

# **Corsham Youth** **Council**

**Town Hall, High Street, Corsham**  
**Wiltshire SN13 0EZ**

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## **Minutes of the Youth Council Meeting held at Corsham Town Hall on** **Monday 22 January 2024**

Present:

Youth Councillors: Alex, Annabelle, Gabriel, George, Grace, Harry, Max, Nelson, Reggie, Rose.

Town Councillors: Alan Brown (AB)

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

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Asher and Rupert.

### **2. Election of Chair**

George was elected Chair for the meeting.

### **3. Matters Arising**

***Christmas Decoration Making*** – ST reported that CYC's Christmas tree at St Bartholomew's Church, featuring the decorations the Youth Councillors made at November's meeting, had looked lovely and the congregation had been delighted with it.

### **4. Corsham Town Council and Young People**

ST and AB highlighted some of the work with young people that the Town Council was currently undertaking.

#### ***Corsham Youth Zone (CYZ)***

The Town Council continued to help fund Corsham Youth Zone (CYZ), the youth club for age 11-plus, which took place at Springfield Community Campus on Friday nights, from 6.30-8pm and cost £1 for entry. The Club was run by volunteers and offered all kinds of indoor and outdoor activities and support for young people.

#### ***The Rise Trust***

RISE Trust's Detached Youth Workers were out in the town on Wednesday and Friday nights, from 6.30-8.30pm, 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. Until 20 February, and possibly until the end of the March, the Town Council was also funding the Open Blue Bus, a double-decker bus fitted out with a kitchen, game consoles and a chillout area as a warm space for young people on Wednesday nights from 7-8pm.

### ***Corsham Skatepark 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 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. Members of the Group were looking at various fundraising ideas and were also interested in attending school assemblies to explain their plans.

### ***Play Area Improvements***

The next play areas to be improved by the Town Council would be the two in Potley. People in the area, including children who use the playgrounds, would be asked for their thoughts on the designs.

#### **5. Corsham Community Awards**

The Town Council would be launching this year's Community Awards on 29 January. Town Councillors would like to see nominations for more young people in 2024, or nominations made by young people, so if Youth Councillors knew anyone who made a big difference to life in Corsham, ST encouraged them to fill out the nomination form. All the details and the form would be available on the Town Council's website at [corsham.gov.uk](http://corsham.gov.uk) or ST could send the forms out if anyone wanted one.

#### **6. Corsham Walking Festival**

The organisers of Corsham's annual Walking Festival (7-9 June 2024) want CYC's help with a project they will be running for schools in the run-up to the Festival in June. Margaret Winskill, from the Walking Festival Committee, would be coming along to March's meeting to explain more.

#### **7. CYC at the Summer Fete**

ST asked the Youth Councillors if they would be interested in running a stall, or helping at a Town Council stall, at the Summer Fete on Saturday 6 July, from 11am-3pm. This would be discussed in more detail at March's CYC meeting.

#### **8. Street Tag**

ST explained about a new initiative across Wiltshire called Street Tag. The idea was to get more people active through a Street Tag app on phones allowing people taking part to find virtual tags when they were out walking, running or cycling. More information was available at [wiltshire.gov.uk/physical-activity](http://wiltshire.gov.uk/physical-activity). Schools could take part too and ST would be contacting all of Corsham's schools to let them know about the project.

#### **9. Ideas and Suggestions for CYC Projects/Campaigns in 2023-24**

There were no ideas this time, but this item would stay on the agenda for each meeting so suggestions could be discussed.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

##### ***All-weather Pitch, Springfield Community Campus***

There was a discussion about using the all-weather pitch at Springfield Community Campus and whether it would be possible for groups to play on it for a reduced rate after school. ST explained that The Corsham School had exclusive use of the pitch until 5pm Monday-Friday in term-time but she would ask the Campus for more information.

##### ***Parking Outside Schools***

Parking outside schools was raised and the issue of how busy it can get. ST explained that there was no space to create car parks just for schools, but Youth Councillors could ask their schools to encourage parents to walk or cycle; to park further away and walk, perhaps by using the free two-hour parking that was available in all the town's public car parks.

#### **11. Date of Next Meeting**

**Monday 25 March 2024, 3.15pm at the Town Hall**

*ST 2.2.24*