

**Corfe Village Hall – Charity 304526 Newton Lane, Corfe, Taunton, Somerset
TA3 7AQ**

Corfe Village Hall meeting Wednesday 19th April 2023

APOLOGIES – None noted.

PRESENT – Keith Gosling, Chris Brown, Ruth Pickles, Sue Ford, Rob Smith, Andy Butler and Nigel Furniss.

1. Welcome –

A discussion took place based on an Agenda read out by Keith Gosling who had called for this meeting to highlight concerns relating to the Village Hall and his imminent departure in June, along with the usual agenda points.

2. Minutes of last meeting 9th February 2023 –

All matters raised at the last meeting are covered on the agenda.

3. Future Committee Positions and Village Hall Existence –

It was previously announced that Keith Gosling would be stepping down from the Village Hall Committee from June 2023. Over the last couple of years his workload has increased considerably as other people have left the committee. Despite advertising for several of these roles it has been very disappointing that no one new has come forward to offer their support going forward.

After much debate and discussion, it was agreed that with the pub unlikely to reopen, the Village Hall was a vital asset and hub for the village and local community going forward and everything should be done to preserve this. In order to do so a resource proposal was discussed which would see Andy Butler take on the role of Chair, Nigel Furniss take on all Maintenance matters, with Keith Gosling remaining on the committee, but just doing the Treasurer role. However, to achieve this we do need a Secretary now that Chris Brown is doing two roles of hall cleaning and party bookings/meet and greet. The Secretary role would involve 2 to 3 hours per month, responsible for organising the bi-monthly meetings, producing the minutes, dealing with any ad hoc correspondence and maintaining the Village Hall details on the Charity Commission website. It was agreed to meet again in 2 weeks to get everyone's approval.

In addition to this, Ruth Pickles agreed to meet with all the local clubs who use the hall to see if they have anyone who would like to support the committee, primarily in the Secretary role, but also to see if they had any other ideas to promote events to be run in the hall.

4. Finances –

With Village Hall Societies and our Party bookings remaining very positive (we currently charge £45 for 2 hours all -inclusive use of the hall with a 10% discount for Corfe Village residents), Keith Gosling was able to report that the Village Hall finances remain in very good shape and that in 2022–23 the Village Hall made a profit of circa £1,000. This profit is due mainly to a successful 100 club fund raising effort, this being our main contributor to income and so a big thank you to all those who support and run this essential promotion. A full Village Hall report and year end accounts are currently being prepared and will be presented at the AGM in May.

5. Village Hall Bookings –

Ruth Pickles and Chris Brown informed those present that the transfer of bookings, including training given to Chris Brown, had gone seamlessly and The Village Hall continues to be very well used by village user groups and external customers. Soaring energy prices, especially with electricity, remain our main concern although we are presently protected on this with a fixed rate tariff taken up by Keith Gosling in 2022. Hall booking fees are being monitored with local bookings still receiving a 10% subsidy compared to out of Corfe bookings. Although we have requested that all users take care with power usage it is likely that before long these will need to be raised. To that end a two tier charging system for Winter and Summer usage was proposed and agreed with full details will be circulated in due course and implemented in the autumn of 2023.

6. Proposed Extension Update –

The proposed Village Hall extension plan has now stalled until planning permission and our Governance charter can be updated. Nigel Furniss, who is our lead on this, explained in detail that following on from attempts to obtain funding from various charity bodies that this, plus other key requirements, would need addressing first before any successful bid attempt could be progressed. We have so far created two architect extension plans with options to explore, one being an extension that goes outwards incorporating the existing Patio in a horseshoe shaped perimeter, with the other being one that expands in the same way but also towards the existing cherry tree by 2m leaving the patio. A third non extension option could be to investigate to replace the existing container with something more suitable, manageable, and practical, over the next couple of years. This would mean moth balling the current extension plan until the economic climate improves and there is a clear understanding of what would best support the village in the future.

7. Village Coronation Event –

As mentioned previously, on the 7th of May Corfe will celebrate the Coronation of HRH King Charles 111 with a Village event in Queens Acre. Heather Gosling, Gaynor Lewis and Louise Cobham are co-ordinating the organisation for this celebration. To date the response to the flier and village e-mail

has been poor and they haven't received many offers to bake cakes and so are still seeking help from all villagers and friends. So please let Heather know if you would be able to provide a cake, if you haven't already done so. The Corfe Fete Marquee will hopefully be erected if enough volunteers come forward, the plan is to have this up for at least some of the summer period. Obviously, grass cutting, and other park activities will need to be considered if this approach is taken with appropriate steps being taken. We are hopeful that this may encourage more village gatherings, weather permitting.

8. 100 Club 2023 –

The April draw for the 100 Club was made and the winners were: £50 Emily Vodden, £25 Sheila Andrews and £25 Sophie Wallis.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – TBA -This will take place early next month.