CORFE CASTLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a parish council meeting of Corfe Castle Parish Council held on Monday 14th September 2026 in the village hall. The meeting commenced at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Eoin McDowell (National Trust Operations Manager at Corfe Castle) & Sarah **Forwood** (Clerk)

ABSENT:

Cllr **Wilson** (Dorset Council)

PUBLIC SESSION

Two members of public were present.
One member wished to raise the following:

1. A resident highlight the Dorset Council Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) that has been sign posted around the village. They noted that it has been difficult to unpick and understand the proposal and the motivations for the proposal, which has not been included in any of the material that has been circulated by Dorset Council. This was the first time the resident had heard about the TRO which will have an effect on the times of year when they can leave their car on a single yellow line, which is necessary for loading and unloading. The resident asked to what extend were residents consulted on the TRO? Councillors Dru Drury and Clarke noted that Corfe Castle Parish Council have been involved in the discussions leading up to the TRO being published, which was produced to improve the traffic flow and linked to parking on pavements. The TRO proposal has been around for seven or eight years and all residents were consulted by way of a survey and a working group which was led by the Chairman for which there was a majority support for the TRO. It was noted that the TRO will have no restrictions for disabled drivers.

   A resident highlighted the issues the bus causes, in Swanage direction, which stops at the bus stop and waits until it's departure time, which causes a tailback along East Street. Another resident mentioned that easy access parking is essential for the local businesses and to what degree has a consultation sounded out the voices of local businesses? On the previous parking consultation, 15 plus years ago, the cause of a lot of congestion on East Street was when both buses stop rather than the cars parking. Safety along the street is a concern with vehicles speeding and large vehicles overhanging the pavements and the parking along the street acts a gentle calming measure with a safety benefit. Corfe Castle Councillors have argued for some parking to be retained along East Street on the basis that it is a traffic calming measure.

   Comments on the proposals for or against, together with the reasons for which they are made should be sent through the website Traffic regulation orders (TROs) - Dorset Council or in writing to the Traffic Regulation Team, Dorset Council, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1XJ by no later than 2nd October 2026.Comments for or against the TRO can be made via this link

0926-47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT(LGA) 1972 S85 (1))

Apologies have been received from Cllr Wilson. Cllr Dru Drury chaired the rest of the meeting.

0926-48.DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

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

0926-49.PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

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

Proposed Cllr Blinkhorn Seconded Cllr Clarke

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

0926-50.DORSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

A written report was received from Cllr Wilson. See Appendix A for full details.

0926-51.NATIONAL TRUST REPORT

See Appendix B for full details.

Cllr Clarke asked if the new Property Operations Manager can confirm how many residential properties the National Trust own in Corfe Castle.

0926-52.CLERKS REPORT TO INCLUDE:

a **Financial Matters**

See Appendix C for full details.

The following bank balance was noted:

Bank Balance as of 31st August 2026

00289201 – Lloyds	£9,841.76	00162368 – Lloyds	£25,725.97
80031534 – Redwood	£69,966.06	Equals Money	£200.00
Total	£105,733.79		

Proposed Cllr Marshallsay Seconded Cllr Roberts

RESOLVED/ACTION: The August expenditure of £11,150.35 including VAT was noted. All payments as listed for September within the updated Finance report were approved with a total of £6,758.23 including VAT. The combined Income of £2,219.78 was noted. Clerk to process payments**.**

1. **Bank Reconciliation**

A copy of the August and September Bank Reconciliation has been postponed to the October meeting.

2. **2025/26 Audit**

The external audit for 2025-26 has been signed off by BDO LLP with no findings.

3. **Local Government Services - Pay Agreement 2026/27**

The National Joint Council has confirmed the 2026/27 pay award for local government services, with the updated clerk pay scales effective retrospectively from 1 April 2026.

b **Parish Safety Report**

1 The playground safety report was submitted before the meeting. It was noted the Caretaker will work through the minor works required.

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

d **Caretakers Report**

Works undertaken: A list of works the caretaker has undertaken this month was submitted. This was noted.

e. **Wildflower Strip**

The Caretaker has requested if the cutting and harvesting of wild flowers can continue. This would require strimming and collecting the cuttings as usual in September/October and then sow the seed whilst is short and due rain so that pushes the seed down to the soil level. The mix would contain both Yellowrattle and red clover. The caretaker has found the following Wildflower Seeds for Bees and Butterflies 80/20 - Landlife Wildflowers. The cost is £160 for 1kg to cover the area.

RESOLVED – To purchase a 1kg of wildflower seed at the cost of £160.00.

d. **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** Youth Club – **ANNEX**

The decision on the MOU for the Youth Club was deferred whilst the Clerk researches whether the payment was agreed as fixed percentage: CCPC will pay 75% of the costs and the Youth Club pay 25%. It was agreed to pay the first instalment of £1441.00, which will be adjusted at a later date if needed.

ACTION – Clerk to check back through previous minutes to confirm the payment amount.

Action Log

1. **Swift Boxes –** a contractor has been sourced to fit the boxes onto the houses in readiness for the swifts returning next year.
2. **Save our Service -Coast and Rescue Service –** An email has been sent to MP Lloyd Hatton, with a reply being received noting this has been debated in Westminster. It was noted that the proposal has since been withdrawn.
3. **Pre sub mission Neighbourhood Plan for Swanage –** The pre sub mission the neighbourhood plan was sent to Swanage Town Council and a response was received from the Planning and Community Engagement Manager.

4. **Playground Swing Set – 20-07-26** The caretaker has removed the basket swing and has been asked to strip the paint from the swing set, as advised by the play inspection company to determine the full extent of any corrosion before deciding whether repair or full replacement is the most appropriate course of action for the swing set. The cross beam with the corrosion needs to be replaced.

0926-53. 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/FUL/2026/03344
Location: Purbeck Valley Farm, Valley Road, Harmans Cross, BH20 5HU
Proposal: Change of use of land between 1st May until 30th September from agriculture to a mixed use of camping and agriculture including provision of essential facilities.
Comments Due: 5th August 2026
Comment Corfe Castle Parish Council have reviewed the proposal and confirm they have no objection.

2.

Application No: P/LBC/2026/03780
Location: 14 West Street, Kingston, BH20 5LH
Proposal: Internal repairs and structural strengthening to the first-floor timber floor structure.
Comments Due: 18th August 2026
Comment No objection

3.

Application No: P/LBC/2026/04232
Location: Encombe House, Road To Encombe House, Kingston, BH20 5LW
Proposal: Partial underpinning and associated repairs to the East Wing Location
Comments Due: 18th August 2026
Comment No objection

Proposed Cllr Marshallsay Seconded Cllr Blinkhorn

Tree Works:

1.

Application No: TPO/2026/0034
Location: Land at Tabbit's Hill Lane, adjacent to Westwood Farm lower field access gate, Corfe Castle, Wareham, BH20 5HY
Proposal: To place a TPO on an Oak Tree
Comments Due: Within 28 days from 14th July 2026
Comment No objection

2. Application No: P/TRC/2026/03694
Location: 99 East Street, Corfe Castle, BH20 5EG
Proposal: Mixed hedge consisting of Conifer and Laurel - Fell.
Comments Due: 30th July 2026
Comment No objection

3. Application No: P/TRC/2026/03944
Location: Corfe Castle National Trust, The Square, Corfe Castle, BH20 5EZ
Proposal: Tree works as per submitted tree survey.
P0842 Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior) (W3W dusty.amphibian.obstruct) Church Knowle Road. Fell to ground.
P0745 Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior) (W3W homelands.coolest.rooks) Station Road. Remove deadwood.
P0320 Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior) (W3W goods.scorpions.hops) Church Knowle Road. Reduce to safe monolith height or fell to ground.
P0498, P0928 and P0977 Ash (Fraxinus Excelsior) (W3W splints.wiggling.keener) Church Knowle Road. Reduce to safe monolith height or fell to ground.
Comments Due: 13th August 2026
Comment Ash trees recover from Die Back with proper care and management

ACTION – Clerk to email Dorset Council and CC including Cllr Ben Wilson in relation to not giving the Parish Council enough time to review the tree applications that are received and comment. Councillors requested that the Parish Council's status should return to what is was before it was diminished as a proper consultee.

Proposed Cllr Roberts Seconded Cllr Marshallsay

0926-54.CORRESPONSENCE

a. Sandy Hill Lane, accidents
Dorset Councils Highways department and road safety team have been sent the photos of the accident along with the location, who will review the images and the location to determine if there is anything the road safety team can advise to improve the safety at the location. The Parish Council will wait for the Dorset Councils road safety teams recommendations.

b. Parking on pavements
RESOLVED/ACTION – Corfe Castle Parish Council will produce a letter to place on residents cars as a gentle reminder.

c. PTAG News & Report

d. Purbeck Beaver Project update summer 2026

e. Publication of the Notice of Intent to Commence Plan-Making and Local Plan Timetable – email 08.08.26

f. Invitation to the Purbeck Mining Museum 19th September – email 04.09.26

Any correspondence received after the agenda publication date.

g. **Dorset Council Traffic Regulation Order (TRO)**

The Dorset Council Traffic Regulation Order was received after the agenda was published. CCPC Councillors confirmed they will not be objecting to the Dorset Council Traffic Regulation Order for Corfe Castle.

RESOLVED/ACTION – CCPC will not be objecting to the TRO for Corfe Castle. Clerk to email Dorset Council noting the no objection from CCPC.

0926-55.FORTH COMING MEETINGS

Cllr Dru Drury, Cllr Clarke and the Clerk attended the Community Conversations meeting hosted by Dorset Council. The meeting discussed: transport & rurality, access to healthcare, housing, young people & employment, disconnected Dorset Council services, the role of Local Councils & Councillors, Devolution of Services & Assets, Working Together for Sustainable Services, Local Decision Making and Clear Points of Contact & Routes Into Dorset Council. An action plan will be produced by Dorset Council in the Autumn.

0926-56.REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS AND COUNCILLORS

Flood Warden Meeting. No Cllrs attended the Flood Warden Meeting.

0926-57.OPENING OF GODS ACRE REFLECTION GARDEN AND SCATTERING AREA

ACTION - Clerk to circulate date options for the opening of the Centenary Gardens to Cllrs.

0926-58.DORSET COUNCIL PARKING REVIEW

Dorset Council West Street Car Park will have a small increase in parking charges.

Purbeck Park project was previously discussed as an option to build a path for cycles and pedestrians from Purbeck Park into the village. Cllrs noted that better signage i.e. at Norden highlighting that Corfe Castle car park is full is needed to encourage visitors to park at Purbeck Park.

ACTION – Clerk to invite the Project Team Manager from Dorset Council to attend a Parish Council meeting to review the Purbeck Park project.

ACTION – Clerk to arrange a meeting between, Dorset Council, Corfe Castle Parish Council, Swanage Railway and National Trust to discuss the Purbeck Park project.

ACTION – Clerk to circulate the Norden Park and Ride scoping study final report document.

0926-59.FLOODING - CORFE CASTLE

Cllr Clarke shared their concerns over the unpredictable future climate with the forecast of heavy and faster rain with the winter being warmer, which could result in Corfe Castle being blocked again. What is being done to minimise the flooding and ensure Corfe Castle and The Isle of Purbeck is open for emergencies and communication to the public to ensure the road is not blocked?

Cllr Roberts asked who is dredging and maintaining the rivers and is this down to residents whose properties adjoin the river or Dorset Council?

ACTION – Clerk to confirm who should is responsible for dredging and maintaining the rivers around Corfe Castle.

0926-60. DORSET RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN (ROWIP) 2026 TO 2036

Cllr Spicer-Short noted that it is impossible to disagree with the consultation, it is about Dorset Council's policies, not about what needs improving. It was highlighted that there are many footpath issues in Corfe Castle that have not been actioned.

ACTION - Clerk to email Cllr Wilson noting the Dorset Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2026 to 2036 is not a consultation, it is not asking for ideas and problems with footpaths that aren't being addressed.

0926-61. REVIEW OF POLICING

Proposed response to PCC consultation on Merging of Police Forces

1. CCPC opposes any structural changes to the organisation of police forces which takes decision making away from local communities. All the evidence is that crime is reduced and policing is more effective when there is close working with local communities.
2. If there are concerns about the viability of specialist units there should be formal organisational agreements between police services on how best to deliver these.
3. The role of PCCs should be replaced by a greater role for elected Unitary Councils which should be able to commission local policing services.
4. Unitary Councils are best placed to build partnerships with all public services and develop coordinated preventative crime reduction strategies.

Cllr Clarke's motion for the Review of Policing was agreed and all Cllrs unanimously agreed they want to keep policing local.

ACTION – Clerk to email Cllr Clarke's motion to the local MP, Cllr Ben Wilson and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Proposed Cllr Clarke Seconded Cllr Marshallsay

0926-62. CORFE CASTLE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

To move to a Part 1 Confidential session, due to the nature of the business to be discussed under s.1(2) of the 1960 Act, the press and public were excluded for the remainder of the meeting.

The CCCLT and a Dorset housing officer reported on the findings of the housing survey. The survey is now a public document

The meeting ended at 21:00 hours

Appendix A

Local Matters

Whilst no one could ever claim that August is a quiet month in Purbeck (quite the opposite), there is very little ordinary business for the Council. Neither Cabinet nor Full Council sit and, similarly, some Parish Council chose not to. After a very busy June/July with the issue of St Georges School, the Corfe Castle CLT and the Ferry Company's change in operations - not to mention the usual day-to-day issues - my August in-box was comparatively light. This gave me the chance to look ahead at up-coming opportunities for Purbeck.

I am very pleased that the issue of disposable BBQs and fires was taken up by local and national governments. I was witness to the start of a fire in the Worth Matravers car park in August which could have led to serious consequences were it not for quick action. The National Trust and Parish Councils have been leading the charge on this issue in both Corfe and Studland and thankfully we have avoided anything akin to the New Forest this year. I hope we can learn the lesson for next year and for all parties - retailers and consumers - to think twice before taking unnecessary risks.

On Friday 11th September, the second part of the Purbeck Community Conversation will be held in Harmans Cross Village hall. Whereas part one was focused on evaluating the relationship between DC and local bodies, I hope that part two will focus more on the actions to take forward that will strengthen these connections. Please do send representatives to the meeting.

I have recently become involved with the 'Cultural Purbeck' organisation who have presented at a number of Parish Councils in recent months. Despite being unsuccessful in the UK Town of Culture bid the organisation is continuing to find ways to draw connections across Purbeck organisations and present a more joined-up cultural offering. This 'place-based' approach is aligned with both the ethos of the Community Conversations and Dorset Council's recently released Cultural Strategy. Relevant to this, Dorset Council has announced grant funding applications are now open for Round 6 of the Cultural Organisational Revenue Support Fund. Local Arts and heritage organisations, plus museums, can apply for the funding, which is between £5,000 and £50,000 per annum, for 3 years.

Grant scheme opens to support Dorset's Arts and heritage sector - Dorset Council

I continue to liaise with the Corfe Castle Community Land Trust as well as residents in Harman's Cross as their plans develop. For the past year I have been lobbying the Portfolio Holder for Housing to provide more support for CLTs and other rural housing schemes. Affordable housing shortage is not an issue that is going away on its own and the Council could be doing more. Rural affairs in general have become a growing priority for me - whether it's housing, supporting local farmers, providing decent internet connectivity or public transport - the latter two being significant contributors to rural isolation. I believe that Dorset Council needs to adopt a more coherent focus on rural matters given their significance in the county.

We are expecting to see progress on a number of traffic schemes across Purbeck. The Studland 20mph scheme is due to go to public consultation in the Autumn, we are getting ready to submit an initial application for a 30mph zone on Furzebrook Road and the long-awaited TROs for Corfe Castle are finally moving forward. Unfortunately, the pedestrian crossing planned for Harmans Cross has been delay to next financial year but it is still planned to be put in prior to next summer. I am also pleased with the response to the resurfacing works on the B3351 Corfe-Studland Road - hopefully worth the wait!

Sadly, I don't have a 'Consultation of the Month' for you. There will be one on car parks coming up later in the year which is bound to get people interested and I believe that the results of the always-contentious 'Dog-related Public Space Protection Orders' will come before cabinet in November.

Appendix B

Corfe Castle Parish Council meeting

Monday 14th September 2026

The new Property Operations Manager for Corfe Castle, Eoin McDowell, introduced himself.

Conservation project

The conservation project has now finished. This was a 2 million pound project which was funded through the National Trust and Wolfson Foundation (£150,000 grant) and fund raised (£100,000). This will maintain Corfe Castle for future generations.

Summer at Corfe Castle

The Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra was welcomed to the castle for the first time in July, which was very well received. There are events taking place in October and December.

Countryside Team Work

Work will be taking place on the commons gorse clearance over winter on both west and middle commons, the gorse removal has four main aims open the sward to benefit species rich grasslands, to create a varied aid structure of scrub which benefits different species of birds, insects and mammals, to reduce the risk of fire load and wild fire spreading and to improve public access. The works will be carried out by the inhouse ranger team and some contractors using machinery, there will be some level of burning which will be carefully considered around wind conditions to minimise any impact of local residents. The vast majority of the work will be complete by Christmas to avoid soil damage.

Appendix C

Date	Net	VAT	Total	Description	Supplier	Bank	Tender
31.07.2026	£125.50	£0.00	£125.50		National Trust	Lloyds	ONLINE
31.07.2026	£80.00	£0.00	£80.00	Grave Digging	Tim Stockley	Lloyds	ONLINE
31.07.2026	£6,551.83	£1,310.37	£7,862.20	Adult fitness Equipment	Hags	Lloyds	ONLINE
31.07.2026	£87.49	£17.50	£104.99	Microsoft 365	Microsoft	Equals	CARD
31.07.2026	£76.68	£15.35	£92.03	Caretaker Maintenance Items	Screwfix	Lloyds	ONLINE
31.07.2026	£4.25	£0.00	£4.25	Bank Charge	Lloyds Bank	Lloyds	ONLINE
31.07.2026	£49.10	£2.46	£51.56	West Street Toilets - Electricity	E-On	Lloyds	DIRDEBIT
31.07.2026	£47.33	£9.47	£56.80	Phone	Vodafone	Lloyds	DIRDEBIT
31.07.2026	£66.00	£0.00	£66.00	GA Refuse	Dorset Waste Partnership	Lloyds	ONLINE
31.07.2026	£14.00	£0.00	£14.00	NNDR	Dorset Council	Lloyds	DIRDEBIT
31.07.2026	£586.62	£117.32	£703.94	Cleaning	J D Facilities	Lloyds	ONLINE
31.07.2026	£605.75	£0.00	£605.75	Caretaker Hours	Tim Lee	Lloyds	ONLINE
31.07.2026	£1,143.51	£0.00	£1,383.33	Wages	Staff/HMRC/Nest	Lloyds	ONLINE
	£9,438.06	**£1,472.47**	**£11,150.35**				

Date	Net	VAT	Total	Description	Supplier	Bank	Tender
31.08.2026	£315.00	£63.00	£378.00	External Audit	BDO LLP	Lloyds	ONLINE
31.08.2026	£1,441.00	£0.00	£1,441.00	Youth Club	Purbeck Youth & Community Foundation	Lloyds	ONLINE
31.08.2026	£42.91	£8.59	£51.50	Caretaker Maintenance Items	Screwfix	Lloyds	ONLINE
31.08.2026	£4.25	£0.00	£4.25	Bank Charge	Lloyds Bank	Lloyds	ONLINE
31.08.2026	£1,709.38	£341.88	£2,051.26	Grass Cutting	Lowther	Lloyds	ONLINE
31.08.2026	£49.10	£2.46	£51.56	West Street Toilets - Electricity	E-On	Lloyds	DIRDEBIT
31.08.2026	£47.33	£9.47	£56.80	Phone	Vodafone	Lloyds	DIRDEBIT
31.08.2026	£44.00	£0.00	£44.00	GA Refuse	Dorset Waste Partnership	Lloyds	ONLINE
31.08.2026	£14.00	£0.00	£14.00	NNDR	Dorset Council	Lloyds	DIRDEBIT
31.08.2026	£586.62	£117.32	£703.94	Cleaning	J D Facilities	Lloyds	ONLINE
31.08.2026	£336.53	£0.00	£336.53	Caretaker Hours	Tim Lee	Lloyds	ONLINE
31.08.2026	£1,325.38	£0.00	£1,625.39	Salary	Staff/HMRC/Nest	Lloyds	ONLINE

	£5,915.50	**£542.72**	**£6,758.23**

Date	Net	VAT	Total	Description	Customer	Bank
27.07.2026	£970.00	£0.00	£970.00	Interment	MOP	Lloyds
13.08.2026	£970.00	£0.00	£970.00	Interment	MOP	Lloyds
14.08.2026	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00	Exclusive Rights	MOP	Lloyds
27.08.2026	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	Memorial Rights	Douch & Small	Lloyds
31.08.2026	£11.27	£0.00	£11.27	Interest	Lloyds Bank	Lloyds
31.08.2026	£168.51	£0.00	£168.51	Interest	Redwood Bank	Redwood Bank
	£2,219.78	**£0.00**	**£2,219.78**			