Minutes of the Cornwood Parish Council meeting
Tuesday 4th June 2024

In attendance
Chair: Preston De Mendonça
Councillors: Linda Osman, Julia Bertram, Steve Tyers, Christine Smith, Claire Hutson
Clerk: Lee Grant (Minutes)
Members of the Public: 5

Open forum

An appeal was made for more volunteers to help with the community Speedwatch efforts. The Clerk will include it in the village magazine. Also, 2 members of the public present expressed their appreciation for the newly placed bench at Corntown.

Agenda

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Charles Munford

2. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th May 2024.
Proposer: Cllr Bertram **Seconder:** Cllr Osman

3. Declarations of interest – Cllr Tyrers and Hutson for item 13.

4. County Councillor's report. – none

5. District Councillor's report – previously circulated and Cllr Oram gave an overview of the report in the meeting.

6. Dartmoor National Park – Peter Smerdon spoke to his report which had been previously circulated to councillors. The latest newsletter from our ranger Ella Briens, can be found on the DNPA website or requested from: *ebriens@dartmoor.gov.uk*

7. Police report – there have been 4 crimes committed and 5 police logs of incidents during April and May 2024. The crimes were 3 assaults and a dog bite and the logs were for 2 motoring offences, 2 road traffic collisions and a drink driver.

8. Highway Matters –

The buckets of cold tarmac for our road repairs have arrived. In addition, our Lengthsman continues to clear gullies and complete other works and is also picking up large amounts of litter in the process. There have been concerns raised by a resident to the newly placed

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bench at Corntown. The suitability of the bench location has been checked by Highways and approved, subject to the council keeping the area clear of nettles and vegetation.

9. Action point update from the meeting on 7th May 2024

AP5/March24 – Clerk to produce a revised set of Financial Regulations by June 2024.

Update: NALC have just released their model regulations for 24/25 which are designed to enable parish councils to adapt them for their own use. Cllr Osman has kindly agreed to adapt them and will bring the proposed regulations to the July 2024 meeting.

AP1/May 24 – Clerk to check what public and professional liabilities the council currently has and if they are covered by its insurance policy for the car park.

Completed – the 2 scenarios put to the insurer were a child knocked over by a car and a person falling, tripping etc. In the first instance, the car driver would be responsible/liable and in the second, the council would be adequately indemnified subject to the car park having been assessed for risks and action taken to mitigate them (eg, any potholes were filled in).

AP2/May 24 – Clerk to circulate to councillors the relevant papers for the issue relating to the road past Watercombe farm – completed and on this agenda.

10. Transfer of car park ownership

Following further legal discussions, and recognition of the current and future legal costs, it was agreed that the council would withdraw as the lead negotiator for the car park lease.

AP1/June 24 – Clerk to pay the £900 legal bill so far to PHP law for the car park ownership issue.

11. Planning Applications - none

12. Road past Watercombe Farm

This issue has been previously covered in council meetings and concerns the placement of boulders on land from Torr to Watercombe Farm. This was to prevent the parking of cars on the verge following the closure of the nearby car park.

A resident, after consulting with the Open Spaces organisation, believed that the verge belongs to Devon Highways and not the landowner and the resident is in discussion with Highways over the matter. He has suggested that the council could make a representation, to mirror his own, under 130(6) of the Highways Act.

The council discussed the issue and the decision was made to request Highways to consider taking action under Section 130(6). The council was aware that although it had seen the latest maps, it had not been privy to the legal advice that the resident had received from Open Spaces.

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AP2/June 24 – Clerk to write to Highways to ask for consideration of action under Section 130(6) in relation to the road past Watercombe farm.

AP3/June 24 – Clerk to forward the maps relating to Watercombe Farm to Peter Smerdon from DNPA.

13. Tennis club donation request

A request had been received for a donation of £120 to the tennis club (the same as donated the previous year). Cllr Tyers and Hutson had previously declared an interest and did not take part in the discussion; the remaining 4 councillors voted to approve the donation under a S137 payment.

14. Chairman's Time

The Chair noted the excellent turn out from residents to the May Annual Parish meeting and the subsequent positive Facebook posts about the work that the council does.

The Cornwood show is unlikely to happen this year due to a lack of volunteers and organisers.

15. Feedback from meetings of external organisations

Dementia Friendly Parish – latest report to be circulated to councillors by Cllr Bertram.

Gnaton Hall have an open gardens event on 23rd June 2024.

16. **Correspondence –** none

17. Finance –

The council's financial return for 2023/24 is being completed now and will be presented/approved at a public meeting of the council on Wednesday 26th June at 7.30pm in the village hall. The return has to be sent off by 1st July 2024.

Payments below were authorised – 30th April to 28th May 2024

Payment to	**Goods and services**	**Amount (£)**
Julia Bertram	Public Toilet plants	71.64
CM and MPR Rose	Village shop leaflet printing	22.68
Village Hall	Broadband contribution	14.00
Clerk	Expenses - March, April, May	81.76
Clerk	April salary	499.95

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Payments below were received – 30th April 2024 to 28th May 2024

Payor	Goods and services	Amount (£)
Lloyds	Interest	2.30
Lloyds	Interest	50.63
DCC	Noticeboard donation	1,000.00

Bank balance as of 28th May 2024

Treasurer's account	£2,771.18
Special savings account *	£51,108.81
Savings account	£2,232.45

* of which £16,007.66 is ring fenced for public toilets
* of which £493.39 is ring fenced for P3.
* of which £422.00 is held for the Community Tree Nursery.
* of which £1301.25 is ring fenced for maintenance of DAA lighting unit.
* of which £53.55 is ring fenced for public toilet garden plants

Next monthly Parish council Meeting – Tuesday 2nd July 2024 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Action point summary

AP5/March24 – Cllr Osman to adapt the NALC financial regulations for the July 2024 council meeting.

AP1/June 24 – Clerk to pay the £900 legal bill so far to PHP law for the car park ownership issue.

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