

**MINUTES OF THE CORFE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD AT CORFE VILLAGE HALL, WEDNESDAY 15th July 2026 at 6pm.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr J Harrison, Cllr. B Lenthall, Cllr. C Brown, Cllr. D Bradbeer, Cllr. J Jackson. Cllr S. Humphries. 23 members of the public.

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

**150/11: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

SCC. S Wakefield. Cllr. R. Hudson

**151/11: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

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

**152/11: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD, WEDNESDAY 13th May 2026.**

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

**153/11: MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES.**

Nothing noted. Agenda items being discussed will address certain matters.

**154/11: REPORTS OF COUNTY COUNCILLORS.** - SCC Cllr S Wakefield of Somerset County Council had sent in her apologies. No report discussion was therefore possible on this occasion. Here is the SCC July report:

<https://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Latest-SCC-Report.pdf>

**155/11: REPORTS OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS.**

**PLANNING:** Cllr J Harrison – Reported there were no new planning applications to report on. He did however confirm that the White Hart Pub planning application for change of use to three residential dwellings and the demolition of the skittle alley had now been approved with conditions applied. He also reported that an area of land to the rear of the existing car park, that currently houses the former LPG tank, had been sold by the owner. We are unaware of the purchaser or the plans for this plot and will await planning applications in due course.

Here is a useful link with the approval documents:

<https://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk/pub-news/>

**HIGHWAYS:** Cllr B. Lenthall – Reported that the B3170 Corfe Hill Road was showing signs of serious wear and tear in places. It will be closed for three days for minor repairs. Full details will be published once time frames have been identified. Works to identify and jet clear blocked drains within Corfe have been identified. These have been marked up it is hoped this will remedy the issue or help identify whether more intensive works are required. A recent tractor and trailer fire has damaged the road surface at the turning to Pitminster just before the White Hart Pub. It will probably need resurfacing – once details are known residents will be informed. Cllr B Lenthall attended the incident at the time and wanted to pass on his thanks to those who helped in so many ways during what was a very frightening time for those concerned.

**RIGHTS OF WAY:** Cllr D. Bradbeer – A new stile is now in operation at Adcombe Lane. The gate is now closed and padlocked with the field occupied by cattle at times.

**WEBSITE:** Cllr J Jackson – Reported - Corfe residents continue to be kept in touch with village news and issues via a variety of social media channels. The website is running smoothly and provides an accessible home for all village and Somerset County information.

**VILLAGE HALL:** Mr Keith Gosling – Addressed those present on current Village Hall matters. He informed those present that the Sausage Sizzle and Summer Artisan Market had gone very well with good attendance and feedback. He was pleased that new faces were stepping up to assist. Several club meetings and proposed events had been cancelled due to the excessive heat. Air conditioning enquiries had been raised by several groups – the matter will be considered and debated at the next Village Hall Meeting scheduled for July.

Here are the minutes from the latest committee meeting in April:

<https://www.corfevillagesomerset.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Corfe-VH-Minutes-16.04.26.pdf>

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

**ALMSHOUSE CHARITY SELICKS GREEN REPORT** – Cllr J Harrison – Commented that one of the occupiers had a fall but is on the mend. All wished them well.

**QUEENS ACRE AND PLAY AREA** – Cllr S Humphries had nothing new to report. Cllr J Harrison reported previously that some of the timber beams and planks were rotting and will need to be replaced. Taunton Oak has been sourced as a supplier, and an order will be placed. Hardwood beams such as oak are more expensive but it is hoped they will last far longer than softwood.

**156/11: POTENTIAL ORCHARD PORTMAN AREA DEVELOPMENT UPDATE** – Cllr J Harrison updated those present on what is currently known of this proposal and the likely effect on Corfe should planning permission be granted. The main concern, besides the environmental impact of so many new properties being built so close to an AONB, would probably be the likelihood of an access road joining the B3170 at the northern end of our parish. It was previously agreed that Corfe would join with other affected parishes in a united effort to ensure the best possible outcome. Concerns could be shared once more solid information was available and consultations seriously begin. Cllr. J. Harrison informed those present that the first of these meetings was occurring tonight and that Somerset County Councillor Wakefield would be in attendance and should report back in due course. It was reported from the floor by a Neroche Parish Council representative that this was a ticket-only invitation and that the venue is 'sold out'. She was pleased to hear that Corfe would be uniting with the other affected parishes.

**157/11: AB031. AIRBAND TELEGRAPH POLE. CORFE PARISH CHURCH LOCATION UPDATE** – Cllr J. Harrison reported that despite many attempts to contact the company it had proved impossible to get any news on why this was going ahead. A special meeting about this and other Rural Broadband issues has been called by our local MP Mr G. Amos. Cllr J Harrison was hopeful that he could attend or send a deputy so that our disappointment with Airband Customer Services non responses could be highlighted to their representatives.

**158/11: WAR MEMORIAL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT UPDATE** – Cllr C Brown highlighted the results of the recent residents’ poll on the War Memorial refurbishment project.

As background, following concerns from some residents that the Parish Council was not proceeding with the proposed refurbishment with residents’ approval, it was decided at the last Parish Council meeting in May to gauge opinion from residents.

A poll was run by Cllr R Hudson, but he was unfortunately absent on the night due to other commitments.

Many of the questions raised from the poll could not be answered on the night until a proper review of the data had been made. As a result, it was agreed that a separate meeting (before the next Parish Council meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September) would be held with the proposers before any further works could be approved/paid for. Works can either progress or be amended as required.

For the record, 66 residents responded to the survey via WhatsApp, email, or by physical delivery. There were six choices:

1. I support the proposed upgrade => 33 votes.
2. I support the upgrade but have some comments => 7
3. I do not support the changes (i.e. leave current configuration) => 10
4. I do not support the changes (i.e. leave current configuration) but have some comments => 1
5. I would like the war memorial to revert to its original state => 13
6. Other, please provide comments. =>2

**159/11: FINANCES** – Cllr J Jackson provided an update on finances as of 15th July 2026.

Since the last meeting on 13th May 2026, income of £2,649.05 has been received, made up of: Interest on the Skipton Community Savings Account (£834.25), Village Hall (Notice Board Contribution – £1222.04), and VAT Refund (£592.76).

Since the last meeting on 13th May 2026, the payments of £3,927.15 have been made for: Chris Brown (£200 for admin in May/June), New Village Bin (£294.54), Karen Dewhirst internal audit (£120), Parsons (Grass cutting, £368.60), Two Notice Boards (£2,932.91), and SCC (Dog Poo Bin collection, £50.70).

Parish Council Funds are currently £39,185.16, held in the Santander current account (£875.32) and at the Skipton Building Society (£38,309.84).

**160/11: CORRESPONDENCE** – Cllr J Harrison reported receiving an email from a concerned resident regarding a proposed change to the grass cutting time. At present, a 9am curfew is in place. Our contractor has requested an earlier time due to timetabling issues and costs involved in planning their working day. The Parish Council are keen to keep our local contractor as they have provided very good service for the last 30 years.

The resident explained their concerns to those present, informing the councillors that the health issues for their son that resulted in the original curfew agreement are still ongoing, and a start time of 7am could have a detrimental impact on his wellbeing. He offered to seek a new supplier who is willing to work within the timing constraints, if required, and appealed to the Parish Council to continue with the current curfew. A shift to a 5pm cut was discussed, as in the past the contractor has said that this would be acceptable to them if access could be secured, although some councillors highlighted the park might be busy at that time, prompting concerns over parking and health & safety. In response, the resident said he was happy to liaise with the contractor to smooth the process.

The Parish Council therefore agreed with the resident to contact our contractor to see if a compromise could be found. A meeting will be called once interested parties can find a convenient time.

**161/11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – Cllr J Harrison/Mr J Halliday/Mr K. Gosling addressed those present with other business issues.

There was a discussion on the potential for additional parking facilities for the church and village hall. The need for additional space had arisen since the closure of the pub because of the increased number of community events at the church and village hall. Mr J. Halliday highlighted his efforts to create additional parking and his desire to provide a legacy for the village. It was agreed by those present that Mr N Furniss (Village Hall Committee) would become a focal point and arrange a meeting with interested parties to see if current options being proposed were affordable and practicable. A plan could then be put together.

Cllr Harrison reported that The History Tree memorable events plaque in Queens Acre should be replaced soon and had sourced a supplier. New historical labels have been available for some time, now we just need a decent hard-wearing plinth of wood on which to place them. Mr J. Halliday has also sourced a supplier for us so once agreed the work can then begin to get the plaque replaced.

New noticeboards have been purchased to replace the existing ones and will be installed when time permits.

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 30th September 2026 at 6.00pm.**