

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Services Committee Meeting held at
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 20 November 2019**

Present Councillor N Farmer (Chair)
Councillors L Bray, M Jackson and M Wakeman

In Attendance Ms S Leigh (Arts and Tourism Officer)
D Martin (Chief Executive)
Mrs S Thomas (Head of Community Services)

CS 37/19 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors D Jarman, C Woodward and A White.

CS 38/19 Public Question Time and Petitions

There were none.

CS 39/19 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 40/19 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 25 September 2019.

illuminating the Town Hall for Events (*Minute CS 34/19*)

The Head of Community Services reported that the Town Council's marking of Baby Loss Awareness Week (9-15 October), at the request of a local couple, had received a very positive response on social media. In lieu of external, coloured lighting, this had been done with pink and blue LED lights at the Town Hall windows and ribbons on the balustrade. The cost of installing external lighting to use for events in the future had proved prohibitive, even before planning and conservation area issues were investigated.

CS 41/19 Review of Corsham StoryTown 18-20 October 2019 (*Minute CS 30/19, 20/19 and others*)

Cllr Neville Farmer reported that the feedback to this year's StoryTown had been very positive, with a number of the 30+ events very well attended, or full. The wide variety of

workshops, performances and projects had meant there was something for everyone, whatever their age or ability. The inter-generational performance involving Corsham Regis primary school and the members of the Pickwick Association had been particularly successful, with both sides keen to work together again.

Bath Spa University's Paper Nations' team, who co-produced and funded this year's event, had recorded interviews with many of those involved and conducted surveys which would be shared to allow future StoryTown festivals to be monitored and judged from 2019's baseline.

The plan going forward was to have a series of StoryTown events through the year, with next year's festival scheduled for 16-18 October 2020.

The report was noted.

CS 42/19 Christmas Lights Switch On 6 December 2019 (Minute CS 31/19, CS 21/19 and others)

The Committee was given an update on the plans for this year's Christmas Lights Switch On. The Christmas Card Competition had been judged and the winners chosen. The theme for the town centre's Christmas Window Competition was 'Jingle Bells' and Cllr Steve Abbott and Chamber of Commerce President Stuart Pearce were due to judge this during the week of 2 December. The Grounds Staff had started to put up the lights and trees and work would continue into the following week. The Brunel Shed was constructing a new grotto, using a garden shed, which would be easy to assemble and dismantle. Rachel Heard and Caroline Rudge, the resident artists at The Pound, were helping to construct two large sets of bells to decorate the Town Hall. Thirty stalls had been booked for the Christmas Market – the same number as last year. The line-up for the stage had been confirmed, and Corsham Windband would be performing by the town centre tree on the night from 6pm for approximately 30 minutes.

The update was noted.

CS 43/19 Arts Update

The Arts and Tourism Officer gave a report on the Town Council's Arts projects and support of this year's Peacock Arts Trail. The usual full report on the Trail had yet to arrive but, anecdotally, it would seem that 2019 had certainly been as successful as previous years, if not more so. The Committee was interested to know how much was spent on publicity, given how successful it appeared to be. It was also suggested that, as the brochures had run out prior to the Trail starting, the location map could be produced as a separate item so those who just wanted to follow the Trail without having all the artists' details beforehand could do so.

The public art installation at Cross Keys was progressing well. Sculptor Jane Rickards' design had been selected by the interview panel. The work was based on a plug and feather, a technique and tool used to split stone, and would feature Corsham stone and stainless steel feathers, thus linking to Corsham's quarrying history, the peacocks and the Arts. Wiltshire Council had confirmed planning permission would not be needed for the installation but, because it comes within the curtilage of a listed building, the dry stone wall included in the public realm design for Cross Keys junction would need planning permission.

Work on the draft Public Art Strategy, which would be presented at January's Community Services Committee meeting, had begun. As part of the work, Town Council officers had started to create a list of potential sites for future public art works (*attached*). The

Committee was asked to consider the list, add any sites they felt were missing and, at January's meeting, the top three sites for art installations would be discussed and chosen. The sites could also include specially commissioned artwork incorporated into gates and fencing (for example, at the new cemetery), ceramic tiles and heritage projects.

The update was noted.

CS 44/19 Town Centre/Parking Survey (*Minute CS 50/18, 36/18 and others*)

The Town Council's Town Centre and Parking Survey had been launched and would run for three weeks until 28 November. Responses were being returned online and as paper copies and it was hoped a report would be available on the results at January's meeting.

CS 45/19 Community Services Budget 2020/21

The Committee was asked to consider the draft budget proposals for 2020/21. The overall net revenue budget for Community Services showed an 11.22% increase of £15,166. This was largely due to Community Events, which accounted for £4,208 of the increase. The other main increases were the Newsletter (£1,414 to allow for an eight-page version in January to mark the Town Council's 125th anniversary); Retail/Town Centre (£500), Staffing (annual increase, increments, pension and NI) (£6,376) and Youth Activities at Springfield (£820).

The draft budget would be reviewed by the Finance and Administration Committee in December in order that the precept could be set by the Full Council in January 2020.

The Committee was also asked to consider requesting funding from the Strategic Plan budget still available for 2019/20, so therefore not impacting on the increase, to help support the Area Board's Health and Wellbeing Group with its Health projects and to fund the next public art installation. A figure of £10,000 for each was proposed.

Resolved:

- i) That the Committee recommend the draft budget proposal increase of £15,166 for Community Services;
- ii) That the Finance and Administration Committee be asked to agree to £20,000 of the 2019/20 Strategic Plan budget being ringfenced for Health projects (£10,000) and Public Art (£10,000).

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and closed at 8.37pm. There were no members of the public present.

CHAIRMAN

DATE