

# THE CORFE CASTLE TOWN TRUST

The Town Hall, 1 West Street  
Corfe Castle, Wareham BH20 5HA

[www.corfecastletrust.co.uk](http://www.corfecastletrust.co.uk)



## MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2016

**Present:** Louise Haywood (Chair), Emma Grinsted (Secretary), Tony Bryan, Mary Wills, Steve Clarke, Mark Taylor, Rupert Spicer-Short

**Apologies:** Paul Jobling (Treasurer), Colin Fuller, Charles Overton, Nigel Dragon, Ros Marshallsay

**Appointment of a new Trustee** – Steve Clarke has now been confirmed as a Parish Council Trustee, so Rupert Spicer-Short was unanimously elected as a trustee (proposed by Tony Bryan and seconded by Emma Grinsted).

**Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting (15th September 2015)** – Tony confirmed that he has forwarded the email about fundraising ideas to those who hadn't received it.

The letter explaining the Town Trust's activities is ready to be distributed with the collecting boxes. We have five boxes so we will be asking if they can be put in The Bankes Arms, The Model Village, The Castle Inn and The Village Stores, which leaves us one spare.

The Gift of Four needs to be removed to re-new the lettering. It was suggested that a replacement piece could be painted and attached to cover the existing writing, as taking the Gift of Four down is a big job. Tony will investigate.

The hand towel dispenser is all sorted.

The Dru Drury seals are still to be moved.

**Correspondence** – none received.

### **Chairman's Annual Report for the year 2015**

1. The main concern for this year has been the lack of income and erosion of our capital reserves. The Town Hall has not been rented out as frequently as had been hoped – the lack of a WiFi connection is often given as a reason. Fortunately, the Town Hall and the Museum, although requiring maintenance, have not had the damp problems of 2014. Charles Overton organised another successful Town Trust stall at the May Fair and there have been a few donations but essentially we are relying on the Museum's money box and the rental of the chamber room to provide the income for our operational needs. The Town Trust was specifically set up to look after the Museum, the Town Hall and other artefacts (2 x Town Pumps, the well in West Street, the Cross, the 'Sign of Four' and the two plaques in The Square) but our lack of regular income threatens our ability to maintain them which is worrying. There were no Exhibitions or History Talks arranged for 2015. The booklet 'A Walk around the Village' has now been published and over 20 copies sold to date. This cost us nothing to produce as we gained a grant from the Dorset Museums Association.

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**Trustees:** Tony Bryan, Steve Clarke, Nigel Dragon, Colin Fuller, Emma Grinsted (Secretary), Louise Haywood (Chair), Rev. Ian Jackson, Ros Marshallsay, Charles Overton, Rupert Spicer-Short, Mark Taylor, Mary Wills  
**Honorary Officer:** Paul Jobling (Treasurer)

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2. We welcomed a new Trustee, Emma Grinsted. Not new to the Trust, of course, as she has been doing sterling service writing up our minutes and will continue to be the Secretary. Thank you Emma. Frank Spooner resigned and we also had a slight alteration to the governing body when Steve Clarke resigned as a Trustee to become a Parish Council Representative replacing Juliet Glover. Paul Jobling continues as our Treasurer. We also gained three volunteers but had only two, Dorothy Brotherton and Dawn Lindsay, by the end of the year.

3. The strategic planning review, initiated by Steve Clarke, has resulted in rethinking how we approach running the Museum and Town Hall so we are now starting the process whereby we hope to become accredited to the UK Museum Scheme. Rupert Spicer Short has kindly agreed to oversee this and has formed a subcommittee and I would like to thank him and the other members of the subcommittee for agreeing to help with this. The project may take longer than 2 years to come to fruition but it will encourage us to achieve certain standards and force us to look at how we run and manage our collection. It should provide us with a benchmark for what we are trying to do and help with forward planning. And since we will have met a national standard once we are accredited, hopefully, strengthen any applications made for future funding.

4. In conclusion, I feel we are now starting to think about a long term plan which will benefit the Trust. Some 'spring cleaning' of the Museum display needs to be done and we need to evaluate how many of the Museum artefacts and documents can be usefully kept and I hope that this can be achieved over the coming year. However, this can only be done with the most valuable assets we hold – our Trustees! I would like to thank all of you for your dedication and encouragement over 2015 and I look forward to your continuing support in 2016.

**Treasurer's Report** – the was no report as Paul is away.

**Museum Report** – nothing to report other than that we are currently weatherproof.

**Town Hall Report** – nothing to report.

**Bookings** – we have had no bookings other than the Parish Council.

Accreditation – We have formed a Sub-Committee to work on the Museum Accreditation. They are currently just looking at section one (Organisational Health) and will move on to the next section (Collections) when it has been completed. We are hoping to have the structure completed by mid-summer. We need to look at such things as how our finances are organised and how our spaces are defined; is the meeting room also an exhibition space and lecture room? We also need a new Emergency Plan. Swanage has just got accreditation so we can hopefully use them as a blueprint.

**AOB** – Rupert is having a meeting with a group who regularly bring school children on visits to the village. They are interested in making a regular booking for lunchtimes.

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We had a brief discussion of our current pricing structure. We offer discounts for locals, but this is not mentioned on the website. This discount only currently applies to the parish council. Should we re-classify this discount as commercial/non-commercial? The Marblers have been charged £12.50 for a long time, should we put it up to £15? We need to know how much it actually costs us to open the meeting room?

Rupert is holding a Crazy for Corfe Quiz in Four and Twenty Blackbirds with the profits going to the Town Trust. All the tickets have been sold already.

The container storage at Rempstone paperwork needs to be signed for another year. It is still only £1.

St Edwards is hoping to hold a Festival of Corfe Castle through the Ages and has asked for our input. Initially we were asked to put together one or two display boards with a subject of our choice, along with a number of other village organisations. This now seems to have turned into us co-organising the festival with St Edwards. We felt that we do not have the time or manpower to co-organise the event and much preferred the original concept where more organisations were involved.

Mary has very kindly offered to put together a children's quiz sheet for the summer.

## Upcoming Events:

Town Trust Meeting -	Wednesday 13th April 2016
Town Trust Meeting -	Tuesday 13th September 2016
Town Trust Meeting -	Wednesday 30th November 2016
Christmas Supper -	Wednesday 14th December 2016

**Next Meeting: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at 7.30pm, Town Hall**

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