

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Services Committee Meeting held at
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 24 July 2019**

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

In Attendance Mrs K Gilby (Planning and Events Officer)
Councillor J Maloney
Mrs S Thomas (Head of Community Services)

CS 12/19 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors M Jackson, N Pocock and A White.

CS 13/19 Public Question Time and Petitions

There were none.

CS 14/19 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 15/19 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 22 May 2019.

There were none.

CS 16/19 Taste of Corsham Food Festival 15 June 2019 (*Minute CS 05/19, 49/18 and others*)

The Planning and Events Officer reported on this year's Taste of Corsham Food Festival. The feedback from visitors, stallholders, The Pound and Transcoco (both organisations had run events to coincide with Taste of Corsham) had been excellent, even with the rain in the early part of the day. It was estimated that approximately 3,000 people had attended; the car parks had been full; a number of stallholders sold out early, including Toby Haynes' barbecue and The Pound Café; Transcoco's talks had been well attended, as had The Pound's activities, including Folk in a Box, and the music had been well received.

Suggestions for 2020 included having an A-board listing the music performances in the Martingate Centre; looking at using Bluetooth speakers to extend the reach of the music

without having to run cables anywhere; adding a children's element to the Taste of Corsham trail, and having the extra benches and tables in the High Street again as these had proved very popular.

The Committee was asked to approve Saturday 13 June 2020 as the date for next year's Taste of Corsham. This was agreed, but on the basis that it coincided with The Pound's Blue Sky Festival again, and that Bath Spa University would be holding their proposed Open Day at the same time.

Resolved:

That Taste of Corsham 2020 be held on Saturday 13 June, pending clarification that this would coincide with next year's Blue Sky Festival and Bath Spa University's Open Day at Corsham Court.

CS 17/19 High Street Defibrillator (*Minute CS 07/19, 52/18 and others*)

The Head of Community services updated the Committee on the request to install a defibrillator at the Town Hall/St Bart's end of the High Street.

Suggestions at the previous meeting had included asking St Bart's about the possibility of installing a defibrillator on site there; checking the usage of the telephone box with BT to see if the box could be used to house a defibrillator and contacting other High Street businesses to see whether they would be prepared to install a defibrillator on the outside of their building. The Head of Community Services reported that she had not heard back from St Bart's as yet; she had been unable to contact BT thus far about the telephone box, but would continue to investigate, and would include a request to the businesses about having a defibrillator on their buildings in the next of the regular letters sent out to town centre retailers and businesses.

The update was noted.

CS 18/19 Summer Holiday Activities

There would be three, free, Town Council-run activities for children and young people through the summer. A Lego Hunt, sponsored by Automattic Comics/The Corsham Toy Shop, was already underway and featured 10 Lego figures, each appropriate to the shop it was in, in shop windows. Matt Booker at Automattic Comics had agreed that the first 200 entries returned would receive a free Lego *Ninjago Movie* keychain. Matt would also supply prizes for the winners.

A second trail would run from 12-31 August and would again follow the Giant Word Search format run last summer - featuring photographs of words on signs, windows, etc around the town centre – to promote this year's StoryTown weekend.

For older children/teenagers, there would be a special event at Springfield Rec, starting at 12pm on Wednesday 21 August. This would feature BMX displays (at 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm and 4.30pm) and a parkour demonstration (1-3pm), and include training on the outdoor gym for everyone (2-7pm, to allow people at work to take part). Springfield Campus had also agreed to hold free climbing wall sessions during the afternoon.

CS 19/19 Corsham Street Fair 14 September 2019 (*Minute CS 09/19*)

The Planning and Events Officer gave an update on the plans for this year's Street Fair which would take place on 14 September from 12-4pm. The road closure had been

applied for. St John Ambulance was booked. The Little Zoo was confirmed, as was a balloon modeller, and 31 stalls had booked spaces. Popular young bands Falling Fish and Watermelon Snare had been approached to perform on the stage, and The Pound had suggested that Rachel Heard, one of their resident artists, might like to perform too. Other entertainers were being sought and Cllr Farmer was happy to help with this.

Plans for the day also included using the space in front of, and the garden behind, the Digital Mansion. It was proposed that the two dance groups already booked would perform there and that the Peacock Arts Trail 'trailer' artists (still to be confirmed) would be sited there, along with other relevant stalls. Bring the Game Over, a van adapted to house arcade/console games had been booked from 12-2pm to answer the request for activities for older children/teenagers and would be parked at the front of the Digital Mansion to be a focal point. It was also hoped that an area for children's activities could be set up in the garden.

The Committee agreed that the Fruit and Vegetable Trail run last year, and sponsored by May's Greengrocers, should be run again if May's were happy to take part. It was also suggested that the 10% off a meal voucher that could be used at various restaurants/pubs in the town and featured in last year's programme should be for two people to use this time rather than the four stipulated in 2018.

The Committee was asked to approve the plans for the Street Fair so far.

Resolved:

That the plans for this year's Street Fair on Saturday 14 September be approved.

CS 20/19 Corsham StoryTown 18-20 October 2019

Cllr Farmer and the Head of Community Services updated the Committee on the plans for this year's StoryTown event, to take place on 18-20 October. Bath Spa University would be funding the event as part of their Paper Nations project, but on a much smaller budget compared to last year, so there was a need to think differently. The main themes of Paper Nations this year were diversity and innovation, and the remit had widened from last year's target audience of 8-14 year olds to include the whole community.

Plans under discussion included an inter-generational story-sharing between the schools and local care homes; the Pickwick Association working with Corsham Regis School on a Dickens-inspired project; the Your Corsham Stories from last year being edited and screened; a new recording session for Your Corsham Stories; events at The Pound Arts Centre; author talks; writing workshops for all ages; a talk on the hidden code in paintings; telling stories in a photograph; haiku writing; stories about hedgehogs, inspired by Jonathan Sanders' hedgehog sculptures; poetry readings and much more. Further details would be available at the next Community Services Committee meeting.

It was planned to have the programme completed and ready to be launched at the Street Fair in September.

The update was noted.

CS 21/19 Christmas Lights Switch On 6 December 2019 (*Minute CS 41/18, 54/17 and others*)

The Committee was updated on the suggestions made during a review of the Christmas Lights at the meeting held on 16 January 2019. A new gazebo to cover the entertainers on the stage in case of wet weather had been purchased; a charity collection at Santa's Grotto will be included (potentially for the Chairman's charities: Doorway and Wiltshire

Mind); improved signage will highlight that both the grotto and the Wishing Tree event held the week before are free; the members of the Brunel Shed have been approached to make a new 'flatpack' grotto which will be designed with a roof and two sides, making it much easier for children to enter and exit; the potential for a choir to sing around the High Street Christmas tree would be investigated, but this would depend on space and avoiding a bottleneck at that end of the High Street, and speaker coverage of the music on the stage could be improved by the use of Bluetooth speakers.

The Committee was also asked to approve the date of Saturday 30 November 2019 for the Wishing Tree event in the High Street.

Resolved:

That the update be noted and Saturday 30 November 2019 be approved as the date for this year's Wishing Tree event in the High Street.

CS 22/19 VE Day Celebrations 8-10 May 2020 (Minute 74/19)

Following the resolution at July's Council meeting that the Community Services Committee consider the Town Council's involvement in next year's celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day, the Committee was asked to consider what that involvement should be.

National events for the weekend – which now includes a bank holiday on Friday 8 June – include bell-ringing, church services and a Toast to the Nation at 3pm on 8 June. The British Legion and St Bart's had already agreed to take part. It was decided that Cllr Wakeman would chair a working party to look at the events in more detail.

Resolved:

That Corsham's response to the VE Day Celebrations planned for next year would be discussed at a working party, to be chaired by Cllr Wakeman.

CS 23/19 Tourism Update

The Head of Community Services gave an update on the recent tourism work undertaken. There had been a definite increase in tourists in the town and, in particular, coach parties visiting, undoubtedly due to the Town Council's membership of Visit Wiltshire's Group Travel Show, and Corsham being an ambassador for the Great West Way. Corsham featured in all the Great West Way's new published material, including its magazine and *Rough Guide*, and had already booked advertising space in Visit Wiltshire's 2020 literature, as well as having Visit Corsham literature at upcoming travel shows and attending the Great West Way Showcase in November. In the light of the works at the Cross Keys junction, it was intended get the Great West Way logo on all the Welcome to Corsham signs.

The Head of Community Services was due to meet with a local Blue Badge Guide about walks around the town and linking with other tours and with Bradford-on-Avon's Tourism Officer to discuss the potential for working together. Following a trial version, it was also hoped that hour-long history walks, led by two local tour guides, would be available for residents and visitors to book in the near future.

The return of *Poldark* on television had seen increased publicity around the series, including a feature in *Prima* magazine that highlighted Corsham's involvement.

Social media continued to work well, for both the Town Council and Visit Corsham, and now included an updated Instagram feed and Corsham-related boards on Pinterest.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and closed at 8.33pm. There were no members of the public present.

CHAIRMAN

DATE