

Corsham Youth **Council**

Town Hall, High Street, Corsham
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Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting held at Corsham Town Hall on **Monday 2 October 2023**

Present:

Youth Councillors: Adele, Alex, Annabelle, Callum, Celeste, Florrie, Gabriel, Grace, George, Harry, Isla, Max, Nelson, Olive, Reggie, Rose, Scarlett

Town Councillors: Alan Brown (AB), Neville Farmer (NF)

Town Council Staff: Sharon Thomas (Head of Community Services) (ST)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Rupert.

2. Welcome to Corsham Youth Council

ST welcomed everyone to CYC and explained how the Youth Council works and how important it is. She explained that the Youth Councillors are representing Corsham's young people and can discuss issues that matter to them. The Town Council often asks the Youth Council to help with projects, such as play area improvements, and takes what CYC has to say very seriously.

ST also explained that this year is the 15th anniversary of the first CYC meeting, in October 2008. The fact that it had run for so long, with so much support from the Town Council, proved how important the Youth Council is to the town.

3. Election of Chair

Max was elected Chair for the meeting.

4. Corsham Town Council and Young People

ST gave an update on the work the Town Council already undertakes that supports young people in the town.

Corsham Youth Zone (CYZ)

The Town Council helps to fund Corsham Youth Zone (CYZ), the youth club for age 11-plus, which took place at Springfield Community Campus on Friday nights and cost £1 for entry. The Club was run by volunteers and offered all kinds of activities both indoors and outdoors. Most recently, artists from The Peacock Arts Trail had run workshops at CYZ and there had been a visit to a pottery studio.

Supporting Local Clubs and Organisations

The Town Council runs a grants scheme that helps support local clubs. Corsham Swimming Club, for example, had recently received a grant for, among other things, new swimming hats to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in 2024. The Town Council runs a Sports Forum where all the clubs can get together

to exchange news and ideas, and also helps promote local clubs on its website and social media, as well as inviting clubs and local organisations to events.

The Rise Trust

RISE Trust's Detached Youth Workers were out in the town on Wednesday and Friday nights, talking to the older teenagers they met by the Londis store on Pickwick Road, at Springfield Rec, Meriton Rec and in Potley, offering help and advice or just a chance to chat. The Town Council was funding RISE Trust to undertake this work.

Corsham Skatepark User Group

The Town Council was planning to create a new skatepark at Springfield Rec and was working with the skatepark users (skateboarders, BMX and scooter riders, inline skaters etc) to set up a Skatepark User Group. The Group would help raise money for the new skatepark as well as working with skatepark companies to create a design that worked for everyone.

It was suggested that a member of CYC who used the skatepark could join the group and report back to the Youth Councillors. Reggie was interested in doing that and ST would let him know more details.

Play Area Improvements

The Town Council was responsible for a number of play areas in Corsham, including Springfield Rec (not Springfield Community Campus, which is a Wiltshire Council building), Meriton, Neston Rec, Dicketts Road, Westwells and Coppershell at Gastard. The Town Council had also taken on five more sites from Wiltshire Council: the two play areas at Katherine Park, the two at Pockeridge and one at Bences Lane.

New equipment had been installed in the summer at the Little Play Area at Katherine Park, for 3-7-year-olds. The large play area at Katherine Park had been refurbished. The two play areas in Pockeridge would be next to be upgraded, followed by the one at Bences Lane. In the past, CYC had helped to choose equipment and designs for the play areas and this would continue, as part of the Town Council's community engagement work to make sure the people who live near and/or use the play areas have a say.

CYC had requests and suggestions for things that would improve the play areas and facilities for young people. These included another hockey Astro pitch (Heywood School use Leafy Lane – ST would see what availability there was at Springfield, but it may be that The Corsham School have use of it during the day) and a marked-out football pitch on the field at Potley rather than just a goal.

5. Environment Projects: Active Travel

ST asked the Youth Councillors how CYC and the Town Council could encourage young people to walk, cycle and wheel (known as 'active travel'), rather than parents driving them around. Most of the Youth Councillors had done, or were going to do, the Bikeability course in school but even those who had done it and felt confident to cycle were concerned about riding on the roads because of the traffic. NF explained about the Town Council's work on improving cycle paths and the aim to bring in 20mph speed limits in the town centre that may mean cyclists, and pedestrians, feel safer.

A sponsored event, encouraging young people to get sponsored to cycle, walk or wheel over a set distance, was suggested as a way of encouraging active travel. Another suggestion was to have a Bikeability course that included a chart to fill in which would encourage people to cycle more. There could be a bike-related prize for completing the chart.

6. Christmas

ST explained that the Town Council donates a Christmas tree to St Bartholomew's Church each year, and that this tree is CYC's entry in the church's annual Christmas Tree Festival. The theme this year is 'Christmas Memories' and suggestions for CYC's decorations included everyone writing about their favourite Christmas memory and maybe putting each memory in a present box; hanging Christmas photographs on the tree or hanging little, unwanted toys on the tree that could then be donated to charity. November's meeting would include making CYC's decorations.

7. Ideas and Suggestions for CYC Projects/Campaigns in 2023-24

The Youth Councillors were keen to help support the Corsham Foodbank, possibly with a reverse advent calendar in their schools. This already happens at The Corsham School when, rather than taking something from an advent calendar, everyone brings something in. ST would suggest this idea to the schools.

The idea of a fund-raising horse ride in the grounds of Corsham Court was also suggested but Corsham Court does not allow riding in its parkland, mainly to protect the sheep that graze there.

ST explained that, in the past, CYC has had guest speakers come to meetings and gone on visits, most recently to MOD Corsham. If there were any topics that Youth Councillors wanted to know more about, or local places to visit, then that could be discussed next time.

8. Any Other Business

There was a request to have nets in the football goals on the playing field near Rudloe Community Centre to stop the ball going into the road. Unfortunately, Rudloe is not in the Corsham parish, it comes within Box Parish Council's area. ST would contact Box, though, to pass on the request.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 27 November 2023, 3.15pm at the Town Hall

ST 3.10.23