

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Services Committee Meeting held at
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 14 March 2018**

Present Councillor N Pocock (Chairman)
Councillors Ms L Bray, M Jackson, D Jones, S Moysey, Mrs A White,
Mrs C Woodward

In Attendance Mrs S Thomas (Head of Community Services)

CS 59/17 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs N Farmer, C Fuller, Mrs R Hopkinson, R Taylor and Mrs M Wakeman

CS 60/17 Public Question Time and Petitions

There were none.

CS 61/17 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 62/17 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 17 January 2017

There were none.

CS 63/17 Reports from Council representatives appointed to outside bodies

There were none.

CS 64/17 Strategic Plan Monitoring and Evaluation (*Minute CS 53/17 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 65/17 Taste of Corsham 16 June 2018 (*Minute CS 55/17 and others*)

The Head of Community Services updated the Committee on the plans for this year's Taste of Corsham food festival which will, again, link up with The Pound's Blue Sky Festival. A 'Save the Date' email had been sent to all producers who took part in the 2017 event and, at the beginning of February, booking forms were despatched. There are 34 producers on the list, including a number of new ones for 2018, and almost a third have already confirmed attendance. Sixteen High Street businesses were also keen to be involved, including Queen Square Wealth Management who have agreed to sponsor the event. Nationwide Building Society was interested in sending a team of volunteers to help on the day. New branding had been created, still incorporating the 'Taste of Corsham' logo, and publicity was underway. An art exhibition was also planned with artists being asked to design and produce a unique piece of art on bamboo plates which would then be displayed at locations around the town including, it is hoped, The Methuen Arms, The Flemish Weaver, Grounded, Corsham Café and The Pound.

The Taste of Corsham/Blue Sky Festival weekend would also coincide with the 350th Anniversary of the Almshouses and it was hoped that Bath Spa University would be able to hold an Open Day on 16 June as well.

The Head of Community Services and Tourism and Events Officer would be meeting with The Pound to discuss booking entertainers and musicians for Taste of Corsham and other events.

The Committee was asked to approve the plans so far.

Resolved

That the plans for the Taste of Corsham 2018 food festival be approved.

CS 66/17 Summer Fete 7 July 2018 (*Minute CS 56/17 and others*)

The Head of Community Services updated the Committee on the plans for this year's Summer Fete. She was due to meet with MOD Corsham's Garrison Sergeant Major to discuss their involvement (barbecue, bar, assault course, vehicles, etc); Guide Dogs for the Blind had agreed to arrange the Dog Show; following on from discussions at the Sports Forum, local clubs were interested in running taster sessions and/or promoting their activities; the fairground rides were arranged and Little Zoo had already confirmed their attendance. Previous stallholders would be approached in April with regards to booking stall spaces.

The Committee was asked to approve the plans so far.

Resolved

That the plans for the Summer Fete be approved.

CS 67/17 The Great West Way

The Committee was updated on Visit Wiltshire's Great West Way project, the aim of which was to create a tourism route along the A4, and 15 miles either side, between London and Bristol (due to launch in March 2019). Corsham has been a major part of the project since its inception, with Community Services staff attending conferences, workshops and consultation events on the plans.

Last year the project received over £1m from Visit Britain to help finance the scheme, with one condition being that overseas visitors – and particularly those from the US, Germany and Holland – be a major target market. As a result of this, a group of 15 German tour operators had visited Corsham at the end of February as part of a Great West Way familiarisation visit organised by Visit Wiltshire, and four US tour operators, travelling independently, were due to visit in late March.

It was felt that the potential for the Great West Way, and its impact on tourism in Corsham, would be significant, and the Committee was asked to approve Corsham's continued involvement in the Great West Way.

Resolved

That Corsham's continued involvement in the Great West Way be approved.

CS 68/17 Corsham Market

The Chief Executive and Head of Community Services had recently met with Wiltshire Council's Markets Team to discuss Corsham's Tuesday Market. Unfortunately the increase in stalls when the market moved to Newlands Road car park had not been maintained and, as with so many small markets in the county, Corsham was struggling, with only two regular stalls attending each week. The lack of stalls meant a lack of footfall, and the lack of footfall meant a lack of stalls. The Markets Manager did confirm that they had no plans at all to close the market and would continue with two stalls for as long as possible, but recognised that this did not make an attractive offering for residents and visitors. Various options were being investigated including offering market pitches to current businesses in the town; offering reduced rates to new stallholders and improving marketing, including using the national Love Your Market campaign in May.

It was proposed that Corsham Market become a regular Community Services agenda item so that progress can be monitored.

Resolved

That Corsham Market become a regular agenda item so that progress can be monitored by the Community Services Committee.

CS 69/17 Corsham Commemorates

The Head of Community Services gave an update on the work of the Corsham Commemorates Group, and the plans to mark the end of the World War One centenary in November. The Pound was planning a major event on Saturday 10 November to remember the 115 men whose lives were lost, incorporating art, music, readings and street theatre. Then, on the afternoon of Sunday 11 November, Armistice Day, following

the traditional Remembrance Sunday Service and wreath-laying at the War Memorial, it was proposed to recreate the events of 1918, as news reached Corsham that the Great War was over. From newspaper reports at the time it was known that “bunting was put about the houses” and a church service was held. St Bart’s had already agreed to recreate the service, as details of the hymns, etc, were available, and plans were underway to invite residents living on and near the High Street to get involved.

The update was noted.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and closed at 8.41pm. There were no members of the public present.

CHAIRMAN

DATE