

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Services Committee Meeting held at
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 17 January 2018**

Present Councillor N Pocock (Chairman)
Councillors C Fuller, Mrs R Hopkinson, M Jackson, S Moysey, R Taylor,
Mrs A White, Mrs C Woodward

In Attendance Mrs S Thomas (Head of Community Services)

CS 48/17 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Ms L Bray, N Farmer, D Jones and
Mrs M Wakeman

CS 49/17 Public Question Time and Petitions

There were none.

CS 50/17 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 51/17 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting
held on 8 November 2017**

There were none.

CS 52/17 Reports from Council representatives appointed to outside bodies

There were none.

CS 53/17 Strategic Plan Monitoring and Evaluation (*Minute CS 43/17 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 54/17 Christmas Lights Switch On 1 December 2017 (*Minute CS 46/17 and others*)

The Head of Community Services reported back on the Christmas Lights event, which took place on Friday 1 December 2017. It was considered to be the biggest and best event yet, with a definite increase in visitor numbers. Feedback from everyone involved had been very positive. The Committee asked that their thanks be passed on to the Town Hall staff for all the hard work involved in putting on such a successful event. The Head of Community Services had already been in discussions with The Pound regarding performers for this year's Christmas Lights and looking at the setting-up arrangements on the stage. Other suggestions included looking at the location of the grotto given the crowds by the stage and the Flemish Weaver serving food outside; creating an area for the disabled near the stage and trying to increase awareness of the road closure.

The update was noted.

CS 55/17 Taste of Corsham 16 June 2018 (*Minute CS 18/17 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 was sent out in December to all previous stallholders and a number of them have already registered their interest in taking part again, as have a number of potential new stallholders. A booking form would be sent out at the end of January. A new design for posters and publicity was underway, still incorporating the 'Taste of Corsham' logo. An art exhibition was also planned. A call would be going out to artists asking them to design and produce a unique piece of art on a bamboo plate which will 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 also coincides with the 350th Anniversary of the Almshouses and it was hoped to bring in an historical food element to link both events.

CS 56/17 Summer Fete 7 July 2018 (*Minute CS 34/17 and others*)

It was proposed that this year's Summer Fete links with Armed Forces Day, as happened in 2010 and 2014. Armed Forces Day would take place on Saturday 30 June but events in support can officially take place a week either side of that date. The Committee was asked to approve the suggestion. It was also suggested that there should be a display of old military vehicles and that the Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry be contacted to provide a display. The Head of Community Services would contact the Garrison Sergeant Major at MOD Corsham for his help in providing military-based displays, events and catering.

Resolved

That this year's Summer Fete is linked with Armed Forces Day and is promoted as an Armed Forces Day event.

CS 57/17 Corsham Storytown Festival

The Committee was updated on the proposed Corsham Storytown project. The idea behind Storytown was to bring together Corsham's heritage, creativity and technology to create a bold, modern, cultural event, celebrating Corsham's historic and artistic

legacy through the telling of stories. It was planned to be a biennial event held in October, alternating with The Peacock Arts Trail. Dates would be confirmed once a clearer picture of likely events, contributors and exhibitions was finalised. Potential venues included St Bart's, John Parker Gallery, Corsham Bookshop, The Pound, the Almshouses, Corsham Court/Bath Spa University, the Methuen Arms, the Town Hall, Hartham Park and the library.

The Committee suggested including activities for children, or a Children's Literature Festival as part of the event and having a well-known author to open the Festival who could write the first paragraph of a story that could then be added to throughout the event.

The update was noted.

CS 58/17 Public Art and Exhibitions

Following the success of the repainting of the Corsham lion, the 'Fantastic Plastic' birds at Springfield Rec and the Corsham Mural, the Committee was updated on further plans for more public art in the town. Following the redecoration of the Council Chamber, the first in a series of quarterly Chamber Exhibitions would start at the end of January. This was due to be a curated exhibition of work by Corsham Arts Society under the title 'Light and Darkness, Brightness and Obscurity'. It was hoped that Bill Hall (the owner of the Martingate Centre) would acquire another lion for the town which would be designed and decorated by a local artist. Bill Hall was also keen to commission another mural at the Martingate Centre.

The Committee was also asked to approve Corsham's potential involvement in Bath's newest sculpture trail – Minerva's Owls – which will follow on from the city's previous Pride in Our City – Lions of Bath trail in 2010 and King Bladud's Pigs in 2008. Discussions had been held with the organisers, who were very keen to extend the trail out to other places around Bath. The Head of Community Services and Tourism and Events Officer were looking for larger businesses, or perhaps a group of businesses, in Corsham who might be interested in sponsoring a large owl sculpture for the town.

Resolved

That the Head of Community Services and Tourism and Events Officer continue to work with the Minerva's Owls organisers and local businesses to enable Corsham to be involved in the project and gain from the increased publicity and footfall this involvement would bring.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and closed at 8.18pm. There were no members of the public present.

CHAIRMAN

DATE