

Corston Parish Council

Chair: Gareth Dixon

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

Clerk: Julian French

email: corstonparishclerk@outlook.com

The Corston Parish Council Meeting was held at Corston Village Hall on **Wednesday 24th July 2024.**

The Chair led on Agenda items unless otherwise stated.

MINUTES

Item & Decision Required	Lead
<p>1. Opening of the meeting including its conduct with public participation</p> <p>GD opened the meeting at 19:00 and began by offering votes of thanks to the following:</p> <p>John Bravin - for the extra work undertaken in fulfilling the vacant clerk role on an interim basis until a permanent replacement was found.</p> <p>Julian French - for taking on the role of clerk, meeting the Council's legal requirements of submitting the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) from a "standing start" within the deadline and beginning to implement improvements to the Council's financial administrative processes within his first 2 months in the role.</p> <p>John Twist – for liaising with Paul and Gina Wynne over the green space's grass cutting to ensure a smooth handover from the existing contractor, Greenways.</p> <p>The Wynnes (Paul, James & Georgina) for their help with this process and for taking it back on; also the other councillors for assisting with this process.</p> <p>GD hopes that a line can now be drawn and the community can now move on with managing the recreation areas within Corston.</p> <p><i>Post Meeting Note: The community involvement in the demanding work of clearing the longer grass after cutting was recognised and appreciated. As were the volunteers who spent time maintaining the Children's Play Area.</i></p> <p>Before opening the floor to those parishioners present, KS raised the question of allowing them to speak earlier in CPC Meetings. GD responded that this was predominantly due to time-keeping issues and has worked well in the most recent meetings.</p>	GD
<p>2. Councillors present including Ward Councillor, apologies and reason for absence</p> <p>Parish councillors in attendance: Gareth Dixon (GD – Chair), John Bravin (JB), Susan Charles (SC), Anthony Birts (AB), John Twist (JT), and Kevin Shepherd (KS).</p> <p>Duncan Hounsell (DH), Saltford Ward Councillor was also present and an apology for absence recorded for Cameron Law (attending a work function).</p>	GD

<p>3. Parishioners in attendance</p> <p>GD welcomed all parishioners in attendance.</p>	GD
<p>4. Declaration of Councillor’s personal interests</p> <p>None declared.</p>	GD
<p>5. Approval of minutes from last meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting, held on 22nd May 2024, were approved by all Councillors, signed by the Chair and will be posted on the Village Noticeboard.</p>	GD
<p>6. Ward Councillor’s Report</p> <p>The Ward Councillor’s Report was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.</p> <p>DH drew particular attention to the B&NES Local Plan, the draft version of which will be voted on at full Council in January 2025. Corston is one of a small number of villages in B&NES considered a “sustainable location” for 5% modest growth over the new Local Plan period 2022-2042. This is calculated at 7 new dwellings for Corston village over the plan period. The number is a basis for discussion, as is the type of housing. B&NES is not seeking to impose development.</p>	DH
<p>7. Clerk’s Report</p> <p>The Clerk’s Report was circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.</p> <p>JF highlighted the following:</p> <p>The Council had approximately £19,000 in liquid funds at the end of June 2024; £12,000 of this had now been moved into a deposit account with Lloyds Bank to earn interest.</p> <p>An historic issue was discovered with submission of online returns to HMRC going back to tax year 2021-22 relating to PAYE for the clerk’s salary. Upon investigation, it was discovered that HMRC have now “wound up” the previous CPC Payroll Scheme due to inactivity. Following agreement of the Councillors, we have employed a payroll company to set up a new Payroll Scheme, deal with our future payroll submissions and clarify the historic position with HMRC. It is not currently known whether any previous tax liability to CPC exists.</p> <p>The 2023-24 AGAR Audit had been submitted and accepted.</p> <p>The current contract for grass cutting and bin emptying with Greenways will be terminated on 1st August 2024 after the notice period has expired. A new contract is in place from that date solely for bin emptying at a fixed cost of £184 per month for 2 years.</p>	JF
<p>8. Matters continuing from last meeting</p> <p>8.1 Bus Stops (SC) – SC expressed concerns over the planned Corston Lane bus stop closures due to roadworks. She has requested the use of temporary stops and is due to attend a WECA meeting on 26th July. She also brought to DH’s attention the misleading traffic light sign near The Globe roundabout, which doesn’t specify that it is a pedestrian crossing</p>	JF

and is therefore dangerous due to the speed limit on that stretch of road.

8.2 Security bollard at Recreation Ground entrance (KS) – KS reported that the bollard purchased by the Council has now been fitted.

8.3 Hedges & Trees (SC) – There is no update on the cherry tree replacement. However the hedges on Meadlands are now dangerously overgrown, so JF will write to the solicitor looking after Lavinia Eastwood's property to express the Council's health and safety concerns.

8.4 Official email addresses for councillors (JB) – JB confirmed that he has set up 3 new Council email addresses for Councillors as a trial. If these are successful, JB and JF will upgrade the Netwise subscription to enable the remainder to be set up.

8.4 Ash Die Back (AB) – after discussion it was agreed that AB would contact James Wynne to accept his proposal for disposal of the wood.

8.5 Recreation Ground maintenance (JT) – JT informed the meeting that the Wynnes are now taking forward their offer to maintain the recreation ground grass. JF will keep a record of the Council's cost-saving in this area so that consideration can be given to the purchase of new machinery in the future. In the meantime, Gina Wynne offered to investigate the possibilities of the Council obtaining a grant for new machinery.

8.6 Working Party volunteers (JF) – JF informed the meeting that only 2 volunteers had come forward. AB felt that the recreation ground maintenance will hopefully now be covered, so signage is the most important area to be looked at. SC has obtained a quote for a new sign to be purchased for the recreation ground, which was approved by the Council. JB suggested a working party to tidy up the children's play area on 31st July – JF to email all parishioners to ask for volunteers to attend.

9. New Matters

9.1 Village Notice Board (SC) – as Corston Church has now erected a brand new notice board, SC will discuss the possibility of using their old board to replace the missing one.

9.2 Defibrillator (SC) – SC has shared the code with JF, but she is happy to continue to check the defibrillator weekly.

9.3 Feedback from B&NES Local Plan Meeting on 24th July 2024 (JT) – The Parish Council will liaise with B&NES Planning Department in an assessment process being conducted for their Local Plan Led Community Housing in Rural Areas initiative, which proposes 7 new properties in Corston over the period of the Plan. (see point 6 above).

If we now engage with B&NES in principle for new homes to be built, this will need to be communicated to all parishioners, as the recent Community Led Housing Project had resulted with many villagers voting their opposition to any new homes being built on the "Pony Paddock" site.

It was felt that it would be beneficial for the Parish Council to engage with B&NES on this initiative now to ensure that our voice is heard from the outset.

9.4 Disaster Recovery Plan/Resilience Day (SC) – SC attended the day session last October, but will be unable to attend the next meeting on 6th September, so this is open to any other interested Councillors.

JF

<p>10. Planning applications</p> <p>10.1 Planning Applications Ref 23/002711/FUL – awaiting delayed decision 10.2 Planning Application Ref 24/00600/FUL – awaiting delayed decision 10.3 Planning Application Ref 24/02106/FUL – awaiting decision (there was no objection from CPC) 10.4 Planning Application Ref 24/02376/ADCOU – awaiting decision (CPC’s reservations were submitted to B&NES)</p>	<p>JT</p>
<p>11. Q & A – Parishioners and Council</p> <p>Parishioners Questions:</p> <p>11.1 Local Plan – a parishioner was concerned that the vote instigated by the community-lead housing group was not being taken into account when considering new potential housing proposals that JT and DH had reported back, as well as other concerns over building applications in the past.</p> <p>11.2 Signage – there was a discussion over the placement and wording on the sign at the entrance to Meadlands and its legality.</p> <p>The meeting was abandoned after inappropriate behaviour from a parishioner, however no time was lost.</p>	<p>GD</p>
<p>12. Future CPC meetings</p> <p>18th September and 20th November 2024</p> <p>GD closed the meeting at 21:05.</p>	<p>GD</p>

J French

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Julian French, Clerk to Corston Parish Council

24th July 2024