

# CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 IN THE VILLAGE HALL. THE MEETING COMMENCED AT 7.00PM

---

## **PRESENT:**

Cllr **Clarke** (Chairman), Cllr **Dru Drury** (Vice Chairman), Cllr **Blinkhorn**, , Cllr **Haywood**, Cllr **Parish**, Cllr **Roberts**, Cllr **Spicer-Short** & Cllr **Sumbler**

## **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

James **Gould** (National Trust), Mark **Singleton** (National Trust) & Michelle **Harrington** (Clerk)

## **ABSENT:**

Cllr **Marshallsay**, Cllr **J Dragon** & Cllr **N Dragon**

---

## **PUBLIC HALF HOUR.**

3 members of public were present.

1 member wished to show their support for the 20mph scheme and offered to deliver leaflets if required.

### **1123-68 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT(LGA) 1972 S85 (1))**

Apologies have been received from Cllr Marshallsay, Cllr J Dragon & Cllr N Dragon and accepted by all. Best wishes were sent to Cllr Marshallsay.

### **1123-69 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declaration was made. NB this does not preclude any later declarations.

### **1123-70 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes from the full council meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record the meeting. (LGA 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PARA 41(1))

Proposed Cllr Dru Drury

Seconded Cllr Blinkhorn

**RESOLVED** – The minutes from the full council meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were approved and signed as a correct record the meeting.

### **1123-71 NATIONAL TRUST REPORT**

A report was submitted from James Gould before the meeting, this was discussed.

It was noted the closure of the permissive footpath is from 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 not 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023.

A verbal report was given from Mark Singleton regarding the following items:

1. "Swift boxes within the Castle. It was noted that during the conservation works planned on the Castle between 2023 – 2025 the National Trust was investigating the possibility of adding Swift boxes to the Castle.
2. Common's Committee: It was noted:
  - a. The Common's committee is there to serve the people with the Rights to the Common and not people wishing to graze their animals. The Commons Committee is not a statutory body and it could be reconstituted as for example Friends of the Common. The Parish Council would be open to considering this.
  - b. There had recently been an EGM, and a Treasurer, Secretary and Chairman were appointed. During the meeting it was decided to re-invest the money already held into fence and gates, however installing fences on a Common is not straight forward as there are other agencies which have to be consulted. At present the Open Spaces Society is looking into the request to install fencing, and its recommendation will be sent to the Secretary of State for consideration along with the proposal.
  - c. Countryside Stewardship. It was noted the National Trust is working with the tenant farmers to help them diversify, to help them secure a farming future.
  - d. Footpath – It was noted on the National Trust website there is reference to an "Out of Hours" telephone service, however this service goes to voicemail. James Gould stated he would investigate as this is not intended to be a 24hr response.
  - e. Fencing catching deer. When the new fences went in, the National Trust initially recorded a number of incidents (more than would usually be expected). The National Trust initially designed the fence specification following the British Deer Societies (and local deer stalkers) recommendations. The fence consists of a barbed wire strand (at the base of the fence) to stop the pigs going under, a 1.2m sheep net and then a barbed wire strand on the top (which forms part of the structural integrity of the fence). It is thought that it is not the barbed wire itself that is the issue, but the fact that the wire sits flush with the top of the sheep netting. Deer have got their legs stuck between the sheep net and barbed wire. Also a few animals were caught in the top 'square' of the sheep netting. Barbed wire is

required to stop cattle pushing the fence over.

Since installing the fence, the National Trust has taken measures to reduce the numbers of deer becoming caught, such as:

- Putting metal hog ties around the top of the fence to bind the top strand of barbed wire to the sheep net, which helps prevent legs getting caught between the two.
- Where repeated incidents have occurred, or we know there is a deer run (an area where they move regularly), we have installed metal tags on the fence. These make it easier for deer to see the top of the fence, and so clear it when they jump.

This has reduced incidents. The National Trust are still being notified of more incidents than they want and are still looking at ways to minimise the occurrences – for example, installing ‘deer leaps’ in highly used deer run areas. The National Trust has been talking to local deer stalkers to help identify these areas. Eliminating the problem to zero will be impossible but we can work to reduce - anywhere where there is high deer populations and stock fences there will always be this risk.”

#### **1123-72 DORSET COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

A report was submitted before the meeting, this was discussed.

It was noted in an email from Cllr Brooks stating in regard to Purbeck Park footpath to Corfe Castle “We will shortly be engaging our consultants to carry out an options appraisal to make sure that we have considered all other viable options so we can be certain of the best route to be taken forward.”

**Action:** It was agreed the Clerk contact Cllr Brooks & David Brown as project Manager to request Cllr Blinkhorn & Cllr Roberts meet up with the consultants when on site, to offer local knowledge of the area.

**Action:** It was agreed the Clerk contact David Brown (Dorset Council Engineering Project Manager) and invite him to attend a Corfe Castle Paish Council meeting to discuss the Purbeck Park footpath project.

It was noted in an email from Cllr Brooks stating in regard to signage stating West Street Car Park full: “In principle, electronic signs for parking sound sensible, but we couldn’t sign people to the P&R until there’s an accessible walking route established between the Purbeck Park and the village. The messages and sign would also have to meet highway regulations, the location on the highway will need to be agreed, as will the predetermined messages on the sign. The Traffic Signals team will work with you on this.”

**Action:** It was agreed the Clerk contact Cllr Brooks & a representative of the Traffic Signal Team to start engagement regarding electronic signage.

#### **1123-73 CLERKS REPORT TO INCLUDE:**

##### **1123-73a Action Log.**

The clerk submitted a written report before the meeting, detailing the updates on any matters arising from the previous minutes plus actions taken from the last meeting, this was noted.

##### **1123-73b Financial Matters**

b1-3 The clerk submitted a written report before the meeting, detailing the monthly expenditure, income, and bank balances.

Proposed Cllr Haywood

Seconded Cllr Spicer-Short

**RESOLVED** – All payments as listed within the Clerks report and supporting paper was approved with a combined total of £4,737.25 including VAT.

**Action:** Clerk to process payments.

b4 The Clerk submitted a copy of the Internal Auditors report before the meeting, this was discussed and noted.

##### **1123-73c Parish Safety Report**

c1 The playground safety report was submitted before the meeting and noted

c2 Defibrillator Monthly Safety Reports were submitted before the meeting this was noted.

##### **1123-73d Policy Ratification**

The following new policy and Risk Assessment review was submitted before the meeting for ratification:

d1 Environment Policy – Approved no amendments.

d2 Land Preparation for Tree Planting & Tree Planting – Risk Assessment review noted.

**Action:** Clerk to publish the Environment Policy.

##### **1123-73e No Dog Signage – Playpark**

A request was submitted before the meeting, for new signage within the Playpark area. New signage for the gates and rear fence was approved.

**Action:** It was agreed to purchase new signage stating “No Dogs” to be placed on the gates and back fence.

**1123-73f Caretakers Report**

Before the meeting a list of works the caretaker has undertaken this month was submitted. This was noted.

**1123-74 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS**

**a Planning Working Group – Planning Applications**

The planning working group submitted a report before the meeting detailing applications with recommendations.

**a1 Application No: P/HOU/2023/04658**

**Location:** Pennys Cottages West Street Corfe Castle BH20 5HB

**Proposal:** Erect single storey rear extension and internal alterations

**Planning Working Group Comment:** This is a modest single story extension to the rear of the property. It cannot be seen from the road and increases the overall size of the house by only a small amount. The proposed materials will match the existing.

The Purbeck Ranger has noted that a footpath runs close by; however as this is the access to Webber's Close it will not cause a problem.

**Recommendation:** No objection. Agreed by all.

**a2 Application No: P/PABA/2023/05895**

**Location:** A E S Fry and Son Kingston Barn Farm Langton Road Kingston BH20 5LR

**Proposal:** Erect a steel portal framed roof to cover the existing silage clamps at Lynch Farm, to be sited immediately west of the farm buildings, but within the main farmstead, supported by a Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer to reduce pollution and contamination from the silage effluent

**Planning Working Group Comment:** This proposal is to cover an existing silage clamp at Lynch Farm to provide vital space for the storage of clamped silage which has been approved and encouraged by a Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer. The proposed development is necessary and justified for the purpose of agriculture as well as reducing pollution levels. The proposed materials will match existing farm buildings.

**Recommendation:** No objection. Agreed by all.

**a3 Application No: P/HOU/2023/05836**

**Location:** The Old School House Corfe Road Norden Dorset BH20 5DT

**Proposal:** Single storey extensions to dwelling, remove two dormers.

**Planning Working Group Comment:** This aims to provide small extensions around the property including a sun lounge on the south side with a solid roof to prevent light pollution. Two dormer windows will be removed. It will allow an existing rural property to be remodelled and refreshed to provide a high quality, and sustainable family home. The proposal complies with the NPPF and the existing Purbeck local plan.

**Recommendation:** No objection. Agreed by all.

**a4 Application No: P/HOU/2023/06192**

**Location:** Langton Wallis New Line Norden BH20 5DX

**Proposal:** Single storey extensions to rear of dwelling.

**Planning Working Group Comment:** The dwelling sits in a secluded position on Langton Wallis Heath, largely hidden from wider views by mature landscaping. The dwelling is a traditional C19th Purbeck stone cottage. It is not listed. The applicant seeks to provide new bathrooms to serve the upper floor; two ensuite, and one general family bathroom. A dual-winged approach at the back is proposed, allowing two smaller wings to be provided with simple pitched roofs that would complement the original building. The proposed extensions being at the rear the rear of the building retain the present look of the front. The extensions are proportionate and subservient to the main dwelling and will be constructed of matching materials. The site is remote and there is no overlooking.

**Recommendation:** No objection. Agreed by all.

**1123-74b. Treeworks Application**

No treework Applications were submitted.

**1123-74c Application: For a premises licence to be granted under the Licensing Act 2003**

**Location:** Swanage Railway

**Proposal:** Films: Showing if full / excerpts from the Polar Express with Movie Rating G

Recorded Music: Music from the Polar Express film to be played throughout the train and station PA system and within areas such as the gift shop, toilets and ticket arrival hall.

The Polar Express Train Event is a live theatre show on a train, with music, singing and dancing featuring recognisable characters, such as the Conductor and Gero Boy from the Polar Express Film. The train departs Swanage Station and takes passengers on a journey to the North Pole (Norden Station) where Santa hops on board the train. Entertainment for the audience will take place both on the station and once aboard the steam train for the main performance.

**Supply of alcohol:** On the premises.

**Action:** Clerk to submit approved comments as per recommendations.

**1123-75      CORRESPONDENCE**

a            It was noted an email had been received titled “Dangerous fencing on Purbeck National Park & No help when needed.” This was discussed during the National Trust agenda above.

b.           It was noted an email regarding an offer to refurbish signage from around the parish was discussed.

Proposed Cllr Dru Drury

Seconded Cllr Parish

**RESOLVED** – It was agreed by all to request the sign for “Halves Cottages” be repaired.

**Action:** Clerk to contact member of public who has offered to repair the Halves Cottages sign. The Clerk will contact Dorset Council about funding if DC would like to use the member of public for several more signs.

**1123-76      BUDGET**

A first draft of the budget was submitted for comment. Cllrs are requested to ask the Clerk before the next meeting if they have detailed questions. The Finance and Personnel group will put a recommendation to the next meeting using the information in the Clerk’s Report.

It was stated that “black top” had been used to repair the pavement along East Street, instead of Purbeck Stone slabs. As we are in a conservation area, it was agreed the Clerk should write to Dorset Council Highways to ensure this is a temporary measure.

**Action:** Clerk to write to Dorset Council Highways to ensure the repairs to the pavement along East Street using Tarmac is a temporary repair.

**1123-77      DAPTC AGM – VOTING**

An email sent from DAPTC was circulated before the meeting. This was discussed and the following voting view agreed:

1. To seek approval from the Annual General Meeting to consult the membership of DAPTC for the organisation to transition from a constituted membership body to a company limited by guarantee, in readiness for the next financial year in April 2024.

It was agreed Corfe Castle Parish Council would vote to support this motion; however recent concerns discussed would be raised.

**1123-78      20MPH**

A report & draft copy of the flyer were submitted before the meeting these were discussed.

It was agreed the survey, when published, should have a response time of 6 weeks.

A motion from Cllr Blinkhorn was submitted before the meeting: “The 20mph Working Group request that £250 is allocated by council for the purpose of engaging with parishioners and gauging the level of support for a 20mph speed limit. A breakdown of costs is included in this month’s 20mph report.” This was discussed.

Proposed Cllr Blinkhorn

Seconded Cllr Parish

**RESOLVED** – To allocate £250 to a new Earmarked reserve for the purpose of engaging with parishioners and gauging the level of support for a 20mph speed limit.

**1123-79      SWANAGE RAILWAY**

A motion from Cllr Dru Drury was submitted before the meeting: “Corfe Castle Parish Council request that the Swanage Railway working group meet to discuss the possibility of a shuttle service between Corfe Castle & Norden, and other matters generally.” This was discussed.

Proposed Cllr Dru Drury

Seconded Cllr Blinkhorn

**RESOLVED:** To reform the Railways Consultation working group. To hold meetings twice a year and report back to the Parish Council.

**1123-80      REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS**

1123-80a    SE Parish Meeting.

A report was submitted before the meeting, this was noted.

The meeting ended at 21.02.