

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CORFE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**HELD AT CORFE VILLAGE HALL, TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr J. Harrison, Cllr C. Brown, Cllr D. Bradbeer, Cllr J. Jackson. Clerk: Mrs Millard-Jones.

County Cllr John Thorne, TDBC Cllr Sarah Wakefield and 6 members of the public were present.

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

**3414: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Cllr J. Sanders, Cllr B. Lenthall and Cllr B. Hosie,

**3415: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

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

Cllr C. Brown: Village Hall Committee.

**3416: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019.**

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

**3417: MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES.**

None.

**3418: REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.**

**Cllr S. Wakefield introduced herself to the Parish. The main points were as follows:**

She was elected in May 2019 and has inherited a budget deficit of £3 million. Due to many roles being made redundant within the council, there is now a lack of staff. However, recently she was pleased to inform us that the council has filled some permanent positions; planning officers and gardeners which were in short supply earlier in the year.

One of the successes so far this year, is that Somerset has been declared a 'Frack Free Zone'.

The plan to build a hotel on the Firepool site with the use of Council money has been stopped as it is not felt that this is a good use of funds. Although, it is certainly felt that a hotel on that site would be beneficial.

Contributions have been made towards the Park and Ride ensuring that it remains open until early next year. Park and Ride will be free for every Saturday in December in the build up to Christmas. Christmas light switch on is scheduled for Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November.

The Comeytrowe development has been approved but the plan moving forward is to allow fewer housing developments across Taunton.

Cllr J Jackson asked about the Taylor Wimpey Development.

It was explained that no planning had been given to Taylor Wimpey – in fact it appears as though they are taking a risk and have made the purchase based on the land potentially being developable in future years in line with the new A358.

Cllr J. Jackson asked what Cllr S. Wakefield's thoughts were on the expressway.

She has concerns regarding the access from the smaller roads and it is something she is looking to address.

There has been a request regarding nuclear waste being taken to the decommissioned Hinkley A. County Council have declined permission, but this still may get overturned by the government.

**Cllr J. Thorne, SCC presented a detailed report. The main points were as follows:**

- Members Improving Lives Grant Scheme – I have three projects coming forward and I can only make four bids maximum, so I have room for one more. The deadline for bids is 30<sup>th</sup> November so any potential projects should be notified to me as soon as possible to allow time to work them up into a valid application.
- Blackdowns AONB Partnership – The partnership HQ has moved to new premises just across the road within Blackdown Healthy Living and Activity Centre. Email addresses and the main switchboard number 01823 680 681 stay the same, but direct landline numbers have changed. The new postal address is Blackdown Hills AONB, Riverside, Hemyock, Devon, EX15 3SH. Email is [blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk](mailto:blackdownhills@devon.gov.uk).
- Superfast broadband – Given that CDS say it will take them another 12 months to award a new contract for the phase two roll-out, it would seem that any resident or business currently with broadband speeds of less than 2 Mbps will be eligible for the Better Broadband Voucher Scheme, as a qualification is that you must not be part of a planned deployment from a publicly funded scheme within the next 12 months. They can request a voucher and select a registered provider from whom to receive a new service, including 4G wireless and satellite solutions. It does not affect their status in any future superfast broadband roll-out. Details of the scheme are here <https://basicbroadband.culture.gov.uk>. Also, there is a Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme available for businesses and residential properties. Businesses can claim up to £2,500 either individually or as part of a group project and residents can claim up to £500 as part of a group project. Details of the scheme are here <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk>.
- Park & Ride – County has been working with the district council on this one and I'm sure you will know by now that the Saturday service which was paused about 18 months ago was restarted this past weekend. I'm pleased that the district extended the revenue funding it picked up a year ago to subsidise the service and keep it running and while this currently is only until next March I am hopeful a solution will be found to maintain it beyond that date.
- Grit bins - Parish councils were being asked to check their grit bins and to let SCC know by 31st October (last Thursday) if they needed filling. If it has not already been done, I would hope it is still possible to let them know, but obviously the quicker the better. This will assist with the continuing sustainability of this service by targeting visits by the road maintenance teams to only those locations in need. One tonne dumpy bags of salt will continue to be provided on steep slopes. Contact the area highways office asap if there are any questions about the provision of roadside salt. The parish/town council salt bag collection day which has taken place for a number of years up until last winter was also reviewed. The conclusion was that on recent

occasions the take up of this service was generally low and it did not provide good value for money.

- Snow Wardens - A new initiative starting this year is the Community Snow Warden Scheme where parish councils can nominate their own winter warden who will receive training in responding to winter weather events, co-ordinating local snow clearance, such as on footways, etc, and acting as a point of contact with the County in the event of bad weather. Again, they wanted to know by 31st October if you want to take part and again if a decision has not been taken then I would suggest letting them know as soon as possible.
- A358 – I was not able to attend the most recent community forum due to a clash of meetings but I understand that not a great deal came out of it. A design and build contractor will be sought in the New Year and the next forum will be held after that has been announced. There was a great deal of concern expressed about the volume of traffic that is likely to be using side roads as a result of the Expressway.
- Brexit – Yes! A few words about this topic: County is now, in its words, ‘well progressed’ in developing plans for Brexit. They have been working closely with the district councils and other partners to ensure we are fully prepared and our services can run as smoothly as possible. One example is that we have moved all our Office 365 data from Microsoft’s European data centres in Dublin into UK-based data centres. A Brexit Communications Manager. Has been appointed and they have set up workstreams to identify risks and develop actions around those risks such as ‘Hardship (including food)’, business continuity, business support, information, intelligence, and monitoring, communications and community engagement, and Settled status. They are keen to hear from local communities any issues you are experiencing relating to Brexit, eg, if people are not receiving the help they need, are experiencing hardship as a result of Brexit, or are struggling to get Settled status. Just let me know and I can feed it back to them. Also, a word of warning about a telephone scam related to Brexit, if you can publicise this wherever possible - scammers have been contacting people claiming to be from the ‘NHS Brexit Team’ and stating that medicines and prescriptions will have to be paid for in advance due to supply issues in Europe. The caller then tries to get people’s bank details over the phone.
- Measles - This highly infectious viral illness can be very unpleasant and occasionally leads to serious complications. The UK lost measles-free status earlier this year due to an increase in confirmed cases and evidence that transmissions of measles had been re-established. The increased number of cases has been directly linked to a fall in the number of children who are vaccinated, in particular the second dose of the MMR vaccination. Evidence has shown that cases of measles occur in communities where vaccine uptake is low, and a even small decline in uptake can have an impact. Anyone who has not received two doses of MMR vaccine is at risk and they are urged to make an appointment now to get vaccinated. More information can be found at [www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles).
- Climate change – SCC declared a ‘climate emergency’ earlier this year, as did the five district councils in Somerset. Rather than develop its own strategy to tackle this so-called emergency, county has been working with the districts on a cross-authority strategy aimed at showing the actions needed to make Somerset carbon neutral by 2030. They have engaged with experts from various fields to develop a strategy framework. To reach as many people in the community as possible, day-long ‘climate summits’ will be held during November and December in each district, run by Somerset Climate Action Network, to give groups and individuals an opportunity for face to face discussions with industry experts. The ‘local’ one is on November 16 in Taunton Library from 10 am to 4 pm. An online survey is due to go live before the end of November and an event aimed at businesses is taking place on December 3. A bespoke website will also be launched, and tailored business and industry focussed consultation and young people focussed

engagements events will take place, including online consultation for all secondary school age children (aged 11 to 18 years). A draft strategy and action plan should be ready for consultation by February/March 2020, and a final strategy document brought forward for adoption next July.

- Costa Coffee Fostering Events – Over the next few weeks information events about fostering opportunities are being held in Yeovil , Shepton Mallett, and Bridgwater, kindly supported by Costa Coffee. More information can be found at [www.fosteringinsomerset.gov.uk](http://www.fosteringinsomerset.gov.uk).
- Opposite Sex Civil Partnerships - Somerset Registration Service is ready and waiting for couples wishing to tie the knot through a new ‘opposite sex civil partnership’ next year. They would like to hear from couples interested in booking a ceremony in 2020 following the change of Government legislation which will make civil partnerships available to opposite as well as same sex couples. There are more than 120 licensed venues and ceremonies will be tailored by our registration staff to suit each couple’s preferences. The contact email for anybody interested is [somersetregistrations@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:somersetregistrations@somerset.gov.uk).

Member of the public raised the matter of immunisations and felt that it was due to the cuts that were happening across the NHS. Cllr Thorne feels as though this is actually due to poor communication from the NHS trusts.

Member of the public asked about the matter of oil and gas fired boilers in new homes contributing to climate change and what is going to be done in the future.

Cllr Thorne explained that although it isn’t currently a housing condition, it is in fact something that developers are looking to address by installing electric boilers instead.

#### **3419: REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS.**

- **Planning:**

Cllr J. Sanders – absent.

A report had been passed across in her absence that there were no matters to report.

- **Highways:**

Cllr B. Lenthall - absent

A report had been passed across in his absence: There are moves to improve the signage on the crossroads. There has been one more accident there recently.

A member of the public suggested that the Give Way signs should be replaced with STOP signs.

- **Rights of Way:**

Cllr D. Bradbeer.

Reported that he had tightened up some bolts on the play equipment at Queens Acre. He also said that the park needed some fresh woodchip and some equipment was in need of being re-treated but that this would now need to be done in the Spring.

There is a fallen tree which is causing an issue as it is actually on Pitminster land. Johnny Halliday has been informed.

- **Website:**

Cllr J. Jackson.

The website is all up to date. No issues to report. 34 active readers.

• **Village Hall:**

Cllr C. Brown

Next village hall meeting to be held Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Farmers market has been a success. Thanked Corfe Parish Council for the contribution towards the flooring recently laid in the village hall. Recently had to get a plumber in as there was an issue with the water consumption in the ladies' toilet. All sorted now.

Currently discussions of bringing a 'Repair Café' to Corfe. Hemyock currently have regular gatherings.

The quiz night held Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October was a success.

**3420: 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. Cllr J. Jackson has submitted an application to keep the phonebox, but he felt as though it was unlikely that Corfe would be given permission to keep it due to the lack of use. We should be informed this week of next steps.

**3421: 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.

A couple of suggestions were put forward; children's picnic benches and regular picnic benches. It was felt as though the guidelines weren't clear, so Cllr S. Wakefield has committed to approaching the council for more information for Corfe Parish Council.

**3422: FINANCES.**

Cllr J. Harrison reported:

Bank Balance 05/11/19 = £15,613.76

This is made up of: GATEWAY (£3,327.00); CORFE FETE FUNDS (£9,502.00); and PARISH COUNCIL - PRECEPT/GRANT (£2,674.53).

In addition, there is the S106 FUND = £2,567.00

A discussion took place as to how the best way to spend this money would be, there were suggestions such as paying for the rumble strips to help with the ongoing concerns regarding speeding through the village. Another idea put forward was to get some sleeping policeman, but it was thought by Cllr S. Wakefield that streetlights are required for sleeping policeman. Getting a zebra crossing in place was also suggested, but it is understood that this wouldn't be possible due to access required by the farm. Cllr S. Wakefield agreed to speak with County Council and Highways regarding the ideas and concerns that were discussed.

**3423: CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllr J. Harrison had received an email about potentially widening the footpath from Newton Court to the village. It was agreed that the footpath is dangerously narrow, especially with people speeding through the village. Cllr J. Harrison asked everyone to have a look at the path and put forward some ideas as to how we could go about getting it widened. It was thought that

it may be a case of cutting back the hedge and that would create sufficient space to resurface the space to widen the pavement. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

**3424: ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

- *St. Margaret's Hospice are hosting an afternoon tea on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 2.30pm*
- *Following the resignation of Pat Evans from the Charity for Allotments Corfe, the Trustees have proposed Barbara Fierek as her replacement. Approval was given by Corfe Parish Council.*
- *Temporary Road Closure – Honiton Road and Shoreditch Road. PROHIBITING ALL TRAFFIC from proceeding along Honiton Road and Shoreditch Road from Honiton Road; the junction with Pickeridge Lane, northwards into Shoreditch Road, to the junction with Chestnut Drive for a total distance of 4940 metres.  
The Order becomes effective on 18 November 2019 and will remain in force for eighteen months. The works are expected to last for 5 days (08:00-17:00).*

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm.**

Meeting dates for 2020;

- 14<sup>th</sup> January
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March
- 5<sup>th</sup> May (AGM)
- 7<sup>th</sup> July
- 8<sup>th</sup> September
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November