and also all respondents. Paper comments had been added to the online survey and included in the statistical breakdown. Questionnaires had been delivered to all 129 homes in the parish, covering 257 registered electors. Only 37 (14%) completed it in full, another 17 were partial responses (7%). Assuming one reply per household - 42% of households replied. Fewer than 5 new subscribers for the mailing list were identified. Some very useful comments were recorded in respect of priorities for the village, hall upkeep and social activities as well as the future focus of spending and these will be explored further. The anonymised comments had been circulated to the Parish Council, Village Hall Committee and Neighbourhood Watch as stated on the Questionnaire. Speeding and traffic calming measures are the main priority of most respondents, as well as road/pavement repairs, improved hall parking, and removing the storage container. Various new clubs and evening classes were suggested and it was hoped that by holding an informal social get together people would be able to exchange views as well as encourage community involvement in establishing new events. It was hoped to have a get together, either in the hall or the pub prior to the next PC Meeting in July.

The 6pm start time of Parish Council Meetings was deemed too early by some (NB: a trial last year of a 6.30pm start did not result in increased attendance of the public).

ACTION: Clerk would report further by email/hall noticeboard.

**3328: ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** Cllr Harrison reminded all of the requirement for an annual safety inspection of the play area. A quote had been obtained of £88 inspection + £30.50 risk assessment. It was agreed to go ahead, after the log swing had been repaired. Wood treatment was needed, as well as spreading of new bark. Cllr Lenthall needed volunteers to assist him.

ACTION: Cllr Harrison to arrange the inspection, and a working party to assist in maintenance.

Cllr Lenthall stated that there was a noticeable lack of interest from the Councillors to stand as Chair. He thanked Cllr Harrison for taking on this position for another year as well as his work behind the scenes. All agreed.

Ann Jeffery asked that Louise also be thanked for her hard work as Clerk. All agreed.

There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.15pm.

**The next meeting would be held at 6pm Tuesday 3rd July 2018 in the village hall.**