

CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a parish council meeting of Corfe Castle Parish Council held on Monday 9th March 2026 in the village hall.
The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Cllr **Clarke** (Vice-Chairman), Cllr **Dru Drury** (Chairman), Cllr **Blinkhorn**, Cllr **Humphries**, Cllr **Lermit**,
Cllr **Marshallsay**, Cllr **Rowell**, & Cllr **Spicer-Short**

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

James **Gould** & Gen **Crisford** (National Trust), & Michelle **Harrington** (Clerk)

ABSENT:

Cllr Kirkwood, Cllr Roberts & Cllr Sumbler

PUBLIC SESSION

Five members of public were present.

One member wished to speak on agenda item 0326-128e. This was noted.

One member wished to raise a concern about the drains. It was noted the residents house was flooded during the recent storm due to road drains backing up and water spilling over and into their property. - Advised to contact Dorset Council annually to jet the highway drains.

ACTION: Clerk to ask Dorset Council Highways to investigate silt levels in the drains along East Street, primarily near Kingston turning. Email to be copied to Cllr Spicer-Short to enable participation in the investigation.

0326-121 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT(LGA) 1972 S85 (1))

Apologies have been received from Cllr Kirkwood, Cllr Sumbler & Cllr Roberts for personal reasons and accepted by all.

0326-122 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

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

0326-123 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the full council meeting held on Monday 9th February 2026 were approved and signed as a correct record the meeting. (LGA 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PARA 41(1))

Proposed Cllr Marshallsay

Seconded Cllr Humphries

RESOLVED – The minutes from the full council meeting held on Monday 9th February 2025 were approved and signed as a correct record the meeting.

0326-124 DORSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A report was submitted before the meeting, but after the agenda was published, this was noted. See Appendix A for full details

0326-125 NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

- a. The Operations Manager for Corfe Castle, James Gould gave a verbal update on future Castle activities, this was noted.
- b. The Project Officer, Beavers and Wetlands, Gen Crisford gave a verbal update on the National Trust river project across Purbeck. Noting they have worked with Swanage Town Council, National landscape, and Planet Purbeck to clean and enhance the Swanbrook river. A project to look at the Corfe River, with partners such as Church Knowle PC, Corfe Castle PC, Planet Purbeck was discussed.

0326-126 CLERKS REPORT TO INCLUDE:

a Financial Matters

The clerk submitted an updated expenditure and income list before the meeting. See Appendix C for full details

1.

Bank Balance

The following bank balance was noted:

Bank Balance 28th February 2026

00289201 – Lloyds £11,781.86

00162368 – Lloyds £30,657.27

80031534 – Redwood £68,940.14

Equals Money £200.00

Total £111,579.27

Initial/ Sign:

Chairman: Cllr S Dru Drury

Date:

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2. Expenditure and Income
Proposed Cllr Blinkhorn Seconded Cllr Lermitt
RESOLVED / ACTION – All payments as listed within the Clerks report and supporting paper was approved with a combined total of £14,196.72 including VAT. The Income of £5,922.35 was noted. See Appendix B for a full list of expenditure. Clerk to process payments.

3. Bank Reconciliation
A copy of the February Bank Reconciliation print out from Scribe was submitted during the meeting.
RESOLVED – To approve the February Scribe bank reconciliation and the Chairman to sign.

4. Wessex Water
To note following confusion by Water2Business reading the wrong meter. The Clerk met with a Wessex Water operative who confirmed the correct meter belongs to the Council. He advised the road leak likely affected our bill, so Water2Business are investigating reclaiming the cost and refunding the Council.

The Clerk was also informed that if a future leak occurs between the meter and the toilet block, the Council would be responsible for repair costs. If leaks occur regularly, the meter could be moved closer to the toilet block, though the Council would need to fund the works. The current meter is located on the corner of West Street by the Old Bakery.

While inspecting meters, the Wessex Water operative also identified an unregistered meter linked to the cemetery. He has logged for the meter to be replaced and the surrounding road repaired. Once installed, Corfe Castle Parish Council will be charged for cemetery water usage. A leak from the tap in the New Extension has also been identified; however, it cannot be repaired until the meter is replaced as it has seized and the water supply cannot currently be isolated.

RESOLVED / ACTION: Clerk to obtain a quote from Wessex Water to move the toilet block meter.
RESOLVED / ACTION: Clerk to obtain a quote to have the taps in Gods Acre replaced with push taps.

5. **Internal audit**
A copy of the internal audit report was submitted before the meeting, this was discussed.

- b Parish Safety Report**
1 The playground safety report was submitted before the meeting and noted
2 Defibrillator Monthly Safety Reports were noted.

- c Annual Parish Meeting**
To note due to hall availability the Annual Parish Meeting will now be held on Monday 27th April 2026.
To discuss printing 1200 x A5 flyers to be distributed alongside the CVN print cost is £89 (Zero VAT)
To discuss the cost to amend the banner is £15 + VAT
+ possible CVN donation £30

Proposed Cllr Spicer-Short Seconded Cllr Rowell
RESOLVED / ACTION: Clerk to arrange for leaflets to be printed at a cost of £89 and inserting into the CVN. Noting a donation will be made to CVN as per previous years. Clerk to organise for the banner date to be changed and the banner put up in the square.

- d Caretakers Report**
Before the meeting a list of works the caretaker has undertaken this month was submitted. This was noted.

Proposed Cllr Blinkhorn Seconded Cllr Spicer-Short
RESOLVED / ACTION: To increase the Caretakers hours to 25 hours a month, with a provision to add a further 10 hours for projects approved by Council. Clerk to liaise with the Caretaker.

RESOLVED / ACTION: To postpone to April a discussion regarding the Wild Flower project. Clerk to add to the April agenda.

- e. 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.

1. Item 0226-115 “School” warning stickers cost returned at £44 + VAT
Proposed Cllr Humphries Seconded Cllr Rowell
RESOLVED / ACTION: Clerk to order two “School” warning stickers for the shelter on East Street outside of the village school.

0326-127 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

a Planning Working Group – Planning Applications

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

1 Application No: P/VOC/2026/00842

Location: Old Dairy Cottage Woolgarston Road Corfe Castle BH20 5JD

Proposal: Removal and reinstatement of the roof, replacement of the telegraph poles used as A-frame trusses to southern building, waterproofing of the southern gable wall. Internal alterations to allow for sanitaryware to be installed at ground and first floor level. Install two conservation rooflights to roof (with variation of conditions 2 and 3 of planning permission P/HOU/2024/01623 to vary the plans showing render to gable & comply with previously discharged condition 3)

Comment due: 17th Feb 2026

Comment: No objection. This application covers necessary work to prevent water ingress into a dwelling. Other approaches have been tried and have failed, with water damage still being caused.

2. Application No: P/VOL/2026/00920

Location: Old Dairy Cottage Woolgarston Road Corfe Castle BH20 5JD

Proposal: Removal and reinstatement of the roof, replacement of the telegraph poles used as A-frame trusses to southern building, waterproofing of the southern gable wall. Internal alterations to allow for sanitaryware to be installed at ground and first floor level. Install two conservation rooflights to roof (with variation of Conditions 2 of planning approval P/LBC/2024/01624 to vary the plans and render the gables & approve details required by conditions 3,4,5,6,7,8 & 9)

Comments Due: 17th Feb 2026

Comment: As above.

3. Application No: P/HOU/2026/01120

Location: Cromwell Cottage East Street Corfe Castle BH20 5ED

Proposal: Erect single-storey summer house and porch.

Comments Due: 30th March 2026

Comment: This application is for a replacement garden building on an existing concrete slab, the previous building having already been removed. On looking at the plans, what is described as a 'porch' appears to be what I would call a veranda, extending the whole frontage.

The proposed summer house is intended to be green/timber in colour to blend in with the surroundings. Given that the previous structure was painted white Corfe Castle Parish Council have no objection.

Proposed Cllr Spicer-Short

Seconded Cllr Rowell

RESOLVED / ACTION: Clerk to submit planning application comments as per above. Clerk to investigate conditions associated with planning application 6/2020/0220 and add to April agenda.

0326-128 CORRESPONSENCE

a. Dorset Council Purbeck Watercraft Byelaw 2027

RESOLVED / ACTION: Cllr's are encourage to complete individually, plus email the Clerk with their responses. Clerk to collate responses and draft a Parish Council response for discussion and approval in April.

b. Flag Flying on East Street.

No further action.

c. Letter of Thanks – Citizens Advice. Noted

d. Note of Thanks – Corfe Valley News. Noted

e. Cultural Purbeck

CCPC indicated that they are minded to support the submission of an Expression of Interest to DCMS for Swanage and the Isle of Purbeck to become the UK Town of Culture 2028. It was noted that this position will be formally ratified in April. The discussion and agreement in principle took place due to the bid submission deadline. The level of financial contribution will be discussed in April.

ACTION: Clerk to add Cultural Purbeck to the April Agenda

f. Corfe Castle Library

ACTION: Clerk to add the request from Corfe Castle Library for financial aid to the April Agenda

- g. Aster Garage sale – Add to April agenda.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Aster to ask what they propose to do with the land they refer to a Garages, West Street, Corfe Castle, BH20 5HE.

0326-129 EMERGENCY PLANNING

Cllr Blinkhorn gave a verbal update on the progress of the Emergency Plan.

0326-130 SPORTS TRUST

After a concern was previously raised a Sports Trust representative attended to report that governance and operations are reviewed and are running smoothly, fundraising is on-going with income dependent on weather, and the Trust has financial reserves but is always seeking help to fundraise to achieve better than “break even.”

A report was submitted before the meeting, in respect of nominating a Trustee, this was discussed.

Proposed Cllr Clarke

Seconded Cllr Blinkhorn

RESOLVED / ACTION: To appoint Mr Colin Fuller as the Parish Council nominee. Clerk to update the website

0326-131 PTAG SURVEY

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

Proposed Cllr Spicer-Short

Seconded Cllr Rowell

RESOLVED / ACTION: Councillors to send the Clerk their preferred answers. The Clerk to collate and draft a response for discussion in the April meeting.

0326-132 EXTERNAL MEETING / WORKING GROUP REPORTS

- a. PTAG meeting

A report was submitted before the meeting this was noted.

- b. DAPTC AGM

A verbal report was given by Cllr Clarke, noting the AGM has been moved, this was noted.

0326-133 STAFFING

Part 2 Confidential Item.

Due to commercial sensitivity under s.1(2) of the 1960 Act, the press and public are to be excluded for the remainder of the meeting.

Proposed Cllr Spicer-Short

Seconded Cllr Blinkhorn

RESOLVED/ACTION

1. Clerk to advertise the vacancy for Clerk, Responsible Financial Officer and Burial Authority Clerk with DAPTC, SLCC & Indeed for 2 weeks. Noting cost for the SLCC is £200.
2. The role to be 80hrs per month but additional hours and travel costs are available for God’s Acre activity.
3. To hold interviews on 1st April 2026
4. The Selection Panel have approval to offer the role to their preferred candidate and report back to council in April.
5. The Scale point offered will be LC2 21 – 24 with progression beyond point 24 to point 28 subject to additional qualifications and experience.
6. Pension to remain with NEST with a contribution from Corfe Castle Parish Council.

The meeting ended at 20.54

Update on Flooding

Dorset Council have announced an additional £5m funding towards the repairs required to Highways as a result of the recent flooding events. As these events have been on-going until very recently in other areas of the county, DC Highways are still trying to recover usual service. The additional funding will provide much-needed additional capacity in the short to medium term.

Locally, road repairs have been taking place and there are more to come.

It is critical that any road damage is reported to Dorset Council through the on-line portal. If there are necessary repairs that appear to present a risk to public safety, then I am happy for these to be escalated to me (or CCPC can contact Glenn Hannon directly).

In addition to the funding, Dorset Council have also announced a full review of the response to the flooding by multiple agencies and bodies including the Environment Agency, Wessex Water and National Highways. Dorset Council will also be joining the Flood Prevention Partnership alongside our neighbouring authorities.

Working with Communities

On 3rd March, Dorset Council Cabinet approved a paper entitled 'Working with Communities' which outlines plans for community conversations over the next 12 months to establish how DC can better connect with local community clusters. The paper also included a recommendation to adopt the Statement of Reasonable Expectations which articulates how DC can foster better working relationships with town and parish councils. I attach the report with the Statement of Reasonable Expectations.

Swanage Shore Road Plans

The preferred option to improve the main seafront road in Swanage to make it more attractive and safer for pedestrians was considered by Swanage Town Council on Monday 23 February 2026.

Following public engagement led by Dorset Coast Forum in 2025, we have chosen to keep two-way traffic while removing on-street parking to create wider footways, introducing a 20mph speed limit and delivering public realm improvements.

The two-way traffic option was favoured by the public during the engagement.

As part of the engagement, people were invited to comment on the proposed options. Suggestions raised that will be taken to the next design phase include: widening the promenade; using high quality materials; reducing street clutter to improve accessibility; providing nearby disabled parking and dedicated pickup points.

Other ideas focused on the wider area will be explored and include proposals for better visibility at the Northbrook Road junction with Victoria Avenue, safer crossing points on De Moulham Road and clearer wayfinding signage - particularly to Main Beach and North Beach car parks.

Estimated costs for delivering the improvements are around £2.5 million, subject to refinement as design progresses. Formal consultation will take place during autumn/winter 2026

In addition, Dorset Council Cabinet have approved further funding for the Swanage Beach Coastal Protection scheme which will provide necessary protection against flooding and erosion.

Coastal Consultation launched to improve coastal safety and protect marine habitats

Please find below the links to Coastal Safety and Marine Habitats consultation. I am awaiting a response regarding the enquiry for the justification of reducing the size of the exclusion zone in Swanage Bay. The deadline for responses is 15th April.

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/news/consultation-launched-to-improve-coastal-safety-and-protect-marine-habitats>

Appendix B

Expenditure

Date	Net	VAT	Total	Description	Supplier	Bank	Tender
28.02.2026	£1,825.41	£0.00	£1,825.41	Salary	Staff	Lloyds	ONLINE
06.03.2026	£42.56	£0.00	£42.56	GA Refuse	Dorset Waste Partnership	Lloyds	ONLINE
06.03.2026	£2,862.40	£0.00	£2,862.40	Caretaker & Reflection Garden	Tim Lee	Lloyds	ONLINE
06.03.2026	£483.84	£0.00	£483.84	Scribe - Accounts	Scribe - Starboard Systems Ltd	Lloyds	ONLINE
05.03.2026	£6,552.17	£1,310.43	£7,862.60	Adult fitness Equipment	Hags	Lloyds	ONLINE
20.02.2026	£344.17	£0.00	£344.17	HMRC Payment	HMRC	Lloyds	ONLINE
20.02.2026	£5.33	£1.07	£6.40	Car Parking	Just Park	Lloyds	ONLINE
20.02.2026	£586.62	£117.32	£703.94	West Street Toilet Cleaning	J D Facilities	Lloyds	ONLINE
10.02.2026	£62.29	£3.11	£65.40	West Street Toilets - Electricity	E-On	Lloyds	DIRDEBIT
12,764.79		1,431.93	14,196.72				

Income

Date	Net	VAT	Total	Description	Customer	Bank
27.02.2026	£375.00	£75.00	£450.00	Car Park Permit	MOP	Lloyds
24.02.2026	£375.00	£75.00	£450.00	Car Park Permit	MOP	Lloyds
13.02.2026	£326.45	£0.00	£326.45	Grass Cutting	Corfe Castle Sports Trust	Lloyds
13.02.2026	£113.97	£0.00	£113.97	Printing and Stationary	Puddletown Area Parish Council	Lloyds
28.02.2026	£167.93	£0.00	£167.93	Interest	Redwood Bank	Redwood
16.02.2026	£375.00	£75.00	£450.00	Car Park Permit	MOP	Lloyds
16.02.2026	£375.00	£75.00	£450.00	Car Park Permit	MOP	Lloyds
16.02.2026	£625.00	£125.00	£750.00	Car Park Permit	MOP	Lloyds
16.02.2026	£375.00	£75.00	£450.00	Car Park Permit	MOP	Lloyds
17.02.2026	£645.00	£129.00	£774.00	Car Park Permit	MOP	Lloyds
23.02.2026	£625.00	£125.00	£750.00	Car Park Permit	MOP	Lloyds
19.02.2026	£790.00	£0.00	£790.00	Interment	MOP	Lloyds
5168.35		754	5922.35			