

Corston Parish Council

Minutes of the Corston Parish Council Meeting held at Corston Village Hall on Wednesday, 1st March 2023

1. Meeting started at 7.05pm.
2. Chairman John Bravin (JB) welcomed everyone including the Parishioners in attendance. He indicated that parishioners were welcome to speak to any item on the agenda limited to 3 minutes per person for that item.
3. Councillors present were JB, Richard Blows (RB), John Twist (JT), Gary Breckon (GB), Susan Charles (SC), Katharine Evans (KE) who arrived at 7.10pm, Georgina Wynne (GW) and District Councillors Duncan Hounsell (DH). Clerk Alan Jenner was in attendance and took the minutes.
4. No apologies for absence received from any Councillor and Parishioners in attendance were Rob and Annie Jukes, Pamela Newton and Andrew Hill.
5. No conflict of interest to any item declared by any Councillor.
6. The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 13th January 2023 were approved proposed by GW and seconded by JT and passed unanimously. JB initialled each page and signed at the end of the minutes which were handed back to the Clerk.
7. Item 7 was matters arising from the minutes.

7.1 Bollard at entrance to Recreation field- locking mechanism is stressed and clerk to source cost of a replacement from barriers direct and discuss with the residents of 34 the price including – cost of installation and it will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

7.2 VAT claim has been submitted to end 31.12.2022 and the amount received from HMRC of £1682.88

7.3 Website while documents can be opened there remains problems with the usability of the site including top tabs do not work. AJ to raise these issues with netwise

7.4. No outstanding matters on CPC action list.

7.5 Precept request filed and acknowledged by BANES

7.6 email to Parishioner for paper on planning status of Corston it was established in the meeting that the email had not been received by the Parishioner. Clerk apologized for this and took a further note of the email and will resubmit it.

7.7 Asset Register the VAS units owned by CPC will be added

7.8 Clerk has reviewed his records and although he ordered the litter picking equipment he has no record that the payment was taken on the site so he will reorder.

7.9 Annual Parish meeting date will be 17th May 2023

7.10 Dates of meetings after 17th May- Councilors indicated that another day in the week will not make a difference on attendance so the dates will remain as booked and published under the last item in the Agenda.(could be covered under item 16)- change to another day not help the problem for GB cos he only knows the day before.

8. Saltford Ward Councillor's Report has been circulated and DH highlighted some issues from it.

The Photo ID for election voting is now compulsory for anyone attending a voting booth.

BANES are in the process of designing the faster Bristol to Bath bus links and opportunities for Corston to establish cycling and walking links to it should not be overlooked.

DH stressed importance of using Fix my street as an actively monitored system within BANES that can bring results for work on highways. However the fact that a reported item is identified as actioned on the site does not mean necessarily that the work has been carried out but only that the department has been contacted who will carry out the work. JB showed on screen the fix my street reports for Corston and encourage anyone present who wished to file a report to do so. It is not only for Councillors to use.

There was a brief discussion on precept increases and noting that Corston increase is below the average.

DH thanked all Corston Parish Councillors for their work over the last four years and this was reciprocated warmly that DH has been at every Corston Meeting for four years and his support for the community has been very gratefully appreciated.

9. Community Led Housing Project

There was a full discussion on this and this minute summarises only the main points.

- The clerk read out an email statement that he had received from the Project today**
- The Duchy have responded that it would not be willing to be involved in anything that could jeopardise COR1 for Corston for future development**
- A meeting will be advertised for anyone to attend in the village to discuss the Duchy response and the proposals generally and if these are to continue or not, and if in an adapted form**
- Parishioners stressed a number of times that transparency is required so the members of the Steering Committee are known. Two councillors present: JB and KE are on the committee.**
- JT commented that transparency of the committee would be a good idea.**
- The significance of the Saltford position of seeking a designation from BANES or an area of outstanding value should be explored fully and its relationship and advantages to current planning designation must be assessed. Parishioners stress need to defend COR1 and wish to see the Parish Council to maintain its defence of it which historically occurred when the Duchy sought a large housing development on its land.**
- Parishioners stressed that the attendance at the Parish Council meetings was the only way at present that they considered they could speak to committee members of the Project.**

10. 10. Clerk's Report

10.1 Income and expenditure report and note payments approved by financial electronic approval system in cashbook

**Resolve to note the income and expenditure report as shown in the cashbook
Resolve to note payment of the expenditure in the Cashbook JT proposed and KE seconded and unanimously carried.**

10.2 Approval of payments to be incurred

Resolved to approve payments to be made as set out in the cash book and also for

the invoices shown being the microsoft 365 annual payment, the Duchy rent of £300 and £45 for work on the defibrillator. GB to discuss with Village Hall Committee if it insists on us paying an additional £20 rent on hire of the hall. If they insist it will be paid. GW proposed SC seconded and all unanimously passed expect KE voted against paying the £20 asked by the Village Hall.

JB stressed need to keep to the budget.

10.3 PAYE- Clerk has been assisted by RFO of Keynsham and is working through software update for HMRC.

11. Update on process of Election of New Councillors in May 2023 . Clerk confirmed dates provided by the Election Committee of BANES and date of Purdah for Council.

11A Coronation Weekend- Parish Council have no need to organise event as Village has already discussed this and Country Fair Committee will look at this.

12. Community Resilience Policy- GB received feedback on his draft and will submit revised draft for approval at next meeting.

13. Planning

23/00085/FUL Ashton House -to note CPC response

22/04837/FUL-37 A Bristol Road Corston, BA2 9AA application to replace existing dwelling- Mr and Mrs Blandini- not in conservation area. No objection

23/00494/CPU certificate of lawfulness application by Mr Sandford for Tanglewood, Wells Road, Corston BA2 9BA- Clerk to discuss with case officer to establish what is intended in this application and report back to JB so he can circulate a draft response for Council as this is in a conservation area. Time to respond is before decided or at the latest by 4th April.

14. Village Concerns

14.1. The demise of the Hinton Blewitt to Bath bus service 9.58 noted following the WECA published routes from April 2023 circulated earlier this week. At the discretion of the Chairman a new resolution was considered. Clerk to write to First Bus to invite them to add in a stop by the historic gate entrance to Newton Park for the University Bus so that people who live in Corston could get on and alight there from the village. There is space either side of the entrance to Newton Park for a stop to go in. This could be offered as part of the U1 and U2 bus service. RB and KE proposed and seconded and unanimously carried for the letter to be written.

14.2. A request for a drop kerb at the junction of Cotton Mead and Meadlands was discussed at the last meeting and SC raised her concerns again.

14.3. Removal of graffiti on the railway wall opposite Corston Lane and also opposite the Globe roundabout. This would be the responsibility of Railtrack and Council did not consider that it would be worthwhile asking the Clerk to write to them as the graffiti would happen again as soon as it was removed.

14.4. D fib machine during cold weather was kept operational thanks to the efforts of Robin Bush who did a lot of work. SC handed a bill to the Clerk for repair to the door incurred by Robin Bush and this was approved under item 10 above.

14.5. The putting of notices at the bottom of Corston Lane called "Polite Passing Places" not to be actioned as no power in CPC to put these up. Not all Councillors saw it as the most difficult parking area along Corston Lane as well with the area around the Post Office being more of a problem.

14.6. Decided not to remove rubbish bin by the new 'Julie Miller' bench.

14.7. Airport update given

14.8 Meadlands footpath hedge update given by SC

14.9 Gas leak on entrance to Orchard House on the A4 has been reported for the third time.. Clerk to raise with British Gas what is the reason for this happening and when it will be cured. It might be a national grid issue rather than British Gas .

14.10 Curo estates dept. SC seeing him on 14th March.

14.11. Playing field barriers JB said there is nothing in the budget this year to do anything about this and it was doubted by Council that BANES would spend money on this especially as it will not commit funds to signage on the Meadlands Road either.

14.12 Safety of Wall on Corston Lane - KE – part of nursing home wall bulges out. Lot of bits falling off. Polite letter to Cedar Homes expressing concern about this. RB said that the along Manor Farm also might need attention again but we will start with an approach to Cedar Homes.

14.13 Lindy Leahy sent an email circulated to all Councillors by the Clerk concerning the West Of England £1 million Pollinator Fund. KE said that the orchard group are considering a bid for a 10k grant and a discussion ensued if CPC would also put in one. Agreed that it could be under the umbrella of Orchard Group and a strip of land by the Recreation Ground Football pitch is possible especially on the bank by the Basket Ball hoop area. consider a bid and what about corston wide- Does Council have a strip of land to offer for wild flowers and Orchard would write the application for it. 25th March meeting and summer event for engagement. Deadline for grant 19th April. KE will discuss with Linda Leahy and raise further with Councillors. Concious that purdah is from 20th March.

14.14 There is a request for an additional grit bin in Gould close. Not in the and agreed we could potentially move one from playing fields to Meadlands and give the one in Meadlands to Gould Close. This can go on the September meeting Agenda.

15. Review of meetings attended by Councillors & future diary dates - JT went to online forum and sent out an email with links.

16. Future meetings and agenda items:

Wednesday 10th May 2023

Wednesday 12th July 2023

Wednesday 13th September 2023

Wednesday 15th November 2023

Meeting closed at 22.02pm

J.T. Bruni
Chairman
10/3/23