**Corston Parish Council**

**Chair:** Councillor John Bravin **Clerk: Alan Jenner**

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**Minutes of the Corston Parish Council Meeting held at Corston Village Hall on Wednesday 12th January 2022**

**1. The meeting opened at 7.00pm**

The Chair welcomed Ward Councillor Duncan Hounsell, members of Corston Parish Council and two Corston residents.

* The Meeting was informed that the Clerk was unable to attend tonight through illness.
* Members present asked that their best wishes for the Clerk’s speedy recovery be recorded.
* It was agreed that Cllr John Twist would act as minute secretary for the meeting.

**2. Councillors Present**

John Bravin Chair, John Twist, Gary Breckon, Susan Charles, Katharine Evans,

Georgina Wynne, Ward Councillor Duncan Hounsell,

**3. Councillor Apologies**

Cllr Richard Blows Vice Chairman sent his apologies for non-attendance due to work commitments. Those present accepted this.

**4. Parishioners in Attendance**

Mrs Jenny Burton and Mrs Diane Phillips.

Mr. Scott Sandfordattended for Planning Application 22/00068/FUL - The installation of a cricket practice area at Tanglewood,

**5. Declaration of Councillor’s personal interests in the Agenda items and Parish Council business**

5.1 Cllr Gary Breckon recorded an interest in Planning Application 22/00001/TCA.

No other interests were raised or recorded.

**6. Approval of the Minutes of the Corston Parish Council meeting 10th November 2021**

6.1 The draft minutes were approved without amendment.

**7. Matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda**

7.1 The Chair informed the meeting that in future the most recently updated Corston PC Action List would be used to monitor progress, the status of items reviewed and actions placed. The conclusions are to be recorded in the minutes of the council meeting.

*Action List reference number and title*

*1. Replacement Goal* – Location agreed, installation planned week commencing 17th January.

*2. Oak bench* – Out of stock. No commitment from supplier when will be available.

**Action: Clerk to identify alternative and report back.**

*5. Condition of Corston’s Roads* – Meeting requested with B&NES Highways declined. Await decision on the resurfacing of Corston Lane in FY2022/23.

*6. New Bank Account* - Unity Bank appear to overcome staff shortages and transfer process will resume and aim to complete within a few weeks.

*7. Additional 999 sign for Defib*. - **Action: Cllr Susan Charles** to contact supplier of the defib unit.

*9. Internal audit of Income and Expenditure* – **Action: Clerk** Bring accounts up-to-date, achieve FY2021/22 year-end deadlines.

*10. Dog Bin notices* – Ordered, delivery overdue. **Action: Clerk** to follow up.

*11. Staggered Barriers at Recreation Ground entrance*. Item paused due to FY2022/23 funding constraints together with B&NES Highways negative assessment*. Active status removed*; issues to be kept under review.

*12. Zoom Subscription* – will not be renewed in 2022 but will reconsider if circumstances change.

*13. Provision of Chemical Toilet on the Recreation Ground*. A full and considered discussion took place. Issues considered; main users are villagers who have access to their own conveniences close at hand; difficulty in finding a suitable, unobtrusive and convenient location; severe FY2022/23 funding constraints. Everything considered members unanimously decided to not implement. *Active status removed.*

*14. Repair to Recreation Ground entrance bollard and footpath*. **Action: Cllr John Bravin** to meet and discuss with the residents’ of 34 Meadlands.

*17. Overgrown Slip footpath hedges –* CURO response awaited.**Action: Clerk** to follow up.

*19. Facebook Site –* Cllr Gina Wynne is progressing. **Action: Cllr Gina Wynne** to provide members with proposals when finalised.

*20. Minor repairs to playground gate and picnic tables. -* Colin Hale to undertake. **Action: Cllr John Twist** to follow-up and obtain a completion date.

*21. & 30. Condemned Picnic Tables -* Colin Hale to remove*.* **Action: Cllr John Twist** to follow-up and obtain a completion date.

*22. Arrange EDF to fit a Smart Meter to Pavilion Electrical Supply***. - Action: Clerk**to continue attempts to resolve issues.

*24. Meadlands road signage*. – B&NES Highways contacted, negative assessment received with no commitment to undertake. *Active status removed*

*25. Parking in Meadlands –* Not supported by CURO. . *Active status removed*

*26. Arborist in Valley field.* – Visit to occur shortly.

*28. Corston Lane white lines* – Review when Corston Lane resurfacing outcome is known. . *Active status removed*

*29. Place rocks on Meadlands grass verges* – CURO not supportive, issues considered, item cancelled. *Active status removed*

*31. Information Sign “No toilet in Recreation Ground”* – **Action: Clerk** arrange provision of a new sign.

34. Playground Safety Report – Latest report available **– Action: Clerk** to forward copies to members.

**8. Saltford Ward Councillor’s Report**

8.1 Cllr Duncan Hounsell presented his report, copy attached to these minutes.

**9. Community Led Housing Project**

9.1 No current report available; Chair provided an overview of the initiative. Question raised regarding the meaning of “Affordable Housing”.

*Post Meeting Note*: Chair’s recent email contains the following link to B&NES policy on this: *Affordable housing ’Build to Rent’ schemes (amendments to Policy CP9).*

[*https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/local-plan-core-strategy-and-placemaking-plan-partial-update/affordable-housing-build-rent-schemes*](https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/local-plan-core-strategy-and-placemaking-plan-partial-update/affordable-housing-build-rent-schemes)

**10. Liaison Meetings Between Corston PC and Village Hall Trustees**

10.1 Cllr Gary Breckon reported on the latest meeting with no unresolved issues existing.

10.2 Discussion took place on how to establish closer working between Corston PC and all other village groups with aim of closer integration to the benefit of villagers.

10.3 It was concluded that the Annual Corston Parish Meeting planned for the 10th May 2022 would be the time to test this initiative. **Cllr Gary Breckon accepted an Action to contact local groups, discuss the initiative, establish their support and each bring their proposals forward for discussion and agreement at the 10th May meeting.**

**11. Clerk’s Report**

11.1 As the Clerk was unable to attend tonight through illness he has sent through electronically to members a part-completed cashbook and has indicated he will submit to council members as soon as possible the end December bank reconciliation and cashbook up to date. Council note that all payments from the bank have to be approved by two bank mandate council members and seen by a non-mandate member and therefore no financial risk attaches to the delay in providing this information for tonight.

**Decision Required**

11.2 Approve FY2022/23 in-year budget and set the Precept. Authorise the Clerk to request the FY2022/23 Precept from B&NES.

* It was recognised that the effect of the current significant increases in the cost of living will put many residents’ household budgets under considerable pressure. Therefore it was decided, in as far as possible, to not increase council budgets and attempt to maintain the Precept as set for FY2021/22. All capital expenditure will be paused for the first quarter of the new financial year or until the financial situation has become clearer.
* A careful assessment of individual budget lines was undertaken. Where inflation would adversely impact on specific fixed overhead costs a 2% increase would be added and balancing compensation across the overall budget applied. Drawing on Corston PC’s financial reserve would only be used for exceptional, unavoidable and unplanned items.
* Following a careful and detailed review, the budget was unanimously agreed and a Precept of £10,508 set.

**An Action was placed on the Clerk to inform and request B&NES for the agreed FY2022/23 Precept of £10,508.**

**12. Planning Applications**

12.1 The following open-for-comment local Planning Applications were carefully reviewed and a response established for each. *Corston PC response*

21/05397/TCA – Fell Sycamore Tree. Garden Cottage Wells Road. *No Objection.*

22/00001/TCA – Fell Apple Tree. Walden The Barton *No Objection*

22/00068/FUL – Installation of a cricket practice area. Tanglewood Wells Road

The application sponsor Mr. Scott Sandfordattended and explained the detail of the application and answered Councillor’s questions. *No Objection*

22/00020/CLPU (Certificate of Lawfulness of Proposed Use) – Investigation regarding the fitting of solar tiles to the Old School House in the Corston Conversation Area.

12.2 Corston PC had not been made aware of this application by B&NES Development Control but had found it by chance when examining the current list of applications.

12.3 Concern was raised that the authority’s Climate Emergency initiative may result in alterations being authorised for properties in the Conservation Area without the PC being offered the opportunity to comment, the principal concern being if an application had the potential to alter the protected environment. **Ward Cllr. Duncan Hounsell offered to seek further information from the Development Control Case Officer.**

*Post Meeting Note: Email response from the Case Officer via Ward Cllr sent to members*.

12.4 In considering the Climate Emergency impact, it was proposed that when the PC had “No Objection” to a local application to fell a tree without any compensating planting, the Clerk would write to the application sponsor suggesting that a donation could be made to a suitable local group such as the Corston Community Orchard who could use these donations towards the cost of planting new trees locally. **Action Clerk**

**13. Village Concerns**

13.1 The creation of a designated “Blue Badge” parking space at the top of Corston Lane close to the Tee Junction with the A39 Wells Road, for the use of those with disabilities who visit All Saints Church.

Recognising the very limited roadside parking spaces in Corston, it was considered that a more effective solution could be the appropriate placing of roadside cones when events were planned to take place. A trial using cones was proposed. **Cllr Susan Charles accepted an Action to speak with those concerned and monitor the situation should a trial be undertaken.**

13.2 The poor condition of the “Hanging Tree” on the island at the Corston Lane Tee Junction with the A39. Options for replacing the tree were discussed.

Before any initiative could be taken forward ownership of the island needed to be established. Ward Cllr Duncan Hounsell suggested the Clerk contact B&NES Property Services who may be able to help with this. **Action Clerk**

13.3 Would there be a village celebration to mark the Platinum Jubilee Queen Elizabeth the Second’s accession to the throne and the monarch’s 70 year reign? It has been announced that the Platinum Jubilee 4 days of celebrations will begin on Thursday 2nd June and continue over the weekend ending on Sunday 5th June.

13.4 Members discussed what possible local celebrations could take place. The following conclusions were reached.

* Experience gained from the local Diamond Jubilee celebrations established that the location of any village celebration was better using the Recreation Ground than seeking a Road Closure Order so that a Street Party could take place.
* The Parish Council stated that it would be very pleased to support a village celebration and considered the Corston Country Fair Trustees were the most appropriate group to lead the arrangements for the event. Being a Country Fair Trustee, Cllr **John Bravin accepted an Action to discuss this proposal with other Trustees at their forthcoming meeting.**

**14. Review of Meetings attended by Parish Councillors and Future Important Diary Dates**

14.1 Village Hall Trustees Meeting was attended by Cllr Gary Breckon. Report in paragraph 10.1 above.

**15. Dates of Future Parish Council Meetings**

* Wednesday 9th March 2022
* Tuesday 10th May 2022 (provisional for the Annual Parish Meeting - Paragraph 10.1 refers)
* Wednesday 11th May 2022 Annual Corston Parish Council Meeting
* Wednesday 13th July 2022

**The Chair thanked members and attendees for their contributions and closed the meeting at 9:52pm.**

**Minutes reviewed and recorded as a true record of the meeting.**

Signed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cllr John Bravin Chair 9th March 2022.