

Corston Parish Council

Chair: John Bravin

Clerk: Position Vacant
email: corstonparishclerk@outlook.com

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

The Corston Parish Council (CPCP) Meeting was held at Corston Village Hall **Wednesday, 10TH January 2024.**

The Chair led on Agenda items unless otherwise stated.

MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting including its conduct with public participation

GD opened the meeting at 1902.

2. Councillors present including Ward Councillor, apologies and reason for absence

Parish councillors in attendance: Gareth Dixon (GD – Chair), John Bravin (JB), Susan Charles (SC), Anthony Birts (AB), John Twist (JT) Cameron Law (CL) and Kevin Shepherd (KS).
Duncan Hounsell (DH), Saltford Ward Councillor was present (left after Agenda Item 6)

3. Parishioners in attendance

GD welcomed all parishioners in attendance: Pamela Newton, Mark de Kretser, Georgina Wynne, Gary Breckon.

4. Declaration of Councillor's personal interests

None declared.

5. Approval of the minutes of the CPC meeting 22nd.November.2023

The minutes were approved. GD proposed, JT seconded

6. Ward Councillor's report

The Ward Councillor's report had already been circulated to councillors. DH made the following additional points:

- BANES have made financial provision for 2024-25 for a 20mph speed limit on the A39 throughout the village.
- BANES have scheduled a "focus" on Corston in the period 22-26th January. If parishioners have any issues related to Highways etc please bring them forward via Fix My Street www.fixmystreet.com.

7. Clerk's report

7.1 In the absence of a clerk and pending interim handover of the financial responsibilities it was not possible to present a budget report or cashbook for period 01.11 to 31.12.2023.

8. Appointment of clerk

8.1 Appointment of Clerk

JB reported that there has been no interest since the last meeting. SC agreed to contact a possible candidate to determine if she was interested

8.2 Appointment of bookkeeper

JB agreed to make further contact with a book keeper with experience of Parish Council financial tasks.

9. Matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere

9.1 Bank account transfer to Unity Bank – Richard Blows and CL will work on moving this forward.

9.2 Security bollard at Recreation Ground entrance – KS provided a price for a replacement single post bollard. Various options for the future including replacement of the bollard, a metal gate or metal barriers were discussed. KS will update at the next meeting.

9.3 Replacement of Hanging Tree – SC reported that Chew Valley Trees were able to provide a replacement Ornamental Pear for a cost of £80-100 excluding labour. SC will confirm species of existing tree and report back to the next meeting.

9.4 Official email addresses for councillors – JB explained that using private email for CPC matters could

create legal difficulties, and presented options for using the existing website provider Netwise to provide official email addresses. The decision was made to take the Netwise Premium Plus Package. KS proposed, CL seconded. JB undertook to set up the necessary IT.

9.5 Update Let the Kids Loose – the posting remains on the website, CL to contact the website to delete the listing.

9.6 Valley Field masterplan – AB confirmed that parishioner Kate Measures will set up two drop-in meeting at the Village Hall to gather feedback from parishioners on how they wish the Recreation Field and Valley Field to be used in the future. Post Meeting note: two meetings were booked for drop-in Jan 29th, Monday, from 6 to 7.30 pm and Saturday 3rd Feb am to coincide with the Coffee Hub. Kate will prepare a letter and we will do a drop around the village

9.7 Cherry tree replacement in Meadlands Nothing to report at present

9.8 Ash dieback tree work – work is ongoing and progressing well. In due course firewood logs will be made available to parishioners. It was agreed that exact details were to be discussed at a later meeting, but that if parishioners are willing to help cut up logs for collection they would be remunerated for the wear and tear of chainsaws etc.

9.9 Draft a formal request to PROW team regarding footpath maintenance – the current status of the footpaths needs to be checked.

10. Agreement of budget and precept request for 2024-2025

10.1 Financial position end 2023-2024 – the financial position and proposed budget was discussed.

10.2 Precept request In accordance with the detailed discussion at the previous CPC meeting (22nd.November.2023), the CPC agreed to fix the budget and submit a precept request for £14,360, an increase of 18.26% over last year. The budget for 2024-25 has benefitted from a one-off CIL payment of £2500 and the period without paying a clerk, but was also impacted by the need to pay for the cutting of the recreation field grass (see below). GD proposed, JT seconded. 6 councillors voted for; KS voted against.

11. Matters arising from the last meeting.

11.1 Contract to cut grass fiscal implications

The quotation from Greenways Ground Maintenance was discussed. The CPC accepted the quotation in principle subject to clarification about the period of cutting and the collection of cuttings.

JB agreed draft a letter of thanks and appreciation to Paul and James from the Parish Council.

11.2 Handrail on steps when icy

SC reported that the drainage problem had been resolved. The handrail recently removed had been a private rather than CPC installation

11.3 Dog walking

Concern was raised regarding the development on the parcel of land close to the Valley Field (also designated COR2). It was agreed to write to the developer via the Duchy of Cornwall estate office to arrange an opportunity to discuss intentions. SC to contact the Duchy office for a forwarding address

11.4 Childrens play equipment safety report

It was agreed that the Playground Inspection Report had raised no red issues and that maintenance could be deferred to next year. In the longer term it may be unaffordable to maintain all the playground equipment and items may need to be removed once they reach their end of life.

11.5 Proposal for Clerk

See above

12. Planning applications

12.1 Planning Application Reference: 23/02711/FUL. No decision as yet

12.2 Planning Application Reference: 23/02487/FUL. No decision as yet

12.3 Planning Application Reference: 23/04771/TCA No objection from CPC

13. Review of meetings attended by councillors & future diary dates

Not discussed

14. Future CPC meetings

14.1 20th March, 22nd May, 24th July, 18th September, 20th November

GD closed the meeting at 21:40.