



**Minutes of the Meeting of Corfe Mullen Town Council**  
**held on Tuesday 22 October 2024 at 18:48 in the Small Hall of the Village Hall**

**Present:**                   **Councillors**  
D Sowry-House (Chair)  
J Bonham  
A Craven  
P Cuckston  
S Florek  
L Hardy  
S Jefferies  
J Lortie  
V Papilio

**In Attendance:**       Rachel Virrill (Deputy Town Clerk)  
Daryl Pearce (Deputy Town Clerk/Minute Taker)

**Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

**TC 24/129    To Receive and Accept apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85 (1))**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Neil and Joyce who both had prior work commitments, Cllrs A Holland and P Holland due to personal circumstances and Cllr Purvis who was unwell.

**TC 24/130    To Record any declarations of interest** Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Town Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for Dispensations that accord with Localism Act 2011 s33(b-e) (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)

Cllr Hardy declared an interest in agenda item TC 24/141 - To Consider Signing Up to the Armed Services Covenant, as a retired member of the armed forces.

**TC 24/131    Paper A – To Approve minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 24 September 2024 – LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2024 were **APPROVED**.

**TC 24/132    Paper B – To Approve Accounts for Payment**

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the accounts for payment totalling £32,971.00.

**TC 24/133    Paper C – To Approve Bank Reconciliation for September 2024**

Members raised the following queries:

- Line 551: Which fence at the Recreation Ground did the cost relate to. The Deputy Clerk confirmed it was the fence recently installed adjacent to Wimborne Road.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'GAX'.

- Line 555: What did the cost relate to. The Deputy Clerk confirmed the cost related to the highway's application for the installation of the bus shelters at Windgreen.
- Line 517: Where was the new bin sited. The Deputy Clerk confirmed the new dual recycling and general waste bin was located outside the Council Office and Village Hall in Towers Way.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the bank reconciliation for September 2024.

**TC 24/134 Paper D – To Note the Already Approved minutes of Committees:**

- Finance & Administration Committee – 9 July 2024
- Planning & Highways Committee – 10 September 2024

The already approved minutes of committee meetings were **NOTED**.

**TC 24/135 Paper E – To Approve and/or Retrospectively Approve:**

The Deputy Clerk presented the report, noting the following updates:

- **Item 1 – Grounds Maintenance of Pit Area:** Once contractors had cleared the pit area and surrounding areas, the Grounds Team would be able to continue the twice-yearly grounds maintenance using their brush cutter.
- **Item 4 – Purchase of Mechanical Brush:** Purchase would reduce the need for the Grounds Team to use chemical moss and weed killers.
- **Item 5 - Tennis Court Floodlights Electrical Works:** Outside of the meeting, nine members voted via email in favour to progress with the repairs detailed in option 1.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the following:

- **Grounds Maintenance - Recreation Ground 'Pit Area' and adjacent borders from pit area to skate park to clear, cut back all 'wild' vegetation to make accessible:** Contractor, Evergreen Services to cut back the pit area to maintain the fire break with adjacent properties in Stour View Gardens to provide a wildlife habitat and useable space. Bramble to be cut, some very small overcrowding trees to be removed, and shrubs reduced in height, with benches exposed for seating. The adjacent wild vegetation from the pit area around the perimeter of the Recreation Ground to the skate park to be cut back to the tree line at a **total cost of £1900+VAT**.
- **Replace Three Office Blown Windows:** Contractor Seyward Windows to replace and dispose of glass at a **total cost of £196.00+VAT**.
- **Grounds Team Play Park Training - RPII 2-Day Operational Playground Inspectors Training Course:** Playground Inspection Company to provide RPII two-day operational playground inspectors training and examination at a **total cost of £1500.00+VAT**.
- **Mechanical Brush (Stihl MM56 with brush attachment):** Purchase from Hunt Forest Group at a total cost of £470.00+VAT.
- **Tennis Court Floodlights Electrical Works:** Option1, Contractor Dorset Electrical Solutions Ltd to supply and install 8 IP-rated MCG 500mm x 400mm x 200mm steel enclosures with mounting plates and to supply and install 2 new capacitors at a **total cost of £1265.00+VAT**.

**TC 24/136 Paper F – To Note Update from Working Party for Redevelopment of Corfe Mullen Recreation Ground and Sports Pavilion**

Members considered additional stakeholders to be included in the consultation process. It was agreed that an environmental organisation, such as the Dorset Wildlife

Trust and local schools should also be approached to contribute to the broader development of the site.

The update from the Working Party was **NOTED**.

**TC 24/137 Paper G – To Approve Recommendations from the Finance & Administration Committee**

Cllr. Lortie presented the report, noting the productive budget discussions and how members felt grants for Corfe Mullen Village Hall and Corfe Mullen Youth Trust charities staff salaries should be considered as part of the 2025/26 financial year budget setting process.

Cllr. Hardy felt it was not only the Finance & Administration Committee who had responsibility for the Councils future expenditure and would encourage contributions from all committees. Cllr Sowry-House concurred, adding that including a Men's Shed initiative as an exceptional and capital item would greatly benefit the local community.

Members noted several new grant applications received from local organisations providing valuable services to the community, which was very positive, whilst recognising some organisations who had previously submitted grant applications had not been received.

The Chair noted the amount to be awarded to Corfe Mullen Home Watch was due to their recent proactive work within the community and fundraising.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** to award grants totalling £7636.10, with a balance of £863.90 remaining available for any future grant funding applications during the 2024/25 financial year as follows:

Organisation	Grant Awarded £
Corfe Mullen Foodbank	536.10
Corfe Mullen United Juniors Football Club	850.00
Vision Wimborne Dial-a-ride	250.00
Corfe Mullen Home Watch	1000.00
Planet Wimborne	200.00
Legs and Company Leg Club	2000.00
Victim Support	200.00
Mosaic	600.00
Corfe Mullen Carnival	1000.00
Corfe Mullen Carnival (Father Christmas evening parade appeal)	350.00
Corfe Mullen 5km run and Children's one-mile fun run	450.00
Women's Institute	200.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£7636.10</b>

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the following resolutions from the Finance and Administration Committee held on 8 October 2024:

- FA 24/30: Members RECEIVED and NOTED the Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring Report and reserves balances for the quarter ended 30 September 2024.
- FA 24/31: APPROVE fund transfers listed.
- FA 24/33: Items listed along with Men's Shed initiative to be included in the draft 2025/26 financial year budget.

**TC 24/138 Paper H - To Note Update on Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday**



The Deputy Clerk (RV) presented the report, noting the event would run as it had in previous years. Volunteers had been approached and confirmed their willingness to support the event again this year.

The update was **NOTED**.

**TC 24/139 Paper I – To Consider and Approve Christmas 2024 Closing Times**

The Deputy Clerk presented the report, noting the recommendation for two mandatory leave days to be taken on Monday 23 December 2024 and Tuesday 24 December 2024. The Council Office to be closed on Friday 27 December 2024 with those staff whose normal working day was a Friday, to take as annual leave and/or TOIL.

Members thanked all Office and Grounds staff for their hard work. The Chair suggested a contribution from the Chairmans allowance of £150 towards a Christmas staff event as a way of showing appreciation to the team.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the following:

- Two mandatory leave days to be taken on Monday 23 December 2024 and Tuesday 24 December 2024.
- Council Office to be closed week commencing 23 December 2024 and reopen on Monday 30 December 2024.
- A minimum of one Grounds Person required to work on Friday 27 December 2024.
- £150 from Chairmans Allowance to be contributed towards a Christmas staff event.

**TC 24/140 Paper J – To Consider Actions relating to Eligibility and Abolition of the Winter Fuel Allowance**

Members discussed the Winter Fuel Allowance Motion. Cllr Hardy noted that whilst he was not against the motion personally, given the Town Council was non-political, he felt signing the 'Save Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners' petition was a political movement and would be inappropriate to endorse.

Cllr Sowry-House proposed approving points 1-4 of the Winter Fuel Allowance Motion with Cllr Lortie seconding the proposal. Members voted with 7 members voting in favour and 2 voting against.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the following:

- Award £250 small grant to Corfe Mullen Food Bank to support the warm space initiative at St Nicholas Church, Corfe Mullen.
- Encourage those not on Pension Credit, who could be eligible to apply, to do so, offering help to complete the necessary forms.
- Sign up to the 'Save Winter Fuel Payment for Struggling Pensioners', petition being run nationally by Age UK.
- Work with local charities, who support the most vulnerable in the community, offering guidance to gain access to the resources needed.
- Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the decision to means test the Winter Fuel Payment.

**TC 24/141 Paper K – To Consider Signing Up to the Armed Services Covenant**



Cllr Hardy suggested organising an event to mark the signing of the covenant. Cllr Sowry-House felt the timing would align well with the upcoming Remembrance Sunday Parade.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** signing the Armed Forces Covenant.

**TC 24/142 Verbal – To Note Vandalism and Anti-Social Behaviour on Town Council Sites**

The Deputy Clerk provided an update, noting in recent weeks vandalism and anti-social behaviour had improved, albeit the Dorset Council public toilets at Towers Way had been vandalised again and closed whilst repairs were carried out.

The verbal update was **NOTED**.

**TC 24/143 Verbal – To Note any updates from Representatives to Outside Bodies**

- **DAPTC Town & Larger Parishes Committee – 27 September 2024:** Cllr Lortie confirmed there were no significant updates beyond those previously discussed. However, the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC) had relayed the feedback provided from the last meeting to Dorset Council.
- **Beacon Hill Liaison Sub Committee – 25 September 2024:** Cllr Jefferies noted there had been no further movement at the site. An adjustment to the planning permit was required prior to the commencement of engineering of the final cell. It was hoped this would not delay the current planning permit which runs until January 2029.

Cllr Florek had attended a meeting of the Friends of Corfe Mullen Library.

The update was **NOTED**.

**TC 24/144 Verbal - To Note the update from the Climate Change Working Party (CCWP)**

No update was provided due to Cllr Neil's absence.

**TC 24/145 Verbal – To Note Clerk's Update**

The Deputy Clerk provided the following update:

- Advertisement for the Community Engagement and Project Officer role would end on 25 October 2024, with interviews due to take place week commencing 4 November 2024.
- Recruitment had been successful for the Village Hall Keyholder role, with two successful applicants and a new Assistant Youth Support Worker for Corfe Mullen Youth Trust.
- All staff had completed Fire Marshal Training.

The update was **NOTED**.

**TC 24/146 Verbal – To Note Mayor's Report**

The Mayor presented a joint Mayor and Dorset Councillor report under minute no. TC 24/147.

**TC 24/147 Verbal – To Note Dorset Councillor Report**

Cllrs Sowry-House and Florek provided the following update:



- Attended an evening with award winning Earth Scientist, Dr Anjana Khatwa, hosted at Corfe Mullen Village Hall.
- Contact with Cllr Oliver Walters regarding support for Julia's House due to their funding shortfall.
- Met with the leader of Dorset Council, Cllr Nick Ireland to arrange a visit to a future Town Council meeting.
- Winter Fuel Motion had been approved unanimously by Dorset Council.
- Meeting arranged with Castle Court School relating to the proposed bonfire celebration to discuss residents' concerns with the noise in close proximity to livestock.
- SGN road closure meeting organised to discuss the impact on traffic in Corfe Mullen.
- Volunteering at Corfe Mullen Youth Club on Friday evenings.

The update was **NOTED**.

**TC 24/148 Verbal – Matters for Forthcoming Agendas** No decisions can be taken<sup>1</sup>

There were no matters for forthcoming agendas.

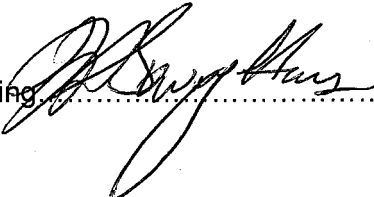
**TC 24/149 To Agree a date and time for the next meeting** –Tuesday 26 November 2024 at 19:00 in the Small Hall of the Village Hall, Towers Way, Corfe Mullen.

**TC 24/150 To Resolve to exclude members of the press and public** – to agree that agenda item TC 24/151 be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.

**TC 24/151 Verbal – To Note Update on CMSA**

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on the current position with the ongoing CMSA charity handover.

**TC 24/152 Close of meeting at 20:20.**

Signed as a correct record of the meeting  Date 26-11-24

<sup>1</sup> Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business which are not specified in the summons/agenda (LGA1972 sch 12, paras 10(2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119)