

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Town Hall on Monday 13 February 2023

Present Councillor S Abbott (Chairman)
Councillors H Belcher OBE, N Brakspear, A Brown, T Bush,
A Crockford, T Ellis, R Hopkinson, A Mackie, J Roberton,
S Senior, A Thomas, G Ward, A White and R Williams

In Attendance B Baldwin (Business owner and resident)
S Baldwin (Business owner and resident)
Mrs K Gilby (Planning and Finance Officer)
Mrs M Jones (Head of Finance & Administration)
D Martin (Chief Executive)
PC A Naish (Wiltshire Police)
Sgt M Tripp (Wiltshire Police)

165/22 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors J Brook, N Farmer and D Jarman.

166/22 Public Question Time and Petitions

There were none.

167/22 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.

There were none.

168/22 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 9 January 2023

Resolved

That the Minutes be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

169/22 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were none.

170/22 Policing and Community Safety

- i) Sgt Tripp and PC Naish updated the Town Council on community safety issues including recent speed checks carried out around Corsham and speed patrols in Gastard. Culprits had been identified for recent motorbike thefts. PC Naish had given safety talks at local schools, visited the Corsham Youth Zone at Springfield and had spoken to the Outreach Workers.

Councillors mentioned Facebook posts from the police and how well the posts were keeping Corsham residents updated.

- ii) Councillors were asked if they wished to consider supporting preliminary proposals to ban laughing gas from general sale and possession nationally as a way to reduce anti-social behaviour. There had been evidence of the use of laughing gas at Springfield and Meriton recreation areas and elsewhere in the town. It was agreed to wait for formal Government consultation and then respond. In the meantime, Councillors were welcome to contact the MP individually. The Chief Executive would collect information on the locations of discarded laughing gas canisters for a limited period, to inform any future consultation.

171/22 Corsham Railway Station Land

Further to a letter dated January 2023 which Mr Baldwin had written to Town Councillors and the local MP concerning Baldwin's Stone Yard, Mr B Baldwin and Mr S Baldwin were in attendance to express their concerns about the inclusion of the Stone Yard within the area safeguarded for a new railway station in the Corsham Neighbourhood Plan. They felt strongly that the maps included in the Neighbourhood Plan did not clearly show the existing uses on the site. Mr B Baldwin requested a public apology and the retraction of his land from the Corsham Neighbourhood Plan.

Councillor S Abbott apologised on behalf of the Town Council for any stress and anxiety caused to Mr Baldwin and his family that making of the Corsham Neighbourhood Plan had caused. Councillor Abbott explained that he and officers had reviewed the process taken to draw up the Neighbourhood Plan and found the extensive consultation undertaken to have been open and transparent and carried out in accordance with government legislation and local professional advice and guidance. He explained that there would be opportunities for Mr Baldwin to comment on the local development plan through the Local Plan Review and a future Neighbourhood Plan review. It was possible that some of the land would not be needed for a new railway station and its associated infrastructure, but this was not known in any detail at present.

The item was opened for discussion. Points raised included that there had been previous applications for housing on the land; that with hindsight the landowners could have been approached directly earlier in the process; that the community consultation had taken place over a long period of time and had included newsletters to every household and that there was widespread support for a new railway station in the town.

Resolved

Councillor S Abbott would respond to Mr Baldwin's letter in full.

172/22 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reminded Councillors to let the Head of Community Services know if they would like to take part in the Makaton language training.

The Chairman and Chief Executive had met with the new Police Inspector Peter Foster.

In January the Chairman attended Flood Warden Training and an Emergency Plan Exercise at the Town Hall.

The Chairman and Chief Executive met with the owner of the Martingate Centre to discuss operational issues.

The Chairman reported that Corsham Climate Action Group held a successful waste and recycling event on 24 January.

The Chairman attended a Bath Spa Liaison meeting.

The Chairman asked that any Councillors willing to volunteer to marshal the Corsham 10K on 23 April please contact the Head of Community Services.

The Chairman, Councillors, Officers and members of the public attended Neston Recreation ground on 6 February where a memorial tree was planted by the Lord Lieutenant in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

173/22 Correspondence

- i) Members Information Sheet No. 536, 537 and 538 were noted.
- ii) Late correspondence – Correspondence had been received from NHS Property regarding the former Health Centre at Beechfield Road. It is likely that the building would be disposed of. The matter would be added to the next Council meeting agenda for discussion.

174/22 Reports from Council Representatives Appointed to Outside Bodies

Councillor Robertson reported that it was 10 years since Corsham achieved Fairtrade Town status. There would be a free event on 27 February at 7pm at The Pound to celebrate this.

Councillor Robertson reported that a new repair café was being set up in Corsham through Corsham Climate Action. The first event would be on 1 April at The Pound. If anyone was interested in finding out more or had administration or repair skills, they were encouraged to attend a meeting on 28 February at The Pound.

Councillor Bush reported that a meeting was being arranged for March 2023 to set up a disabled people's organisation for the area.

Councillor White reported that the Twinning Association was now doing really well after a difficult period.

Councillor White reported that Corsham Walking Festival was organising 18 walks for the event in June 2023.

Councillor Hopkinson reported that she has attended a theatre performance put on by the Hub of Creative Arts Therapists' group which had received a Town Council grant.

175/22 Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 11 January 2023

Resolved

That the Minutes be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

176/22 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were none.

177/22 Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 18 January 2023

Resolved

That the Minutes be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

178/22 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were none.

179/22 Minutes of the Council (Planning) Meeting held on 25 January 2023

Resolved

That the Minutes be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

180/22 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were none.

181/22 Minutes of the Corsham Youth Council meeting held on 23 January 2023

That the Minutes be noted.

182/22 Draft Calendar of Meetings 2023/24

The draft calendar of meetings for 2023/24 was considered.

Resolved

That the Calendar of Meetings for 2023/24 be approved.

183/22 Community Awards

The deadline for nominations for this year's Community Awards is 17 March 2023. The scheme is being promoted and it would be helpful if Town Councillors could encourage residents to nominate suitable candidates.

184/22 Issues for Corsham Area Board Consideration (*Various Minutes*)

There were no new issues.

185/22 Authorisation of cheques and payments

Name	Amount
Salaries & Payments - CTC Staff	£27,382.01
Wiltshire Pension Fund - Pension Contribution for February 2023	£8,666.80
HMRC - Tax & NI for February 2023	£9,003.73
Methuen Hall Trust - Hire of Council Chamber/Town Hall for February	£604.00
Corsham Print - Strategic Plan Booklets, Winter Newsletter Print, Grant Logo, Redesign Advert	£1,603.00
Langley Nurseries - Winter Planters/ Bedding/Xmas Tree/Oak Barrels	£1,963.92
A2i Transcription Services Ltd - Easy Read Versions of Strategic Plan and Community Engagement Strategy	£1,098.00
Simply Sweepers Ltd - Street Sweeping Zone 1	£630.00
Amazon Business - 5m and 8m Extension Leads, Mobile Phone Case, Pond Liner, Photo Frames	£144.91
J H Jones & Sons - Gravedigging x 2	£770.00
Wicksteed Leisure Ltd - Playground Spares for Dicketts Play Area	£396.22
Matthew Tett - Storytown Co-ordination	£1,000.00
Idverde - Monthly Grounds Maintenance and Toilet Cleaning	£3,049.70
Newsquest - Free Parking Adverts	£240.53
Chew Valley Trees Ltd - Queen Memorial Trees for Corsham Clubs and School and Replacement Trees	£1,480.49
Alarms & Electrical - Replace Faulty Smoke and Heat Detector in Arnold House	£279.00
A T Graphics Ltd (Coach Tours UK) - Advertising in February 2023	£216.00
Travis Perkins - Various Percussion Drill Bits, Heavy Duty Tape Measure, Pressed Slabs for Bench Installation at Springfield, Items for Cemetery and Allotments	£149.20
Crafty Cow Engraving - Oak Plaque with Ground Stake for Queen Elizabeth Memorial Tree	£38.95
Simply The Best Training Consultancy - Woodland Management for Conservation Training x 4 Members of Grounds Team	£576.00
Local Toilet Hire - 6 x Portable Toilets for Events Eco Fair/Taste	£1,020.00
No.3 The Deli - Emergency Flood Plan Exercise Lunch 15 Delegates	£120.00
Sonia Sansom - Makaton Taster Session Training	£55.60
Charles Wilson Ltd - Hire of Telehandler Take Down Christmas Lights	£672.00
Cooke Automotive - Great Wall Steed WV14 CYC Replace Fuel Filter	£92.78

Boson Web with Milk and Tweed - Website and Web Hosting	£978.00	
West Country Walling - Lacock Road Cemetery Wall 50% Deposit	£3,114.50	
CO2 Target Consultants - Energy Audit Town Hall/Arnold Hse/Guide Hut	£7,524.00	
Charles Saunders - 600 Black Bags and Blue Paper Towel Rolls	£176.56	
Your Wiltshire - Advertising in February Issue	£78.00	
Emorsgate Seeds - Wild Flower/Cornfield Mixture Seeds Springfield	£991.72	
Clarity Water Hygiene - Warning Signs and HSE Poster	£52.20	
Johns Associates - Biodiversity Action Plan Final Payment	£16,707.00	
Benjamin Smith - Hedgelaying at Beechfield Nature Area	£230.00	
Wadswick Green - Refreshments x 34 Delegates - Queen Elizabeth Memorial Tree Planting at Neston Recreation Ground	£578.00	
M B Bells - Work at TIC/Guide Hut Following 5 Year Fixed Wiring Test	£1,479.78	
Wiltshire Council - LHFIC Contribution	£5,358.67	
SLCC Enterprises - Community Engagement Seminar	£144.00	
Richard Henley Plumbing and Heating - Works to Public Toilets	£1,527.60	
John Miller Garden Machinery - Hire of Rotavator for One Week	£180.00	
West Country Tree Services Ltd - Tree Works at the Guide Hut	£378.00	
Charge Card		
Chew Valley Trees - Queens Memorial Oak Tree	£356.30	
Herschel - Infrared Portable Heaters for Main Office x 3	£558.00	
Midland Flags - Wiltshire Flag	£32.98	
GOV.UK - Land and Property Search	£24.00	
Cheque		
Petty Cash	£113.10	7802
Cheques / Internet Banking Paid Outside of Meeting		
Cotswold Natural Stone Ltd - Stone for Cross Keys Plinth and Lacock Road Cemetery Wall	£2,622.96	
Sub total	£104,458.21	
Payments Made by Direct Debit/Standing Order		
West Mercia Energy - Guide Hut Electricity - December	£92.05	
West Mercia Energy - Public Toilets Electricity Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec	£208.55	
SSE - Springfield Utilities January to February 2023	£101.68	
Excalibur - Upgrade Wi-Fi to Improve Connectivity for Meetings	£1,763.88	
Hills Waste - Refuse Collections	£538.82	
Vodafone - Monthly One Net Mobile Telephones	£593.72	
SGW Payroll - Monthly Payroll Processing	£56.64	
Peninsula - Monthly HR & H&S Advice	£439.19	
Viking Office Depot - Stationery, Postage, Computer Keyboard, Cable Cover	£674.06	
PWLB - Cemetery Loan Repayment	£3,709.94	
Mainstream Digital - Quarterly Line Rental	£41.40	
SUB TOTAL		
TOTAL	£112,678.14	

Direct Debits and Payments Taken and Reconciled in November

UK Fuels - Fuel for Work Vehicles	£308.43
Excalibur - January Monthly IT Support	£900.26
Charge Card Payment Taken in January	
Survey Monkey - Subscription	£408.00
Herschel - Infrared Heater for Chamber x 1	£359.00
Bath and Northeast Somerset - Penalty Charge	£69.00
Rawlins Trade Paint - Westwells Play Equipment	£74.24
Eventbrite - Social Isolation Webinar	£38.93

Resolved

That the cheques and transfers be authorised for payment.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and closed at 8.58pm. There were two members of the public present at the start of the meeting and none at the end.

CHAIRMAN

DATE