

MINUTES OF THE CORFE PARISH COUNCIL AGM
HELD AT CORFE VILLAGE HALL, TUESDAY 16th May 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.

Ten members of the public.

Chairman Cllr. J Harrison opened the meeting at 6.30pm, welcoming all.

37/10: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. – Sheila Pankhurst and Sue Ford.

38/10: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. Cllr. Harrison (Almshouses Trust). Cllr. C Brown and Cllr. A Butler (Village Hall Committee).

39/10: ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN.

Cllr. J Harrison was duly elected. Proposed by Cllr. J. Jackson and seconded by Cllr. B.Lenthall

40/10: ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN.

Cllr. B Lenthall was duly elected. Proposed by Cllr. J Jackson and seconded by Cllr. D. Bradbeer.

41/10: MINUTES OF AGM MEETING HELD 10TH MAY 2022 - Discussed. The minutes have been circulated, published, and signed as accurate records.

42/10: MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES – Nothing was commented on.

43/10: CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION FROM LIMITED ASSURANCE REVIEW.

Approved and accepted by those present.

44/10: APPROVAL OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/23.

Approved and accepted by those present.

45/10: APPROVAL OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENT 2022/23.

Approved and accepted by those present.

46/10: 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.

<https://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/SCC-Latest-Monthly-Report.pdf>

47/10: REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS.

PLANNING: Cllr J Harrison – Reported he had received detail of two applications, one of which was for the Village Hall proposed extension. Nothing contentious was noted.
Nothing further to report.

HIGHWAYS: Cllr B. Lenthall – Further reported that trees overhanging parts of Corfe Hill had been causing issues for large vehicle commuters who are now driving in the centre of the road to avoid

hazards. Landowners responsible for these trees have been informed and advised to take the appropriate action to avoid accidents.

RIGHTS OF WAY: Cllr D. Bradbeer – Nothing to report. He will however be trimming around stiles in due course.

WEBSITE: Cllr J Jackson – The website remains well used and there is communication through WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook, and email. Thanks to Andrew Moloney for keeping the Facebook page updated.

VILLAGE HALL: Cllr C Brown/Mr K Gosling/Mr N Furniss – Addressed those present on current Village Hall matters.

A thank you was made to all those who had contributed to a very successful HRH King Charles III coronation picnic at Queens Acre – it was a lovely day.

A brief discussion took place on why there was now a need to apply for planning permission to support any ongoing finance applications being made for an extension and to help assist in demonstrating to those organisations what such an extension/hall improvement would achieve if funding was granted. Once planning permission is either approved or rejected the proposal is to then call a village meeting in July to seek what residents want from their Village Hall in the future. We are mindful that this may soon be the only hospitality venue in Corfe now that the White Hart remains closed, with the new owner not prepared to share his vision of the future with us at this moment.

An explanation by Cllr A Butler was aired to those present on the need to update the current leasehold/freehold and trustee positions of the Village Hall to what is best practice for all concerned. This has not been addressed for many years and has only now been highlighted to us while making funding applications.

GREEN PORTFOLIO – Cllr. G Alexander – Reported that a prominent speaker will soon be booked to present on green initiatives for Corfe and its residents, including solar and other projects. This will probably take place on either 21 or 22 June. Full details will be announced in due course.

Cllr. G Alexander has also signed up to this newsletter:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/environment-and-food-safety/climate-and-ecological-emergency/newsletter-sign-up/>

ALMSHOUSE CHARITY SELICKS GREEN REPORT – Cllr J Harrison – Reported that a proposal to consider erecting two bungalows within an area of excess and hard to manage garden is still being considered by the charity. He will report progress in due course.

48/10: FINANCES AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS SUMMARY 2022/23 – Cllr J Harrison provided an update on finances as of 16 May 2023. Our current bank balance is £28,473.92. 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). This leaves a 'true' balance of £23,712.25.

Payments made since last meeting on 7 March 2023 include: British Heart Foundation defibrillator pads (£80), Play Inspection Ltd (£120), Council Dog Poo Bin emptying (£51.95). Cheques sent to Parson Landscapers (£75.48) and Zurich Insurance (£955.73) are yet to be cashed. Funds credited to the account since last meeting are £6,618.04, including HMRC (VAT, £393.04), Precept (£5775), website advert (£10) and Village Hall insurance contribution (£440)

To generate a higher return on our funds, it was unanimously agreed that the Corfe Parish Council should open a new Community Saver Account with The Skipton Building Society. Here are the details of the account: <https://www.skipton.co.uk/savings/easy-access/community-saver>

The names of the Trustees on the account are John Harrison and Jonathan Jackson. The account needs two signatures.

49/10: CORRESPONDENCE – We have received an email from a resident who wishes us to purchase a bench with a plaque for the Queens Acre play area in memory of his late wife. This request has been approved by the Council. A letter of thanks will be sent in due course once a suitable bench has been sourced.

50/10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS – The deteriorating situation of the White Hart Pub and lack of any progress in providing the village with an acceptable amenity was highlighted by Cllr. B Lenthall. It was agreed that a letter of concern asking for some much-needed action would be sent off to the owner.

Cllr. G Alexander requested that the Village Gateway proposal be resurrected and placed on the agenda of the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr. B Lenthall reiterated a previous comment from our minutes that without the consent of the landowner no progress could be made on installing anything. He has offered to approach the landowner on the matter but does not believe much progress can be made.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 11 July 2023 at 6.00pm