



Minutes of the Meeting of Corfe Mullen Town Council
held on Tuesday 23 July 2024 at 19:25 in the Small Hall of the Village Hall

Present: **Councillors**
D Sowry-House (Chair)
J Bonham
P Cuckston
S Florek
L Hardy
S Jefferies
A Joyce
J Lortie
V Papilio

In Attendance: Catherine Horsley (Town Clerk & RFO)
Rachel Virrill (Deputy Town Clerk – minute taker)

Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

TC 24/65 To Receive and Accept apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr P Holland who was unwell, Cllrs A Holland and Craven who had personal commitments and Cllrs Neil and Purvis due to prior commitments.

TC 24/66 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 24/67 Paper A – To Approve minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 25 June 2024 – LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2024 were **APPROVED**.

TC 24/68 Paper B – To Approve Accounts for Payment

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the accounts for payment totalling £26,048.09.

TC 24/69 Paper C – To Approve Bank Reconciliation for June 2024

Line 34: Cllr Jefferies queried whether the invoice had been paid. The Clerk noted she had received an email from the Scouts earlier in the day with further investigations underway. The invoice remained unpaid until queries raised had been resolved.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the bank reconciliation for June 2024.

TC 24/70 Paper D – To Note the Already Approved minutes of Committees:

- Finance & Administration Committee – 21 May 2024
- Planning & Highways Committee – 28 May 2024
- Planning & Highways Committee – 11 June 2024
- Planning & Highways Committee – 25 June 2024

The already approved minutes of committee meetings were **NOTED**.

TC 24/71 Paper E – To Approve Resolutions from Finance and Administration Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the following resolutions from the Finance and Administration Committee held on 9 July 2024:

- FA 24/20: Members RECEIVED and NOTED the Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring Report and reserves balances for the quarter ended 30 June 2024 shown in Appendix 1a/b.
- FA 24/21: APPROVE Grants to Local Organisations Policy for the 2024/25 financial year shown in Appendix 2.
- FA 24/22: APPROVE fund transfers as listed in appendix 3.

TC 24/72 Paper F – To Note Appointment of New Deputy Town Clerk

Cllr Jefferies raised concerns with the process and involvement of the Staffing Committee in the recruitment of the new Deputy Town Clerk. The Clerk reiterated that at the Staffing Committee held on 15 April 2024, it was resolved to recommend to Full Council to advertise externally the Deputy Clerk role, with approval by the Full Council to proceed on 23 April 2024.

The role was subsequently advertised, and the Clerk, current Deputy Town Clerk and Chair of Council conducted interviews for the post on 26-27 June 2024, as a result of the Staffing Committee not having convened since the Annual Town Council meeting held on 14 May 2024.

The next Staffing Committee meeting was scheduled on 30 July 2024, to provide members with a staff update. It was agreed the delegated authority of the Staffing Committee would be discussed.

The appointment of the new Deputy Town Clerk, Daryl Pearce who joins the Council on 5 August 2024, full time working 37 hours per week, Monday-Friday on pay scale SCP 26, £34,834 per annum. On completion of iLCA in the first 12 months of employment, to move to SCP 27, £35,745 per annum was **NOTED**.

TC 24/73 Paper G – To Note Vandalism and Anti-Social Behaviour on Town Council Sites

The Clerk presented the report, noting the following updates:

- Vandalism and anti-social behaviour continued to be an issue, particularly at Towers Way Green Space and the Recreation Ground public toilets.
- Since the report had been drafted, continual damage to the Recreation Ground public toilets wall mounted toilet rolls holders with toilet paper put down the toilets causing blockages.
- Young people drinking alcohol at 3am in the morning, smashing bottles, climbing on vehicle, ripping the external fire exit light on the Co-op building opposite the Council Office were all captured on the Council CCTV and passed to the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

- Concerns by the Dorset Council Anti-Social Behaviour Officers that young people were hanging around Towers Way late at night. One C1 consequence letter had been issued, along with six safe and well letters to parents of young people in Corfe Mullen. Two safe and well letters were also issued to parents of young people in Broadstone and Colehill.
- Young people seen climbing on the Village Hall and the Sports Pavilion at the Recreation Ground.
- Following an incident outside Lockyers School, the young person involved had been band from the Youth and Village Hall Clubs.
- Drug activity in the Towers Way play area, with a substance retrieved by the Grounds Team and handed over to the local PCSO.

Members raised their concerns with the unacceptable behaviours experienced and the wellbeing of young people in Corfe Mullen, particularly congregating late at night in Towers Way Green Space and how this made nearby residents feel vulnerable.

The Deputy Clerk reiterated that the Neighbourhood Policing Team along with Dorset Council Officers were being updated on incidents, who were attending sites where possible. Members asked if there was a flow chart to understand the consequences to young people as a result of anti-social behaviours and criminal damage. The Deputy Clerk agreed to follow up with the Neighbourhood Policing Team and Dorset Council Officers.

The Clerk advised that additional CCTV was due to be installed at the Recreation Ground public toilets and front of the Village Hall w/c 29 July 2024. It was suggested that Council consider removing the wall outside the public toilets at the Recreation Ground, to obtain an open view of the public toilets to deter vandalism and anti-social behaviours.

The update was **NOTED**.

TC 24/74 Verbal – To Note any updates from Representatives to Outside Bodies

Cllr Jefferies had no further updates on the Beacon Hill Landfill site with an update anticipated in September 2024.

Cllr Hardy noted the next DAPTC Eastern Area Committee meeting was scheduled on 7 August 2024.

The update was **NOTED**.

TC 24/75 Verbal - To Note the update from the Climate Change Working Party (CCWP) –
Cllr P Neil

Whilst there was no update from the CCWP, Cllr Sowry-House noted the nature emergency declared by Dorset Council at their Full Council meeting held on 18 July 2024. An update to be provided at a future meeting.

Cllr Cuckston expressed an interest in joining the CCWP. The Clerk agreed to liaise with the Chair, Cllr Neil.

The update was **NOTED**.

TC 24/76 Verbal – To Note Clerk’s Update

The Clerk provided an update as follows:

- Thank you received from the organisers of the Dorset Macmillan bike ride, who held their annual event at the Recreation Ground on 7 July 2024 and raised in excess of £25,000 for the worthwhile charity.

- Meeting scheduled with the Secretary and Treasurer of Corfe Mullen Sports Association (CMSA) on 29 July 2024 to handover documentation.
- Joint Working Party with Wimborne Minster Town Council meeting took place on 19 July 2024 with members in attendance from Corfe Mullen and Wimborne Minster Town Councils, along with representatives from Lytchett Minster & Upton Town Council, Pamphill & Sandwick Parish Council and Dorset Council Principal Transport Planner to review options for safety and accessibility for cyclists and pedestrians on the A31 Lake Gates roundabout, Julians Bridge and B3078 Julians Road and make recommendations to Dorset Council and National Highways. The approved Terms of Reference and draft minutes to be presented at the next Full Council meeting.
- Pest Control had revisited the Council Office, with no further rodent activity.
- Pony Espresso mobile café due to commence at the Recreation Ground on 7 September 2024.
- Outdoor Gym Equipment for the Recreation Ground was on order. Await installation date.
- Await final sign off from Dorset Council Highways for siting of two new bus shelters on Wareham Road, Windgreen.
- RPII Playground Inspection Training had been offered to nearby Town & Parish Councils to reduce costs to the Council for Grounds Team attending training.
- Assistant Youth Support Worker vacancy to be advertised imminently to ensure the Youth Club was able to re-open in the new academic year.
- Fencing at the Recreation Ground adjacent to Wimborne Road to be installed w/c 12 August 2024. Neighbouring properties to be sent a letter to make them aware of the planned works.
- Dorset Council Planning had been advised of complaints relating to the Slip & Slide on the A31, Mill Street.
- Contact with Dorset Council Planning relating to Village Hall planning permission and amendments to parking area at the front of the complex to make a better use of the space.
- Await date for email migration to MS Exchange.
- New Internal Auditor on site 24 July 2024.
- Dorset Town & Parish Clerks met with the Dorset Council Chief Executive on 17 July 2024, where an update was provided on 'the big conversation' public engagement events running throughout July and August 2024, Officers work on the four main priorities of the new administration of Dorset Council, climate & nature, economic growth, housing and communities for all along with updates on Dorset Explorer and Assets Transfers & Regeneration.

The update was **NOTED**.

TC 24/77 Verbal – To Note Mayor’s Report

The Mayor presented a joint Mayor and Dorset Councillor report under minute no. TC 24/78.

TC 24/78 Verbal – To Note Dorset Councillor Report

Cllrs Sowry-House and Florek provided the following updates:

- Attended the General election count in Blandford, Bournemouth and Sherborne Pride events, birthday celebrations of Legs & Company Leg Club, performance by Emma-Marie Kabanova at St Huberts Church.
- Attended first Dorset Full Council meeting on 18 July 2024 at County Hall. Topics discussed included petition relating the re-opening of QE Leisure Centre, adoption of the Purbeck Local Plan, deputation for the Bibby Stockholm located at Portland and nature emergency.

- Attended Dorset Council housing briefing and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Q&A presentation.
- Dealt with resident queries relating to planning, housing, refuse collections and anti-social behaviours on the Cogdean Open Space from the Roman Heights Estate and signage on the Open Space from the Roman Road Bridleway.
- Meeting scheduled with Dorset Council's Corporate Director for Transformation, Customer and Cultural Services, to discuss the 'county field' at Corfe Mullen Recreation Ground and Corfe Mullen Library Garden.
- Met with Revd Jane Burgess to plan for the Civic Christmas Carol Service with the Military Wives in attendance on 22 December 2024. All members to be invited.

The update was **NOTED**.

TC 24/79 Verbal – Matters for Forthcoming Agendas No decisions can be taken¹

The following items for forthcoming agendas were noted:

- Minutes and Terms of reference of the Joint Working Party with Wimborne Town Council relating to road safety improvements on the A31 Lake Gates roundabout, Julians Bridge and B3078 Julians Road to be shared.
- Update on nature emergency declared by Dorset Council at their Full Council meeting held on 18 July 2024.
- How to progress with community engagement, Councillor drop-in sessions and Town Council Facebook Page.

TC 24/80 To Agree a date and time for the next meeting –Tuesday 27 August 2024 at 19:00 in the Main Hall of the Village Hall, Towers Way, Corfe Mullen.

Cllrs Sowry-House and Florek noted their apologies, due to personal commitments.

TC 24/81 To Resolve to exclude members of the press and public – to agree that agenda item TC 24/82 be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

There were no members of the public or press present.

TC 24/82 Verbal – To Note Staffing Update

The Clerk noted the next Staffing Committee meeting was scheduled on Tuesday 30 July 2024. A general update to be provided on the Grounds and Office teams along with discussion on further Officer recruitment.

The update was **NOTED**.

TC 24/83 Close of meeting at 20:38.

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