

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF CORFE  
HELD AT 6.30pm TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2018 CORFE VILLAGE HALL.**

**PRESENT.** Cllr J Harrison, Cllr B Lenthall, Cllr K Brown, Cllr D Bradbeer, Cllr C Brown, Cllr J Jackson, Clerk L Mackley and 11 members of the public.

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

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

TDBC Cllr J Williams, Sue Ford.

**MINUTES.**

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 2nd May 2017 were confirmed and duly signed.

**REPORTS OF PARISH ORGANISATIONS.**

**CORFE VILLAGE HALL AND QUEENS ACRE COMMITTEE - Mrs Judith Richards.**

The Village Hall Annual Accounts for 2017/18 are consistent with those for the previous few years. Income was up on last year at £8,685 (2016/17 £8,329) with recurring costs marginally down on last year at £6,303 (2016/17 £6,352). Project costs for replacing the curtains and purchasing canvas prints of the village were £1,560, which was slightly ahead of the £1,267 from last year which was spent on replacing some of the playground equipment. Overall the surplus achieved was ahead of last year at £822 (2016/17 £710).

We have again been well supported by our regular customers, the Quilting and Dressmaking Groups, the Mature Movers, Short Mat Bowls, the Art Group, the Gardening Club, the Toddler Group and The Blackdown Hills Youth Club. We have also added another activity for Tasty Tots which started in January. After a quieter first 6 months the number of bookings for children's parties and other lettings increased but overall were still slightly lower than the bookings for last year.

We had our usual village events with the Spring and Summer flower shows, wine tastings, the Corfe Bake Off and two successful quiz nights. The Christmas Party again proved popular and it was good to see a busy hall with people of all ages enjoying a tasty meal and a glass or two of mulled wine, well at least those over

18 !! The 100+ Club continues to be a key cornerstone of our income and although ticket sales were slightly lower than last year we did have a one off benefit of merging the 100+ Club savings account into the main Village Hall account.

Overall costs have remained broadly in line with last year despite the introduction of a professional cleaning company following the move of Andy and Joan Fogwill to Churchinford. Despite moving away from the village Andy continued to provide a great service and it was with great sadness that we unexpectedly lost both him and

Joan through their untimely deaths. They were both hard working supporters of the village and will be greatly missed. We are also indebted to the committee members and other volunteers who help out to ensure the smooth running of the village hall.

As well as replacing the curtains and purchasing the canvas prints, improvements were also made to the outdoor lighting following the generous provision of funding by the Parish Council to put in patio doors. We will continue to invest in improvements going forward so we can maintain the high standard of our village hall.

Finally it would be remiss of me not to thank Kevin Smith who stepped down as Chairman this year (replaced by Judith Richards) and to David Royle who stepped down as Treasurer (replaced by Keith Gosling) although David remains an active member of the committee and does a sterling job with village hall bookings and general activities and maintenance. Rupert Dugdale is providing temporary cover as Secretary and Andrea Biss has also recently joined the committee. More members would of course be very welcome.

### **CHARITY FOR ALLOTMENTS – Mrs Ann Finchett.**

During the year the Charity has received income from its investment in the Charities Official Investment Fund amounting to £2680. From this £2054 has been spent on the rental of three Deane Helplines for parishioners. These are a vital source of communication and reassurance for ill or incapacitated parishioners who might need emergency help at any time of the day or night, and the Trustees are very glad they can help in this way. A grant has been given to Corfe Parish Council to help with mowing costs of the Queen's Acre, and to Corfelifts to pay for the group insurance for drivers who maintain this essential help for parishioners who have no transport for journeys to hospital, doctors' surgeries, and shopping. The Charity also pays for a small annual outing for those who have no transport and for those who help them with general care and companionship.

The Trustees of the Charity are Mrs. Ann Jeffery (the Chairman), Mrs. Christine Bradbeer, Mrs. Audrey Derrick, Mrs. Pat Evans and Mr. David Royle, and any of them can be asked for advice if any cases of need are known, or the Clerk, Mrs. Ann Finchett.

### **CORFE, PITMINSTER AND TRULL ALMSHOUSE CHARITY- Clerk Louise Mackley for Cllr John Harrison.**

Good progress has been made during the last year in completing the refurbishment of the cottages. This has been possible largely with the generous support of Taunton Heritage Trust. Access to cottage No 3 in March 2017 was unfortunately only possible through a County Court Ruling. The refurbishment of this cottage was then undertaken and alternative temporary accommodation was found for the resident whilst the work was being carried out. Following this, the resident moved back in on the basis that he undertook the redecoration of the interior and this work was finally completed in the autumn.

Leslie Truscott who had lived in cottage No 2 for many years died and the Trustees decided to carry out some repair and maintenance work in order to upgrade the cottage which had been well maintained. At the same time, the garden was cleared ready for the new resident's arrival. A number of good applicants applied for the vacant cottage and a lady Resident was appointed in September 2017. Following the refurbishment and upgrade work, Fair Rent

Reviews were carried out on Nos. 2 & 3 so that all four cottages have now been independently assessed. The subsequent increase in rents has been applied to all future Weekly Maintenance Contributions spread over the next three years.

The Trustees appointed Vicky Chapman, a local resident, as Secretary and Trustee in October 2017.

In January 2018 Energy Performance Certificates were obtained for the cottages to ascertain current and potential energy ratings. With this evidence the Trustees plan to undertake further work later this year to improve the heating and insulation of the cottages, subject to funds being obtained. Further work on fundraising is currently being carried out.

David Ledger has resigned as Corfe's representative and we are seeking a new Trustee.

### **CORFE SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB – Cllr David Bradbeer.**

Owing to the untimely death of Andrew and Joan Fogwill our membership is down to 11, ranging in age from 30s to 90s. We meet on Monday evenings in Corfe village hall at 7.30pm and would welcome anyone who would like to come along and join us. Friendly matches are often played and we also enter some local low key tournaments.

### **CORFE QUILTERS – Clerk Louise Mackley for Mrs Sue Ford.**

We had a very successful exhibition last May and raised £2400 for the Beacon Centre. We continue as before with weekly meetings in the village hall and have occasional workshops where we learn more skills from fellow members and professional quilters.

### **CORFELIFTS - Cllr Ken Brown.**

Corfelifts continues to provide a voluntary community car scheme for Corfe and Pitminster village residents. It is now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year.

During 2016/17 259 journeys were made, almost half of which were related to health appointments, in addition Ann Jeffery provided a medication collection service for patients with the Churchinford practice. Fewer journeys were required last year, but this is not an issue, as the service is a safety net, to be used if and when needed, and demands will inevitably fluctuate. As the overheads are minimal – the main outgoing being insurance – periods of inactivity are not a problem. We are grateful for the annual grant from the Allotments Society to cover those insurance costs.

Income for the year was £863, and outgoings £853, mainly the expense payments to drivers. The scheme has 41 registered users and 13 drivers.

At the AGM Pat Evans announced her intention, for health reasons, to stand down as coordinator, but happily she will continue as Chairman, having been the mainstay of Corfelifts since it began. Mary Goddard has kindly volunteered to take over as coordinator, with cover from Jacqueline Breslin and Ken Brown.

Sadly, we lost one of our stalwart drivers, Richard Morgan in 2017. Richard had driven for the scheme for over 10 years, with over 100 journeys.

Corfelifts is a member of the West Somerset Car Scheme Partnership, which has 15 groups in the area and provides valuable joint services such as insurance and a forum for negotiation

with the County Council. The Council continues to provide a 50% contribution towards the cost of journeys for concessionary travel card holders.

### **TREE WARDEN – NOTHING TO REPORT.**

### **THE BLACKDOWN BENEFICE – ST NICHOLAS’ CHURCH, CORFE – Mrs Ann Jeffery.**

At the Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018 Keith Vodden and Ann Jeffery were reappointed Churchwardens. Parochial Church Council Members and Sidesmen were also appointed. Mrs Pat Evans who has been a faithful member of the PCC retired through ill health after many years’ service. Looking back on the past year we were very grateful for the generous gift of proceeds of the Fete at the beginning of June. The Flower Festival and Scarecrow Competition on 26/27 June were much enjoyed as was the Magic Lantern Slideshow held in October, all contributing to Church funds, as did the Christmas Tree event outside the church with mulled wines and mince pies. We were grateful to the Choir of St Mary Magdalene who sang Evensong for us in July and sang at our Carol Service in December. We welcomed our new Associate Priest, the Revd Nick Griffin at Service in the Church on January 18<sup>th</sup>, which was conducted by the Archdeacon of Taunton, the Revd Simon Hill who preached an excellent sermon. The Service was followed by refreshments in the village hall. We have a regular Service in the Church on the first and second Sundays of the month, the third and fourth and indeed fifth Sundays are moveable feasts when we visit one of the other five churches in the Benefice. We look forward to Corfe Fete on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and the Safari Lunch on 16<sup>th</sup> June.

Thanks are due to Shirley Grinter, our faithful organist, Angela Yarde who cleans the church so efficiently, Angela Vodden our very efficient Treasurer, Ann Finchett our Sacristan, Christine Bradbeer who organises flowers and the church locking rota, and Keith Vodden who organises bell ringing and churchyard mowing.

An innovation this year was the placing of a life sized cross outside the church at Easter, decorated with flowers and greenery – it was much admired by the congregation and people passing by. Thanks for this are due to Keith Vodden and Peter Arcott. A new back gate to the churchyard is now in place – this was made by Richard Bradbeer and has been partly funded by a former parishioner. We are so fortunate in having a small friendly place of worship in the centre of the village.

### **CORFE PARISH COUNCIL - Cllr J Harrison**

We convened six times and held two Extraordinary Meetings this year.

At the AGM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 John Harrison was elected Chairman and Brian Lenthall Vice Chairman. I would like to thank Councillors for carrying out their portfolio duties and Louise our Parish Clerk for keeping us correct, informed and looking after our finances.

Planning we were consulted on a number of applications, some of which were not contentious, and we responded accordingly to Taunton Deane. However, the two Extraordinary Meetings were to discuss, and formulate a response. The first application was to erect an agricultural

building on land opposite Pickeridge Farmhouse which Taunton Deane eventually refused. The other being to respond to Highways England proposal for a new M5 junction and dual carriageway, between Southfields and Taunton. Both of the excellent responses were prepared by Councillor Ken Brown.

The Speedwatch portfolio has for the time being been suspended due to a lack of interest to take over the running of it. Councillor Chris Brown has been at the forefront for a number of years and our thanks to him. It is hoped that a villager can be found to take over the lead as it serves as a useful reminder to the many speeding motorists. SCC was going to cease with SIDs as the machinery is old and expensive to replace. We started looking into costings to jointly purchase our own with Pitminster PC. SCC have now asked Parish Councils to pay a contribution to a new scheme, we have agreed to and hope to have a site at either end of the village twice a year.

*A discussion took place – interest in Speedwatch had waned due to the inaction of the Police. Speeding was the primary concern highlighted in the Questionnaire answers. The size/weight restriction was being ignored by lorries and it was important, if safe to do so, to obtain the vehicle registrations and hauliers name and report to the Police.*

Highways On behalf of us all I must thank Councillor Brian Lenthall for always being ready to assist the village by communicating with Highways, removing snow or helping Corfe Fete with his machinery. Without him life would be somewhat difficult and different and certainly more expensive for the village.

Rights of Way Thank you also to Councillor David Bradbeer for keeping the footpath field entrances clear for our use.

TDBC and Somerset CC Reporting. Thank you to Councillor John Williams leader of TDBC and Councillor John Thorne for their continued attendance at our meetings and keeping us up to date with developments within the borough and county and for their guidance, including Highways England's proposals.

The Precept saw a small increase to cover a rise in PC costs and some unforeseen works. It may well be the same next year to fund the additional costs of the SIDs scheme.

Corfe Website is well presented and continuing to be a success thanks to Councillor Jonathan Jackson and Andrew Moloney.

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

S106 funds. The first phase for the children's play area has now been completed. The second phase for outdoor recreational projects is progressing and included the container now in situ with lighting, which is being successfully used. The defibrillator was installed with costs covered by S106 and a Somerset Community Foundation grant. The village had a very interesting training session. This can be repeated if there is sufficient demand. Do not be afraid to use the machine, once switched on it will talk you through the procedure. *Following a question from Lesley Brown re indemnity insurance Cllr Harrison will check with the provider, Heartstart and report back. A YouTube video is available on how to operate it.*

Other areas we are looking at are the refurbishment of the football goal mouth, the car park and fencing. There is currently £8854.00 available for projects.

Projects outside S106 Funds. The patio doors were successfully installed and drainage work has been put in place to prevent flooding of the village hall. A PA system and a marquee have been purchased from Corfe Fete funds, for use at the fete and village functions leaving a balance of £2078.00 available for projects. Thank you to everyone who helped in the planting of daffodils at the northern entrance to the village. They certainly make a difference.

The decision for a gateway to Corfe is currently with SCC, to provide us with approved schemes to consider. We currently hold funds of £3327 for this.

The Corfe household questionnaire has collected some very valid views which will be discussed and actioned where possible. One positive result from the questionnaire was the offer of a resident to stand as a Councillor to fill the vacancy left by Catrina Hosie, who stepped down last year due to work commitments.

Fete. Corfe held its second fete last June and it was a great success, thank you again to Catrina & Bill Hosie and all involved for their hard work, which raised £7609.00 shared between the Parish Council and St Nicholas Church. Cream teas at Wellies raised an additional £450 for the church. This year's fete on 2<sup>nd</sup> June will include stalls, an air display, auction, food and drink, birds of prey, pony rides, raffles and live music.

Thank you to all involved in planning to make this another successful fete. Hopefully the weather will again be good to us.

Thank you all for your attendance this evening and to those who have given reports.

The meeting concluded at 7.15pm