

CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a parish council meeting of Corfe Castle Parish Council held on Monday 11th May 2026 in the village hall. The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Cllr **Clarke** (Vice-Chairman), Cllr **Humphries**, Cllr **Kirkwood**, Cllr **Lermit**, Cllr **Roberts**, Cllr **Spicer-Short** & Cllr **Sumbler**

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr **Wilson** (Dorset Council), Michelle **Harrington** (Exiting Clerk) & Sarah **Forwood** (New Clerk)

ABSENT:

Cllr Blinkhorn, Cllr **Dru Drury** (Chairman), Cllr **Marshallsay** & Cllr **Rowell**

PUBLIC SESSION

Three members of public were present.

One member wished to raise the following:

1. A resident requested clearer start time for the advertised Annual Residents Meeting which should state only a start time, with no finish time, to ensure residents understand that the meeting begins at the published time and is not a drop-in session.
2. A resident raised their frustration with parking outside their rented cottage along East Street, with the now commercial rented properties claiming the parking spaces directly outside as their own. Cllr Kirkwood advised that the parking cannot be allocated along a public highway. Cllr Spicer-Short advised to liaise with Corfe and Purbeck Holidays in West Street who are the letting agency.
3. A resident who grazes livestock on Middle Halves Common has agreed to amend the livestock arrangements, confirming that young stock will be replaced with older, less inquisitive horses. From next year, the resident will continue to maintain the footpaths. They have also agreed to remove all animals from Middle Halves during January and February, and, as an act of goodwill, will withdraw the animals during periods of exceptionally wet autumn weather if the ground becomes boggy. The resident will install signage on the ten public gates around Middle Halves requesting that members of the public do not feed or touch the animals. Corfe Castle Parish Council will liaise with the owner should any issues arise involving the animals or the public.
4. One resident attended to listen to the CLT, which in the Dubber was noted that they would be attending the Parish Council meeting on 11th May. It was noted that the CLT attended the April meeting.

0426-1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND RECEIPT OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Proposed Cllr Clarke

Seconded Cllr Humphries

RESOLVED: Cllr Dru Drury was elected as Parish Council Chairman for the civic year 2026 -27. Due to Cllr Dru Drury sending apologies a declaration of acceptance of Office will be signed at the June meeting.

0426-2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN AND RECEIPT OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Proposed Cllr Humphries

Seconded Cllr Kirkwood

RESOLVED: Cllr Clarke was elected as Parish Council Vice Chairman for the civic year 2026 -27. A declaration of acceptance of Office was signed.

0426-3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT(LGA) 1972 S85 (1))

Apologies have been received from Cllr Dru Drury, Cllr Blinkhorn, Cllr Rowell and Cllr Ros Marshallsay for personal reasons and accepted by all. Cllr Clarke chaired the rest of the meeting.

0426-4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

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

0426-5 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes from the full council meeting held on Monday 13th April 2026 were approved and signed as a correct record the meeting. (LGA 1972, SCHEDULE 12, PARA 41(1))

Proposed Cllr Roberts

Seconded Cllr Humphries

RESOLVED – The minutes from the full council meeting held on Monday 13th April 2026 were approved and signed as a correct record the meeting.

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0426-6 DORSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A verbal report was given at the meeting. See Appendix A for full details.

0426-7 NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

No report received.

**0426-8 LIAISON OFFICER, NOMINEES TO OTHER BODIES, REPRESENTATIVES & WORKING GROUPS – APPENDIX
RESOLVED/ ACTION: CLERK TO PUBLISH THE LIST AS ADOPTED BELOW:**

Liaison Officer	
Rights of Way	Cllr Spicer-Short
School	Cllr Roberts
Youth Club	Cllr Blinkhorn

Nominees to other bodies (with term length if applicable)	
Corfe Castle Charity [4yr term ending date]	Mr J Phillips (Feb 30), Ms K Bennett (Jan 30), Mr N Dragon (Sept 27) & Mr M Bond (Oct 27)
Corfe Castle Town Trust [4yr term ending date]	Cllr Lermitt (May 28) & Cllr Rowell (May 28)
Sports Trust [4yr term ending date]	Cllr Clarke (Feb 29), Mr C Fuller (May 30) & Mr N Dragon (Feb 29)

Representatives on other bodies	
Common Management Committee	Cllr Sumbler Cllr Kirkwood
Defibrillator – Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership (SCDP)	Cllr Spicer-Short
Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils (DAPTC)	Cllr Blinkhorn
Ferry	Cllr Dru Drury
Perenco	Cllr Blinkhorn Cllr Dru Drury
Purbeck Park	Cllr Blinkhorn & Cllr Roberts
Purbeck Transport Action Group (PTAG)	Cllr Sumbler
Swanage Railway	Cllr Dru Drury & Cllr Sumbler
Swanworth Quarry	Cllr Dru Drury & Cllr Marshallsay

Working Groups	
Emergency Planning	Cllr Blinkhorn & Cllr Spicer-Short
Environment Group	Cllr Sumbler, Cllr Kirkwood, Mr Luke, Mr Kemp & Mr Pink & Mr Clarke
Finance & Personnel	Cllr Clarke, Cllr Dru Drury, Cllr Marshallsay, & Cllr Lermitt
Gods Acre	Cllr Clarke, Cllr Humphries & Cllr Spicer-Shor
Pavements	Cllr Dru Drury, Cllr Humphries & Cllr Rowell
Planning	Cllr Rowell, Cllr Spicer-Short & Cllr Sumbler
Playground	Cllr Blinkhorn, Cllr Clarke, Cllr Dru Drury
Traffic & Parking	Cllr Dru Drury, Cllr Rowell & Cllr Spicer-Short
Treeworks	Cllr Blinkhorn, Cllr Marshallsay & Cllr Roberts
Community Transport	Cllr Roberts & Cllr Sumbler

Admin	
Data Processor/Data Controller	Clerk
Data Processor/Data Controller – Emergency Planning	Cllr Blinkhorn

RESOLVED/ACTION Cllrs noted the need for emergency planning and will review again in August.

0426-9 CLERKS REPORT TO INCLUDE:**a Financial Matters**

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0426-10 THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2025/26 PART 3

A copy of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/26 Part 3 and supporting papers were submitted before the meeting, this was discussed.

- a. Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26
RESOLVED: To approve & sign Section 1 of the AGAR 2025/26
Proposed by Cllr Sumbler Seconded by Cllr Roberts.
- b. Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26
RESOLVED: To approve & sign Section 2 of the AGAR 2025/26
Proposed Cllr Sumbler Seconded Cllr Roberts
- c. Internal Audit Report – full assurance and signed by the internal auditor
- d. Year End Bank Reconciliation A copy of the year end bank reconciliation was submitted, approved and signed in the April meeting.
- e. Year End Finance Report - A copy of the year end finance report was submitted before the meeting this was discussed and approved.
- f. Conflict of Interest It was noted there are no conflicts of interest between Corfe Castle Parish Council members or officers and BDO LLP.
- g. Explanation of Significant Variance A copy of the explanation of significant variance was submitted before the meeting this was discussed and approved.
- h. Notice for the period of the exercise of public rights A copy of the Notice of period of the exercise of public rights was submitted before the meeting this was discussed and approved. Noting the notice dates Published on the 2nd June 2026 commencing on 3rd June 2026 ending 14th July 2026
- i. One off event A copy of the one-off events document was submitted before the meeting this was discussed and approved.
- j. Update Contact Details It was noted due to the personal data on this document, a verbal update was given. Noting the Chairman and Clerks details have been added.
RESOLVED/ACTION: Clerk to Submit the AGAR and supporting papers to BDO LLP

0426-11 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/TRC/2026/02007
Location: The Castle Inn, 63 East Street, Corfe Castle BH20 5EE
Proposal: T1 Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) - Fell by section to ground level.
Comment: Object. Corfe Castle Parish Council wishes to register its objection to the proposed felling of the tree referenced in this application. Based on the information available, the tree appears to be largely healthy, and the concerns raised do not, in the Council's view, justify complete removal. A more proportionate and environmentally responsible course of action would be to undertake selective pruning. The removal of a small number of thin or weakened branches would help alleviate stress on the tree and support its continued recovery. This approach is consistent with good arboricultural practice and often enables a tree to return to full health. With regard to Ash Dieback, the Council notes that while the disease is significant, many ash trees demonstrate resilience and can recover when appropriately managed. Targeted maintenance, rather than felling, would give this tree the best opportunity for long term survival. For these reasons, Corfe Castle Parish Council does not support the proposed felling at this time.

0426-12 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Middle Halves 05-05-26
RESOLVED/ACTION: Cllr Spicer-Short to email the resident setting out the points agreed at the meeting and ask them to confirm that the Parish Council's understanding of the arrangements for Middle Halves is correct. Cllr Spicer-Short also noted that this should be added to CVN. Cllr Clarke suggested to pursue
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National Trust to convene a meeting of “Friends of the Halves” to review the maintenance of the grassland and to look into grants that maybe available that can help maintain it.

- e. No further correspondence considered urgent has been received since the publication of the agenda.

0426-13 RIGHTS OF WAY APPENDIX

RESOLVED/ACTION: To support the movement of the rights of way on P782 Public Rights of Way consultation: Proposed diversion part of footpaths 27 and 28, Corfe Castle.

0426-14 DORSET AND WILTSHIRE FIRE CONSULTATION

RESOLVED/ACTION: Corfe Castle Parish Council object to any proposal reducing the capacity to deal with an increasing problem of heathland and forest fires. Clerk to email Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Consultation noting Corfe Castle Parish Council objection to the proposal.

0426-15 FORTH COMING MEETINGS

Cllr Sumbler will attend the PCR meeting on 13th May.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that the new Clerk will continue to attend the Swanage Town and Community Partnership meetings.

0426-16 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS AND COUNCILLORS

None.

The meeting ended at 20:46

Appendix A

Local Matters

Cllr Wilson reported that Cromwell Cottage has been refused planning for a summer house, which was supported by the Parish Council but refused by the conservation officer. Cllr Wilson contested this decision and today this planning application has been rejected by the planning authority.

DC Highway Team have identified two areas along Studland Road including the area outside the adventure park and one further down towards the golf club where they have recommended a full width patch of 80m in both areas. This has been sent for approval. Cllr Roberts raised the resurfacing at Chapple Lane in Rempston not being needed after three years as a preventative measure.

Cllr Wilson has received the following clarification on the position regarding ownership and change in funding for Corfe Castle Library:

- DCC signed a lease (1975) with the Corfe Castle Village Hall Committee. That lease is for 99 years (runs to 2049).
- The lease is specifically for the library building and restricts it to being used only as a public library.
- When the library moved to community management (2012), the local CML group ("Friends of Corfe Castle Library") signed a sub-lease with Dorset Council.
- Dorset Council (not the CML) continues to pay the annual rent to the Corfe Castle Village Hall Committee (reviewed every 3 years - review is 2026).
- Additional grant funding was awarded as temporary measure whilst the library transitioned to being a CML. This funding is being reduced over time (as confirmed in a letter to Friends of Corfe Castle Library on 14th February 2025 subsequent to a meeting held on 10th February 2025).

Purbeck Park:

- Norden to Corfe accessibility path. A quote has been received from Wessex Water for diverting the water main and will now consult with Natural England, the National Trust, and Statutory Planning Consultees to determine the most feasible route between Purbeck Park and Corfe Castle Visitor Centre. If progress continues, an outline proposal and Pre-Planning Advice submission will be prepared by July 2026, after which they expect clarity on whether a Planning Application for the route will be supported and how to proceed. Please find attached a useful update I received regarding the progress on the footpaths behind Purbeck Park.
- Swanage Railway has confirmed plans to complete the walking paths, bridges, and signage in the Norden Woodlands and Blackwater areas after previous delays. Work resumes on 18 May with construction of the leaky dam and bridge abutments, followed by decking and handrails in early June. The footpath surface will be added once bridges are finished, and interpretation boards are being finalized with the museum. The circular footpath is expected to be completed by late June, and a Corfe River timber viewpoint, inspired by the old Arfleet Bridge, should be ready for summer. A soft opening is planned for July, with a formal event in September or October, possibly alongside the Heritage Open Day at Corfe Castle. This work has been led by the Purbeck Mining Museum in collaboration with the Dorset Council Heathlands Mitigations team

The Dorset Council consultation on Electoral Ward boundaries has now been concluded and is being presented to Dorset Council on 14th May. There are a number of proposed local changes including moving both East and West Lulworth into the SE Purbeck Ward and renaming it 'The Purbecks'.....to be changed. Cllr Wilson has recommended that it be called Isle of Purbeck.

Cllr Clarke raised the issue of the damaged on the surface of East Street which is caused by the large HVG vehicles, which are potentially over axel weight and do DC carry out enforcement work over lorry weights? Cllr Wilson noted that the Swanworth Quarry has a section 106 amount of money to be allocated to the local area to be shared between Worth and Corfe Castle Parish Council.

Further afield but still of local interest, DC Cabinet will this month be considering an application for the funding of Swanage seafront redevelopment along the Shore Lane section. This would represent significant investment from DC in the local area and would hope to provide a boost to Swanage as a visitor attraction and place to live. Works are slated to start in the second half of 2027.

Consultation responses to the Dorset Local Plan are currently under review. There were 9,000 plus responses and some are now published on the Dorset Council website. We can expect a further consultation of the full proposed Dorset Local Plan in August, with completion still due for December. Meanwhile central government are push ahead with planning reform which will simplify and standardise planning regulations and potentially therefore limit some of the protections currently afforded under the Purbeck Local Plan.

Appendix C

Date	Net	VAT	Total	Description	Supplier	Bank	Tender
11.05.2026	£467.34	£0.00	£467.34	Adult fitness Equipment	Hags	Lloyds	ONLINE
11.05.2026	£44.00	£0.00	£44.00	Gods Acre	Dorset Council	Lloyds	ONLINE
11.05.2026	£312.90	£0.00	£312.90	National Insurance	HMRC	Lloyds	ONLINE
11.05.2026	£2,582.33	£0.00	£2,582.33	Wages	Staff	Lloyds	ONLINE
11.05.2026	£168.00	£0.00	£168.00	Pension	NEST	Lloyds	ONLINE
11.05.2026	£78.00	£0.00	£78.00	Village Hall Rent	Corfe Castle Village Hall	Lloyds	ONLINE
11.05.2026	£127.00	£0.00	£127.00	Internal Audit	Jurassic Audits	Lloyds	ONLINE
11.05.2026	£637.20	£127.44	£764.64	Cleaning	J D Facilities	Lloyds	ONLINE
05.05.2026	£9.63	£0.00	£9.63	Refreshments - Annual Parish Meeting	Worth Matravers Parish Council	Lloyds	ONLINE
05.05.2026	£615.36	£0.00	£615.36	Caretaker Hours	Tim Lee	Lloyds	ONLINE
20.04.2026	£4.25	£0.00	£4.25	Bank Charge	Lloyds Bank	Lloyds	ONLINE
01.05.2026	£103.28	£20.66	£123.94	Paint - Playground Equipment	Brewers	Lloyds	ONLINE
01.05.2026	£14.00	£0.00	£14.00	NNDR	Dorset Council	Lloyds	DIRDEBIT
01.05.2026	£753.57	£0.00	£753.57	Admin Subscription	Dorset Association of Parish & Town Council	Lloyds	ONLINE
14.04.2026	£13.10	£0.00	£13.10	Cups for APM & Stationary	Tesco	Equals Money	ONLINE
£5,929.96		£148.10	£6,078.06				

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