

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Services Committee Meeting held at
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 22 January 2020**

Present Councillor N Farmer (Chair)
Councillors L Bray, M Jackson, G Sanders, M Wakeman and A White

In Attendance Councillor A Brown
K Gaskin (Wiltshire Council's Health and Wellbeing Group)
Mrs K Gilby (Planning and Events Officer)
Ms S Leigh (Arts and Tourism Officer)
Mrs S Thomas (Head of Community Services)

CS 46/19 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors D Jarman and C Woodward.

CS 47/19 Public Question Time and Petitions

There were none.

CS 48/19 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.

Cllr G Sanders declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5, Christmas Lights Switch On 6 December 2019, and Agenda Item 6, Taste of Corsham 13 June 2020, due to her links to Sanders Paintings and Sculpture and the businesses on Pickwick Road. She remained in the room during the discussions regarding both events.

CS 49/19 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 20 November 2019

There were none.

CS 50/19 Review of Christmas Lights Switch On 6 December 2019 (*Minute CS 42/19 and others*)

The Planning and Events Officer reported on the Lights Switch On and the Wishing Tree events.

The Wishing Tree had, again, been very popular, with approximately 100 wishes made, and raising £150 for the two Chairman's charities, Wiltshire Mind and Doorway.

Feedback from the Lights Switch On had been very positive. The new grotto, built by Brunel Shed members, had worked very well and the change in layout – moving the grotto and reindeer to the other side of the stage, outside Stonewood and the barbers' shop – had eased congestion, as intended, although visitor numbers were down. It was planned to promote the grotto far more during the evening in 2020 and highlight that it was free to visit as part of the event's marketing, and with signs outside the grotto too.

Suggestions for 2020's Lights Switch On included trying to incorporate Pickwick Road and its businesses in the event, perhaps by having business owners dressing in Victorian costume; investigating the possibility of lights in the trees at Corsham Digital Mansion (these would need to be solar/battery-powered due the difficulty of obtaining power on site) and giving Councillors more detailed jobs to do on the night.

CS 51/19 Taste of Corsham 13 June 2020 (*Minute CS 16/19, CS 05/19 and others*)

The Planning and Events Officer reported that planning for this year's Taste of Corsham was underway. The Committee was asked for ideas and suggestions for the event. These included: encouraging the Co-Op to be more involved; promoting the event further afield; possibly basing stalls at Corsham Digital Mansion, as was successfully done at the Street Fair and having more tables and chairs in the High Street.

Lamppost banner advertising for event and general Visit Corsham advertising was discussed. The Head of Community Services would investigate costs, permissions required, etc, and report back at the next meeting.

CS 52/19 Public Art Sites (*Minute CS 43/19*)

Following the commission of the public artwork at Cross Keys and the discussion regarding the list of potential public art sites at November's Community Services Committee meeting, the Committee was asked to choose its top three sites for public art. The 2020/21 budget has an allocation of £10,000 for public artworks. The three selected were: 1) Springfield, 2) Katherine Park and 3) Bradford Road/Triangle. The Bradford Road/Triangle choice would be dependent on the proposed changes in road layout should the Gladman development go ahead but it was felt that this would have been decided by the time art installations at Springfield and Katherine Park had been completed.

Other factors/ideas to consider were whether the art should predominantly be in the town centre, to enable a walking Public Art Trail to be formulated; having a public artwork at the gateways to the town; ensuring that the outlying areas, such as Gastard and Neston be included, although mention was made of the artwork commemorating the Millennium at Neston Rec, and the possibility of being given free shards of Bath stone from Park Lane Quarry that could be installed at the nearby Katherine Park roundabout.

Resolved:

That public art installations at the three priority sites be pursued.

CS 53/19 Strategic Plan: Safe and Healthy Community (*Minute CS 45/19, F&A 22/10, 143/19*)

Following a report to October's Full Council meeting on the work of the Area Board's Health and Wellbeing Group, and further discussions on the 2020/21 budget, £10,000 had been allocated to Health projects. As a result, there were a number of recommendations for the Community Services Committee to consider:

- i) As the Safe and Healthy Community theme comes under the remit of Community Services, it was recommended that the Committee select a representative to join the Health and Wellbeing Group.

Resolved:

That Cllr G Sanders be the Community Services representative on the Health and Wellbeing Group.

- ii) The Committee was asked to agree that £6,000 of the total be allocated to the Area Board's Health and Wellbeing Group, under a simple legal agreement, to offer-match funding – now a requirement of Area Board grants – for health-related projects in the Corsham parish. Kevin Gaskin, from the Health and Wellbeing Group, and the Head of Community Services explained that this would mean groups would only have to submit one application to be considered by both the Town Council and the Health and Wellbeing Group. As the Group covered the whole Corsham Community Area, the funds from the Town Council would only be used to support projects in, and of benefit to, Corsham. Lacock, Box and Colerne Parish Councils would be expected to support their own initiatives.

Resolved:

That £6,000 be allocated to Wiltshire Council's Health and Wellbeing Group, under a simple legal agreement, to offer match-funding to Corsham-based health-related projects.

- iii) The Committee was asked to agree that the decision to approve the use of match-funding be delegated to Officers, in discussion with the Chair of Community Services and the Health and Wellbeing representative, Cllr G Sanders.

Resolved:

That the use of match-funding of individual projects be delegated to Officers.

- iv) It was recommended that the remaining £4,000 be used to fund the production and printing of the annual What's On Guide and other Town Council initiatives.

Resolved:

That the £4,000 remaining of the £10,000 allocated to Health-related projects in the 2020/21 budget be used to fund the Town Council's own initiatives.

Ahead of the match-funding initiative starting with the 2020/21 Health budget, the Committee was also asked to approve match-funding a project using funds from the current 2019/20 Strategic Plan budget. Kevin Gaskin explained that a new voluntary organisation, was planning to launch a luncheon club, Corsham Community Club, at Springfield Campus. The group had applied to the Health and Wellbeing Group for a total of £3,000 to cover room hire, cooking equipment and other items needed to start the project. The plan was to hold a fortnightly luncheon for people referred by health carers (Porch Surgery, Wiltshire Council's Health Trainer, etc). Transport would be arranged if necessary, as this was often a barrier to people attending events. The food to be cooked would come from an organisation in Bristol that redistributes food which would otherwise be thrown away by supermarkets, etc, and the Club would work with the Red Cross to pass on any items that they could not use to be given to other organisations, the

homeless, etc. Wiltshire Council's Health and Wellbeing Group had approved £1,500 from its current budget for the project, but match-funding was required.

Resolved:

That match-funding of £1,500 in support of setting up the Corsham Community Club at Springfield Campus be approved.

CS 54/19 Town Centre Survey: Corsham Market (Minute CS 44/19 and others)

The Head of Community Services updated the Committee on the results of the market-specific question included in the recent Town Centre and Parking Survey, which was: *If the town put on more events and/or specialist markets, what would be of most interest?* In response, 54% of respondents providing a 'First Choice' stated that this would be an 'Artisan Market' (crafts, local food); 17% also provided this as their 'Second Choice'. (The next closest choice was a Continental Market with 14% of people making that their 'First Choice' selection.)

At the Community Services Meeting held on 22 May 2019, it was *Resolved: That any work to be done [regarding a themed market] should wait until the findings from the town centre survey, and the market-specific question, are known. If required a working group could then be set up to investigate the potential for specialist markets in the town and undertake further consultation as required.*

The Committee was asked how it now wished to proceed based on the survey findings, allowing for the constraints of limited staff time and no current budget allocation for a regular specialist market.

Given that the town already hosts the very successful Creative Corsham Market at Springfield Campus every month, it was:

Resolved:

That the Head of Community Services would contact the organiser of the Creative Corsham Market and also research external companies who may be able to run an Artisan Market on behalf of the Town Council. A report would be presented to the Committee at the next meeting.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and closed at 8.43pm. There was one member of the public present.

CHAIRMAN

DATE