



Minutes of the meeting of Corfe Mullen Town Council

held on Tuesday 23 March 2021 at 19:30 via Zoom

Present: **Councillors**
D Sowry-House (Chairman/Mayor)
M Barron
A Craven
D Everett
P Harrison
A Holland
P Holland
T Howard
S Jefferies
J Lortie
D Mattocks
P Purvis
J Stennett

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

Public Participation

There were 4 members of the public present.

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders before item 20/183 to allow the public participation to take place and a letter from the Chair of the Allotment Association to be read out.

TC 20/175 To Receive and Accept apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr B Honeyman who was attending the DAPTC Annual Meeting. However, it was noted he may join the meeting, should the DAPTC meeting finish in time.

TC 20/176 To Record any declarations of interest Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations).

There were no declarations of interest.

TC 20/177 To Approve minutes of meeting held on 23 February 2021 LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41 A

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2021 were APPROVED.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'ML'.

TC 20/178 To Note minutes of Committees

B

- Community Services held on 9 February 2021
- Planning Committee held on 9 February 2021
- Planning Committee held on 23 February 2021

The minutes were NOTED.

TC 20/179 To Approve the Resolutions from Community Services Committee meeting held on 9 March 2021

C

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the resolutions from the Community Services Committee meeting held on 9 March 2021.

TC 20/180 To Approve Accounts for Payment

D

It was **RESOLVED** to approve Accounts for Payment.

TC 20/181 To Approve Bank Reconciliations

E

It was **RESOLVED** to approve Bank Reconciliations for 28 February 2021.

TC 20/182 To consider request from 'Growing Compassionate Communities' in respect of Memorial Tree Planting

Verbal

The Clerk advised she had received a request from the Charity 'Growing Compassionate Communities' for the Council to consider the following initiative:

- To support a tree planting with a plaque to commemorate those who had died because of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- To consider a location which would be fully accessible by the public.
- To consider providing funding towards the scheme as a s.137 grant, although the organisation was seeking funding from other sources.

Members discussed various possible locations across the Parish including the triangle island by Lockyers School, Towers Way Green Space and Windgreen ground in front of the garage.

It was **RESOLVED** to consult with the Dorset Council Tree Officer on the type of species which could be planted at the locations discussed and to respond to 'Growing Compassionate Communities' advising the Town Council were supportive of the initiative, however, they were unable to provide any funding at this time.

TC 20/183 To consider the Update on Flooding Issues at the Allotment Site

F

The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow the Clerk to read a letter received from the Chairman of the Allotment Association. The letter covered a number of key points, which were flooding, paths, communal shed, rabbit proof fencing and potholes.

The Deputy Clerk presented the report for members to consider options in terms of drainage solutions, footpaths and car park.

Cllr Craven proposed for the Grounds team to remove the weed membrane from the paths and infill the potholes in the car parks, and the proposal was seconded by Cllr Lortie.



It was **RESOLVED** to have the grounds staff team remove the weed membrane from the paths where it was causing a trip hazard and to fill in the potholes in the car park with appropriate materials.

It was **RESOLVED** to investigate costs of a consultant to advise on drainage solutions and to establish the cost of the works required for consideration by the Finance & Administration Committee scheduled on 13 July 2021, whereby a recommendation to the Full Council on 27 July 2021 would be made.

The report was NOTED.

TC 20/184 To Approve Cemetery Charges and Regulations for 2021/22

G

Members received the report to approve the revised charges and regulations for the Cemetery in 2021/22.

Cllr Howard proposed to remove the charges in relation to still-born child, child whose age did not exceed 12 years and non-viable foetus, which was seconded by Cllr Mattocks and voted unanimously by members.

It was agreed the Clerk would review the wording relating to Corfe Mullen residents who had moved elsewhere into residential care to encapsulate where residents have moved into social care temporarily. The revised wording would be circulated to members via email for approval outside of the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to remove charges relating to still-born child, child whose age did not exceed 12 years and non-viable foetus and for the Clerk to review the wording relating to Corfe Mullen residents who had moved elsewhere into residential care.

TC 20/185 To Approve Accounts Software Package

Verbal

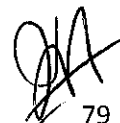
The Clerk provided an overview of the benefits of switching to Scribe Accounts from the current account's software package Sage Accounts following advice from SLCC and the Internal Auditor. The time saved on reporting and accuracy would be hugely beneficial and provide greater control for the Responsible Financial Officer which would mean the Council would be better informed in future.

The Clerk sought the Council's approval to switch from Sage Accounts at £77+VAT per month to Scribe Accounts at £89+VAT per month, billed annually plus an initial set up fee of £497. There would be an overlap of both services for one month in order to carry out year-end accounting. There would also be a continuation of Sage Payroll at £32.50+VAT per month until Scribe Payroll became available.

Members discussed the Scribe Accounts bookings bolt on service for the Village Hall at £39+VAT per month, billed annually plus an initial set up fee of £297, which would be waived if members agreed to proceed with the service now. Members felt it would be financially more cost effective to progress now on the basis it was anticipated the Village Hall would re-open in the Autumn.

Cllr Craven proposed to proceed with switching accounts software package to Scribe Accounts along with the bolt on bookings service for the Village Hall and was seconded by Cllr Howard. Members voted unanimously.

It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with switching accounts software package to Scribe Accounts along with the bolt on bookings service for the Village Hall effective from 1



April 2021, and for a 1 month overlap with Sage accounts to allow for year end work to be completed.

TC 20/186 To Note the Update from the Council Representative to the Youth Trust Verbal

Cllr Lortie advised she had attended the recent Trustees meeting on 10 March 2021 and provided an update on the position with re-opening the Youth Club and outreach work.

Cllr Lortie confirmed outreach work would commence at the Recreation Ground and by the Village Hall for one month from 29 March 2021 on Thursday and Friday afternoons and evenings. The arrangement would be reviewed at the next Trustees meeting to be held on 5 May 2021.

The report was NOTED.

TC 20/187 To Note Clerk's Update Verbal

The Clerk provided a verbal update, with the key points noted as follows:

- VE Day Commemorative Tree Planting – Responses were received from Henbury View First School and the Royal British Legion Club. The funding for the trees would be accrued at year end.
- Dorset Local Plan Judicial Review – Eight out of ten Parish and Town Councils contacted had advised they would not wish to proceed with a judicial review as it was felt it was not a good use of public money and to wait until consultation had completed.
- Vandalism of Recreation Ground Toilets – Under investigation by Dorset Police and costs for work to repair were being obtained.
- Dog Fouling Competition – 13 entries had been received to date, which would be put into three age groups to ensure fair judging. Staff members would be asked to pick their favourite leaving 9 entries for Full Council to choose the winning 3.
- Council Tax Bills – Stourvale Partnership and BCP who issue the bills to residents had apologised for the incorrect naming of the Town Council and had assured the error had been rectified, meaning any further billing would have the correct name.
- Town Council Office Opening – The office would be re-opened on 12 April 2021 in line with Government guidelines.
- Meetings – With effect from 7 May 2021, all Council meetings should revert to face to face meetings. NALC were consulting with the Government on how this would work going forward. NALC had advised Councils should ensure they have alternative arrangements in place by way of Scheme of Delegation and the Annual Town Council Meeting being brought forward to allow for it to be held virtually.

Cllr Craven asked if any progress had been made with regards to a draft architect plans for the Recreation Ground Pavilion redevelopment. The Clerk confirmed there would be Public Consultation and a strict procurement process to follow prior to appointing an architect.

The report was NOTED.

Cllr B Honeyman joined the meeting.



TC 20/188 To Note Mayor's Report Verbal

The Mayor highlighted a Corfe Mullen resident who had appeared on ITV's Love Your Weekend with Alan Titchmarsh talking about the life and achievements of Mary

Anning, the famous fossilist who had been born in Lyme Regis. The resident had also been working with local schools during the Covid-19 pandemic to share her enthusiasm for science and geology. The Mayor advised that she had suffered racial abuse on Social Media, and he felt a letter should be sent to her on behalf of the Town Council congratulating her on her recent award and contribution to local schools during the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was agreed the Mayor and the Clerk would compose and send a letter on behalf of the Town Council.

The report was NOTED.

TC 20/189 To Note Dorset Councillors' Report

Verbal

Cllr Barron and Cllr Harrison both advised that they had been contacted by several residents who were not in favour of the Dorset Local Plan. Cllr Harrison reiterated the second consultation, which was statutory, would take place in December 2021.

The report was NOTED.

TC 20/190 Matters for Forthcoming Agendas No decisions can be taken¹

Verbal

The Clerk advised she had received an email from a resident relating to Roy's Meadow which would be included on the agenda for discussion at the next Full Council meeting.

Cllr Jefferies provided an update on the Beacon Hill site, noting the licence application would not be submitted to the Strategic Committee in April 2021 due to unforeseen circumstances, and it was anticipated it would be submitted in July 2021, but this had yet to be confirmed.

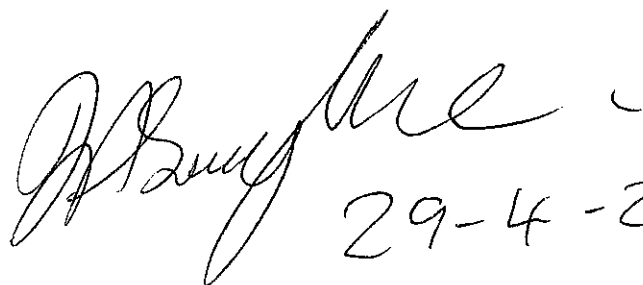
TC 20/191 To Agree a date and time for the next meeting

The date of the next meeting would take place Tuesday 27 April 2021 at 19:30 via ZOOM.

TC 20/192 Close of meeting

The meeting closed at 21:20.

Signed Date


29-4-21.

¹ Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business which are not specified in the summons/agenda (LGA1972 sch 12, paras 10(2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119)

