

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Services Committee Meeting held at
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 8 November 2017**

Present Councillor N Pocock (Chairman)
Councillors Ms L Bray, N Farmer, Mrs R Hopkinson, M Jackson, Mrs A White

In Attendance D Martin (Chief Executive)
Miss S Szakalo (Tourism and Events Officer)
Mrs S Thomas (Head of Community Services)

CS 38/17 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Fuller, D Jones, S Moysey, R Taylor and Mrs M Wakeman.

CS 39/17 Public Question Time and Petitions

There were none.

CS 40/17 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 41/17 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 13 September 2017

There were none.

CS 42/17 Reports from Council representatives appointed to outside bodies

The Pound – Cllr Farmer was helping The Pound with the Ghost Walk element of the upcoming Magic and Mayhem Festival and would be reading ghost stories at the Almshouses.

Fairtrade – Cllr Farmer was hoping to help Transcoco plant some tea plants in the raised beds at Springfield and had been in discussions with Robyn Garth, manager at the Co-op, to see if, under the supermarket's community fund-raising schemes, she might be able to help. He had also been talking to Wiltshire College Estates to suggest that the College's caterers use Fairtrade products. Cllrs Farmer, Mrs R Hopkinson and Mrs A White had attended a Fairtrade meeting to discuss Wiltshire becoming a Fairtrade county.

CS 43/17 Strategic Plan Monitoring and Evaluation (*Minute CS 29/17 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 44/17 Street Fair 16 September 2017 (*Minute CS 34/17, 30/17 and others*)

The Head of Community Services reported back on this year's Street Fair, which took place on Saturday 16 September 2017. The feedback received from those attending, local businesses, entertainers and traders had been very positive. The efforts to include the traders on Pickwick Road, by running a Creepy-Crawly Trail that meant visitors had to find the spiders in shop windows had worked well. It was hoped that, when completed, the Corsham Digital Mansion, would mean the small auditorium on the site and the outside space would be available for Town Council events which would encourage more visitors to Pickwick Road and thus help the businesses.

The update was noted.

CS 45/17 Peacock Arts Trail 2017 (*Minute CS 32/17*)

The Tourism and Events Officer reported on the Town Council's involvement in this year's Peacock Arts Trail (30 September-8 October). The Town Hall hosted two artists in residence, as well as displaying the winners and entries in the 'Mythical Peacocks' Youth Art Competition. It was also the venue for the official launch of the Trail and Exhibition, which was very well attended.

Leonora Martin, who led the committee who organised the event, was still awaiting responses from all the 70 artists on the trail, but the feedback so far included: the Almshouses recorded 1,015 visitors during the week, with the Town Hall having similar numbers; outlying venues recorded variously from 100-450 visitors depending on the type/number of artists and how much publicity the artists generated themselves; the artists' revenue was looking likely to be around £40,000-£50,000; several artists had commented on the welfare and community impact that the Trail had offered their older visitors and those suffering from social isolation and felt more could be made of this in the future. Leonora Martin also sent her thanks to the Town Council for their support. The Committee asked that their official thanks be sent to Mrs Martin and the Peacock Arts Trail Committee. It was proposed that the Town Hall be made available as a Trail venue again in 2019.

The success of the Youth Art exhibition at the Town Hall had led to the proposal that the Town Hall become a more permanent exhibition space for the visual arts. This would fulfil the issue of lack of exhibition space in Corsham raised in the research for the Creative Corsham Strategy. It was recommended that the Council Chamber be repainted in a neutral colour and a hanging system be installed so that the Town Council can host a series of regular exhibitions for local groups and organisations including Bath Spa University students, The Corsham School students, Corsham Art Society, local artists, etc. The idea had already been discussed with the Art Society and BSU, both of whom were very enthusiastic and eager to be allowed to exhibit should the recommendation be approved.

Resolved

- i) That the Committee's thanks for her organisation of the Peacock Arts Trail be sent to Leonora Martin.
- ii) That the Town Hall be offered as a Peacock Arts Trail venue in 2019.
- iii) That the Council Chamber be repainted to become an effective exhibition space for the visual arts in Corsham.

CS 46/17 Christmas Lights Switch On 1 December 2017 (Minute CS 33/17 and others)

The Head of Community Services gave an update on the plans for the Christmas Lights Switch On, taking place on Friday 1 December 2017. The road closure had been approved by Wiltshire Council, and would start at 3pm, an hour earlier than in previous years; approximately 30 stalls were booked for the Christmas Market; the entertainment line-up had been confirmed, with a new local choir, Viva Vocals, leading communal Christmas carol-singing at the end of the evening; a wide range of advertising, both Press and on social media, was in place; sponsors had been found for all three town centre trees (David Ingram Residential, Nationwide Building Society and Toby Haynes Family Butcher) and Corsham Youth Council would be decorating St Bart's tree as their entry in this year's Christmas Tree Festival. The Christmas Card competition had been judged by children's book illustrator Anna Currey, with the winning entry now at Corsham Print to be produced as the Town Council's official Christmas card. The annual Wishing Tree event would take place on Saturday 25 November, from 10am-1pm, at the High Street tree.

The update was noted.

CS 47/17 Community Services Budget 2018/19

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive on draft budget proposals for 2018/19. The figures had been adjusted from current budgets and were based on Strategic Plan priorities, historical costs, projected costs and inflation.

The proposed overall increase for the Community Services Committee (revenue budget) would be £5,080 which equated to an increase of 5.46%. Since the report had been written, however, information regarding the number of additional Band D Equivalent properties in the parish had been made available which meant that, in reality, the cost per resident related to Community Services had reduced.

Resolved

That the draft budget proposals for 2018/19 be approved for consideration by the Finance and Administration Committee in December, in order that the precept can be set by Full Council in January 2018.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and closed at 8.32pm. There were no members of the public present.

CHAIRMAN

DATE