Corston Parish Council

**Chairman:** John Twist OBE **Clerk:** John V May 9 Meadlands, Corston, Bath BA2 9AS

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**MINUTES OF THE CORSTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: 28THNOVEMBER 2016**

**THE OPENING OF THE MEETING**

In the absence of the Parish Council’s Chairman, Councillor John Twist, the Vice-Chairman of the Council, Councillor Richard Blows, took the Chair and opened the meeting at 7pm and then welcomed Parish Councillors and Parishioners to the meeting.

**1. CORSTON PARISH COUNCILLORS PRESENT**

Richard Blows, Gary Breckon, Mrs Susan Charles and Mrs Sheila Thomas.

The Vice-Chairman also welcomed Mrs Sally Davis, the Farmborough Ward Councillor, Chris Warren, the Chairman of Saltford Parish Council and also Saltford Parish Councillor, Adrian Betts.

**2. COUNCILLORS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies and reason for absence had been received and accepted from Councillors John Twist, Mrs Christine Ingersent and Ms Georgina Wynne.

**3. PARISHIONERS IN ATTENDANCE**

The Vice-Chairman welcomed Parishioner Mr Rupert Mullins to the meeting.

**4. DECLARATION OF COUNCILLOR’S PERSONAL INTERESTS IN THE AGENDA ITEMS AND PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS**

The Corston Parish Councillors present at the meeting made no declarations of personal interests in any of the agenda items.

**5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE CORSTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12THSEPTEMBER 2016**

The Minutes were **agreed** and then signed by the Vice-Chairman.

**6. THE PROPOSALTO RE-OPEN SALTFORD RAILWAY STATION**

At the invitation of the Vice-Chairman, the Chairman of Saltford Parish Council, Chris Warren, explained why his Council supported the case for the Saltford station to be re-opened.

It was their firm believe that the opening of Saltford station would significantly reduce the volume of traffic passing along the A4 through the village and therefore also reduce the emission of harmful carbon monoxide emissions by vehicles. Motorists using the train service between Bath and Bristol, instead of their cars, would also benefit by the reduction in their journey times between the cities. After an interesting discussion, the Vice-Chairman thanked Councillor Chris Warren for his presentation and said that he believed that the opening of Saltford station, with probable new local bus links between the station and Bath University, would also bring benefits to Corston Parishioners.

**7. WEST OF ENGLAND JOINT SPATIAL PLAN CONSULTATION**

The Vice-Chairman opened the discussion by explaining that B&NES had asked for comments on the Consultation to be sent to them by 19thDecember. The main issue in the Consultation document effecting both Corston and Saltford was the possibility of constructing a by-pass around Saltford. Adrian Betts said that the Saltford Parish Council strongly objected to the construction of a by-pass as they believed that passing trade would be lost and local businesses would suffer severe financial losses and possibly need to eventually close. The village would lose its heart and character if that happened. The construction of a by-pass would also doubtless mean the building of more houses in the area which would consequently lead to more traffic problems and air pollution. Following discussion, the Council supported the views expressed by Adrian Betts. The Vice-Chairman thanked him for participating in the discussion and said that he expected that the Corston Parish Council would liaise closely in the future with Saltford Parish Council about this subject.

**8. GENERAL ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 12TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

Page 2, Repairs to the pedestrian crossing lights on the A39: The Clerk

The Clerk said that B&NES had promptly repaired the timing of the lights on the pedestrian crossing.

Page 2, Proposed amendments to the Parish Council’s Standing Orders: The Clerk

The Clerk would obtain help from Councillors experienced in IT technology. **ACTION: CLERK**

Page 2, Parish Council insurance cover for two under 16-year-old boys: The Clerk

The Clerk said that he would complete the action as soon as possible. **ACTION: CLERK**

Page 2, The need to identify Companies to create the Council’s website: Vice-Chair

Councillor Richard Blows, advised the Council that further investigations had been made to identify a suitable Company to build the website that the Council needed to comply with the requirements of the Transparency Code. Following preliminarily discussions between Cllr Twist, Cllr Blows, and the Parish Clerk they had unanimously agreed to recommend NetWise Training Ltd to the Parish Council as the preferred Company. After detailed discussion, the Council endorsed the recommendation and looked forward to the Council’s website being operational by the end of the current financial year. **ACTION: VICE-CHAIR**

Page 2, The purchase of a new printer for the parish Council’s laptop: The Clerk

The Clerk said that he had purchased a new printer

Page 5, The installation of a defibrillator in the Parish: The Clerk

The Clerk informed the Council that the Duchy supported the Council’s proposal to have a defibrillator installed outside the village shop and the tenants, David, Marilyn and Graham would advise the Clerk where it should be sited. The Clerk would progress the delivery of the defibrillator with B&NES and arrange a presentation about its operation in due course. **ACTION: CLERK**

**END OF THE GENERAL ACTIONS FROM THE MINUTES OF 12TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

**9. FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

**a) Review of the financial actions in the Minutes of 12th September 2016**

Page 2, Repairs to the beam post: The Clerk

The Clerk said the repairs to the beam post had been completed.

Page 3, Action to identify a fencing contractor and obtain quotes for replacement fence: The Clerk

The Vixe-Chairman advised the Council that two of the three Companies had withdrawn from the competition of providing a quote for the replacement of the Play Area boundary fence. After discussion, the Council **agreed** that the quote submitted by the Tree and Boundary Services Ltd should be accepted. The Clerk would advise the Company accordingly and arrange for the new fence to be installed in early 2017. **ACTION: CLERK**

Page 3, The purchase of three Playing Field notices: The Clerk.

The Clerk said that a notice had been placed in the shelter and the remaining notice would be displayed in the Play Area after the new boundary fence had been installed. **ACTION: CLERK**

Page 3, Repairs to the Parish Council’s notice board: The Clerk

The Clerk reported that Councillor John Twist and Colin Hale had repaired the notice board.

Page 3, Claim by the Clerk for a refund of VAT payments made on behalf of the Council: The Clerk

The Council **agreed** to consider the Clerk’s claim for a refund of VAT payments after he had submitted the relevant information. **ACTION: CLERK**

**END OF THE FINANCIAL ACTIONS FROM THE MINUTES 12THSEPTEMBER 2016**

**b) Review of the General Fund and the Bank reconciliation**

As the Clerk had been unable to send the Councillors accounts statements via email he gave a verbatim report. After discussion, the Councillors **agreed** with his presentation of the accounts.

**c) Annual review of the Playing Field and its maintenance costs**

The Council reviewed the maintenance of the Playing Field and **agreed** that the voluntary work undertaken by Paul and James Wynne throughout the year continued to provide a beautiful recreational area for the village. Councillor Mrs Shelia Thomas proposed that Paul and James should be granted £250 towards their fuel and maintenance costs. Councillor Mrs Susan Charles seconded the proposal that was carried unanimously by a show of hands. **ACTION: CLERK**

**d) Review of the NALC recommended salary scales for part-time Clerks under the terms of the model contract (including SCPs 50)**

The Vice-Chairman said that the 2016 annual review of the Clerk’s salary had not been undertaken in January 2016. The Council **agreed** that the subject should be discussed at the Council meeting in January and combine it with the 2017 annual review of the Clerk’s salary. **ACTION: CLERK**

**10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

The Council discussed the following planning applications:

16/03172/FUL Land between Barton House and Laburnum Cottage. Refused by B&NES

16/04019/FUL LaburnumCottage, TheBarton. Conversion of a garage into rooms. Permitted

16/05076/TCA Barham, 9 The Paddock. Felling of an Ash tree Permitted

16/05281/TCA 4 Brook Cottages. Felling of a conifer tree. Permitted

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**11. CORSTON CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL**

The Vice-Chairman said that the Corston History weekend held in October had created considerable interest in the subject. He would produce a summary of the various ideas he had received, together with a suggested programme for the way ahead. **ACTION: VICE-CHAIR**

**12. REVIEW OF THE CORSTON PARISH COUNCIL’S TASKS LIST**

The Council reviewed and updated the Council tasks list. Details are available on request.

**13. REVIEW OF THE B&NES WORKS REQUESTS**

The Council reviewed and updated the B&NES works list. Details are available on request.

**14. REVIEW OF MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE EVENTS**

Councillor Susan Charles said that she had attended a meeting of the Bath Preservation Society’s Environs sub-Committee on 22ndNovember.

**15. ISSUES RAISED BY PARISHIONERS: THE CLERK**

The Clerk said that no issues had been raised by Parishioners. The subjects at (a), (b) and (c) below were raised by Councillor Mrs Susan Charles.

a) Misleading traffic signals on the pedestrian crossing near the Globe Inn roundabout

Some vehicles approaching the roundabout appeared to dangerously assume that a green signal light on the pedestrian crossing gave them priority over traffic already on the roundabout. The Clerk would raise the matter with B&NES. **ACTION: CLERK**

b) The need for the village telephone box to be cleaned

The inside of the telephone box was very dirty and offensive and the windows needed to be cleaned. The Clerk would contact BT about the problem. **ACTION: CLERK**

c) The need for the Cottonmead gutters to be cleaned by CURO

Despite many attempts, CURO had failed to respond to requests to clean the Cottonmead gutters. The Clerk would progress the subject with CURO. **ACTION: CLERK**

**16. THE CLERK’S REPORTS**

The Clerk said that he had no reports to make to the Council.

**17. THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held in the village hall on 23rd January 2017, starting at 7pm.

Signed ......................................... Date .......................................

Councillor John Twist

Chairman Corston Parish Council

Email copies via the Parish Council’s Newsletter to: Corston Parish Councillors, Ward Councillor Mrs Sally Davis and approximately 90 Parishioners.

A copy of the Minutes will also be displayed on the Parish Council notice board.