

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Services Committee Meeting held at  
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 13 March 2019**

**Present** Councillor M Jackson (Acting Chairman)  
Councillors Ms L Bray, J Maloney, Mrs G Sanders, R Taylor, Mrs M Wakeman,  
Mrs A White

**In Attendance** Cllr S Abbott  
Mrs S Thomas (Head of Community Services)

**CS 45/18 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs N Farmer and D Jarman.

**CS 46/18 Public Question Time and Petitions**

There were none.

**CS 47/18 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.

**CS 48/18 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held 16 January 2019.**

There were none.

**CS 49/18 Taste of Corsham Food Festival 15 June 2019 (*Minute CS 31/18 and others*)**

The Committee was given an update on the plans for this year's Taste of Corsham Food Festival. The logo and booking form had been updated. The Pound would be organising the entertainment on the Taste Stage, and busking slots in the town centre, as part of their Blue Sky Festival, which takes place over the same weekend. The road closure had been applied for. There had been a lot of interest from previous stallholders as well as new enquiries, and booking forms would be issued in April. Corsham Digital Mansion had also been contacted about involving them/the building space in the event on the day. First aid cover had also been booked.

The update was noted.

## **CS 50/18 Corsham Market (*Minutes CS 35/18, 23/18 and others*)**

With reference to the Town Council's Strategic Plan Objective (OB5) – *To review the town market and explore ways to improve this activity*, the Society for Local Council Clerks' Local Council Consultancy (LCC) had submitted their report.

The Committee was asked to advise on how it wished to proceed with the suggestions made in the report's Summary and Action Plan, particularly points 8.1 regarding whether the Town Council wished to become a market authority, and 8.2 regarding the need for a Market Policy/Strategy should they wish to do so. The Committee was also asked whether it wished Officers to investigate the findings further and report back in due course.

The discussion raised a number of points. While the report was thought to be excellent, it was felt that it needed more work before decisions could be made. The report needed more research on the lessons to learn from the success of Frome market; the impact (positive and negative) of Sunday markets; more detail on Farmers' Markets and Continental Markets; more input from Tom Ince, Wiltshire Council's Markets Officer as he had previously discussed a list of potential stallholders which was not mentioned in the report, and nor was Royal Wootton Bassett's market, which is run by the Town Council, which should also be mentioned.

Other points raised included the possibility of the Town Council taking on the market from Wiltshire Council, and the importance of not losing the market element of Corsham; the location of the market - High Street versus car park, or the possibility of relocating to the Royal Oak, although it was felt that the Tuesday market was probably best left where it was but there was potential for themed markets to be held in the High Street on a Saturday each month, fitting around the existing Taste of Corsham and Street Fair events; setting up a Friends of Corsham Market group, and adding a question about the market to the wider town centre survey being undertaken by Cllr Trixy Alberga.

### **Resolved:**

- i) That the LCC be asked to expand on their report to include the points raised.
- ii) That Officers investigate the findings in the report further, particularly the potential for themed markets. Cllr Gillian Sanders had already discussed holding a 'Green Fair' with Transcoco and would discuss the potential for this with them in more detail.
- iii) That Cllr Trixy Alberga be asked to add a question on the market to the town centre survey.

## **CS 51/18 Public Art and Exhibitions**

The Committee was updated on the work being undertaken with regard to public art in Corsham and the series of Chamber Exhibitions at the Town Hall.

The Arts and Tourism Officer was working with the organisers and artists for this year's Peacock Arts Trail, due to take place from 5-13 October, with three artists looking at exhibiting at the Town Hall. Following the success of the Youth Art Competition in 2017, it had been decided to run another competition for young people, this time on the theme of 'The View From my Window', with the winners being exhibited at the Town Hall

during the course of the Trail. It was suggested that the exhibition could move to Springfield Campus after the Trail to give more people a chance to see the artwork.

The Chamber Exhibition diary was now full for 2019, with nine artists already on the list for 2020. Footfall for the current exhibition by Anne Pyne had been impressive.

A piece of public art had been suggested for the Cross Keys junction, following the public realm work to be undertaken in the summer, and a design brief had been put together, with advice from Meril Morgan, Wiltshire Council's Arts Officer. Andrew Hall, from Martingate, was also hoping to expand the public art sites around the town, following on from the success of the Co-Op mural, and had identified a number of potential buildings and walls, including the John Parker Gallery/Corsham Bookshop building. He was in discussion with The Pound to take the project further. The Arts and Tourism Officer would also be working on a public art trail to help promote Corsham's links with the Arts, incorporating various sites around the town. It was suggested that the cornucopia in Newlands Road Car Park, owned by Martingate, was in urgent need of attention or removal.

The update was noted.

**Resolved:**

- i) That the Arts and Tourism Officer contact Springfield Campus to see whether it would be possible to move the Peacock Arts Trail Youth Competition display to their exhibition site after the Peacock Arts Trail had ended.
- ii) That Martingate be contacted to discuss possible plans for repairing/removing the cornucopia.

**CS 52/18 High Street Defibrillator**

Following an incident requiring urgent medical attention, a member of St Bartholomew's Church congregation had approached the Town Council about the possibility of a second town centre defibrillator (the first is in Newlands Road Car Park) being sited at the Town Hall/St Bart's end of the High Street. The Town Council's Strategic Plan Safe and Healthy Community Objective (SH6): *To support and provide public safety measures, includes providing facilities, including defibrillators as a possible action.*

The Committee was asked to approve the suggestion that Officers investigate further potential sites and the work involved.

**Resolved:**

- i) That Officers investigate the possibility of installing a defibrillator at the Town Hall/St Bart's end of the High Street, including looking at potential sites. (The telephone box was suggested.)
- ii) That, should a suitable site be found, St Bart's be asked to help fund the installation of the defibrillator.

**CS 53/18 Tourism Update**

The Committee was updated on the work being undertaken to encourage visitors to Corsham. Membership of Visit Wiltshire, Visit Bath and the Great West Way was

working well. The Head of Community Services had attended the South West Group Travel Show at Longleat, sharing a stand space with Visit Wiltshire and Bowood House, and there had been a lot of interest in bringing groups to Corsham.

Both the Corsham Town Guide and the What's On brochure were in the process of being updated. The Town Guide would be delivered to all households as in previous years and be available at events as a promotional tool.

Press coverage had seen an increase in recent weeks with the regular 'Going Places' feature in the Home section of The Sunday Times featuring Corsham (with a second feature planned for later in the year); full-page advertising in Wiltshire Living magazine, and good press coverage of the the second lion, painted by Jonathan Sanders with scenes of Wiltshire, which had also been linked to Visit Wiltshire and the Great West Way via social media.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt was also planned to take place from 6-23 April, with local press advertising booked.

The update was noted.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and closed at 8.24pm. There were no members of the public present.

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE