

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Services Committee Meeting held at
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 13 September 2017**

Present Councillor N Pocock (Chairman)
Councillors Ms L Bray, C Fuller, Mrs R Hopkinson, M Jackson, D Jones,
S Moysey, R Taylor

In Attendance Miss S Szakalo (Tourism and Events Officer)
Mrs S Thomas (Head of Community Services)

CS 24/17 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors N Farmer, Mrs M Wakeman and Mrs A White.

CS 25/17 Public Question Time and Petitions

There were none.

CS 26/17 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 27/17 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 12 July 2017

There were none.

CS 28/17 Reports from Council representatives appointed to outside bodies

There were none.

CS 29/17 Strategic Plan Monitoring and Evaluation (*Minute CS 17/17 and others*)

The Head of Community Services gave an update on progress made on those Strategic Plan themes covered by the Community Services Committee: Destination Corsham; Alive with Centres of Excellence; Open to Business and Safe and Healthy Community.

The update was noted.

CS 30/17 Street Fair 16 September 2017 (*Minute CS 19/17 and others*)

The Head of Community Services gave an update on the plans for the Street Fair due to take place on Saturday 16 September 2017. Over 30 stalls were booked; the entertainment was arranged, including local dance acts and buskers performing on the High Street; there would be a creepy-crawly trail for children with spiders (made by The Pound) in the shop windows, including those on Pickwick Road to improve the footfall in that area; animals from the Little Zoo and a circus skills workshop.

The update was noted.

CS 31/17 Summer Holiday Activities

The Head of Community Services reported on the free activities for children that were run through the summer holidays. There had been 32 entries in the Peacock Feather Trail and 17 in the Corsham in Focus Junior competition and while the number of final entries was not as high as the Easter Competition, for example, it was felt that running summer holiday activities was a worthwhile way of encouraging visitors to the town and to visit the local shops and businesses.

The update was noted.

CS 32/17 Peacock Arts Trail 2017

The Tourism and Events Officer gave an update on the Town Council's involvement in this year's Peacock Arts Trail (30 September-8 October). The Town Hall would play host to two of the artists on the Trail, Jonathan Sanders and Anya Beaumont, as well as displaying the winners and entries in the Youth Art Competition which was open to all under-18s within the Trail's boundary and had the theme 'Mythical Peacocks'. The Town Hall would also be a venue for the national 'Big Draw' campaign throughout the Trail, with Anya Beaumont running a 'Map Me' project for young people. The official launch of the Trail and Youth Art Exhibition would take place on Friday 30 September from 7-9pm, at the Town Hall and all Town Councillors were invited.

The update was noted.

CS 33/17 Christmas Lights Switch On 1 December 2017 (*Minute CS 20/17 and others*)

The Head of Community Services gave a brief update on the plans for the Christmas Lights Switch On. The road closure application had been sent to Wiltshire Council and, it was hoped, would start at 3pm this year to allow more time to set up. Following July's meeting, at which the potential for a choir leading carol-singing had been discussed, she had been in discussion with the choirmaster of St Bart's Church to see if they would like to be involved. It was felt that the timing may not work for the choir, but the choirmaster was considering the possibility of taking part. If St Bart's was unable to lead the carol-singing then the Head of Community Services would ask another group, possibly the Military Wives Choir, to take part.

The update was noted.

CS 34/17 Events in 2018

It is proposed that the Town Council runs at least four major events in 2018 on the following suggested dates:

Taste of Corsham	Saturday 16 June (to coincide with The Pound's Blue Sky Festival)
Summer Fete	Saturday 7 July (Armed Forces Day (30 June) connection)
Street Fair	Saturday 15 September
Christmas Lights	Friday 7 December

(The Corsham Commemorates group also intends to run an event recreating the celebrations held in Corsham to mark the end of the Great War on Sunday 11 November. With plans at a very early stage, this event was not included in the above list.)

The Head of Community Services highlighted the impact running at least four events would have on the Community Services budget, and the necessity for Town Councillors to help at events given the extra workload on staff, particularly with Taste of Corsham and the Summer Fete being just three weeks apart.

The Head of Community Services asked the Committee to agree to the four events and the proposed dates.

Resolved

That the four events and proposed dates for 2018 be approved, and that the impact on budget and the help required by Councillors be noted.

CS 35/17 Free Parking Fridays

Following the Town Council and Martingate Centre's joint funding of Free Parking Fridays in October 2016 and January, April and July 2017, the Committee was asked for their views on the scheme and whether the Town Council should continue its involvement in funding free parking.

The Head of Community Services reported that Andrew Hall of the Martingate Centre was reluctant to fund any more Free Parking Fridays until he had analysed the data available from Wiltshire Council, but Officers felt that Free Parking Fridays in November and on 1 December to coincide with the Christmas Lights Switch On would help the local businesses in the run-up to Christmas. There was money in the budget to allow the Town Council to fund five more Free Parking Fridays in 2017, before reconsidering the scheme in 2018. The Committee was asked to approve Free Parking Fridays in November and on 1 December.

Resolved

That the Town Council fund Free Parking Fridays in November and on 1 December, but that the associated advertising, etc, highlights the fact that this is a Town Council funded project and is likely to be the last time that Free Parking Fridays are run before the scheme is reconsidered in 2018.

CS 36/17 Corsham in Bloom

Given the amount of work involved in preparing the town for the South West in Bloom judges' visit and the likely increased workload for staff resulting from Taste of Corsham and the Summer Fete taking place in the run-up to judging in 2018, the Committee was asked to agree that Corsham takes at least a one year break from entering South West in Bloom. (Corsham's in-town competitions and community groups entering the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood Awards would be unaffected, and the annual awards ceremony would still take place.)

Resolved

That Corsham does not enter South West in Bloom in 2018, and a decision on future involvement be taken in early 2019 when entries for that year's competition open.

CS 37/17 Wiltshire Mobile Library Service Routine Review

Wiltshire Council's Mobile Library Service was under review again, with a public consultation running online (<http://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/MobileLibrary>) until 4 November 2017. The only route that incorporated Corsham (the Rudloe stop is now in Box following the Community Governance review) was the fortnightly stop at Pitts Croft in Neston, and this was due to continue, albeit with a change to arrival and departure times. Currently, the mobile library was in Neston from 3.15-3.45pm. From February, the time may change to 3.00-3.45pm.

Resolved

- i) That the consultation and changes to the timetable in Neston be noted.
- ii) That an article be submitted to Neston News highlighting the public consultation and the possible changes in February 2018.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and closed at 8.11pm. There were no members of the public present.

CHAIRMAN

DATE