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15 May 2025

To: All Members of the Community Services Committee: Councillors A Brown, R Hopkinson, D Jarman, B Keeler, G McCaffery, R Munn and A White.

All other Members of the Council for information.

The next meeting of the Community Services Committee will be held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 21 May 2025 commencing at 7pm.

Yours sincerely

David J Martin  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Press and Public – To observe the meeting online or take part in Agenda Item 2 - Public Question Time and Petitions, please click [here](#) or email [dmartin@corsham.gov.uk](mailto:dmartin@corsham.gov.uk) for instructions.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Public Question Time and Petitions
3. Declarations of Interest

To receive any Declaration(s) of Interest under Corsham Town Council's Code of Conduct issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 19 March 2025 – *for information only*.
5. Grant Applications

There is one for this meeting.

*Mental Health and Wellbeing Project, Services Cotswold Centre, Neston* – Emma Drage of the Army Welfare Service is seeking £1,375 (project total £9,388) towards a project to support vulnerable military families while they are residents at the Services Cotswold Centre (SCC). The grant will help to fund the Open Blue Charity, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Wiltshire Scrapstore and Learning Skillset to come on to camp and provide activities to the families, many of whom go on to reside full-time in Corsham, to support their mental health and wellbeing and reduce their isolation. The application is *attached – for consideration*.

6. Community Wellbeing Update (*Minute CS 72/24 and others*) – The Committee will be updated on the Town Council's latest community wellbeing activities.

- The Community Wellbeing Officer continues to visit and support a wide range of local groups and organisations. The most recent visits were to the Prevention and Wellbeing Officer North at Wiltshire Council, The Corsham Foodbank, Citizens Advice Wiltshire, Creative Lunch and Parkinson's UK at Wadswick Green.
- The RISE detached team continues to provide outreach services for young people in Corsham, every Wednesday and Friday evening. They also work with young people within The Corsham School. The Town Council has agreed to fund the Open Blue Bus visits, which creates a safe space for young people on a Wednesday evening, until the summer.
- Following on from a successful collaboration with the residents at Jargeau Court, Holton House and Hungerford House, Dawn Gorman, a local writer and arts practitioner, is now working with residents at Warrington Lodge and Claremont House.
- Sarah Gilmartin, who runs Creative Lunch for older people and other projects in Corsham, has successfully gained funding from the Town Council, Corsham Area Board and The Centre for Ageing Better to run a day of taster sessions and activities at The Pound Arts Centre as part of the national Age Without Limits Day on 11 June 2025. The aim of the Day is to break down preconceived ideas about ageing and older people. Activities will include arts and crafts, martial arts, a silent disco and dancing.
- The Dogs for Health team are working within the Corsham community, with a growing number of volunteers available to support people. Referrals for Dogs for Health are made via links with the social prescribing team within the local Primary Care Network.

- *for information and comment.*

- Former Town Councillor, and disability activist, Tanvir Bush would like the Committee to consider the proposed government changes to the benefits system, given their potential impact on local disabled people. The government is running a consultation on the changes, until 30 June: [Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working Green Paper - GOV.UK](#). The Committee is asked how it would like to respond to the consultation.

- *for information and comment.*

7. Corsham – An Age-friendly Community (*Minute CS 74/24 and others*) – Cllr Brown and the Head of Community Services will update the Committee on the latest steps taken towards Corsham becoming an Age-friendly Community, including the initial findings from the Age-friendly Corsham survey – *for information and discussion*.

8. StoryTown (*Minute CS 75/24 and others*) – The Committee will be updated on the progress of the various StoryTown projects undertaken, including feedback on the StoryTown Short

Story Competition (linked to the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Town Council) and the work of Marnie Forbes-Eldridge in local schools – *for information and comment*.

9. Public Art Projects (*Minute CS 76/24 and others*) – The Committee will be updated on the progress of the Town Council's public art projects, including the Cross Keys sheep, the Potley and Portland Rise Art Community Project (PACT) and a display of the work of sculptor Michael Pennie – *for information and comment*.
10. Events Update (*Minute CS 78/24 and others*) – The Head of Community Services will give a report on the Eco Fair (26 April 2025) and Easter Trail and an update on Taste of Corsham (17 May 2025); the Town Council's attendance at Middlewick House Open Garden (7/8 June 2025); the latest Corsham Skatepark Group event (14 June); the Street Fair (13 September) and 2025's Heritage Open Days (12-21 September) – *for information and comment*.
11. Business Support Update (*Minute CS 80/24 and others*) – The Committee will be updated on the Business Breakfast that took place at The Greenhouse at Wadswick Green (14 May 2025) as well as the first Business Leaders Lunch at the Methuen Arms (9 May 2025) – *for discussion and comment*.