

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Services Committee Meeting held at
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 25 September 2019**

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

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

CS 24/19 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor N Pocock.

CS 25/19 Public Question Time and Petitions

There were none.

CS 26/19 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 Jarman declared a pecuniary interest as the husband of one of the organisers of, and exhibitors at, the Peacock Arts Trail, and a non-pecuniary interest as one of the speakers leading an event at Corsham StoryTown.

CS 27/19 Matters arising from the Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 24 July 2019.

There were none.

CS 28/19 Summer Holiday Activities (*Minute CS 18/19*)

The Committee was given a report on this year's free summer holiday activities: two trails - a hunt for LEGO figures in the town's shop windows and a word search linked to Corsham StoryTown - and a one-off BMX/Parkour event aimed at older children/teenagers which took place at Springfield Rec on 21 August 2019.

The LEGO Hunt, sponsored by Automattic Comics/The Corsham Toyshop had been hugely successful with well over 300 entries over the course of the six week summer holiday period. So successful had it been that Playmobil was now interested in being linked to a trail and this had been earmarked for the Easter 2020 holidays. Matt Booker

from Automattic Comics was co-ordinating with the company on prizes. The Committee asked that their thanks to Matt Booker be passed on. The StoryTown word search, which ran for the second half of the holidays, had been far less successful with only 10 entries, probably due to people choosing to do the LEGO Hunt instead.

The event at Springfield, paid for by funds from an earmarked reserve, had proved very popular with around 2,000 people attending over the course of the afternoon. The event had featured a BMX display team, parkour demonstrations and training on the outdoor gym. Jennings Fun Fair also attended, with an inflatable slide, bungee trampolines and hook-a-duck. The feedback from the event had been excellent, although attracting an audience of families and younger children had not been the original intention. It was suggested that there should be a conversation about different communication methods for different markets and that a sponsor might help to attract a different demographic.

The Committee was asked to consider making the event a regular addition to the Town Council's event calendar. The approximate cost this year had been £1,600 and there was concern, given the 2020/21 Budget discussions underway and the potential rise in the precept, that adding this cost would not help but if sponsorship could be found, the event could be a 'wish list' possibility for 2020.

Resolved

- i) That the Town Council, given the success of the LEGO Hunt, help support and promote a Playmobil Trail around the town's businesses at Easter 2020;
- ii) That having tried to promote StoryTown via a summer holiday word search this year and a word search/short story competition last year, neither of which received many entries, this element of the Town Council's summer holiday activities be dropped; and
- iii) That, if a sponsor can be found, a summer holiday 2020 event at Springfield Rec would be a good addition to the Town Council's calendar, but a decision could only be made after the final discussion on the 2020/21 budget and precept increase.

CS 29/19 Corsham Street Fair 14 September 2019 (*Minute CS 19/19, CS 09/19 and others*)

The Planning and Events Officer reported on this year's Street Fair. The event had been a great success, with very positive feedback from all concerned, including the retailers on Pickwick Road who were very happy with the efforts to include them in this year's Street Fair via the use of Digital Mansion Corsham's car park and garden for stalls and children's activities.

The Committee was asked to approve the date of 12 September 2020 for next year's event. Ideas and suggestions for 2020 included looking at the transitions between acts on the stage, perhaps having fewer artists with longer performances and alternating soloists with groups to speed up the changeovers; having signage for the Fair that highlighted 'This Saturday' to encourage more last minute visitors, and to look at the logo for both this event and others to move on from their generic nature.

Resolved

- i) That the date for next year's Street Fair be 12 September 2020; and
- ii) That the possibility of changing/updating the suite of Town Council event logos be investigated.

CS 30/19 Corsham StoryTown 19-20 October 2019 (Minute CS 20/19, CS 10/19)

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, and co-produced by the Town Council and Bath Spa University's Paper Nations/Dare to Write projects.

The programme had been produced and launched at the Street Fair. It was now widely available at venues around the town, as well as having been sent home via book bags at all the primary schools. It was also available to download via the Town Council's website.

Over 30 projects and activities would take place, including inter-generational story-sharing; the Pickwick Association working with Corsham Regis School on the Pickwick Capers, a Dickens-inspired project; more Your Corsham Stories being recorded, both on film and via postcards; events at The Pound; author talks; writing workshops for all ages; a talk on the hidden code in paintings; telling stories in a photograph; a 500 words short story competition, sponsored by Sanders Paintings and Sculpture, inspired by a piece of art in the gallery; poetry readings and much more. Further details would be available at the next Community Services Committee meeting.

The update was noted.

CS 31/19 Christmas Lights Switch On 6 December 2019 (Minute CS 21/19, CS 41/18 and others)

The Planning and Events Officer gave an update on the plans for this year's Christmas Lights Switch On. The road closure had been applied for, as had permission to erect the lights. The Air Cadets had been contacted for their help. Ten stallholders had booked already. Brunel Shed were working on a new Santa's Grotto that could be flat-packed so would be easier to carry and store. Performers already booked included the Bristol-based band Ushti Baba, who would be playing at The Pound after appearing at the Switch On. The location of the grotto and reindeer was discussed as it was felt that it was becoming too busy around the stage and harder to manage the queue to see Father Christmas in the space. The Planning and Events Officer would consider a new site for both, after talking to Little Zoo about their requirements.

The Committee was also reminded about the annual Wishing Tree event from 10am-1pm on Saturday 30 November in the High Street. As is tradition, there would be a collection for the Chairman's charities which, this year, were Doorway and Wiltshire Mind.

The Committee was asked to approve the plans for the Lights Switch On so far.

Resolved:

That the plans for this year's Christmas Lights Switch On, taking place on 6 December, be approved.

CS 32/19 VE Day 75 Celebrations 8-10 May 2020 (Minute CS 22/19, 74/19)

Cllr Wakeman had chaired the first meeting of the VE Day 75 Working Group, which, along with the Head of Community Services had been attended by representatives from St Bart's, the Royal British Legion, RAFA and Corsham Civic Society. Corsham Twinning Association had been invited to attend but felt that as the Jargeau contingent were visiting Corsham on the weekend before that they would be too busy to take part in the plans.

National events for the weekend included bell-ringing, church services and a Toast to the Nation at 3pm on 8 June. St Bart's had already agreed to take part in the bell-ringing and include the commemorations in their Sunday morning service on 10 May 2020.

Ideas for Corsham included a commemorative WW2 bench; having an element of commemoration at the Summer Fete - the Head of Community Services would investigate the possibility of an RAF Flypast at the event and it was also suggested that the cadets/MOD Corsham may be able to do something to mark the anniversary; the Royal British Legion would lay a wreath at the War Memorial on 8 June, and local historian Julian Carosi was interested in creating a memorial walk around the town based on the Town Council's Walking Leaflet.

The update was noted.

CS 33/19 Arts Update

The Committee was updated on three current Arts-related projects being undertaken. The Town Council had again supported the Peacock Arts Trail, 5-13 October 2019, and would be a venue for four artists, using both the Council Chamber and Main Hall to display their work, alongside the entries in the Youth Art Competition organised by the Town Council and work from Corsham Connections – an arts project for older people run by two of the Peacock Arts Trail artists. The Town Council would also host and organise the launch event for the Trail, on 4 October, to which all Councillors were invited.

The Cross Keys Public Art brief had resulted in 11 expressions of interest, and five artists had been short-listed and invited to present to a panel on 17 October, which would include the Town Council Chairman, Cllr Neville Farmer, the Arts and Tourism Officer, the Chief Executive, Wiltshire Council's Arts Officer and Russ Tunney, Director of The Pound. It was hoped a representative from Bath Spa University may be able to attend.

The Arts and Tourism Officer would soon begin work on a Public Art Strategy. As part of that, Councillors would be invited to suggest a 'wish list' of potential sites for public art. This would be discussed in more detail at November's meeting.

The update was noted.

CS 34/19 Illuminating the Town Hall for Events

The Head of Community Services reported that Officers were investigating the possibility of being able to illuminate the Town Hall in coloured lights for special events. This work had come from the suggestion from a local couple that the Town Hall, like many public buildings across the country, should be lit in pink and blue for Baby Loss Awareness Week (9-15 October). Local company Beazer Electrical had suggested a company who had experience of external lighting for buildings and a small, four-light system had been suggested. Costs were awaited before planning and conservation issues were investigated, and further guidance sought from Councillors. The ability to light the Town Hall for special weeks, Armed Forces Day, Remembrance events, etc, was thought to be an asset but cost and conservation issues may prevent it taking place.

Baby Loss Awareness Week would still be marked using pink and blue ribbon and temporary, outdoor LED lights. The Week ends with a Wave of Light on 15 October when people are encouraged to put a light or candle in their window and the Town Hall would take part in this by having the curtains of light at the Main Hall windows switched on from 7-10pm.

The report was noted.

CS 35/19 Youth Activities

The Committee was given an update on the first year of Hub Club, the street sports activity funded by the Town Council for the 14+ age group, held on the all-weather pitch at Springfield Campus, from 6.30-7.30pm on Friday evenings. This was originally set up to help alleviate anti-social behaviour at the Campus and elsewhere in the town. Numbers attending the Club had grown over the past 12 months with an average of 20 young people taking part, and a reduction in anti-social behaviour had been seen.

There had been concerns that Innov8Sportz, the company running Hub Club, would be unable to continue with their lead coach leaving for health reasons, but he had been able to find replacement coaches with the same ethos who would be able to build relationships with the young people. There had been a handover period which had helped the young people deal with the changes.

The Town Council was committed to funding HubClub for another year, from September 2019 to August 2020, for 47 weeks.

The update was noted.

CS 36/19 Tourism Update (Minute CS 23/19 and other)

The Head of Community Services updated the Committee on Visit Corsham's work with Visit Wiltshire and the Great West Way. Corsham would again be part of Visit Wiltshire's Autumn Campaign which would include being part of their online promotion, an e-newsletter sent to over 100,000 names, digital and online advertising and a PR campaign in the press.

The Great West Way (GWW) were planning to include Corsham in new themed itineraries, particularly linked to film tourism, and digital content. Corsham was already featured on the GWW website, and in the GWW Travel Magazine, Visitor Map, Rough Guide and Travel Trade Directory. The Head of Community Services would be attending a GWW travel business-to-business event on 22 November, and around 20 travel trade buyers would be visiting Corsham on 24 November, for approximately 45 minutes, as part of a familiarisation visit. It was suggested that the buyers visit the Almshouses as part of their visit and the Head of Community Services would see if this would be possible when the timings were confirmed.

The update was noted.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and closed at 8.49pm. There were no members of the public present.

CHAIRMAN

DATE