

Corsley Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting held on 6th Novemb 2023 in the Corsley Reading Room

Present: D Ball (DB)
N Carpenter (NC) Chair
O Hares (OH)
A Helliard (AH)
R Massey (RM)
J Phillips (JP) Vice Chair
J Selman (JS)

In attendance J Willcox Clerk
B Parks County Councillor
1 x member of the public

23/84 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from John White and Lavinia Mitchell

23/85 Update from County Council

Mr Parks reported on matters that were of interest to the parish including; the leak at Longhedge had been repaired, Horse warning signs had been erected. A question was asked about a recent Wiltshire Council consultation document that had quoted the number of houses in Corsley as being 155 when in fact the number of houses in the village, derived from the Electoral Roll, is about 315. The Clerk was asked to investigate.

Action: Clerk

23/86 Declarations of Interest

OH, in respect of the planning application at Malthouse Farm.

NC and JS, in respect of Item 6 on the Agenda – The Old School Playing Field.

23/87 Minutes of the Previous meeting – 09.10.23

The Minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

23/88 Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting not covered on the Agenda

Signed:.....

Date:

23/76 Chairmans Statement. This had been circulated following the meeting. JS was given leave to make a statement commenting upon the content of the Chairs statement and requested that the statement be minuted:

"I wish to object to a statement read by the chair of Council at the council meeting of 4 September 2023. The text of this statement was not provided to me before 3 November 2023. I was not present at the meeting in September while this was read, and it is not clear to me whether the Chair was acting of his own accord or if the Parish Council passed a motion adopting the statement.

A number of untrue allegations have been made against me personally with regard to my conduct in a private matter, specifically with regard to building works to a property which adjoins my home. I do not repeat those allegations here. Those matters are now properly before the County Court at Bristol. They do not relate to my duties as a parish counsellor.

Nevertheless, I was greatly disturbed by the fact that the chair of Council has seen fit to publicly reprimand me in all the circumstances, namely: It was wrong for Council to censure me on a matter which does not fall within the parish council's statutory purview.

It was also wrong that I was censured without proper consideration of the complaints made against me and without any opportunity to respond to such complaints before censure was made.

By publicly censuring me in this way, without following any disciplinary process or making a formal finding of misconduct, I believe that the parish council may have acted outside of its statutory powers and contrary to its own code of conduct. I require that the Chair recant his statement made on 4 September 2023 and issue a formal apology to me for having made it in the first place. If the Parish Council considers that it has good grounds to investigate complaints into my conduct as a Council member, I invite the Council to adopt the proper procedure.

Without prejudice to this request for an apology, I reserve my rights to take any such further action as may be appropriate according to law."

The Chair (NC) was invited to respond. He declined to comment on the statement or the request to recant or apologise.

23/78 Old School Playing Field car park area.
had been unable to study the area concerned.

JP advised that thus far he

Action: JP

Signed:.....

Date:

23/89 **Old School Playing Field**

JS and NC left the room whilst this was discussed, JP took the chair.

Flower Meadow A revised agreement by C Johnson had previously been circulated. Following discussion it was agreed that consideration of the revised agreement be dealt with 'off-line'; JP will co-ordinate comments from councillors and agree a draft agreement that will be presented to the Wild Flower meadow team for their comment before the document will be formally presented to the PC.

Orchard The situation of the Orchard and the Parish Council was clarified and it was agreed that there was no need for a formal agreement to be in place. However, it was agreed that it would be **sensible for a maintenance schedule to be drawn up**

JS and NC re-joined the meeting. NC confirmed that he would remain a volunteer at the Orchard and would consult with the arboriculturists who were also part of the volunteer team in drawing up a schedule.

23/90 **Planning**

PL/2023/08886 Retrospective change of use from residential and agricultural to dog boarding, day care, grooming, storage and associated car parking.
At: Malthouse Farm, Court Lane, Corsley, BA12 7PA

OH left the room whilst this item was discussed.

The PC agreed that whilst they had **no objection** to this application they expressed their disappointment at receiving a retrospective application for a 'development' that obviously should have been the subject of an application at the outset.

PL/2023/09194 Internal alterations to kitchen, utility room and pantry within the main house.
At: Sturford Mead, Corsley, BA12 7QT

The PC agreed they would have **No Objection** to this application

23/91 **Finance**

Banking Arrangements The Clerk reported that the PCs bank, Barclays, had unilaterally closed the two accounts held with them with no prior notice and no explanation. Following discussion the PC delegated the clerk to open an account with a suitable alternative.

Emergency Planning Funding in Current Financial Year It was agreed that finances were such that the spending required for aspects of

Signed:.....

Date:

emergency planning in the current year, particularly for additional grit bins and grit to go in them should be authorised.

Precept Following the previous PC meeting where the precept for 2024/2025 had been discussed a draft budget had been prepared and circulated. Following detailed discussion it was proposed by JP and seconded by NC that the precept for 2024/2025 should remain the same as had been requested in 2023/2024 - £15,140. The proposal was unanimously agreed.

The Chair reported on meetings held with representatives of the Reading Room (RR) trustees where clarification had been sought from the RR on the financial assistance that the PC had agreed to provide.

23/92

Streetscene

A report had been circulated.

It was agreed that the PC should join the scheme whereby the results from the SID are shared with the police.

(Post meeting note: DB advised that currently Wiltshire Police can only accept data from two makes of device and ours is neither of these. We are not the only PC's in this situation, other PC's also have devices which do not use either of these data systems. Wiltshire Constabulary are currently working on ways of including other device data but we will have to wait our turn in the queue. The issue was due to be raised at the liaison meeting with Warminster police by Mr Parks. There may also be an issue because of the location of the SID because it is sited on private land.)

23/93

Complaints Procedure

The Clerk reported that he had been made aware that the PC should have a formal complaints procedure. A draft based on those commonly used by other Parishes had been circulated. It was agreed to adopt the procedure which would be effective immediately.

23/94

Rights of Way

AH circulated an updated schedule.

23/95

Correspondence

Barclays Bank

See above

CWMPF Committee

Will the PC nominate a representative to serve on the committee? It was agreed to consider this at a subsequent meeting; in the interim, the Chair would act as the PC nominee.

Wilts Council, related organisations

Various, distributed to PCs

Signed:.....

Date:

The Chair reported on communication received indicating that grants were available for trees and hedges. It was agreed this should be explored.

23/96 AOB

None

23/97 Date of next meeting

Bi Monthly meeting 8th January, 2024, 19.00

Signed:.....

Date: