

THE CORFE CASTLE TOWN TRUST

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

www.corfecastletrust.co.uk



MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY 2015

Present: Louise Haywood (Chair), Paul Jobling (Treasurer), Emma Grinsted (Secretary), Tony Bryan, Steve Clarke, Charles Overton, Colin Fuller, Juliet Glover, Mark Taylor

Apologies: Nigel Dragon, Mary Wills, Rev. Ian Jackson

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting (16th September 2014) – No matters were arising and so the minutes were then agreed as a correct record and were signed off.

Correspondence – Peter R Morris sent a donation following research which Louise carried out for him.

Julia Holberry from the Dorset History Centre has been in contact with the Town Trust regarding the Bankes Archive Project. This project involves cataloguing, digitising, transcribing and preserving material relating to the Bankes family. Louise is to have a meeting with Julia to discuss what it involves.

Chairman's annual report – Nick King's Iron Age Exhibition was a great success particularly as he was able to double the money he raised with the Royal Mail thus making £400. Sadly, the World War One exhibition failed to produce any real revenue with the majority of the visitors failing to leave a donation. However it did mean a few more villagers engaged with the Town Hall and raised our profile a bit. Sadly the Local History Group is not raising enough money to support itself or any outside speakers. In November seven people turned up to listen to the talk about Dorchester in The Great War; the entrance fee did not cover the speaker's travelling expenses. The first Town Trust stall at the May Fair was successful and the odd enquiry about ancestors, or requests for photographs, nets a few pounds. Overall though we are still not raising enough funds to remain solvent which is worrying and needs to be watched carefully.

We welcomed a new secretary, Emma Grinsted, and a new treasurer, Paul Jobling. The Town Trust can only operate if we have volunteers and so to all of you who have helped in anyway, many thanks indeed for your support over the past year. It would be nice to have all the Trustees participating in stewarding and events. If you feel you are unable to do this then it may be time to search your conscience and step down. We said farewell to Roger White who had been a Trustee for many years. And also to Tessa Somerville who stepped into the breach as treasurer when Lynn Evans' departed.

The main event of the year was the effect the weather had on the Museum and Town Hall in the early part of the year. Water poured into the Museum and the Town Hall bricks soaked up the moisture leaving us with black mould and cracking plaster upstairs and a sodden Museum which had to be closed for a couple of weeks. It also meant that the Town Hall could not be rented out for several months. The company who had originally restored the building in 2006 was found to have gone into liquidation. Maintenance was carried out and by September everything was looking a lot better but work still needs to be done to completely repair the water damage. 'Thank you' seems hardly adequate for all the hard work and time that those involved with the repairs have willingly given.

~ 1 ~

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We considered a strategic planning review produced by Steve Clarke and have already acted upon some of the action points arising from it (for instance, our website now lists the documents that are held by the Town Hall). Although a lot of what was suggested is already occurring, some form of long term planning does need to be put in place. The review highlighted the fact that we are short on volunteers to assist with such things as exhibitions and revamping the museum. Perhaps this could be an aim for 2015 – to encourage more people to volunteer to help.

The main concern is a lack of a regular income (only one group is renting out the Town Hall now) and how to raise the finances to pay for the upkeep of the Museum, Town Hall and the other artefacts (2 x Town Pumps, the well in West Street, the Cross, the ‘Sign of Four’ and the now 2 x plaques in The Square as we gained the Jubilee Plaque) held by the Town Trust. The Trust was specifically set up to look after these and everything we do is geared to making sure that this happens.

So, in conclusion, I hope we can reach out to more people in 2015 and encourage them to come and volunteer with us. I would like the rental from the Town Hall to increase and donations to rise. And to be able to do this I need you, the trustees, with all your varied expertise, to rise to this challenge and hopefully make 2015 the year to remember.

Treasurer’s annual report – Paul presented us with a financial overview since the last meeting with a full report to follow. We made a small profit of just over £90. We are currently losing between £2000 and £3000 per year so at this rate we only have enough money in the bank to last about 5 to 7 years. We need to think about how to generate funds. Paul volunteered to form a fundraising sub group with Steve and Colin to try and think about raising funds.

Paul is in the process of setting up online business banking. It was also noted that Paul needs to be made a signatory on the account.

Museum Report – The container rent has been paid for the next year. The electricity costs about £28 on the last bill, which equated to about £150 per year. The contents needs to be review to confirm that everything needs to be kept, as many things are broken and so are possibly pointlessly being kept.

We discussed the possibility of renting some of the container space to another village group. Colin offered to find out if anyone was interested in this service. It was felt that we should ask for a donation or split the electricity costs if anyone was interested. Any other renters would need to be responsible for their own insurance.

We need to check the dehumidifier in the museum, and get an electrician to pat test it.

Town Hall – The paint is to be bought tomorrow. As much mould as possible needs to be washed away before painting. We discussed putting in a vent into the loft to increase airflow. Alan Clevett has previously talked about heat exchangers between the loft and meeting room but they are very expensive.

The brickwork has been weather shielded and so should be good for a number of years.

~ 2 ~

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Village Items – Chris Darling is to undertake painting and repairs to the pump this month. The sign of four just needs cleaning for now. It will need to be removed to be re-painted. Colin volunteered to ask his neighbour, (a sign writer), for an opinion on re-doing the words.

AOB – The question of ownership of the stones at the end of the village was raised. The Town Trust is not willing to take them on as we feel that they should be the responsibility of the Parish Council.

We discussed the possibility of using the CVN to let people know more about us. We do regularly publicise our events and activities, but we could look at doing more?

The timing of the History Group was discussed and it was decided to try moving it from Friday evening to Saturday afternoons to try and get more people involved.

Upcoming Events:

Town Trust Meeting - Tuesday 15th September

Town Trust Meeting - Wednesday 9th December

Next Meeting: Wednesday 15th January 2016 at 7.30pm, Town Hall