

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CORFE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT CORFE VILLAGE HALL, TUESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER 2018.**

Present: Cllr J Harrison, Cllr B Lenthall, Cllr K Brown, Cllr C Brown, Cllr J Jackson, Cllr D Bradbeer, Cllr W OBrien, Clerk L Mackley. Seven members of the public incl. J. Richards, Village Hall Chairperson .TDBC Cllr J Williams.

Chairman Cllr Harrison opened the meeting at 7pm, welcoming all.

3343: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. SCC Cllr J Thorne, D. Royle.

3344: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Cllr Harrison: Almshouse Trust. Cllr C Brown: Village Hall Committee.

3345: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 3rd JULY 2018.

The Minutes having been circulated and published were duly approved and signed as an accurate record.

3346: MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES.

- A358 CONSULTATION: No progress to report.
- VILLAGE HALL: work undertaken on the refurbishment of toilets and entrance are stunning. S106 funds cannot be used.
- PLAYAREA: Annual inspection completed and good report received, nothing major. Cllr Harrison and David Royle will discuss points raised.
- CLERK: vacancy remains unfilled despite adverts and enquiries.
- BENCHES: two sturdy benches purchased for QA from Fete funds.
- GOALMOUTH: Parsons yet to commence work despite advising 'mid-September'. Cllr Harrison to chase up start date.

3347: REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.

Cllr Williams, TDBC;

- Following SCC proposals to close the Park & Ride, which would be a waste of investment and damaging to the town's economy TDBC has stepped in to run it for a year. Working together with SCC and the bus company it is hoped to make it commercially sustainable. It will be subject to review but is at least safe for another year.
- Deane House full refurbishment underway. TDBC will let 1/3 of the space to the Police thus guaranteeing an operational police station in Taunton for 15-30 more years. The Shuttern station will close with staff relocating Feb/March 2019.
- The establishment of the new joint council is progressing well. The old councils will close at the end of March with shadow council in operation until elections on 2 May. This will result in £3.1 billion savings p.a. New infrastructure , connectivity and digital technology will ensure 24/7 access to services. The council is legally required to set a balanced budget.
- A358 - no news or indication of HE's preferred route, due to be announced in 'late Autumn' - although this could mean December.
- Cllr Williams acknowledged that this was Louise's last meeting as Clerk and thanked her for a her help and hard work and was sure she would be missed by the council and the community.
- QUESTIONS FROM CLLRS:
- Cllr Bradbeer asked about progress with the former market site. Cllr Williams stated that planning application was progressing and S106 agreements were still to be finalised. Two plots owned by third parties were under negotiation. Compulsory purchase orders could not be considered until planning agreement finalised. Huge amount of work going on that is not immediately apparent. Network Rail to build a large multi-storey carpark which will require further SCC road improvements and junctions. Discussion took place of the negative impression the empty site gives visitors to the County Town, particularly visitors to the cricket ground who

struggled to find parking places. TDBC is in talks with the Cricket Club ahead of next year's international matches.

Cllr Thorne, SCC. Report summarised by Cllr Harrison.

- BUDGET constraints mean parishes must pay for road salt for bins. Preventative gritting of many roads to stop. Hedging and ditching to be reactive. Slinkybus to charge half fare to concessionary passholders. Youth Services financial support to stop, and most funding to CAB.
- PARK & RIDE: TDBC to fund until Sept 2019. Talks ongoing with commercial operators.
- ROADS: live road info on maintenance available on www.travelsomerset.co.uk/structural-maintenance
- DRAGONPATCHER in use this month and again Feb 2019 - machine repairs potholes and cracks with one operator working 5 times faster than traditional road gang.
- PLASTIC ROADS: SCC looking at using recycled plastics for road repairs, monitoring trials in Cumbria, in conjunction with Skanska.
- FLU JABS: contact your GP or pharmacist.
- DEMENTIA CARE: With fewer people wishing to attend day care centres SCC will fund personalised community based services instead.
- BROADBAND: Gigaclear have scheduled works in Churchinford, Corfe and Pitminster.
- LIBRARIES: Proposals postponed until after cabinet meeting Nov 5th.
- LEARNING DISABILITIES: Peer support group in Taunton seeking volunteers , email JBellew@somerset.gov.uk.
- YOUNG PEOPLE: SCC appealing for advocates for children in care. Involves training course. Voluntary role with expenses paid. Info at www.route1advocacy.co.uk.
- SHELTERED HOUSING SUPPORT: In future money will be used to directly commission services via Community Connect (Community Council for Somerset) rather than paying TDBC to commission care for their tenants.
- BLACKDOWNS AONB: given notice to leave leased premises at Hemyock in March 2019. Seeking premises in or adjoining AONB with 700 sq ft.

3348: REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS.

- **Planning:** Cllr K Brown (1) application to replace the dwelling at Hurley Farm has received no objections either from Corfe or the statutory agencies, in light of which a note of no objection by the PC was submitted to TDBC. Cllr Bradbeer expressed concern that heavy site traffic would use Adcombe Lane for access, Cllr K Brown anticipated the planning permission could be subject to certain constraints on access. TDBC not yet granted approval. (2) It is believed the dispute between the developer and former owners of Newton Court has been resolved with work to finish road and pathways commencing soon, lasting about eight weeks. Concerns were raised as to the future adoption of the road. The current state with raised ironworks is particularly dangerous.
- **Highways:** Cllr Lenthall reported that patching has taken place on Corfe Hill, with some major works at the top still pending. No salt will be available this year. ACTION: Cllr Lenthall to look at costings to ensure the key bins can be filled if required. Highways will complete the tarmac road edgings up to the new hall parking area.
- **Rights of Way:** Cllr Bradbeer had nothing to report but had raked in the play area chippings. He expressed concern that the goalmouth had been 'condemned'. ACTION: Cllr Harrison, Cllr Bradbeer and David Royle to meet to discuss the safety report. Cllr Lenthall reported that the footpath sign for the field at the rear of the hall was damaged. ACTION: Cllr Bradbeer to arrange replacement.
- **Website:** Cllr Jackson reported all was running smoothly.
- **Village Hall:** Cllr C Brown reported that the Committee was very pleased with the refurbishment. Judith agreed it was a huge improvement to the hall giving it a greater status. The entrance way is far better with new doors etc. Noticeboards may be placed on the porch walls. Fortunately there is no damp in the Newton Lane wall but the tapestry has been rehung on batons to allow for air circulation as hall activities were causing condensation. More plans were under discussion for when funds available.

3349: FINANCES.

Income received: TDBC Grant £605, bench refund £100, VAT £660.11.

VAT claim pending: £166.76 (Hall and carpark works will have VAT to reclaim too)

Payments made pre meeting: Parsons £180.33 (June - Aug) VAT to Fete Committee £202.21, Benches for QA £699.98 (before refund)

Payments to authorise: Clerk wages £330 (July - Sept) Remembrance wreath £17 (Jack Leeming to lay) Church burial ground grant £140, Kevin Denslow v.hall plumbing £595, David Marks Carpets v.hall flooring £690, Rob Lock v.hall works £669 (these three from Fete funds)

BALANCE: £11,250. (Gateway £3327, Fete £3055, Basic £4868)

Hall costs approx £8700 to date, incl. vat and £1954 costs authorised above. Additional costs for decorating etc. Payment due on completion. PC had pledged £2500 from Fete funds - see above. Final contribution to be discussed again with Hall Committee.

Fete funds had paid for the QA benches and hall works - there had been regular PC public discussion about how best to spend the money raised by the fete.

S106 funds available: £8854 + £500 for goalmouth. Carpark works to be paid from S106.

3350: PROPOSAL TO CHANGE WEEKDAY/TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC ATTENDANCE.

The Village Questionnaire had received suggestions to alter the time and day of the meetings. The Clerk and David Royle had examined the availability of weekdays in cooperation with other groups and the second Wednesday of every other month at 7pm was suggested . A lengthy discussion took place with comments by members of the public and whilst 7pm was preferred the majority saw no reason to change from Tuesdays. ACTION: November and January meetings to remain Tuesday 7pm. Public attendance to be discussed at January meeting and future schedule set for 2019.

3351: CORRESPONDENCE.

- New guidance received from SCC regarding school admissions procedures for 2019. Information would be available on Corfe website and social media. SCC would not have public posters or letters to parents.
- A Community Thinking Day is planned for Saturday 13th October at Churchinford Village Hall with the aim of bringing together community leaders to discuss areas of concern and promote working together. Cllr Bradbeer would attend to represent Corfe.

3352: ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

- Work on the carpark is nearly finished. Cllr Harrison thanked Tony Dewhirst and his team and Cllr Lenthall for all their hard work. The results were excellent - the new fencing, gateway and paving was a positive improvement. At least one new car space has been created.
- Cllr Harrison as Chairman of Corfe Pitminster and Trull Almshouse Charity described how repairs to the cottages had cost over £20,000. Further improvements were required to upgrade an old system of storage heaters. Grants were restricted and he was asking all three Parish Councils to consider making a financial contribution. Cllr Jackson asked for more information on the link between the parishes and the almshouses. ACTION: Cllr Harrison would circulate a recent report to inform the Councillors ahead of any further discussion.
- Cllr Harrison thanked Louise for her work as clerk, 'a job well done'. Louise thanked the Councillors and others for their support and friendship during her five years as Clerk.
- Ann Jeffery informed the meeting that Corfe resident Sylvia Beer had died, aged 102. As Sylvia had researched and donated the 'History Tree' for Queen's Acre and paid for its recent repairs Ann asked the Council if Sylvia could be remembered by the addition of a plaque in her name. All agreed this was an excellent idea and memorial.
- Cllr K Brown reported that the PC had objected to the Local Govt Boundary Commission proposal to include Corfe in a new ward of 'Pitminster and Trull'. The suggestion of a Blackdowns ward comprising Corfe, Pitminster, Otterford and Churchstanton had been submitted to the Commission and was supported by those Parish Councils. A decision was awaited.
- Cllr O'Brien asked what provisions had been made to operate the PC without a Clerk. Cllr K Brown explained that there was a requirement to have a nominated representative for financial

matters. ACTION: Cllr Harrison to arrange a meeting of the Councillors before the November PC meeting.

There being no further matters to discuss, the meeting was concluded and closed at 8.05pm.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 6th November 2018 at 7pm.