**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF CORFE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2018 TO DISCUSS HIGHWAYS ENGLAND A358 TAUNTON TO SOUTHFIELDS DUALLING SCHEME PUBLIC CONSULTATION.**

**PRESENT**: Cllr J Harrison (Chair), Cllr B Lenthall ( Vice Chair), Cllr K Brown, Cllr C Brown, Cllr J Jackson, Cllr D Bradbeer, Clerk L.Mackley, Cllr Mike Farrell (Stoke St Mary Parish Council), SCC Cllr J Thorne.

20+ Members of the public

**3295: Apologies for Absence:** residents Ann Finchett and Ann Jeffrey, TDBC Cllr J Williams.

7pm:

Cllr Harrison opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The purpose of the meeting was to examine the three route options. Cllr Thorne would attend later in proceedings after another meeting. He welcomed Cllr Mike Farrell who would give a presentation and handed over to Cllr K Brown, holder of the Planning portfolio for Corfe Parish.

**3296:** Cllr Farrell introduced his presentation explaining that the figures used were from Highways England. The pros and cons of each route option were summarised. The full presentation is available via [www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk](http://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk) or the webpage

<http://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/A358-2-Southfields-to-M5-Killams-THE-FACTS-FINAL.pdf>

**3297**: Cllr Brown explained that the Parish Council had met with HE in a closed meeting on February 13th, with an opportunity to question the HE engineer and Mott MacDonald consultants. Concerns were raised with them that there is no modelling of peak summer traffic figures and the potential impact of the scheme on local roads was unknown.

Traffic count figures available from local road surveys in 2017 confirm the B3170 already carries 5000 vehicle journeys a day. The increased use of the B3170 as a rat run will have a significant impact on Corfe.

HE had stated that there were no plans for the foreseeable future for any improvements to the Southfields to Honiton road with the possible exception of limited safety measures. Cllr Brown explained that although the A358 upgrade is part of the National Road Network, subsequent development would fall to local authorities and as Junction F (Orange) has ample spare capacity it would be hard for local government to refuse further business or residential development, requiring local access to this junction.

Cllr Brown explained that tonight’s meeting was to inform residents of the details of the consultation’s three options and to enable the Parish Council to formulate their response to reflect the view of the community. HE had previously stated that the PC response would be considered as one view. As a statutory elected local body the PC response needs to be treated as representing the parish as a whole and weighted accordingly. It is therefore important that the PC response reflects the public view and feedback is very helpful. Cllr Brown encouraged all residents to submit individual responses before Tuesday 27th February. This has been a very short consultation period.

**3298:** Discussion and public questions/comment.

* Based on the information provided the Orange route is not viable and reluctantly the Pink route is better.
* The impact on Huish woods was noted .
* HE has not concluded surveys eg topographical, environmental.
* The Technical Appraisal Report has many gaps in information.
* Cllr K Brown – difficult not to be parochial but Orange has the worse impact on our parish.
* Current needs of Henlade should be considered and Orange does not meet these.
* Orange purports to be cheapest despite having additional bridges (HE has given these a standard and not site specific costing)
* The 6000+ community of Holway/ Blackbrook also only had 6 weeks to organise their response.
* The consultation process could be called in to question but costs of a judicial review are prohibitive.
* Local MP Rebecca Pow supports the scheme.
* The choice of a ‘mix and match’ route is not clear so impossible to comment on in advance.
* The interim submission from SCC is equivocal, they may accept a mix and match scheme.

7.55pm: Cllr Bradbeer left the meeting. SCC Cllr J Thorne arrived.

Cllr Thorne explained that the SCC response will be decided Friday 23rd February and he would include Corfe’s views. The CC is only a consultee in this process. The scheme does affect the whole county. Cllr Thorne represents 11 parishes and all views need to be reflected.

Cllr K Brown stated that the strong feeling of Corfe was that Orange is not in our interests and reluctantly proposes Pink as the least objectionable of the three options.

Cllr Thorne confirmed that the collective parishes’ view is that Pink is preferred but many would still prefer to tweak this in various ways.

Cllr Brown outlined the timescales , with a preferred route option to be announced in Autumn 2018. This is followed by a Development Consent Order after which Compulsory Purchase Orders can be made. Construction would begin in 2021 with the road opening in 2023.

There will be a further formal consultation after the preferred route announcement, with specific route and design details disclosed in a series of public meetings, seeking individuals’ views again.

Cllr Brown stressed the importance of individuals responding to the questionnaire. Views can be emailed to the Clerk. He would forward Corfe’s response to Cllr Thorne before Friday.

Cllr Thorne agreed that Corfe was clearly opposed to Orange and preferred Pink, under duress.

The Clerk encouraged people to register for the village mailing list, subscribing via the website [www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk](http://www.corfevillagesomerser.org.uk) or by emailing [corfeparishclerk@live.com](mailto:corfeparishclerk@live.com)

Cllr Harrison and Cllr Brown thanked Cllr Farrell for his presentation and everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

THE NEXT MEETING OF CORFE PARISH COUNCIL IS ON TUESDAY 6TH MARCH AT 6PM.