

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 March 2024  
at 18:30 in the Main Hall of the Village Hall, Towers Way, Corfe Mullen**

**Present:** Cllr D Sowry-House (Chair and Mayor of Corfe Mullen Town Council)  
David Sidwick (Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner)  
22 Members of the Public

**In Attendance:** Catherine Horsley (Town Clerk)  
Rachel Virrill (Deputy Town Clerk - Minute taker)

**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/Chair 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 and Deputy Clerk were also in attendance to provide administration support for the meeting.

The Chair advised members of the public that there would be an opportunity to ask questions following the presentation by the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner, David Sidwick. The Chair introduced David and welcomed him to the meeting.

The Clerk confirmed no apologies for absence had been received.

**2. To Approve minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 March 2023.**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 March 2023 were **APPROVED**.

**3. Chairmans's Report**

The Chair presented his report shown in Appendix A, noting his thanks to his fellow Councillors for their commitment to the Council and members of the community and advised the report would be available on the Town Council website following the meeting for residents to read at their leisure.

**4. Presentation by the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner, David Sidwick followed by Q&A**

David Introduced himself and provided some background into how he became to be elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset in May 2021. His vision was to make Dorset the safest county in England by focusing on the following areas:

- Cutting crime and anti-social behaviour
- Making policing more visible and connected
- Fighting violent crime and high harm
- Fighting rural crime
- Putting victims and communities first
- Making every penny count

David talked about ongoing work behind the scenes in terms of recruitment of new police officers across Dorset, emergency call handling times reducing on average from 28 minutes to 15 minutes and raising the public's awareness of how to communicate and report intelligence to the Police via [www.dorset.police.uk/intelligence](http://www.dorset.police.uk/intelligence) or 101 for non-emergencies.

The Chair thanked David for his presentation and asked members of the public if they had any questions for the Police and Crime Commissioner or himself.

One member of the public highlighted the increase in antisocial behaviour and shoplifting within the village and asked what Dorset Police were doing to discourage these behaviours. David noted there were several initiatives in place including:

- Dorset Safer Business Partnership aims to understand the extent and impact of business crime and improve intelligence and crime prevention by better interaction and engagement with businesses.
- Encourage young people to join the Police Cadets.
- Community Consequence Scheme for young people who were repeat offenders.

The Chairman noted the frustrations when contacting Dorset Police either via 999, 101 or the Local PCSO and not receiving a response, particularly whilst a crime was in progress. David agreed to follow up outside of the meeting with the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Sargent Payne from the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team spoke of his teams work, against the limited resources available covering East Dorset. Sargent Payne stated that he was working with Corfe Mullen Homewatch to ensure residents felt safe within their community.

Another member of the public provided an update on the Ombudsman appraisal of the complaint raised by the residents in Corfe View Road with regards to the ongoing dispute relating to planning permission granted by Dorset Council as the Planning Authority at 33 Corfe View Road. He noted his disappointment that there had been no support from the Dorset Council Ward Councillors for Corfe Mullen.

A member of the public asked the Police and Crime Commissioner why Dorset Police were not continuing their investigation relating to the recent tree felling on Wimborne Road. David agreed to follow up outside of the meeting with the Dorset Partnership Against Rural Crime.

A member of the public noted her appreciation of the Chair of the Council and fellow Town Councillors for their commitment over the past five years.

## **5. Close of Meeting**

Cllr Sowry-House thanked the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner, David Sidwick and members of the public for attending and closed the meeting at 20:11.

Signed as a correct record of the meeting..... Date.....