

Corston Annual Parish Meeting

Chair: Councillor Richard Blows

Interim Clerk for the meeting: Councillor John Bravin

Email: corstonparishclerk@gmail.com

MINUTES OF THE CORSTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: 5TH June 2019

1. THE OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Chair of the Corston Parish Council, Councillor Richard Blows, opened the meeting at 7pm and then welcomed Corston residents, newly elected Corston Parish Councillors and Duncan Hounsell and Alastair Singleton, the newly elected Ward Councillors.

2. CORSTON PARISH COUNCILLORS PRESENT

The following Corston Parish Councillors were present at the meeting: Councillors Richard Blows, John Bravin, Gary Breckon, John Twist, Katherine Evans, and Georgina Wynne.

3. CORSTON RESIDENTS PRESENT

The following Corston Residents were present at the meeting: Jenny Burton, Malcolm McDowall, Elizabeth Freeman, Diane Philips, Phil Wootton, Rosemary Thompson

4. COUNCILLORS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies and reason for absence from the meeting had been received and accepted from Corston Parish Councillor Susan Charles.

5. RESIDENTS APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting had been received and accepted from Carol Phillips, Liz & Anthony Acton, Daile Wilshere, and Julie Bracewell.

6. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were no Minutes issued after the previous Annual Parish Meeting.

7. 2017-2018 CORSTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair presented highlights from the previous year. The full report is attached at Annex A.

8. CHURCH WARDEN REPORT

Diane Philipps, Church Warden for All Saints Corston, presented an annual report. The full report is attached at Annex B.

9. RECTOR'S REPORT

Diane Philipps presented an annual report from the Rector of All Saints, Church. Part of the report contained a request for all bodies and parties in the parish to meet together

periodically to coordinate activities. The suggestion was warmly embraced by those present. The full report is attached at Annex C

10. COFFEE MORNING REPORT

Cllr. John Bravin presented an annual report from the organiser of the Coffee Mornings, Carol Phillips. The full report is attached at Annex D

11. VILLAGE HALL REPORT

Jenny Burton presented an annual report from the Village Hall Committee. The full report is attached at Annex E

12. ALL SAINTS CHURCH PRESERVATION TRUST

Malcolm McDowall presented an annual report from the Church Preservation Trust. The full report is attached at Annex F

13. CORSTON COUNTRY FAIR

Cllr. John Bravin presented an annual report from the Corston Country Fair. The full report is attached at Annex G.

14. CORSTON VILLAGE BOOK EXCHANGE

Cllr. John Bravin presented an annual report on the Corston Village Book Exchange. The full report is attached at Annex H

15. CORSTON WOMBLES

Cllr. Katharine Evans gave a verbal report on the Corston Wombles.

16. CORSTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Cllr. Richard Blows presented an annual report from the Corston History Society. The full report is attached at Annex J

17. WARD COUNCILLORS REPORT

Cllr. Duncan Hounsell presented a vision for the newly elected council going forward. The full report is attached at Annex K

18. BRISTOL AIRPORT EXPANSION

Phil Wootton raised concerns about the proposed plans for expansion of Bristol Airport including: The statement is attached at Annex L. Key concerns were:

- Pollution
- Traffic including staff cars
- Noise
- Night flights
- Car parking

A general discussion followed. A request was made from the floor for the CPC to join the Stop Bristol Airport Expansion Action Group.

The Parish Council stressed the need to reflect all points of view in the Parish, including those who Support and Oppose the airport expansion.

Post Meeting note: the CPC agreed to canvass opinion within the village via a brief survey to better understand the balance of opinion.

The Chair Cllr. Richard Blows closed the meeting at 9:17pm

Signed Date

Councillor Richard Blows Chair Corston Parish Council

Email copies via the Parish Council's Newsletter to: Corston Parish Councillors, Ward Councillors and approximately 60 Parishioners. A copy will also be displayed on the Parish Council's notice board.

DRAFT

ANNEX A 2017-2018 CORSTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

2018/19 has been another busy year for the Parish Council with activity on a variety of fronts.

As well as trying to provide advice and support to residents as and when it is required, on planning issues

- we have commented on 16 planning applications ranging from Tree Preservation Orders to large scale redevelopments
- we prepared and submitted the local assessment for B&NES Housing & Employment Land Assessment (HELA); having attended training workshops to do so
- we have commented on the West of England Joint Spatial Plan and Joint Transport Plan
- We presented the case to TrueSpeed as why their sighting of a roadside cabinet in Meadlands was inappropriate and secured their agreement to relocate the cabinet to the business park

On the budget

- we secured a grant from Bristol Airport charitable trust
- we accepted a donation of funds from the closure of Buzz Club towards the ongoing maintenance of the children's play area
- we set the precept for the 2019/20 financial year with a reduced level of increase from 4.3% the previous year to 1.3%

On the services and facilities around the village we have:

- ensured that Playing Field and Children's Play area are maintained and fit for purpose, including the regular removal of dog waste
- Undertaken regular inspections of roads and footpaths, requesting B&NES and CURO to take action to address concerns.
- repaired items in the children's play area
- given a grant towards the conversion of the phone box into
- given a grant towards for equipment for the Corston Wombles group
- agreed with Curo the scope and frequency of their ground maintenance work

We have continued to represent Corston's interests in a number of local fora including

- the Avon Local Council's Association
- B&NES' Parishes Liaison Meetings
- Keynsham Forum
- Bath Preservation Trust Environs Meetings
- NHS Health Watch Meetings.

We have maintained our involvement with various village groups including the:

- Country Fair
- Village Hall
- All Saints Church PCC.

Finally, we have had a challenging year in terms of the Clerk's role. Firstly, I would like to record our thanks to Lindy Leahy for continuing to support us through the spring and summer of last year whilst we recruited her replacement.

Secondly, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for taking on additional responsibilities when the new Clerk unexpectedly resigned in February of this year. As volunteers, this has involved us doing more and we recognise that this is not ideal in terms of responding to resident's questions and queries. However, we are doing our best to ensure that all critical business is dealt with and we aim to have new Clerk in place as soon as possible.

Finally, I would like to thank Cllr John Twist for offering to stay on as a Councillor to help us through this period of change,

To conclude, our priorities for the coming year include:

- Recruiting a new parish Clerk
- Moving fully to using the CPO website and email list as our main means of communication with parishioners. We encourage anyone not on the list to register via the website or by emailing the Clerk
- Working with B&NES to address outstanding highways and road safety issues
- Commissioning additional grounds maintenance services in relation to dog bins and green areas outside the recreation field
- Finalising the Corston Conservation Area Appraisal
- Continuing to engage with B&NES and the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) on strategic planning and transport issues as they impact on Corston
- Meeting Bristol Airport to share concerns and questions about their expansion plans

Thank you

ANNEX B CHURCH WARDEN REPORT

We are pleased to report that our village church is continuing to play an important role in Corston.

We have held a variety of services throughout the year which have attracted people who perhaps would not normally attend. In September we held a service to mark the 70th Anniversary of the NHS where we welcomed the Chaplain from the RUH to speak. This enabled people from across the benefice to pray for healing and to thank all serving in the NHS.

Our Harvest celebration this year was traditional but with a twist. All the village was invited to join us with a service of thanksgiving with baptism, followed by a hog roast. The aim to say thank you to the whole village for their support. The weather was good and it was a wonderful occasion enjoyed by so many people.

The Armistice weekend was another memorable occasion. The church was decorated with many knitted poppies and thoughtful displays. A concert including poetry readings and music was held on the Saturday afternoon followed by tea and cake. Thanks go to everyone involved for their hard work, especially Debbie, Sue, Kathy and Susan. On Sunday an act of Remembrance followed by a service for Peace was led by Daile, then came ringing for peace in the churchyard. It was a very moving occasion and was very well attended. Our Christmas services were also well attended. Our DIY Christingle and Family Carol and nativity services were very popular and attracted children and adults alike joining in the activities around the church. We would like to thank all the readers from Groups around the village who joined us for our carol service and everyone else that came to celebrate Christmas with us.

We have had a number of Social events in church this year. In April a History weekend with exhibitions spread between village hall and church encouraged residents and visitors to

come forth with interesting information for the local History Society. In May Swing to Brass was a lively and successful concert in church featuring a Brass band and choir, followed by tea and cake. Donations split between Alzheimer's Society and church. The CCPT held their annual successful concert in July. A performance in September of readings and music of John Betjeman followed by a special service in church was enjoyed by all. Thank you to Bob Johnson and team for all their hard work.

Special thanks go to Carol Phillips for successfully launching our Coffee Shop in church, which is held on the first Tuesday and third Wednesday of each month, where homemade cake and fresh coffee is served. This compliments the monthly Markets, Soup and pudding lunches and Quiz's held in the Village hall, social events for everyone to join in.

Thank you to The Country Fair committee for organizing the Fair this year and for our share of the profits It was very much appreciated. Special thanks to Margaret Tanner for raising so much from her Vintage clothes stall which led on to further sale events in church to add to funds.

The support of the CCPT is invaluable with financial help for the upkeep of our building. This year it has enabled us to renovate our porch and pathway. We thank everyone involved for all their continued support.

We as churchwardens would like to thank everyone who contribute to the life of All Saints, to Daile our rector, our PCC, our bell ringers, organists, readers, sides men, Paul for all his help, those who look after our churchyard, organise events, keyholders and for everyone who do jobs around the church we cannot mention everyone by name but be assured the jobs you do don't go unnoticed.

We are lucky at All Saints to have great facilities a kitchenette, toilet and removable pews in North aisle. This year we have held meetings, charity and social events. We would like to welcome everyone to use our church and facilities, just contact Daile or our wardens.

Diane Phillips
Philippa Parfrey
Curchwardens

ANNEX C RECTOR'S REPORT

Report from Rev. Daile Wilshere

I apologise that I am unable to be at the APCM meeting this evening. All Saints church appreciate the support of the village and would like to invite the Parish Council and other aspects of the village, like the Village Hall and the CCPT to consider how we can work together as a community in the coming years. I would be willing to co-ordinate a meeting to discuss this, if it is thought that it would be a good idea.

Daile

ANNEX D COFFEE MORNING REPORT

In January 18 I went to a meeting Daile called in the church, they were asking for two things. One being help needed in the day to day running of the church, putting out recycling, changing light bulbs and many more jobs, the other was to use the church building and its facilities more frequently.

For a time I had thought Corston lacked a focal point where we could meet up with friends and neighbours, we have no cafe, restaurant or pub in the village and so this gave me the idea of using the church on a regular basis as a 'Coffee Shop'. It took a couple of months to organise, ask for volunteers to run it and supply the cakes, but I'm pleased to say we have about twelve ladies on the rota plus our flower lady and we have now been running twice a month now for almost 15 months.

In our first year we took £1,320.00 and to date we have taken £1,696.00 which is £50 to £55 per week on average, and attract anything between 12 to 24 people each time. It's not so much the money we raise that makes a difference but I feel its the villagers getting together on an informal basis for a catch up over coffee and cake. It has also been used for a 90th birthday celebration, that week we took £120, but you don't have to wait that long if you would like to use it for own celebration any time.

This 'Coffee Shop' I feel has been a success due to the fact we have enough people who live in Corston and were supportive of the idea, and we still have the same team of ladies on our rota that we started with 15months ago.

ANNEX E VILLAGE HALL

We have had quite a bit of redecoration done in the last year.: Snooker room ceiling and walls decorated, and in main hall all the wood repainted.

The snooker room is very under used so we need to advertise a lot more in the future or !

Both porches front and side some of the roof tiles replaced and all wood painted.

To conform to safety all the lights in the toilets and passageway, still one to do, replaced with enclosed shades.

A new double-glazed side main door and surround had to be replaced, it had been there quite a few years and has a lot of wear.

We are awaiting some decent weather to have all the side path entrance re furnished by a contractor, plus new drainage, and all surfaces to be level at a cost of just over £3000.

So we have been quite busy again, perhaps one year we will have nothing to do. Hopefully by the end of the year we will have broadband installed by Truespeed for free which will be great.

We hope when this happens it will attract more bookings from business meetings etc.

Our breakfasts are still a big hit and very sociable

Jenny Burton
Chairperson

ANNEX F ALL SAINTS CHURCH PRESERVATION TRUST

I would just like to update you on the Church Preservation Trust.

We have in Corston a very old beautiful church building. parts of it are Norman and its structure has to be well maintained.

The Church receives no money for its day to day operation or for its maintenance from any outside source, all monies have to be raised by the general public and congregation.

Just over four years ago the Church tower was in a very poor state, the bells could not be rung and water was damaging the structure, the PCC were able to borrow £12000 and the work on the tower was completed. However there was no money to repay the loan. At that time, I chaired the Parish Council and I and others were approached and asked if a Trust could be formed to raise money for the maintenance of the Church structure and also to gradually repay the substantial loan.

A Trust was formed with the active participation of Lady Thompson and Messers Acton, Bush, Blackman, Seymour and myself. This is a Charitable Trust; all monies are ring fenced and Gift Aid is claimed where appropriate.

To date we have paid off £8000 from the loan, extensive work has also been completed on the Porch, guttering, drainage, drive etc. at a cost of £11000. We need to raise a further £4000 to repay the loan. We have some generous regular monthly donors, also we have had several Concerts and other events are planned. We will have a table at the Country fair looking for customers! If anyone wishes to donate or become a regular donor, we will be pleased to sign you up. Five or ten pounds per month will help us no end.

Please remember no one else is providing cash for the maintenance of a wonderful church building.

Thank you.

MJMcDowall

ANNEX G CORSTON COUNTRY FAIR REPORT

In 1912 Mr & Mrs Fritz Bartelt hosted a fete to raise funds for the building of a village hall. That day, the main attractions were a baby show, a brass band, maypole dancing, and of course a tea tent. The fete raised £60. Over a 100 years later Corston Country Fair continues the tradition to raise money for these community facilities:

- the playing field, children's playground and nature walks around the Corston Brook, used daily by young and old, dog walkers and nature lovers
- All Saint's Church, dating from the 12th century, continues to provide a focus for many community activities
- the well-equipped Village Hall, is available for daytime and evening events, children's parties, business meetings, rehearsals, etc.

Last year we raised over £3500 for the village, funds that otherwise would not be available.

In the village hall we have contributed to a new roof, floor & kitchen and added disabled access. We have helped with the maintenance of the church and funded new storage facilities. And we have fenced the children's play area and refurbished the playing field pavilion.

The Country Fair relies on volunteers. If you enjoy the village facilities and would like to help on Sat 20th July, please offer an hour or two of your time. Even simple tasks need volunteers and we promise you need not commit to more.

Please contact us at:

Kate 07966 29516

Kathy 01225 873516

or via www.facebook.com/corstoncountryfair

ANNEX H CORSTON VILLAGE BOOK EXCHANGE

It's almost one year since we launched the Corston Village Book Exchange. Thanks to BT we were able to adopt the local phone kiosk for community use – for just £1. We stripped it back to the cast iron metal and repainted it in BT Red. Then re-glazed it with 72 new panels.

The Grand Opening featured local author Julie Miller and is featured in a lovely video filmed from a drone that can be seen at www.bathecho.co.uk/news/community/corston-telephone-kiosk-reopened-book-exchange-79869/

Since then the Book Exchange has been regularly used by young and old. We have topped the stock up with over 1000 new books, especially the children's book. One Corston book (stamped with the Corston library stamp) was taken to a BT kiosk book exchange in Italy, and one of the redundant display panels is in Indianapolis, USA. Someone even was persuaded to move to Corston after they saw the story and video of the Grand Opening, and thought this looks like a lovely village.

The Adopt A Kiosk scheme has led to more than 5,800 payphones being adopted by communities since 2008. Another 3,683 are available for adoption, including the one in Newton St Loe. They have been converted into book exchanges, art museums, cake shops and information centres. One payphone in Kingsbridge Devon was even turned into the "world's smallest nightclub"

Please continue to use the Book Exchange, remembering to "Bring a book, take a book".

John Bravin, David Miller, Kathy Bravin & Charlie Miller

ANNEX I CORSTON WOMBLES

Report presented verbally

ANNEX J CORSTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The second year of the society featured one festival, two talks and a cancellation

We began the year with last April's History Weekend, which attracted about 200 people over the two days and generated some new contacts with people.

We have also held two talks, one in October on Corston's suffragist and one in April on the Langton family of Newton Park.

Both were attended by approximately forty people, generating a lot of interest and questions. The talks are also attracting people from beyond Corston who have a connection to the village.

Our cancellation was of last summer's village history walk, which clashed some kind of football match which caused something of dilemma for most of the people who had booked so, we decided to be magnanimous and cancel our event!

We have also had three people with family connections to Corston contact us through website as part of their family history research.

We will try and schedule a history walk for the summer and have our next talk on Domesday Corston coming up in October.

Richard Blows
CLHS

ANNEX K WARD COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Thank you to everyone who voted for Alastair Singleton and I to be your ward councillors in the recent elections to B&NES Council. We now represent everyone in the ward. Our principal policies are to maintain protective green belt, preserve the character of the villages in this ward, and to support all the local community groups, traders, and businesses.

Should Corston's residents ever wish a small-scale housing development for its own needs on the edge of the village, we would support that.

We are campaigning for the re-opening of Saltford railway station which would be Corston's local station. We want to improve local public transport generally. We oppose any idea of a local orbital road around Saltford which would cause environmental damage, have no strategic value, and bring with it housing in-fill. Traffic problems suffered by Corston's residents would be exacerbated not alleviated by such a road.

Alastair and I have taken advantage of the many training and information sessions provided by Bath and North East Somerset Council to new councillors. For example, I have attended two sessions already this week relating to my position on the Planning Committee which met today for the first time since the elections. I am also on the Standards Committee which helps ensure all councillors in this area maintain high ethical standards. Alastair is a member of the Corporate Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel and the Avon and Somerset Police Crime Panel.

We have become even more aware of the vast range of responsibilities that B&NES Council has which by their nature remain largely unseen such as its corporate parenting role, its work around adult and children's social care, environmental health, and so on.

I have met with a local "Access Group", led by Cllr Susan Charles of Corston Parish Council, which campaigns for improved awareness of the needs of disabled residents such as wheelchair users who have mobility issues.

Alastair and I are meeting with Stefan Chiffers, B&NES Senior Highways Engineer, tomorrow to look at highways issues across the ward including at Corston. We will report back at the next Corston Parish Council meeting.

We are pleased to say that we have already secured a replacement litter bin at the entrance to the Corston playing fields off Meadlands.

Grass verges, green corridors, and green roundabout islands are being cut back less frequently than in the past. B&NES Council policy is to create and enhance wild-life corridors to assist pollinating insects to thrive and nature in urban areas to recover. Common plants such as dandelions and cow parsley although often viewed as weeds can be an important support to pollinating insects.

We are tackling individual case-work. Yesterday I reported the car that appears to be abandoned by the Stothert and Pitt RFC field on the A4.

You now have two ward councillors not one. To help with clarity, I am taking the lead on issues in Corston. Alastair and I meet regularly to update each other. Please contact me, Duncan Hounsell, in the first instance.

We will be continuing to work closely with Corston Parish Council. We look forward to working with you all to achieve a year of progress for Corston.

Thank you for attending this evening.

Finally, Alastair and I wish to record our appreciation for the work of Cllr. Sally Davis who represented you before the election and who has now been elected to represent the newly formed Clutton and Farmborough ward.

ANNEX L BRISTOL AIRPORT EXPANSION

Presented verbally

DRAFT