

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CORFE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT CORFE VILLAGE HALL, TUESDAY 3rd September 2019.

Present: Cllr J Harrison, Cllr Sanders, Cllr B Lenthall, Cllr B Hosie, Cllr C Brown, D Bradbeer, Cllr J Jackson.

County Cllr. John Thorne, TDBC Cllr. Martin Hill and 5 members of the public were present.

Chairman Cllr J Harrison opened the meeting at 6pm, welcoming all.

3404: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

No apologies noted.

3405: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Harrison: Corfe, Pitminster, and Trull Almshouse Charity.

Cllr C Brown: Village Hall Committee.

3406: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 2nd July 2019.

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

3407: MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES.

- CLERK - This position now has a potential taker: Mrs Sammi Millard-Jones.

3408: REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.

Cllr Thorne, SCC presented a detailed report. Please note the impending dates if you want to get involved in Dementia Care. The main points were as follows:

- Members Improving Lives Grant Scheme' – I recently sent a briefing paper with the detail of how this £2k fund will work and the criteria which needs to be met.
- Improving Lives to Prevent Demand Fund – Ditto for this £850k fund which is being administered by officers rather than councillors.
- Superfast broadband – Gigaclear submitted its revised plans to Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) on July 31. CDS, together with the Government's Building Digital UK (BDUK) agency, are analysing the new proposals in detail to see whether they can form an acceptable and credible recovery plan. I understand the CDS board meets this month and that will be when they make a decision and an update will be issued following the meeting. CDS has made much of the fact Gigaclear has continued to work 'at risk' in 31 areas but in response to my queries I have now been told this has so far only resulted in 473 premises being able to receive a service (not 473 connections, I note), a figure which CDS describes to me as 'disappointing progress'.
- School transport - For the first time in over 25 years the county council is now operating its own school bus fleet. We've bought seven 53-seat buses which are described as 'green' because they are low emission vehicles. It is a major investment in school transport service delivery and at the same time is saving money for the council. The new logo design shows silhouettes and scenes from around the county and will be used extensively in the future on minibuses, highway vans, and numerous other vehicles.
- Dementia Care in the Blackdowns – The county is organising a meeting in Churchinford to bring together the Blackdowns micro-providers at 7pm on Tuesday 10th September in the York Inn. It is hoped to strengthen links with parishes and develop awareness both for people to become micro-providers and also

about people's local options. See the Somerset Community Micro-enterprise Directory here https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B4G_vxabtN4FaklZm1Ocm1Najg/view for the latest info on local providers. It was updated this month so has the latest data.

- Stand Up for Care - The council's Stand Up For Care petition has now been backed by three major local government bodies. The petition calls for cross-party discussions before Christmas on how to address the national social care funding shortfall. Leaders of all political groups at the county council have given it their backing and now they have been joined by the Local Government Association, the County Council Network, and the Association for Directors of Adult Social Services. The petition is hosted on the www.petition.parliament.uk website and can be found by visiting the site and searching 'Somerset'.

- Emotional and Mental Health Support – Somerset has been granted £1m over the next three years to deliver EMH support for young people utilising trailblazer mental health support teams across the county. It is part of a national drive to improve emotional support in schools and forms part of the Somerset Wellbeing Framework 'whole school approach' to wellbeing and mental health. Initially, 25 schools will receive support teams to work on campus, and there will also be parent educational programmes provided by the voluntary sector with the next courses on 9th and 16th October. Full details are available from lfinnis@somerset.gov.uk who is the health promotion

Manager, and applications must be in by 16th September.

- Park & Ride – There was another incursion by travellers moving onto the Gateway P&R site during the Taunton Flower Show event at the beginning of August. I have said previously I want some physical measures introduced to prevent these incursions and I'm pleased to report county is now working up just such a scheme and is applying for the funding which will be needed. I will be pushing for this to be completed as soon as possible. In the meantime, inquiries are ongoing into how the travellers gained access to the site this time, as it should have been secured once the last bus had run.

- Winter Gritting – Our highways gritting policy review has been completed and the first deliveries of salt for the coming winter have started arriving at depots. The county is investing an extra £200,000 into the service this winter and has taken on board feedback to reassess all the criteria used to determine which roads will be gritted. This means an increase in the precautionary gritting network from approximately 720 miles to 900 miles of road, which will be treated every time ice or snow is forecast, similar to the amount which was covered in 2017-18. A map of the routes can be found at <https://somersetnewsroom.files.wordpress.com/2019/07/winter-service-2019-2020.pdf>

- Free business training - Social enterprises, charities, and co-operatives in Somerset can now sign up for free bespoke training, plus a grant of £1,200. The county is supporting the free training between September 2019 and January 2020. SCC is providing match funding of £250,000 which will enable draw down of England European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding in recognition of the wider benefits of the programme.

- Reducing flood risk – SCC is bidding for funding for schemes to help the county adapt to climate change by reducing flood risk through natural flood management rather than engineering. The resulting 'co-adapt' project will bring £2.53m from the European Regional Development Fund into Somerset over the next three-and-a-half years for the projects. The Somerset Flood Action Plan, drawn-up in the wake of the 2013/14 winter floods, included a commitment to develop long-term land management actions to reduce flood risk in the face of climate change.

- Higher education courses – A fantastic new 'Study Up' website has been launched to offer a one stop shop for students of all ages to find the right Higher Education course for them here in Somerset:

<http://www.studyupsomerset.org.uk/>

Cllr Hill, TDBC presented a short report. The main points were as follows:

The Coal Orchard development is underway, so expect disruption. This will include shops, restaurants, a gym, and 40 flats. The cost of the development being in the region of £14m. The Brewhouse car parking will be reduced from 120 spaces to just 40 spaces.

The Firepool Development is still awaiting investment although a future move of the Brewhouse Theatre to this site was suggested, however the cost involved would require considerable investment if this was to actually become a reality.

3409: REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS.

• Planning:

Cllr J. Sanders.

Reported that one application for a conversion of an existing structure adjacent to a dwelling had been received and approval had been given by the PC.

• Highways:

Cllr B. Lenthall.

Reported that patching had been applied to the main road and that major road resurfacing had been applied to the road beyond the golf course turning on Corfe Hill. Adcombe Lane will be surface dressed shortly and he expects the main road to be done next year. The crossroads at the top of the hill, despite being outside of our Parish, continues to be of major concern following many accidents. Highways have indicated that works to improve the situation that should include re-inserting rumble strips and hedge improvement measures to help with visibility issues will be made.

• Rights of Way:

Cllr D. Bradbeer.

Reported that he had cut back areas especially around stiles and had inspected the play area at Queens Acre.

• Website:

Cllr J. Jackson.

Had nothing to report and said all was going well on the social media front.

• Village Hall:

Cllr C. Brown

Reported that no Village Hall meetings had taken place since the 19th June meeting with the next meeting scheduled for 18th September. Full details of this and the other meetings are available on the website and they will also be displayed on the villages notice boards.

The Village Hall noticeboard has now been restored and erected.

Farmers Markets are proving to be a big success providing an amenity as well as a social event to mix with others from the village. Cllr C. Brown reminded those present that they occur on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month and will do so until further notice. A winter market schedule will be discussed with the stallholders shortly especially so as the weather deteriorates limiting our use of Queens Acre.

Please note that the next Corfe Farmers Market is taking place on Thursday 12th September (6pm to 8pm)

The Village Hall floor has now been restored and is looking good. The hall committee will be discussing with the restorers a few minor concerns they have noted in the coming week.

A very successful flower show took place at the end of August and a big thank you goes out to organisers and participants for making it such a great day.

3410: Consultation on the Removal of the Public Telephone Box in Corfe.

A discussion took place on proposals by BT to possibly remove the public call box adjacent to the Village Hall due to lack of use. The discussion encouraged residents to perhaps make an occasional phone call from the box as this would ensure possible salvation if at least 15 calls were made in a year and as amenities are limited in Corfe it would be disappointing to lose yet another one.

3411: S106 Remaining Funds - Recreational Facilities.

A discussion took place on what the remaining S106 funds could be spent on. It was agreed to continue making this an agenda item for all future PC meetings to help promote village ideas on what this could be spent on. The remaining funds, which are approx. £2,500, will no longer be available for us to spend from early 2021, being returned to the developer if they are not used.

3401: FINANCES.

Cllr J.Harrison reported:

Bank Balance 31/08/2019 = £17,385.69

This is made up of: GATEWAY (£3,327.00); CORFE FETE FUNDS (£10,429.33); and PARISH COUNCIL - PRECEPT/GRANT (£3,629.36).

In addition, there is the S106 FUND = £3,152.00 (from which the Astro turf cost is to be deducted).

3402: CORRESPONDENCE

- Nothing to report.

3403: ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

- Brian Lenthall was asked to provide bark chippings for the park as an inspection would be forthcoming shortly. Current work demands have limited this request but it will be sorted in the coming weeks.

- A proposal to include the use of Skype in future Council meetings for those Councillors who may be absent on other business was proposed by Cllr. B. Hosie. The feeling was that this was not needed for Parish Council meetings at this present time and that the usual procedure for an absentee should be followed.

- The proposed new Clerk, Mrs Sammi Millard-Jones, who had been observing our meeting was now asked by Cllr. C Brown if she was happy to take on the role and she agreed to be our new Clerk.

Cllr. J. Harrison informed us that SALC had told us that our previous Clerk had been paid on an hourly rate that was below the minimum and that any new Clerk should be paid at least £12 per hour. We agreed to honour this and an 8-12 hour monthly work plan was agreed. Those present accepted this proposal.

A discussion involving any future Clerk training briefly began and it was agreed by those present to support this requirement once our new Clerk became more involved with the role and if we and she felt it was required.

- Mrs Ann Jeffery thanked Cllr J.Harrison for a cheque received on behalf of the Church and was pleased to report to those present that the Commonwealth Graves Commission had agreed to tidy up the graves of those who had fallen while serving their country.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 5th November 2019 at 6pm.