

# 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 16<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014

**Present:** Louise Haywood (Chair), Paul Jobling (Treasurer), Emma Grinsted (Secretary), Tony Bryan, Nigel Dragon, Mary Wills, Frank Spooner, Charles Overton, Rev. Ian Jackson, Colin Fuller, Juliet Glover

**Apologies:** Steve Clarke, Ros Marshallsay, Mark Taylor

**Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting (11<sup>th</sup> June 2014)** – The Parish Council's clerk was under the impression that Sue Hulme had been given him permission to use the mayoral seal. It was confirmed that she had not agreed to this so the Parish Council would not be using the seal.

The booking form is still a work in progress and will be completed as soon as possible.

These minutes were then agreed as a correct record and were signed off.

**Election of Treasurer – Paul Jobling** – Paul Jobling has kindly offered to take over the role of Treasurer from Tony Bryan who was previously holding the fort. This appointment was proposed by Mary Wills and seconded by Tony Bryan.

**Chair's report** – Louise met with Andrew Eustace (Operations Manager of The National Trust) on 14th June. The previous Chair had agreed at a meeting of 26th January 2012 that future maintenance of certain Town Trust items could be included in the 5-year cycle of maintenance carried out by The National Trust. The Town Trust would pay the National Trust for the relevant work. The National Trust has now received a list of items that need to be included in their maintenance cycle. The items included are the pumps, (one in The Square and one in East Street), the Sign of Four and the Millennium and Jubilee stone plaques. The cross in the square needs to be added to the list and possibly the well in West Street. An agreement has yet to be drawn up regarding this. This was discussed and it was decided that we need more information before we can enter into this agreement. We need a rough estimate of maintenance costs from the National Trust and details of exactly how the maintenance will be implemented and what is included. For example will they undertake re-painting of the Sign of Four? It was agreed that we should undertake our own survey of items, including photographs of their current state of repair, so that we can assess the current actual maintenance need. **Action:** Colin, Charles and Tony agreed to form a working party to conduct a survey of the items and report back at the next meeting.

On 13th June one of the stone bollards around the Cross was hit by a delivery van. DCC had filled the hole and put the bollard back in place by 19th June.

The National Trust have agreed that if the Town Trust need special advice on old buildings they can supply it for free as they have a few specialists in this area. We can contact Andrew Eustace. Alan Clevett has also agreed to give us free advice and has already been involved with the damp problem.

~ 1 ~

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The Royal Mail sent us £400 so thank you again to Nick King for arranging the doubling of the sum raised; both he and Charles Overton raised the necessary £200.

The Trust also received a cheque of £75 from the Dorset History Network to say 'thank you' for helping at their Away Day in Corfe in March.

The Town Trust has registered with 'Total Giving' - a free charity registration giving us the ability to take online donations and create fundraising events.

A wooden box was given to the Museum on 10th August 2014 as a time capsule from Corfe Castle Primary School and The British Legion to remember the First World War. It is to be opened every 25yrs and added too. There is a brass plate on the front of the box with the date it was created so hopefully it will be easy to work out when to open it!

The First World War exhibition "Some Came Back" in the Town Hall held over the summer had over 500 visitors (11 Jul – 14 Jul: 362 (no count taken on Monday); 2 Aug – 20; 7 Aug – 86; 9 Aug – 16; 16 Aug – 13; 23 Aug – 17). There is a great reluctance from the public to make a donation. It was very labour intensive to produce and required long hours from stewards e.g. 3 hours spent stewarding on a Saturday afternoon with only 16 through the door none of whom made a donation was dispiriting. No one visited on a Saturday or Sunday morning. The best time for visitors was when there was a function on in the churchyard. The Chairman thanked all of the stewards – particularly Mary Wills, who helped set up the exhibition and also spent hours stewarding as well.

Thinking ahead to the 100th anniversary of WWII – only 25yrs away – we need to start encouraging more donations and written memories while we can. There is already a box with the documents from the last WWII exhibition which will help with future exhibitions.

The History Group attendees are now making donations. For the October meeting (3rd) it is hoped to drum up support to help with archiving/transcribing and get everyone to feel they are more involved with the Museum and Town Hall. 7th November is the talk about Dorchester in The Great War given by Brian Bates – date for diaries!

On behalf of the Trustees, Louise sent a card and some flowers to Sue Hulme, our last Chair, to wish her a speedy recovery.

On 7th August Mary Phillips, (phillipstm@talktalk.net), contacted the Town Trust to ask if we wished to purchase a 15th century Medieval ring (solid gold) which her later father had dug up on West Hill about 35 years ago when he belonged to a metal detecting club. She thought it was a posy ring. The County Museum suggested Louise should get in contact with the portable Antiquities Officer at DCC. She replied saying she was going to contact someone from the British Museum and he replied saying he hoped she'd give us the ring, (confirming that it wasn't a posy ring), as 35yrs ago everything was a free-for-all as far as metal detectorists went. The general consensus was that we are not prepared to buy it. The ring was not properly registered until Louise became involved and we have no real evidence that it was found here. It was decided that Louise replies and suggests that she donates it to us or Dorchester Museum.

Louise will be in contact with everyone regarding the Christmas function on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of December.

~ 2 ~

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The Committee and Chair thanked Tony Brian – our rock – who silently beavers away, and without whom nothing would ever happen!

**Treasurer's report** – Paul handed out copies of the financial report which detailed the financial movement since the last meeting. We need more money coming in. Although our balance is currently healthy we are making a regular loss. We need to therefore think carefully about any maintenance commitment we make to the National Trust or anyone else.

**Town Hall & Museum** – The walls have been waterproofed on the outside and a dehumidifying fan has been installed. This is currently running most of the time. Now that this work has been completed, Colin can paint the toilet. The picture in the corner is ok, but the wall behind it is damp. Alan Clevett suggested a heat exchange pump from the meeting room to the loft which will help to ventilate the room. It was decided that this idea would be revisited after monitoring the current paint wear/damp situation for a year as maybe the waterproofing and dehumidifying fan are sufficient to cure the situation. Re-painting the meeting room walls was discussed. The walls are currently lime washed – the church lime wash took 14 coats last time it was painted – so it's not a small job. The walls are to be monitored as they are not too bad at the moment.

A visitor requested a copy of a photo we have on file, (Mitchell/blacksmith); they paid us £10 for the copy. It was noted that we have to be careful about the copyright as the photos we hold don't all belong to us.

The Rempstone Estate have requested a copy of the lease on the container as they have lost their copy. We are due to sign the lease for another year and pay the £1 per year fee.

**AOB** – Colin commented that Nick's exhibition was very good, but having it open for just four days was just not enough! We are not sure what the solution to this problem is as finding volunteers willing to steward exhibitions is an ongoing issue.

Charles' stall at the May Fair was very successful and we are very pleased that he is willing to do it again next year. We discussed starting to collect items to sell as soon as possible and that we could store things in the container if necessary.

Mary suggested that we could ask someone from the Mining Museum and Blue Pool to give a talk at the history group.

**Strategic Planning** – We reviewed Steve Clarke's strategic planning notes. This is a brief synopsis of the discussion which ensued:

*1-Q2/3 Should the Trust organise/participate in a survey about the village?*

**Not at the moment** - What sort of survey? There have already been a number of surveys of the village carried out and it was questioned what exactly it was that we were trying to find out. The Village Plan contains lots of information on attitudes and feelings etc. and Bournemouth University did a recent survey when Sue Hulme was Chair. We should be able to review the surveys which other people have carried out and extract whatever information we feel is relevant.

~ 3 ~

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*2-Q4: Should we plan for a revamp of the museum and seek advice in doing so?*

**Maybe** - It is not easy to produce a coherent display based on the content of our collection. Everything we owned used to be out and it was just a confusing mess. We now have a display which tells a story in sequence. We would need to review all the items and material which we own to re-do it. We always intended to tweak it periodically so photos, tools, and other items could be swapped within the existing categories and the labelling refreshed. It was suggested that we could ask Bournemouth University to suggest ideas on how to refresh things – we don't need to take up their ideas if we don't feel that they would work.

*3-Q4: Should the assets be put on line including images of the paintings?*

**Maybe** – This would be another major project as everything would need to be photographed and digitised. Most of it is but there was concern that if we put all the artefacts online it might encourage a break in at the Town Hall thus affecting our insurance. A partial list of the documents stored at the Town Hall is already online with some photos.

*4-Q4: Should we plan to open the Town Hall at least ten times a year e.g. Sundays in school holidays and plan our volunteering for this starting in 2015?*

**Yes** - We have opened over 10 times this year already but everyone felt it would be a good idea to plan the volunteering for the future. People don't know where the entrance to the meeting room is anymore since the downstairs access was removed. This issue needs to be addressed if the Town Hall is to be opened on a regular basis.

*5-Q5 Should we plan to update the history of the village and oral history at least every five years starting in 2015?*

**Yes** – The oral history project is already ongoing. There had been disillusionment from the previous volunteers that nothing seemed to come of it so this could be a problem trying to get volunteers to help.

*6-Q6 What support does Louise need in her historical record work?*

**Unknown** – Louise will ask if she feels that help or support is needed. She is hoping that through the meetings of the local history group some other volunteers will appear.

*7-Q7 Identify a lead person to liaise with Corfe Castle Primary?*

**Louise** – She is a governor and has said she will liaise between the school and the Town Trust.

*8-Q7 Put an article in Corfe Valley news about our educational role and whether there are any requests to run courses?*

**Yes** – We already advertise the History Group Meetings every month in the CVN. We don't really have an educational role but we could ask if anyone wants to learn anything? We could also remind everyone that the meeting room is for hire.

~ 4 ~

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*9-Q8 Is there a volunteer to survey all our physical assets e.g. buildings, water pump etc. and estimate (with advice if need be) what needs to be spent over the next five years?*

**In hand.** (see the chair's report above)

*10-Q9 Does the Trust agree that the Chair and any other interested Trustees should liaise with The National Trust about joint activities which are mutually beneficial to our respective roles?*

**We already do** – The Parish Council is currently attempting to define what the National Trust's role in the Village actually is. Louise and Mary already have close contacts with Pam White, the National Trust's Community and Learning Officer for Corfe Castle.

*11-Q10 Should we explore whether there is an organisation in Dorset which can display the mace securely?*

**No** – No one felt that any other museum would actually display it – just put it in store instead. The mace is personal to Corfe and should remain in our care. The replica is a satisfactory stand in and was an accurate copy.

*12-Q10 Should the Trust participate in any joint project for information boards about the history of the village?*

**No** – The logistics and planning permission would be a nightmare and it was questionable if people who live here would want them. Leaflets would be more useful and could be easily updated to reflect new knowledge. Louise is still working on her leaflet walk around the village showing all the exciting houses/buildings in the village. It is proving a long process as not everything is catalogued at the Dorset History Centre.

**Upcoming Events:** 3<sup>rd</sup> October – History Group Meeting  
7<sup>th</sup> November – History Group Meeting  
3<sup>rd</sup> December – Christmas Meal  
6<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30pm – Town Trust Trustees Meeting

**Next Meeting: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7.30pm, Town Hall**

~ 5 ~

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