

**MINUTES OF THE CORFE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD AT CORFE VILLAGE HALL, TUESDAY 7th March 2023.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr J Harrison, Cllr B Lenthall, Cllr C Brown, Cllr D Bradbeer, Cllr J Jackson, Cllr G Alexander, Cllr A Butler, SCC Cllr S Wakefield and SCC Cllr R Henley.

Eight members of the public.

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

**27/10: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** – No apologies noted.

**28/10: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Cllr Harrison: Almshouse Trust. Cllr C Brown and Cllr A Butler: Village Hall Committee.

**29/10: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 17th JANUARY 2023** – Minutes were discussed and an amendment to planning application household name required due to typing error noted. The minutes have been circulated, published, and signed as accurate records.

**30/10: MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES** - Nothing was commented on. Ongoing items to be included within the agenda.

**31/10: REPORTS OF COUNTY COUNCILLORS.**

SCC Cllr S Wakefield of Somerset County Council and SCC Cllr R Henley highlighted several issues that appear in a written report. (See link in Appendix 1 below).

**32/10: REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS.**

**PLANNING: Cllr J Harrison** – Reported he had received details which had been circulated to Councillors for an appeal against refusal to a planning application on Whitford Hill. Further comments have now been added and submitted to the planning office.  
Nothing further to report.

**HIGHWAYS: Cllr B. Lenthall** – Reported that trees overhanging on parts of Corfe Hill had been causing issues for large vehicles and a skip lorry had been involved in an incident. Landowners responsible for these trees have been informed and advised to take the appropriate action.

**RIGHTS OF WAY: Cllr D. Bradbeer** - Had nothing further to report on this occasion.

**WEBSITE: Cllr J Jackson** – The website remains well used and the email newsletter now has over 100 subscribers.

**GREEN PORTFOLIO** – Cllr. G Alexander – Reported back to us on the first meeting of residents that took place on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 to discuss how Corfe could do its bit to improve its carbon footprint and help save the planet. Our thanks go out to Neil Bailey who presented on the night a possible energy saving scheme based around having a solar energy farm that could potentially provide reduced energy bills for residents, as well as reducing the carbon footprint of Corfe. A further meeting to discuss this suggestion, including an appropriate location for leasing land, and other green issues will be arranged in May when it is hoped that a prominent speaker (Dixie Darch) will also address the audience on green initiatives. All villagers will be welcome.

We also discussed further ways in which villagers can be more sustainable.

The council has published a leaflet on food waste: <https://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Food-Waste.pdf>

The issue of plastic waste that isn't currently collected at the doorstep was also discussed. One suggestion is the use of Terracycle - <https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/> - for a village collection of such materials.

**ALMSHOUSE CHARITY, SELICKS GREEN REPORT** – Cllr J Harrison – Reported that a property had been damaged by fire but that nobody was injured as a result. A fuse box blowing had been identified as the source and appropriate remedial action has now been taken.

Gardens associated with the properties are proving difficult to maintain and the Trust recently spent £1,700 clearing vegetation. A proposal to consider erecting two bungalows within some of this area is now being considered.

**VILLAGE HALL: Cllr. C. Brown** – Keith Gosling spoke on behalf of the Village Hall reporting concerns over the rising electricity costs, meaning the Village Hall had made a loss the previous month. The Hall has now been forced to increase its hire costs for non-residents and was investigating energy saving methods such as solar power to help improve the situation.

The proposed Royal Coronation of HRH Charles III Picnic, on Queens Acre on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, was also promoted. Please try to assist if you can make this a memorable occasion. You should have all had a flyer through the door. Otherwise, please contact Heather Gosling ([heathergosling1@googlemail.com](mailto:heathergosling1@googlemail.com)). There was a discussion on the erection and future storage of the Corfe Fete Marquee, including whether it could be stored at an alternative location or hired out to generate income.

The latest Village Hall meeting minutes are on the website:

<https://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/VH-Feb-2023.pdf>

### **33/10: CORFE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE VACANCIES.**

Keith Gosling addressed those present announcing key members of the Village Hall Committee were stepping down from their roles from April-June after years of dedicated service. He highlighted the real and urgent need for a Chairperson to carry the hall forward with new ideas and drive, a competent Treasurer to deal with hire invoices etc., and a Maintenance Co-ordinator to either help or organise with those occasional repair/improvements.

More details on the vacancies can be found on the website here:

<https://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk/village-hall-committee-vacancies/>

These are ideal opportunities to shape and enjoy what is currently our only major village amenity since the White Hart Inn ceased trading. So, if you want to meet new people and make a real difference to your village please apply. Your village really does need you!

### **VILLAGE HALL EXTENSION UPDATE.**

Nigel Furniss, the project co-ordinator on the hall committee, provided an update on the village hall extension proposal which will now need planning permission to proceed.

Here are the plans: <https://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk/proposed-village-hall-extension/>

Planning permission is also necessary to obtain grant monies from the late HRH Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Fund for Somerset which was designed to help improve areas that were lacking in or in need of improvements to amenities due to rural location etc. Timelines and what the improvements to the hall could offer our village were then discussed. The proposed plans will now be displayed for further comment. Planning permission will take at least 13 weeks. In the meantime, comments will be most welcome from the community to help understand what the residents would like or object to if this project were to proceed.

**34/10: FINANCES** – Cllr J Harrison provided an update on finances. Our current cash position is a bank balance of £22,191.83. Monies currently being held within this total that are protected include: £3,327.00 (reserved for the Corfe Gateway project) and £1434.67 (held on behalf of the suspended Corfe Lifts group). We therefore have a true Parish Council Balance of £17,430.16 as of 07/03/2023. Payments made since last meeting on 17th January 2023 included: Glasdon Dog Waste Bin (£220.07) and Tony Dewhurst Notice Board repair (£80, not cashed). Precept monies for 2023/24 are due to arrive in April.

**35/10: CORRESPONDENCE** – Nothing new to report at present.

**36/10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – Nothing was raised.

**Date of Next Meeting: Parish of Corfe and Corfe Societies Annual General Meeting Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 6.00pm**

**Appendix – Report from Sarah Wakefield, Somerset County Council and SWT - 2023**

<https://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SCC-Latest-Monthly-Report.pdf>