

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Services Committee Meeting held at
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 22 March 2017**

- Present** Councillor S Abbott (Chairman)
Councillors Ms L Bray, C Fuller, Mrs R Hopkinson, M Jackson, D Jones,
N Pocock and Mrs I Thompson
- In Attendance** Mrs R Avent (Tourism and Events Officer)
Mrs L Taylor (Schools Programme Manger, Paper Nations, Bath Spa University)
Mrs S Thomas (Head of Community Services)
- CS 55/16 Apologies**
- Apologies were received from Councillors N Farmer, D Jarman, Mrs A Lock and R Taylor.
- CS 56/16 Public Question Time and Petitions**
- There were none.
- CS 57/16 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 58/16 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 18 January 2017**
- i) *Minute CS 51/16 Review of the Town's Christmas Events and the Christmas Lights Switch On* – Cllr S Abbott was pleased that a wider survey of Councillors, staff and others involved would be taken to discover their thoughts on including a more religious aspect to the entertainment on the main stage.
 - ii) *Minute CS 54/16 Corsham Cultural Strategy and Action Plan* – The success of the Artists Cafe, held on 1 March, was noted.
- CS 59/16 Reports from Council representatives appointed to outside bodies**
- There were none.

CS 60/16 Presentation on the Year of Creative Writing

Lynne Taylor, Schools Programme Manager for Paper Nations, from Bath Spa University gave a presentation on BSU's Paper Nations project, which was backed by Arts Council England, and the Year of Creative Writing planned for Corsham, due to launch in June 2017.

Paper Nations was a new creative writing hub for young people, bringing together arts organisations, universities, schools, creative writers and teachers with a common purpose: to inspire a creative nation of young writers. BSU were working in partnership with Bath Festivals and the National Association of Writers in Education.

It was proposed to work with the Town Council, and local businesses, partners and schools, to run imaginative and innovative creative writing activities throughout the year, launching on National Writing Day on 21 June 2017. Plans included: linking primary schools through shared activities, using inspiration from the town's buildings and surrounding landscape; exhibiting children and young people's writing in the town centre; encouraging parents, grandparents and carers to engage with their children through creative writing activities; supporting the well-being of young people through targeted projects; using a Dare to Write workshop model, for creation and sharing of published writing, including digital media and a celebration with Bath Festivals in 2018.

Consultation had already been undertaken, or would be undertaken with Corsham Youth Council, Corsham Cluster and Corsham Primary School, Corsham Area Board, Digital Corsham and Pound Arts.

The presentation was well-received by the Committee.

CS 61/16 Strategic Plan Monitoring and Evaluation (*Minute CS 61/16, CS 27/15, SP 4/15 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. Areas discussed in detail were:

The Tourism and Events Officer explained that the most recent Visit Wiltshire familiarisation visit to Corsham on 19 March, involving 20 group travel guides, had been very successful, with good leads made at the one-to-one sessions the following day (*Note 2 – Destination Management Plan Update – Attracting People*).

The Town Council/Visit Corsham website was now mobile-friendly and much easier to use across a range of devices (*Note 2 – Destination Management Plan Update – Attracting People*).

The Head of Community Services would provide a copy of the Benchmarking Report's Executive Summary for consideration at the next meeting (*Note 2 – Destination Management Plan Update – Attracting People*).

Work on signage was ongoing, with a cautious approach, and in line with the Public Realm Study (*Note 2 – Destination Management Plan Update – Attracting People*).

The Head of Community Services explained that she, along with the Chief Executive and Bill and Andrew Hall, had met with the new management team at the Co-op to highlight the many concerns in the town and the impact the Co-op has on the town

centre. It had been a very honest meeting and Co-op appeared to be working to address the many issues that residents had with the supermarket. Another meeting was arranged for three months' time (*Note 13 – Open to Business – Facilitate Engagement*).

The recent Dementia Friends training undertaken by Councillors was discussed (*Note 18 – Safe and Healthy Community – Gain an Understanding of an Ageing Population*).

The Head of Community Services explained that the visit undertaken to the Hub@SN15, the volunteer-led advice centre in Bradford-on-Avon, with Kevin Gaskin, Corsham Community Area Network Co-ordinator and Project Officer, and Richard Rogers, Community Engagement Manager (Corsham), had proved very interesting, and the Health and Wellbeing Group was looking at how something similar could work in Corsham (*Note 21 – Safe and Healthy Community – Identify Good Practice Elsewhere*).

CS 62/16 Taste of Corsham – 17 June 2017 (*Minutes CS 52/16 and 43/16*)

The Tourism and Events Officer gave an update on the plans for Taste of Corsham, the Town Council's first food festival, which would take place from 10am-4pm on Saturday 17 June 2017. Twenty stalls were booked, plus tasting sessions and masterclasses; most of the entertainment was being organised via The Pound as part of the weekend's Blue Sky Festival, with music taking place on the stage in the Chapel Garden between Co-op and Cafe Grounded; the event was signed-up to be part of that weekend's national Great Get-Together in honour of Jo Cox MP; The Last Baguette theatre company would be performing street theatre with local young people, and an application had been made to Wiltshire Council for a permanent premises licence for the Town Council to cover performances and live music in the High Street, Martingate Centre and at Springfield Rec.

The update was noted.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and closed at 8.23pm. There were no members of the public present.

CHAIRMAN

DATE