

Town Hall, High Street, Corsham, Wiltshire SN13 0EZ

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2 March 2021

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend the Council Meeting to be held online via MS Teams on Monday 8 March 2021 at 7.30pm. To take part in the meeting, click [here](#) or email [dmartin@corsham.gov.uk](mailto:dmartin@corsham.gov.uk) for joining instructions.

Yours sincerely



David J Martin  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Press and Public – To observe the meeting online, please click [here](#) or email [dmartin@corsham.gov.uk](mailto:dmartin@corsham.gov.uk) for instructions. If you have any questions or wish to petition the Town Council as per Agenda Item 2, please refer to the guidance on our website (<https://www.corsham.gov.uk/meetings/fullcouncil.php>).

#### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies.
2. Public Question Time and Petitions.
3. 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.

4. Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8 February 2021 – *attached*.
5. Matters Arising from the above Minutes – *for information only*.
6. Policing and Community Safety – To consider policing and community safety issues.
7. Chairman's Announcements.

8. Correspondence –
  - i) As mentioned in Members' Information Sheet Nos. 488 to 489 – *to note*.
  - ii) Late correspondence – *to note*.
9. Reports from Council representatives appointed to outside bodies.
10. Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee Meeting held on 17 February 2021 – *attached*.
11. Matters Arising from the above Minutes – *for information only*.
12. Minutes of the Council (Planning) Meeting held on 24 February 2021 – *attached*.
13. Matters Arising from the above Minutes – *for information only*.
14. Local Plan Review Consultation: Addressing Climate Change and Biodiversity Net Gain (*Minute PL 91/20*) – Further to the Council (Planning) Meeting on 24 February, there are a number of questions in the section of the Local Plan Review which deal with addressing climate change and biodiversity net gain. Wiltshire Council's Global Warming and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Task Group (GW&CESTG) produced and presented a very thorough report on the matter to the Environment Select Committee (ESC) on 13 January 2021 (*copy attached*). Rather than attempt to research the issues in detail within the time available, Councillors are asked to endorse the recommendations within the GW&CESTG report.

*Recommendation:* That Corsham Town Council's response to the section of the Local Plan Review Addressing Climate Change and Biodiversity Net Gain endorses the recommendations of the report by the Wiltshire Council Global Warming and Climate Emergency Scrutiny Task Group.

15. Environmental Action Plan Update (*Minute 257/19*) – Further to previous meetings, the Town Council's Action Plan on reducing carbon emissions has been updated. The Environment Task Group considered the update at its meeting on 25 February 2021. Progress made during the past year includes: Town Council electricity changed to renewables since April 2020; changes to more energy efficient lighting in the Town Hall; the new workshop is being designed to carbon neutral standards; substantial tree and hedge planting completed at Lacock Road Cemetery; plans to rewild more amenity space underway; electric vehicle on order, and some small grounds equipment replaced with electric-powered items. Other items within the Plan will be explored in detail once the Environmental Project Officer vacancy has been filled – *for information and comment*.
16. Corsham Railway Station Update (*Minute 155/20 and others*) – Further to previous meetings, the Chairman and Chief Executive will give an update on the latest bid to the Department for Transport's Restoring Your Railway Ideas Fund – *for information and comment*.

17. Annual Review of Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Terms of Reference (*Minute F&A 17/20*) – At the Finance and Administration Committee meeting on 17 February it was reported that the annual review had been completed and only one change is proposed, which is to Part One: Standing Orders. The change is in response to the introduction of Find a Tender by the Cabinet Office from 31 December 2020. This means notices will have to be published for some larger contracts on the new Find a Tender e-notification service. It is recommended that a sentence be added to Standing Order 18.3 stating ‘Where high value contracts (usually above £118,000) are being let, they will also be published on the Find a Tender e-notification service’.

*Recommendation:* That the proposed change to the Council’s Standing Orders be approved.

18. Review of Investment Strategy (*Minute 260/19 and others*) – The Town Council is asked to review its Investment Strategy annually for the new Financial Year. A copy of the Strategy and Policy is attached for review – *for consideration*.

19. Consultation on the Wiltshire Pension Fund Investment Strategy Statement 2021 – The majority of Town Council employees are members of the Wiltshire Pension Fund. The Pension Fund Committee is keen to continue to safeguard the assets, and the Committee has been carrying out significant, in-depth work over the last year on climate change risk. Among other actions, members of the Committee commissioned a piece of work to look into climate change scenario modelling.

After reviewing the results of the modelling, Committee members held a dedicated extraordinary meeting to debate and discuss the findings, and to decide on the best way forward for the Fund. The Investment Strategy Statement (ISS) has now been updated in line with the findings from the modelling, to include a new investment belief: ‘In order to protect the Fund’s investments into the future, the Fund supports a global warming scenario of 2°C or lower and states an ambition to achieve net-zero carbon emissions across all investment portfolios by 2050’.

The amended ISS will be debated and potentially adopted at the Committee meeting on 30 March 2021. In advance of this meeting, it has been agreed that the employers of the Fund should be consulted, in order that those views can be considered and fed back to the Committee. The Town Council is asked to respond to the following questions:

1. Do you believe that climate change risk presents a threat to the future investment returns of the Wiltshire Pension Fund and, therefore by extension, that it could contribute to the risk that your contribution rates need to be raised?
2. Do you support the Committee’s approach in attempting to quantify the risk presented to the Fund and its employers by climate change?
3. Do you support the new investment belief in the ISS?
4. Do you have any further comments on the newly amended draft ISS?

- For consideration.

20. Issues for Corsham Area Board Consideration (*Various Minutes*) – Further to previous meetings, this regular agenda item asks the Town Council to identify issues for Area Board consideration – *suggested issues invited*.

21. Covid-19 Emergency Update, Recovery Plan – The Chief Executive will give an update on Covid-19 matters – This will include an update on: the impact on the local elections; the Annual Council Meeting; office space, and the likely return to some face-to-face meetings – *for consideration*.
22. Authorisation of cheques and payments – A list will be available at the meeting – *for approval*.

**The Methuen (Town) Hall meeting will take place immediately after the Council meeting.**