

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CORFE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD AT CORFE VILLAGE HALL, TUESDAY 14th January 2020.

PRESENT: Cllr J. Harrison, Cllr C. Brown, Cllr D. Bradbeer, Cllr J. Jackson, Cllr J. Sanders.
Clerk: Mrs Millard-Jones. And 4 members of the public were present.

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

3424: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllr B. Lenthall & Cllr B. Hosie.
County Cllr John Thorne & TDBC Cllr Sarah Wakefield.

3425: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr C. Brown: Village Hall Committee.

3426: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 5th November 2019.

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

3427: MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES.

Village Hall: Water problem has been sorted.

Widening of the path by Corfe Farm: Mrs Hurst has no objections. Cllr J. Harrison to pass to Cllr B. Lenthall

3428: REPORTS OF COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS.

Cllr S. Wakefield and Cllr M. Hill were unable to attend due to a special Full Council Meeting. Following the meeting Cllr S Wakefield emailed the following to be included in the minutes; *Councillors may be aware that the Brewhouse Theatre have asked for considerable additional funding in order to re-furbish and re-order the theatre and to increase the seating capacity amongst other matters. I will not pre-empt what the Full Council will decide but I am sure you will be aware that not only do we have considerable budget pressures but also plans are coming forward for development of the Firepool Site which may include a multi purpose venue there.*

I would also mention the recent announcement by Somerset County Council that it intends to move forward with a bid for Somerset to become a unitary authority. This is not something which I and my fellow Lib Dem councillors disagree with in principle but we do consider the timing of this bid to be politically motivated. There is an SCC election due in May 2021 and the present council have struggled to manage their finances as we are all aware. The costs of child protection and adult social care have soared particularly in this retirement area without adequate resource being made available by the government despite SCC and the government both being run by the same political party. The 4 districts and the county have been meeting to discuss closer co-operation which many think is the way forward and will bring further costs

savings. The recent exercise in bringing West Somerset and Taunton Deane together has not resulted in the promised savings and the redundancy costs are double the estimated sum. SWAT is just getting its feet under the table and we are now bringing forward new strategies and policies. This bid is an unwelcome and costly distraction at this time. I will be happy to report further on this over the coming months.

I am aware that the prolonged flooding at the racecourse end of Corfe Road caused much disruption to residents. Perhaps the County Councillor will be able to explain why the highway authority took so long to clear it.

3429: REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS.

- **Planning:**

Cllr J. Sanders

No Planning requests.

- **Highways:**

Cllr B. Lenthall - absent

A report had been passed across in his absence: The racecourse and highways are on the case with the flooding.

- **Rights of Way:**

Cllr D. Bradbeer.

Complaints regarding the sheep making the footpath muddy. This issue is out of our hands as all processes have been followed appropriately.

Yelm House – the hedge needs to be cut back as it is obscuring the footpath. Cllr C. Brown to speak with residents.

- **Website:**

Cllr J. Jackson.

Hosting renewed at an annual cost of £47.99 – Thanks to Andrew Moloney for his assistance.

- **Village Hall:**

Cllr C. Brown

Next village hall meeting to be held Wednesday 15th January. Farmers market will be looking to run once a month starting around March/April. Ruth Pickles has arranged a digital booking system which is now live. Looking to have a quiz on the 28th February. There will soon be a fishmonger delivering to Corfe. Details to follow.

Cllr D. Bradbeer mentioned the grate by the entrance to the village hall was damaged and Cllr C. Brown agreed to take a look.

3430: Consultation on the Removal of the Public Telephone Box in Corfe.

BT is looking to remove phone boxes that are used infrequently. In response, we sent the following form of words to the council regarding our phone box.

Corfe Parish Council object on the grounds of mobile reception being patchy in Corfe. Also, the telephone box is next to the village hall and a defibrillator and access to the telephone is needed to access the equipment if no mobile signal is available

However, given there were no calls from our phone box in the last 12 months, we don't expect BT will allow us to continue with the service. We are awaiting a decision from BT and the Secretary of State.

3431: 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; A kids cabin in the park and a running circuit.

Cllr S. Wakefield has committed to approaching the council for more information for Corfe Parish Council, the clerk has previously asked for an update but will chase this up.

There were concerns voiced regarding spending the remaining funds as it would increase the maintenance cost for the Parish Council.

Cllr J. Harrison asked for all councillors and members of the public to make a concerted effort for ideas at the next meeting.

3432: FINANCES.

Cllr J. Harrison reported:

Bank Balance = £15,633.38

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

Parsons have sent a quote over for lawn cutting. It was agreed that this was reasonable, and Corfe PC would continue to use Parsons in 2020.

The Parish Council have received a request for a small donation from Citizens Advice Bureau. It was agreed that £100 donation would be given.

3433: CORRESPONDENCE

Recycling

There will be some changes to refuse collections in 2020. More types of plastic will be taken for recycling (including Tetrapaks) with the weekly recycling collection. With less 'other' rubbish to collect, bins will be collected every three weeks, rather than every two weeks.

Our website has details of the changes and other information.

<https://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk/recycling-update-2019-2/>

3434: ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

- **Precept 2020/2021.** It was agreed that the Precept would be left as it has been for 2019/2020.
- **Electric Car Charging:** There is a council grant available to help with the cost of installation of an electric car charging point. Given the lack of electric cars in the village, we have decided not to apply for a grant this time round. However, given the direction of travel of the industry, this is something we will monitor.
- **Somerset West Taunton Council Local Plan Consultation.** It was agreed that there is no plan to get involved at this stage.
- Finances to now be handed over to the Clerk.
- Cllr J. Harrison pointed out that he had been the Chair for over 7 years and asked if anyone would be interested in taking over. Nobody put themselves forward.
- **Dog Mess**
We have been asked by a number of parishioners to highlight the issue of dog mess given the sharp increase at the entrance to all paths and also along the grass verges on the approach to Barton Grange.

It is great to see so many new dogs around the village, but would owners please pick up their mess from places where people walk.

Thank you for your consideration.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd March at 6pm.

Chairman Cllr J. Harrison closed the meeting at 6.40pm