

Corscombe, Halstock and District Parish Council
Annual Report 2024/25

This has been an eventful year. The Dorset Council elections in May 2024 provided four new parish councillors, two from Corscombe and two from Halstock, once again giving us a full complement of twelve councillors. The Parish Council voted to accept Power of Competence at the Parish Council meeting on 21st May 2024 and we later gained a STAR AWARD for Training from the **Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils**. We have increased the number of defibrillator sites by providing one at the Fox Inn at Corscombe. This now gives us a total of six across the parish – three in Corscombe, two in Halstock and one in West Chelborough. Many thanks to Friends of First Responders and a matched grant from the Department of Health and Social Care.

We have provided a grant towards the upkeep of the Sticklands School swimming pool in Evershot where a number of our children attend and purchased a Speed Indicator Device that will shortly be available for use at two locations within Halstock to help alleviate speeding. Most recently we have assisted with the service and repair of the Halstock Church Organ to enable it to again be used for church services and musical fund raising activity. We had Stands at both the Corscombe and Halstock Fetes last summer as well as one at the Big Breakfast - to let parishioners meet the Clerk, learn more about the PC and to propose ideas and areas that the PC should look at. The Clerk has attended a number of Networking events such as Clerks' Conference and Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils Western Area meetings. She is currently trialing the use of SCRIBE accounting software to assist the Council.

We have revamped the Parish Council Notice Board outside the Halstock Village Shop and helped purchase a further gate to continue the work of the Public Rights of Way group to convert styles to self closing gates. Councillor Nigel Clarke has kindly given his time freely to renovate another Red Finger Post and councillors have supported the Great Big Hedge Survey and been involved in Climate and ecology issues. We have created a store for sandbags at Corscombe Village Hall and two new grit bins in Halstock. We have provided ongoing support for residents' concerns over road signs, road

closures, potholes, gritting, planning issues and liaised with Wessex Water and Wessex Internet. We continue to investigate options for a playground in Halstock.

Finally, we have been able to work more closely with our new local Dorset Councillor, Chris Kippax on a number of topical issues.