

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 March 2022
at 18:30 in the Main Hall of the Village Hall, Towers Way, Corfe Mullen

Present: Cllr D Sowry-House (Mayor)
75 Members of the Public (Corfe Mullen Electorate)
4 Members of the Public (not Corfe Mullen Electorate)

Representatives from the following organisations:

Corfe Mullen Guide Association
2nd Corfe Mullen Scout Group
Mini Munchkins
Corfe Mullen Sports Association

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

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Cllr Sowry-House introduced himself, welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the purpose of an Annual Parish Meeting, noting it was not a Town Council meeting, therefore all Councillors attending were attending as members of the public. The Mayor/Chairman was the only official Councillor as it was his duty to call the meeting if 2 Councillors or 6 residents failed to do so. The Clerk was also in attendance to provide administration for the meeting.

The Clerk confirmed several apologies had been received by email and to avoid the GDPR right to be removed legislation, 9 apologies were noted, but not named.

2. To Approve minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6 March 2019.

The minutes of the last meeting which was held on 6 March 2019 were APPROVED.

3. Chairmans's Report

The Chairman produced his report (Appendix A) noting his thanks to his fellow Councillors who had adapted and embraced the technology to enable the Council to continue with its day-to-day business during the most challenging of times.

A member of the public asked if there would be an opportunity to ask questions and the Chairman confirmed he would be available after the meeting to speak with anyone who may wish to raise a question, but that all questions could be sent to the Clerk at the Town Council office, where they would be responded to accordingly. The Chairman also noted his report would be available on the Town Council website for residents to read at leisure.

4. Corfe Mullen Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman noted that the Council resolved in 2021 to implement a Neighbourhood Plan which will put policies in place to determine how and what developers can be granted permission to build. A Neighbourhood Plan cannot stop developments but can make it harder for developers to meet criteria to build.

A Neighbourhood Plan is resident, not Council, led and so requires residents to be actively involved with a Steering Group. The size of the Steering Group is around 8-10 people, with a couple of Councillors sitting, the rest being made up of local people who may or may not have knowledge and/or experience of planning or development. A resident is required to be the Chair. It is guided throughout by a planning consultant who is experienced in formulating Neighbourhood Plans and can advise on the legalities of suggested policies.

The Chairman noted a Neighbourhood Plan is drafted by the Steering Group with the help of the Consultant and is then voted on by the whole parish. It requires a majority vote to be enacted. The purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan consultation is for residents to consider what they want the Parish to look like in 20 years' time.

The Chairman asked if anyone was interested in being part of the Steering Group, please email the Town Council office who would note their details and keep them updated.

5. Corfe Mullen Recreation Ground Pavilion

The Chairman noted the following key points:

- The pavilion building was built in 1984 and was beginning to structurally fail. It has served its purpose well, but the configuration no longer met the needs of all the people who use the recreation ground, and as it is a significant site it needs to serve all residents not just sports and dog owners.
- The Corfe Mullen Sports Association has held a 35-year lease on the building which expired in December 2020 for the pavilion, and January 2021 for the courts. They continued to operate sports facilities on a "hold over" basis, that is, outside of the lease but on the same terms as the original lease.
- Corfe Mullen Youth Trust which runs the Youth Club is in a rented facility at Lockyer's School as it has no premises and the possibility to incorporate a facility into a building at the recreation ground would remove the cost to the public for building rental.
- The aim for any development would be for it to be self-funding and to reduce the impact to council tax paying residents.
- There was already ring fenced (s.106) money held as part of an agreement following the development of the old allotment site, with more expected as the second phase progresses. The Council has also put money in reserve in April 2021 for the project to try and reduce the amount of required borrowing.
- There would be grant funding opportunities for any development, but a Public Works Loan would be required to fund the bulk, and this would require support and approval from the Principal Authority, Dorset Council and the Secretary for State. It also takes time.
- There was also a 5-year agreement from 2019 in place with a childcare business at the site which the Council would need to work with closely during any development.
- There would be lots of public engagement, surveys and meetings, inviting ideas and suggestions from residents as to what they would like to see as part of the redevelopment, and although it would not be financially possible to include everything, it was hoped that Corfe Mullen could have a recreational facility which provides a hub for the community which it could be proud of. Some suggestions which have already been received from residents by email prior to the meeting have been as follows:
 - Disabled Changing Places facility
 - Café/Community Café
 - Youth Club facility
 - Function Room/Meeting Space
 - Dog washing facility
 - Protected Sports areas where dogs cannot go
 - Better Car Parking and Electric Car Charging Points
 - Nicer public toilets

Cllr Sowry- House thanked everyone again for attending and closed the meeting at 19:20.