



CORFE MULLEN TOWN COUNCIL  
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**Minutes of the Meeting of Corfe Mullen Town Council in its Capacity as Sole Trustee  
of the Village Hall held on Tuesday 27 October 2020 at 8.30pm on Zoom online**

**Present:**

**Councillors**

D Sowry-House (Mayor/Chairman)  
M Barron  
D Everett  
P Harrison  
A Holland  
P Holland  
B Honeyman  
T Howard  
S Jeffries  
J Lortie  
D Mattocks  
P Purvis  
J Stennett

In Attendance: Nicola Gray (Town Clerk)  
Catherine Horsley (Deputy Town Clerk) (minute taker)

**1. To Record any apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Craven.

**2. To Record any declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest noted.

**3. To Approve minutes of the meeting held on 25 August 2020**

A

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 August 2020 were APPROVED.

**4. Independent Examiners Audit of Annual Accounts and Trustees Report for year ended 31 March 2020** B

It was noted that the Trustees felt it was a good clear report.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Independent Examiners Audit of Annual Accounts and Trustees report for year ended 31 March 2020.

**5. Update on the Village Hall Cleaning**

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on the cleaning of the Village Hall, noting the cleaning contractor had ceased on 15 October 2020, with two cleaners being employed with effect from 16 October 2020, both on a 10 hour minimum contract. They were both working flexibly

to accommodate reduced bookings in the Village Hall and had agreed to only be paid for hours worked, which was working well.

The update was NOTED.

## **6. Update and Approval of the Future of the Village Hall**

C

The report provided an update on the current financial position to enable Trustee to agree the way forward in terms of Village Hall bookings and staff. The Clerk reminded members of the important decision to be made as Sole Trustee and not as Councillors and acting in both its duty of care and duty of prudence in respect of the solvency of the Charity.

The Deputy Clerk highlighted to members the key points within the report.

Councillors noted the reduced usage and income against a backdrop of rising cases of Covid-19.

It was further noted if the decision to close the Village Hall was taken, planned capital improvements and security could be considered and progressed whilst closed, which would provide better facilities for when the Village Hall re-opened and a lesser impact to hirers.

The Clerk noted her discomfort and sadness that the Trustee was having the discussion, however, she had to make the Trustee aware of its duty to the Charity.

Cllr Sowry-House noted the decision being made to close would mitigate the need to discuss the next item relating to charges and usage of the Village Hall.

Cllr Howard thanked the Clerk and Deputy Clerk for their detailed report which reminded members of their role as Sole Trustee. Cllr Harrison noted he was mindful to protect the assets of the Charity for the future and proposed a temporary closure of the Village Hall, which was seconded by Cllr Sowry-House.

Cllr Sowry-House advised the Trustee would still meet to discuss the projects which would be pursued during the closure to ensure the facilities were the very best for users when we were able to re-open safely.

The vote to temporarily close the village hall was eleven votes for and one abstention

It was **RESOLVED** to temporarily close the Village Hall and to immediately commence the redundancy consultation process with staff.

## **7. Update and Approval of Revised Charges and use of the Village Hall**

D

As a result of the resolution to temporarily close the Village Hall, it was agreed to defer this item until the Village Hall re-opened.

## **8. To Agree a date and time for the next meeting**

The Clerk advised the Annual General Meeting was due to take place on 18 November 2020. However, the Clerk would consider whether the Trustee was obliged to hold the meeting in view of the decision to close the Village Hall and advise members accordingly.

The meeting was closed.

*Signed.....*      *Date.....*