

MINUTES OF THE CORFE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT CORFE VILLAGE HALL, WEDNESDAY 18th March 2026 at 6pm.

PRESENT: Cllr J Harrison, Cllr. B Lenthall, Cllr. C Brown, Cllr. D Bradbeer, Cllr. J Jackson. Cllr S. Humphries. Seven members of the public.

Chairman Cllr. J Harrison opened the meeting at 6pm, welcoming all. He also paid tribute to the late Ken Brown who had passed away since our last meeting. He was a well-respected and much-loved man being a former Parish Council member and a Chairman of the Parish Council for many years. Cllr J Harrison also apologised for not being able to be present at his funeral.

125/11: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

SCC. S Wakefield.

126/11: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr. Harrison: Almshouses Trust. Cllr. C Brown: Village Hall Committee. Cllr. J Jackson: Corfe Community Trust

127/11: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD, WEDNESDAY 14th January 2026.

Were discussed outstanding items to be included in agenda items. The minutes have been circulated, published, and signed as accurate record.

128/11: MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES.

None

129/11: REPORTS OF COUNTY COUNCILLORS. - SCC Cllr S Wakefield of SCC had sent in her apologies. No report was available on this occasion.

130/11: REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS.

PLANNING: Cllr J Harrison – Made comment on the delays being experienced within the SCC Planning Department. At present we have no news available regarding the Barton Grange Barn proposal or on the Conversion of the White Hart Inn to residential properties.

Here is a useful link: <https://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk/pub-news/>

HIGHWAYS:

Cllr B Lenthall updated those present on the current situation of highways. Corfe Hill main road surface is getting worse, and it continues to slide in places. Remedial works have been placed further down the works to-do list of outstanding works as others have priority. At present Keir, the company given a 5-year contract by Somerset County Council (SCC) have 7,600 jobs outstanding. He reported that any pothole damage claims for now need to be addressed to Keir as SCC will not be held responsible. He asked that residents be made aware of this fact. The quality of their remedial work and quality of staff employed was also questioned by those present.

Cllr J Harrison felt the current situation regarding flooding in and around Corfe due to drains and gulleys being blocked deserved to have parish funds spent on remedial action as it had been going on for far too long. He proposed that quotes from private companies be sought and presented for consideration especially considering the precept increase. Residents need to see some action coming from these extra monies if practicable and affordable was his personal view.

RIGHTS OF WAY: Cllr D. Bradbeer – Had nothing new to report.

WEBSITE: Cllr J Jackson – Reported the website and social media continue to operate well.

VILLAGE HALL: Mrs E Bowers – Addressed those present on current Village Hall matters. She highlighted the Spring Posy Competition which will run alongside the café on Saturday 11 April.

<https://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Corfe-Flower-Comp26-poster.pdf>

The monthly Friday pizza man is continuing and is being well received by his regulars.

Emma also highlighted that new small white tables has been purchased for the hall. The old tables were donated to Blagdon Hill Fete for recycling.

Here are the minutes from the latest committee meeting:

<https://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Corfe-VH-Minutes-12.02.26.pdf>

GREEN PORTFOLIO – We still currently are without a portfolio holder. No green issues were raised at this meeting by those present.

ALMSHOUSE CHARITY SELICKS GREEN REPORT – Cllr J Harrison – Had nothing to report and stated that things were ticking along.

QUEENS ACRE AND PLAY AREA – Cllr S Humphries – Reported that he now had the new ‘age limit’ play park signs in his possession. Cllr J. Harrison will install them. Some of the timber beams and planks are rotting and will need to be replaced. Tony Dewhurst has been made aware and remedial work will occur once he can undertake the work. Hardwood beams (more expensive) and softwood beam replacements were then discussed, and it was agreed that with more monies now available, we should seek to get longer lasting repairs done if at all practicable. The need to re-spread the existing surface bark at the park was also noted. A request for a volunteer working party will be made in due course. No new bark is currently required. The annual health and safety inspection of the play park should highlight what is required later in the year.

131/11: FINANCES – Cllr J Jackson provided an update on finances as of 18th March 2026.

Parish Council Funds are currently £35,453.77, held in the Santander current account (£978.18) and at the Skipton Building Society (£34,475.59).

Since the last meeting on 14th January 2026, the following payments have been made for a total of £1,074.30: Chris Brown (£200 for admin in January/February) and GoPak (£874.30 for Village Hall Tables).

Since the last meeting on 14 January 2026, income of £893.28 has been received, made up of: Village Hall (Payment for Tables – £728.58) and VAT Refund (£164.70).

132/11: CORRESPONDENCE – Cllr J Harrison reported receiving emails from Mr J. Halliday and his Land Agent regarding oak tree lvy contamination safety concerns regarding the Major Newton memorial trees on his land and requests for some extra parking facilities for the Church and Village Hall users. It was felt that the replies received were unfortunately not affordable or practicable in their content regarding the car parking and therefore no further investigations were being planned. This will be disappointing news for some residents and visitors affected by Corfe car parking issues.

Correspondence regarding the state of the village notice board and rubbish bin by the church has been raised. An appeal for a residential DIY helper to build a new board will be made via the Keep Corfe Healthy WhatsApp! Group. The purchase of a more practicable larger rubbish bin was also sanctioned.

133/11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Cllr J Harrison reported that Mr N. Furniss had volunteered his services to assist with groundworks for a more permanent electrical supply for Christmas tree lights. The existing power supply close to the church entrance gate was highlighted as a possible start point.

Concerns over some black poplar trees being overrun with vegetation was expressed from the floor. Our new Tree Warden Mr R. Bosson will be approached for comment in due course.

Cllr B. Lenthall gave those present an historical overview of how the oak trees were first donated by the now Corfe Estate and associated fencing donated by Durstons in memory of Major Newton. He also

highlighted the expectations of maintenance on the estate for these items, especially regarding branches overhanging the highway and the dangers that this might pose if neglected.

The History Tree memorable events plaque in Queens Acre needs to be replaced due to rot. New historical labels are available; we just need a decent hard-wearing plinth of wood on which to place them. A suitable supplier is being sought by Cllr B. Lenthall. It was highlighted from the floor that this has been sometime in being actioned which seemed such a shame.

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 13th May 2026 at 6.00pm.

NOTE: This will be The Societies of Corfe and Corfe Parish Council AGM for 2026.