

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Services Committee Meeting held at  
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 18 July 2018**

**Present** Councillor N Farmer (Chairman)  
Councillors Ms L Bray, C Fuller, M Jackson, Mrs G Sanders, R Taylor,  
Mrs M Wakeman and Mrs C Woodward

**In Attendance** Mrs K Gilby (Planning and Events Officer)  
Mrs S Thomas (Head of Community Services)

**CS 13/18 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs D Jarman and Mrs A White

**CS 14/18 Public Question Time and Petitions**

There were none.

**CS 15/18 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 16/18 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 16 May 2018**

There were none.

**CS 17/18 Reports from Council representatives appointed to outside bodies**

There were none.

**CS 18/18 Review of Taste of Corsham 16 June 2018 (*Minute CS 07/18 and others*)**

The Planning and Events Officer reported on this year's Taste of Corsham event which had, again, been very successful with excellent feedback from both visitors and stallholders alike. The wet weather forecast undoubtedly had an impact on visitor numbers and the length of time people stayed, particularly during the first half of the event, but the stallholders had all done well and were very happy with the event as a whole. The Taste Trail had proved very successful again, with 130+ entries, and excellent reactions from those who went on the Trail as well as the nine local

businesses involved. A number of those businesses have already asked about being involved in other events and taking part in the event again next year. The Pound's events for the Blue Sky Festival, Corsham Almshouses, with their 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, and Bath Spa University's Open Day had also been successful and helped to create a vibrant atmosphere in town all day.

The Committee was asked to agree to Taste of Corsham continuing as an annual event and, that being the case, approve the suggested date of Saturday 15 June for 2019's food festival.

The update was noted.

### **Resolved**

- (i) That Taste of Corsham continues as an annual event.
- (ii) That 2019's food festival should take place on Saturday 15 June.

### **CS 19/18 Review of the Summer Fete 7 July 2018 (*Minute CS 08/18 and others*)**

The Head of Community Services reported on this year's Summer Fete. The event had undoubtedly been hit by the extremely hot weather and the clash with England's quarter-final World Cup match, which meant visitors did leave early and the Fete ended sooner than planned. Even with this, though, the stallholders were very happy with how the Fete had gone and what they had achieved, and the visitor feedback was also very good. Holding the event on the same day as the Creative Corsham Market (11am-3pm) at the Campus had made for joint marketing opportunities, and the help and support from both Springfield Campus and MOD Corsham, with the wide range of activities they both ran on the day, had helped to create a lively, vibrant Summer Fete.

There were some suggestions for improvements for 2020's Summer Fete. The stage area should move closer to the Skate Park so the power points there can be used, rather than relying on a generator; the live entertainment should be more mixed and the availability of the stand pipe for water should be sign-posted so visitors can fill their water bottles, etc, particularly alongside Corsham's aims to reduce single-use plastics.

The Committee was also asked to approve the date for 2020's Fete. The suggestions were either Saturday 4 July (which could then be considered an Armed Forces Day event as it would be within one week of the official Armed Forces Day on 27 June 2020) or Saturday 11 July, which would be too late to be linked to Armed Forces Day. Both dates would avoid any clashes with the next major footballing competition, Euro 2020; the matches on 4 July both take place in the evening and 11 July is a rest day ahead of the final. It was felt that Corsham's links to the Armed Forces should still be promoted and therefore 4 July was felt to be the best date.

The times of the Fete were also discussed as some of the stallholders had suggested that 11am-3pm would be better. It was felt that this would work well, particularly as the timings would fit with the Creative Corsham Market, but it could be discussed in more detail nearer the time.

The update was noted.

### **Resolved**

- (i) That the next Summer Fete be held on 4 July 2020.

- (ii) That changing the event's times from 12-4pm to 11am-3pm be discussed again when planning for the 2020 Fete begins.

**CS 20/18 Street Fair 15 September 2018 (*Minute CS 44/17 and others*)**

The Planning and Events Officer reported on the plans so far for this year's Street Fair on Saturday 15 September. Fourteen stalls were already confirmed, with another 13 provisionally booked. The Pound would be involved, primarily by way of promoting November's Magic and Mayhem Festival. The PA system and a dance act and three music acts were already confirmed for the entertainment line-up, plus Dave Hickory, the children's entertainer. Local businesses keen to take part included The Flemish Weaver and Imperial Garden Chinese Restaurant. May's Greengrocer had agreed to sponsor a 'fruit trail' with a family prize of a fruit and vegetable hamper, with more child-friendly prizes (eg a Mr Potato Head game) also included.

The update was noted.

**CS 21/18 Corsham Storytown (*Minute CS 09/18*)**

The Committee was updated on the plans for the town's literary event, 19-21 October 2018, where a number of co-ordinated events around the town would take place under the Corsham Storytown brand. The Pound, the Library, Corsham Bookshop, Bath Spa University and a number of local writers and writing groups were already involved. There would be events for all age groups and the schools would be encouraged to take part. Bath Spa University, under its Paper Nations/Dare to Write project, had offered to help fund a co-ordinator for the event, and invitations to tender for both that role and other activities were currently out. The Head of Community Services would be involved in the selection process and the co-ordinator would work with both BSU and the Town Council on the event. It was hoped that Storytown would launch an ongoing, year-round series of events for writers. A further update would be given at the next meeting.

The update was noted.

**CS 22/18 Christmas Lights Switch On 7 December 2018 (*Minute CS 54/17 and others*)**

The Committee was asked for ideas and suggestions for this year's Christmas Lights Switch On on 7 December. There had been some discussion after last year's event with regard to moving the reindeer and Santa's Grotto slightly further away to ease the congestion around the stage. It had also been suggested that an area be set up near the stage for disabled people and those with special needs. Both these ideas would be looked at in more detail.

The Committee was also asked to approve the date for the Wishing Tree event. In the normal course, the Wishing Tree is held on the last Saturday in November, ahead of the Lights Switch On on the first Friday in December. This year, with the Lights Switch On taking place on Friday 7 December, it was suggested that the Wishing Tree take place on Saturday 1 December.

**Resolved**

That this year's Wishing Tree event takes place on Saturday 1 December.

**CS 23/18 Corsham Market (*Minute CS 11/18, 68/17*)**

Following the discussion at the previous Community Services meeting the Head of Community Services had been to visit Royal Wootton Bassett's market and discussed the set-up with the Town Council officers there, who had taken over the running of the market from Wiltshire Council. At present, there are up to eight stalls at the market who pay nothing for their pitches. The market is set at the far-end of the High Street, away from most of the other shops, and in car park spaces owned by the Town Council so there is no requirement to pay Wiltshire Council for loss of revenue.

There was some discussion about encouraging people to use Corsham's market but, at present, with only two stalls, that was proving difficult. The future of the market is covered by the new Strategic Plan 2018-2022 so would be discussed in more detail in time. In the interim Corsham Market would continue as a regular agenda item for Community Services.

**CS 24/18 Activities for Young People (*Minute CS 12/18*)**

As previously reported, as a result of the issues with anti-social behaviour in the town centre and at both Springfield Campus and Springfield Rec, the Town Council was now working with Wiltshire Council and Corsham Youth Zone on a Street Sports project – Corsham Hub Club - for young people. The Town Council would fund, for a minimum of 12 months, two coaches to work with the 14+ age-group. The coaches would be selected by Wiltshire Council's Sports Development team and would be chosen for their ability to engage with young people, and various stakeholders, eg The Corsham School, Greensquare Housing Authority and the Police, would be contacted to help identify particular young people who should be invited. It had initially been hoped that the scheme would start in July, ahead of the summer holidays, but due to the unavailability of the preferred coaches from Innov8 Sportz, it was now scheduled to begin in late September. This would allow the new school year to start and give everyone involved time to promote the Hub Club to targeted individuals and wider age group. The Chief Executive and Head of Community Services were due to meet with Innov8 Sportz on 19 July to discuss the Service Level Agreement in more detail.

The Town Council would also be running its annual summer holiday activity, which would involve young participants tracking down words (shown as cropped photographs) taken from shop signs, finger posts and street furniture, in a 'Big Word Search'. To link with Corsham Storytown, there would also be the opportunity to use the words in a short story competition. The Big Word Search would run from 30 July-31 August and would be free to enter. It would be advertised on social media, in the local press and via posters in the town's noticeboards.

The update was noted.

**CS 25/18 Corsham Commemorates (*Minute CS 69/17*)**

The Head of Community Services gave an update on the work of the Corsham Commemorates group and the community projects and events planned to mark the end of the First World War in November and into 2019. The Pound was planning to produce a piece of street theatre, on 10 November, commemorating the 115 Corsham men who lost their lives in the Great War. On Remembrance Sunday itself, but avoiding the traditional ceremony in the morning, it was hoped to re-create the events of 11 November 1918, as news of peace being declared spread. This would involve putting bunting up on the houses in the High Street (with the bunting made by local

schoolchildren), a short church service at St Bart's featuring the hymns that were sung on the day in 1918 and the ringing of the church bells. It was also hoped that the original St Bart's war memorial, which had been lost for many years and was recently found in the chapel at Ladbrook Lane Cemetery, would be officially reinstated in the church. Alongside this, other events would include involvement in the Royal British Legion's Silent Soldier project and the There But Not There art project, both national schemes; a new version of the War Records of Corsham book featuring the updated research on the 115 War dead and a small exhibition commemorating 24 of Corsham's Women of World War One. The Corsham Cluster of schools had also put together a programme of events for the week of Remembrance Sunday/the centenary of the end of WW1. The schools were also planning to re-create, next year, the Peace Tea and Sports Day which took place on the national Day of Peace on 19 July 1919.

The Committee asked that its thanks for all the work the Corsham Commemorates group had done and was planning to do be passed on to those involved.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and closed at 8.44pm. There were no members of the public present.

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE