

Corston Parish Council

Chair: John Bravin

Clerk: Position Vacant
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To: all Corston Parish Councillors
Saltford Ward Councillor Cllr Duncan Hounsell
Corston Parish Council Noticeboard
Corston Parish Council Website

An Extra-ordinary Corston Parish Council Meeting was held at Corston Village Hall on **Friday 6th October 2023**

The Chair led on an Agenda item unless otherwise stated.

AGENDA

Item & Decision Required	Lead
1. Opening of the meeting including its conduct with public participation JB opened the meeting at 1845h	JB
2. Councillors present including Ward Councillor, apologies and reason for absence All parish councillors were present: John Bravin (JB, Chair), Katharine Evans (KE, Vice-chair), John Twist (JT), Kevin Shepherd (KS), Richard Blows (RB), Anthony Birts (AB), Susan Charles (SC)	JB <i>pp</i> Clerk
3. Parishioners in attendance None	JB <i>pp</i> Clerk
4. Declaration of Councillor's personal interests JB declared a personal interest in agenda item 5. Consequently, chairing of the meeting switched to KE at that point.	JB <i>pp</i> Clerk
5. Extraordinary item 5.1 Accept the resignation of the existing CPC Chair. The resignation to be effective from a date to be agreed to enable the CPC to continue legally operate JB summarized the reason why he had reluctantly decided to resign. He provided a resignation letter to the CPC (attached) JB also talked through the various scenarios that could arise if CPC is unable to appoint a Chair and listed some of the consequences that would impact parishioners . <i>If a Parish Council is without a Chair it is not able to legally operate. In this case the following steps may be considered:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Vice-chair taking over temporarily as Acting Chair without becoming permanent.</i>• <i>Councillors rotating as temporary Acting Chairs.</i>• <i>District Councillor appointed by the BANES Monitoring Officer as a temporary Acting Chair (not necessarily a local District Councillor).</i>• <i>Community Governance Review leading to incorporation of Corston into another governance authority.</i>• <i>Dissolution of Corston as a local authority parish.</i> <i>In some of these scenarios council business may be limited to only the bare essentials.</i>	KE <i>pp</i> Clerk then JB <i>pp</i> Clerk

In the event the Parish Council is no longer legally able to operate, the following would be necessary (unless undertaken by a new authority):

- *Termination of the lease for the Recreation Field and Valley Field. The land would revert to the Duchy of Cornwall for their use.*
- *Cancellation of the water and electricity utility accounts and closure of the Pavilion.*
- *Cancellation of the insurance and maintenance of the children's playground.*
- *Cancellation of the dog waste contract.*
- *Cancellation of grass cutting and hedge cutting work.*
- *No further involvement in commenting on Planning Applications.*

All councillors thanked JB for his hard work in promoting the interests of Corston over the past three years.

AB proposed that councillors reject JB's resignation. RB seconded; all agreed.

JB agreed to stay as Chair to ensure the CPC is legal over the immediate future. JB took back chairing of the meeting from KE at this point.

5.2 Proposing a new Chair to be in post from a date to be agreed

Although it was over taken by events for this meeting, JB asked all councillors, one by one, if they would be willing to stand as Chair if a vacancy arose. All members of the Parish Council declined.

At this point the discussion became heated and as a result no consensus on the way forward could be reached.

JB declared the meeting closed at 1912h.

Post meeting note: as a way forward SC suggested a letter box drop asking Corston residents for nominations for Chair. A letter is being drafted and after printing will be sent to all households