

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Town Hall on Monday 17 April 2023

Present Councillor S Abbott (Chairman)
Councillors H Belcher OBE, J Brook, A Brown, R Hopkinson,
M Jackson, S Senior, G Ward, A White and R Williams

In Attendance Insp P Foster (Wiltshire Police)
Mrs M Jones (Head of Finance & Administration)
D Martin (Chief Executive)
PC A Neish (Wiltshire Police)
Mrs S Thomas (Head of Community Services)
Sgt M Tripp (Wiltshire Police)
D Walters (Wiltshire Council Councillor)

In Attendance Online Councillors A Crockford, T Ellis, D Jarman and J Robertson

208/22 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors N Farmer, D Jarman, G McCaffery and A Thomas.

209/22 Public Question Time and Petitions

There were none.

210/22 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.

211/22 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13 March 2023

Resolved

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

212/22 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were none.

213/22 Policing and Community Safety

- i) Annual Police Report – Inspector Peter Foster updated the Council on police activity over the past year. This included crime statistics and local policing. He also informed the meeting that Corsham would be allocated two PCSO's and two PCs in the future in addition to the present policing staff.
- ii) PC Adam Neish had requested funding towards an e-bike for the Community Policing Team in Corsham. He had previously set up this scheme in Swindon where it had been very successful. The Town Council had been asked to provide funds for the purchase of the e-bike and an agreement would need to be put in place with Wiltshire Police.

Resolved

That, subject to appropriate terms and conditions, a grant of up to £2,750 be awarded to Wiltshire Police towards the purchase of an e-bike for community policing in the Corsham area.

- iii) Potential Boxing Club for Corsham – PC Adam Neish presented a proposal to set up a Boxing Club in Corsham for young people as a means of preventing crime and antisocial behaviour. The aim was to locate it at Corsham Gymnastics Academy, who would apply for funding.

The Town Council supported the proposal and would welcome a grant application towards the cost.

- iv) Other policing and community safety issues – Sgt Mike Tripp reported that the Campus staff had been experiencing verbal abuse and that two males had been arrested in connection with the incident. More visible police presence had been taking place to discourage the supply of drugs and antisocial behaviour in the Springfield area. The police CCTV van unit that was at Springfield Recreation Ground had been vandalised. Two males had been arrested for a burglary in Priory Street. More speeding checks had been carried out and this had been publicised on social media to deter offences and educate the public regarding road safety.

Councillors raised issues regarding speeding, drugs being sold at Springfield and police responses to reported crimes.

214/22 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman attended the Sports Forum on 20 March at the Town Hall.

On the 29 March the Chairman attended the Corsham School Liaison meeting. The School's wellbeing projects were discussed.

On the 30 March the Chairman attended the 'We Are The People' meeting in the Town Hall.

215/22 Correspondence

- i) Members Information Sheet Nos. 541 and 542 were noted.
- ii) Late correspondence – There was none.

216/22 Reports from Council Representatives Appointed to Outside Bodies

Councillor A Brown reported that Corsham Youth Zone had taken part in Headucate Mental Health Life Skills. They were also planning their summer residential to Oxford.

Councillor A Brown reported that St Aldhelm's Church winter warm space may extend for summer as a safe place.

Councillor A White reported that the Walkers are Welcome were linking up with National Heritage Open Days, Civic Society, Almshouses and disability walks for this year's festival.

Councillor J Robertson reported that Fairtrade would be attending the Eco Fair and supporting the 10k fun run by handing out bananas. She also reported that they were looking for a new co-ordinator for Fairtrade.

Councillor J Robertson reported that Corsham Climate Action would be at the Eco Fair. The monthly littler pick would be on 24 April and Repair Café on 29 April.

217/22 Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 15 March 2023

Resolved

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

218/22 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were none.

219/22 Minutes of the Council (Planning) Meeting held on 29 March 2023

Resolved

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

220/22 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were none.

221/22 Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 12 April 2023

Resolved

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

222/22 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were none.

223/22 Former Family Health Centre, Beechfield Road, Corsham (*Minute 173/22*)

Further to previous Council meetings, it was reported that a meeting with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) had been arranged via Cllr Crockford and The Rt Hon Michelle Donelan MP. The ICB's Place Director, Fiona Slevin-Brown had also been contacted, via Wiltshire Council, for an update. There had been several suggestions for potential uses of the former Family Health Centre which could be discussed once the ICB had reached a decision on the future of the property. It was agreed to keep this on the agenda.

224/22 Parking Charges for Blue Badge Holders

Further to the previous meeting, it was reported that the Chief Executive and Vice-Chair had met Wiltshire Council's Parking Services Manager to discuss trying to remove the requirement for Blue Badge holders to display a pay and display ticket for the first three hours parking. Agreement to trial this for a three-month period had been reached, subject to Cabinet Member approval. If approved, the trial would be reviewed with the hope that it would be made permanent. There is no additional charge to the Town Council for the trial.

225/22 The Future of Visit Wiltshire

The Town Council had been approached by the Chairman and Chief Executive of Visit Wiltshire concerning Wiltshire Council's future funding of the organisation. The Town Council is a member of Visit Wiltshire. A report by the Head of Community Services explained the situation and potential impact on Corsham's visitor economy. The report recommended writing to the Leader of Wiltshire Council in support of Visit Wiltshire's request regarding future funding.

Resolved

That the Town Council writes to Wiltshire Council asking that, in the light of the reorganisation of tourism in England, the government's own recommendations and the importance of Wiltshire being an LVEP (Local Visitor Economy Partnership), the decision to cease funding Visit Wiltshire from 2024/25 be reconsidered.

226/22 Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Update (*Minute 162/22 and others*)

The second monitoring report, in the form of a RAG (Red/Amber/Green) Report and update sheet was considered. All current activity was on schedule apart from completion of the review of crime data from the police crime map (www.police.uk). This had proved to be very time-consuming if the data was to be collected at parish area level rather than community policing team area. It was agreed to use community policing team area figures to identify problem areas and incidents.

The update was noted.

227/22 Committee Preferences and Representation on Outside Bodies

The Chief Executive explained the process for deciding Membership of Committees and appointing Representatives to Outside Bodies in preparation for the Annual Council Meeting on 15 May 2023. Preference sheets would be issued for completion by 9 May 2023.

228/22 Issues for Corsham Area Board Consideration (*Various Minutes*)

There were no new issues.

229/22 Authorisation of cheques and payments

Salaries & Payments - CTC Staff	£27,841.64
Wiltshire Pension Fund - Pension Contribution for April 2023	£9,200.33
HMRC - Tax & NI for April	£9,373.77
Methuen Hall Trust - Half Yearly Grant	£21,132.50
Methuen Hall Trust - Hire of Council Chamber and Town Hall for April	£627.00
Wiltshire Council Non-Domestic Rates - Ladbrook Lane Cemetery	£1,896.20
Wiltshire Council Non-Domestic Rates - Arnold House	£969.31
Pear Technology - Technical Support and Software Updates 2023-24	£288.00
Today Magazines Ltd - Quarter Page Advert	£234.00
Wired Publishing - Eco Fair Advert	£118.80
Corsham Print - Reusable Banners Plastic Free Corsham, UK Coach Tours Ad	£108.00
Anywhere Deckchairs - 36 x Traditional Deckchairs for Taste of Corsham	£696.00
Your Wiltshire - Advertising Eco Fair and Free Parking	£156.00
Great West Way - Annual Membership Fee	£2,118.00
The Pound Arts Trust - Grant 1st Instalment	£3,000.00
Travis Perkins - 20 x Round Pointed Posts for Play Areas	£149.04
Community First - Membership Renewal	£60.00
J H Jones - Gravedigging x 1	£500.00
Online Playgrounds - Pine Half Log for Westwells Play Area	£17.20
Dignity Funerals Ltd - Return Payment Made in Error by Funeral Director	£600.00
Tudor Environmental - Chainsaw Gloves, Helmet and Ear-muffs	£91.69
Amazon Business - Laptop Case	£22.94
Brooks Smith Gallery Ltd - Changes and Additions to Corsham Retail Map	£120.00
Boson Web with Milk and Tweed - Website Support and Hosting	£978.00
Payments in April for works in 2022/23	
Corsham Print -Spring Newsletter Design/Print, Corex Boards	
Potley Art Project	£1,028.00
Newsquest Media Group - Free Parking Advert	£161.46
Community Heartbeat - Defibrillator Pads	£72.00
Eibe - Repair Work at Katherine Park Green Play Area	£5,331.60
Hartham Park Estates Ltd - Water Use at Middlewick Allotments	£18.46
Global Media Group Services Ltd - Radio Advertising Free	£1,071.58

Parking		
Amazon - Photo Frames for Corsham In Bloom	£43.98	
J D Pillinger Plumbing - Flat 2 Boiler Call Out	£78.00	
Payments Made by Direct Debit/Standing Order for works in 2022/23		
SSE - Electricity Guide Hut	£23.86	
SSE - Electricity Springfield	£140.38	
UK Fuels - Fuel for Works Vehicles	£66.77	
Hills Waste Solutions - Skip Exchange and Waste Collections	£817.42	
Cheque		
Petty Cash	£81.10	7806
Charge Card		
123 Registration - Domain Renewal for Corsham Railway Station	£20.39	
Eventbrite - Fighting Climate Change with Local Council Action	£39.22	
Brandon Hire Station - Power Brush for Coppershell Surfacing	£113.93	
Chocolate Trading Co - Chocolates for Easter Bug Hunt	£19.85	
Sub total	£89,426.42	
Cheques / Internet Banking Paid Outside of Meeting		
Corsham Community Club - Donation Towards Coronation Tea Party	£550.00	
Mrs W Johnston - Refund for Ashes Interment Paid Twice	£200.00	
Payments Made by Direct Debit/Standing Order		
Uk Fuels - Fuel for Work Vehicles	£177.81	
SGW Payroll - Monthly Payroll Processing	£56.64	
Peninsula - Monthly HR & H&S Consultancy	£304.98	
Bridge Solutions (Excalibur) - Dell Laptop/Warranty/Configuration ST	£1,178.99	
Bridge Solutions - Monthly IT Support	£937.98	
SUB TOTAL	£3,406.40	
TOTAL	<u>£92,832.82</u>	

Resolved

That the cheques and transfers be authorised for payment.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and closed at 9.03pm. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

CHAIRMAN

DATE