

**MINUTES OF THE CORFE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD AT CORFE VILLAGE HALL, TUESDAY 11th July 2023.**

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

Six members of the public.

Chair Cllr. J Harrison opened the meeting at 6.00pm, welcoming all.

**51/10: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** – Cllr. A Butler.

**52/10: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** Cllr. Harrison (Almshouses Trust). Cllr. C Brown (Village Hall Committee).

**53/10: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 16TH MAY 2023** - Discussed. The minutes have been circulated, published, and signed as accurate records.

**54/10: MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES** – Nothing was commented on.

**55/10: REPORTS OF COUNTY COUNCILLORS.**

SCC Cllr S Wakefield of Somerset County Council highlighted several issues that appear in a written report.

<https://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/SCC-Latest-Monthly-Report.pdf>

She also reported that the refuse collection strikes scheduled to take place from 12/07/23 had now been halted for two weeks following an improved pay offer and continuing talks. Planning permission issues concerning neighbouring parishes that could have an impact on Corfe if a precedent were set were also highlighted to those present.

**56/10: REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS.**

**PLANNING: Cllr J Harrison** – Nothing new to report.

**HIGHWAYS: Cllr B. Lenthall** – Reported that we are in an advantageous position compared to many in respect of potholes. Verge mowing was under way, and he will be reminding those responsible for the area close to the racecourse (which has yet to be done) to do this. Nothing further was reported.

**RIGHTS OF WAY: Cllr D. Bradbeer** – He has been trimming around stiles in the Corfe area and reported recent correspondence regarding dangerous ash die back on a bridleway was located within Pitminster Parish.

**WEBSITE: Cllr J Jackson** – The website and other social media remain well used. Nothing further to report.

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

Cllr C Brown reminded those present that the minutes of the latest Village Hall Committee meetings were now being displayed on the Village Hall notice boards and on the village website.

<https://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/VHall-Minutes-June-2023.pdf>

He then handed over to Mr Keith Gosling who provided us with a brief update. Planning permission for an extension has been approved in principle by the authorities subject to the usual planning procedures. This helps support any ongoing finance applications we could submit for an extension and will also help assist in demonstrating to those organisations what such an extension/hall improvement could achieve if funding were supplied. Once planning permission is either approved or rejected the proposal is to call a village meeting in either late July or early August depending on when all is in place to seek out what residents might want from their Village Hall.

We continue to be mindful that this may soon be the only hospitality venue in Corfe as the White Hart remains closed. The new owner is now advertising the pub for sale (see below).

Residents will have received a questionnaire which we encourage your participation with. It is important that we try to deliver an affordable venue with modern facilities and activities that appeals to our residents, so please take part if you can and have your say.

**GREEN PORTFOLIO** – Cllr G Alexander – Reported that the recent green initiative meeting with guest speaker Dixie Darch had gone well and that an article would be published in the next Community Matters magazine. The meeting was more about what we could do together to be effective in Corfe. The village website and WhatsApp group will continue to be updated with useful information

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 – Nothing new to report.

**57/10: WHITE HART INN - UPDATE** – Cllr J Harrison reported that the Asset of Community Value listing on the White Hart Inn had now been restored after appearing to have been removed. He also reported a telephone conversation with the owner following on from our concerns over the neglect at the property. The owner has now placed the property up for sale and has reported that plenty of interest has been shown but that ‘silly’ offers and time wasting has been an issue for his agent. He currently plans to continue advertising it for sale for the next two months and will then approach the council to what could be done. Here are the sale details.

<https://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/For-Sale-July-2023.pdf>

A discussion then took place on how the village and its residents might be able to get involved to improve the situation. This centred around the pub appearance and in restoration of the asset as a public house or similar. The consensus was that what is urgently needed is a large financial injection and energy and drive from a willing person or group prepared to make it work. The success of the Queens Arms at Pitminster and how they turned that pub around plus other village resident-run projects in the area were also highlighted as success stories. We can only hope that someone will give it a go with our pub. Government grants to support such an enterprise

especially in rural areas lacking in amenities and in danger of losing a village asset are available to apply for see:

<https://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Community-Asset-Funding.pdf>

**58/10: FINANCES** – Cllr J Harrison started his report by thanking Mr Ken Brown for reviewing the accounts of last year for audit purposes.

He then provided an update on finances as of 11 July 2023. Monies currently being held by the Parish Council include protected funds of £3,327.00 (reserved for the Corfe Gateway project) and £1434.67 (held on behalf of the suspended Corfe Lifts group). This leaves us with total Parish Council Funds available of £23,712.25.

Payments made since the last meeting on 16th May include Leisure Bench, Memorial (£366.85), Parsons (£226.44), Timpson's Memorial Plaque (£38.00), Unipar Speed Gun Charger (£90.00), Parson's not cashed cheque (£75.48), Somerset Council, Dog Bins not cashed cheque, £114.35. Total = £911.12.

Funds credited to the account since last meeting are £300 (Mr Keith Bromley).

SCC Cllr. S Wakefield pointed out that Parish funds should be maintained at a healthy level due to Somerset County Council facing some serious financial problems with many of their usual grants unfortunately being reduced or withdrawn completely.

**59/10: CORRESPONDENCE** – Cllr J Harrison had nothing new to report.

**60/10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – The meeting of the newly-formed Local Parish Network (LPN) of section 18 within the Somerset Council reforms will take place on 17<sup>th</sup> July at Otterford. Cllr J Harrison will be in attendance and will be representing Corfe interests.

Cllr. G Alexander asked if we had any news on the Village Gateway. This will be discussed prior to the next meeting.

**Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 6.00pm**