

**Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held at Corsham Town Hall  
on Wednesday 9 November 2022**

**Present** Councillor A Brown (in the Chair)  
Councillors A Crockford, G McCaffery and R Williams

**In Attendance** Councillor S Abbott  
Councillor A Mackie  
Ms S Leigh (Community Services Officer (Arts))  
D J Martin (Chief Executive)  
Mrs S Thomas (Head of Community Services)  
Mrs K Viner (Corsham Community Club)  
Mrs T Walpole (Community Services Officer (Tourism and Events))

**CS 1/22 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Councillors N Farmer, M Jackson and D Jarman.

**CS 2/22 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 Abbott declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 12 – Tourism Update and Agenda Item 13 – Business Support Update, given his links to the High Street where his wife rents a retail unit.

**CS 3/22 Matters arising from the Notes of the Informal Community Services Committee Meeting held remotely on 13 July 2022. (The Community Services Committee meeting due to take place on 14 September 2022 was cancelled due to the period of national mourning for Her Majesty the Queen.)**

There were none.

**CS 4/22 Community Wellbeing Update (Notes of the Informal Community Services Committee Meeting 13 July 2022 – Item 4)**

The Committee was updated, via a report, on the recent work undertaken by the Community Services Officer (Health and Wellbeing) and the Town Council's Community Wellbeing Working Group, focussing on families, older/vulnerable people and young people. Discussion took place over the Rise Trust's detached youth work and how the Town Council can better engage with young people to ensure their needs are being met. The regular reports produced by the Rise Trust would help to indicate this. It was suggested that the Town Council could run another youth survey, perhaps in conjunction with the Area Board's Local Youth Network, The Corsham School and other stakeholders in 2023.

Cllr Brown explained that work was being undertaken to find a safe, warm space for Rise to use during the winter where they could meet young people (15-19 years) and offer snacks and hot drinks. Various locations had been suggested, and the youth workers were investigating these further.

The report was noted. It was requested that future reports include more detail on the numbers of residents being supported by the projects, with an indication of whether Officers were happy with how the Town Council's funding was being used.

**Corsham Community Club (3Cs) Grant Application** – An urgent grant application had been received from Corsham Community Club, a group that runs a lunch and social club, twice a month, for older/vulnerable people. Karen Viner, Club organiser, asked the Committee for a £2,000 to cover their costs until the end of the financial year, including a Christmas trip for members in December as Springfield, their normal venue, would be unavailable to use.

**Resolved:**

That the Corsham Community Club be granted the £2,000 requested.

The Committee were concerned about the issues raised regarding the availability and service offered at Springfield Community Campus and would raise this under the Issues for Area Board Consideration agenda item at the next Council meeting.

**Community Safety Charter** – The Committee was asked to consider whether the Town Council should sign up to the Community Safety Charter ([www.ourwatch.org.uk/charter](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/charter)), a new Neighbourhood Watch initiative. (The Charter had previously been considered at the Council meeting on 8 August 2022, with a decision referred to Community Services.)

There were concerns about the confrontational tone of the language used in the Charter; the seeming lack of support for Neighbourhood Watch in Corsham (only three groups run in the town), and the requirements on those signing up.

**Resolved:**

That the Town Council would not sign up to the Charter but would continue to share information from the local police, Neighbourhood Watch and other community safety organisations as appropriate.

CS 5/22

**Public Art Projects (*Notes of the Informal Community Services Committee Meeting 13 July 2022 – Item 5*)**

**Public Art Strategy** – Following discussions at previous Community Services meetings regarding a tiered approach to the Town Council's Public Art Strategy commissioning process, the Committee was asked to approve the revised and updated Public Art Strategy.

**Resolved:**

That the revised Public Art Strategy and Commissioning Process be approved.

**Potley Community Arts Project** – The Community Services Officer (Arts) updated the Committee on the Potley Community Arts Project. The commissioned artists, Caroline Rudge and Rachel Heard, had begun work on the project, with initial branding created and links made within the community. The Chief Executive, Head of Community Services and Community Services Officer (Arts) were due to meet with the artists for an update, and notes from the meeting would be shared with both the members of the Public Art Task Group and the Community Services Committee.

**Cross Keys** – The members of the Public Art Task Group met on 16 September and confirmed the aim to have a changing display of artwork at Cross Keys, on a fixed plinth. The Community Services Officer (Arts) will meet with the Head of Technical Services for an update on the creation of the plinth, and the Highways works involved, and report back to the Community Services Committee at its next meeting in January 2023.

## **CS 6/22 Creative Corsham Strategy**

One of the new Strategic Plan 2022-2026 objectives is to produce a new Creative Corsham Strategy in 2022/23. Ahead of Officers commencing work on the project, Councillors were asked for suggestions on what they would like to see included in the new version.

Suggestions included ideas on building stronger links with Corsham Court and Bath Spa University, particularly regarding their art collections; considering Arnold House as an Arts hub for the town and using space at the Almshouses and Springfield Campus for exhibitions.

Work on the Strategy would include consultation with local artists and Arts stakeholders. A draft version of the Strategy would be presented to the Committee at its March meeting.

## **CS 7/22 Corsham Town Council Events 2022 (*Notes of the Informal Community Services Committee Meeting 13 July 2022 – Item 6*)**

The Head of Community Services and Community Services Officer (Tourism and Events) updated the Committee on the Town Council's events since August.

- i) Summer Busking Saturdays (7 May-24 September) – The Busking Saturdays had been very popular, with both local musicians, the businesses and residents/visitors. The scheme would run again in 2023, with the Community Services Officer (Tourism and Events) taking over responsibility for scheduling the musicians from Cllr Farmer. Martingate would be asked to co-fund the Summer Busking Saturdays again, but it was also hoped to find local business sponsors to each fund a month of busking performances.
- ii) Summer Holiday Trails – The Bug Hunt (for pre-schoolers) had over 30 entries, with books on bugs as prizes donated by The Corsham Bookshop. The Pokemon Trail for primary school children had 350 entries - the most successful trail we have run – and, with support from Matt Booker at The Corsham Toy Shop and a Neston resident who works for Pokemon, would run again in 2023.
- iii) BMX Display (19 August) – This free event for families, held at Springfield Rec, saw around 100 people enjoying the BMX displays performed by RPM Display through the afternoon. Trowbridge-based Parkour Journeys Coaching also ran coaching sessions at the Parkour facility.
- iv) Street Fair (8 October – postponed from 10 September) – The Street Fair, rearranged from September following the death of HM The Queen, was very successful with 32 stalls, with all stallholders very positive about their sales on the day and excellent visitor attendance. For 2023, more food stalls would be invited (although the original numbers were impacted by non-availability after the change of date) and the walled garden at Digital Mansion Corsham would be used for stalls but with musical entertainment in that area alongside.

The updates were noted.

## CS 8/22      **2023 Events**

The Committee was asked to approve the following suggested dates for events in 2023.

- i)      Corsham Eco-Fair – Saturday 22 April 2023 (It had been agreed that this event, organised by the Town Council's Environmental Project Officer, with support from members of the Environmental Task Group and Community Services team, would come under the remit of the Community Services Committee.)
- ii)     Taste of Corsham – Saturday 17 June 2023
- iii)    Street Fair – Saturday 9 September 2023
- iv)    Wishing Tree – Saturday 25 November 2023
- v)     Christmas Lights Switch On – Friday 1 December 2023

### **Resolved:**

That all the dates for the Town Council's 2023 events be approved.

## CS 9/22      **Coronation of King Charles III**

The Coronation of King Charles III would take place on Saturday 6 May 2023, and a bank holiday on Monday 8 May had also been announced. The Committee was asked for its ideas and suggestions on how best to mark the occasion. As the formalities required were not yet known, it was suggested that this item be brought back for the Committee to consider at its January meeting.

## CS 10/22     **StoryTown 2022 (*Notes of the Informal Community Services Committee Meeting 13 July 2022 – Item 7*)**

The Community Services Officer (Arts) gave a brief update on this year's StoryTown event. While the programme put together had a wide range of activities and there had been support from the community for the free events, a number of the more specialist, paid-for workshops had been cancelled due to poor ticket sales. It was felt that, going forward, the event should be more community-led, with stronger wellbeing links. A meeting of stakeholders would be held to discuss the future of StoryTown, and the proposed Arts Council England funding application, in due course. The Community Services Officer (Arts) would report back to the Community Services Committee on the outcomes of that meeting.

The update was noted.

## CS 11/22     **Christmas in Corsham/Christmas Lights Switch On**

**Wishing Tree** – This would take place on Saturday 26 November, from 10am-1pm, when children and adults would be invited to write their wishes, to be hung on the High Street tree. The Military Wives Choir would be singing, in the Chapel Garden between Co-Op and Grounded, during the event.

**Christmas Lights Switch On** – The timings for the event had been revised, with the Christmas Market starting at 3pm; music at 5pm and the lights being switched on at 6pm. Thirty-five stalls were taking part (High Street only). The local businesses had been very keen to sponsor elements of the Switch On, with Garden Vets sponsoring the event, and Hale Vets, Precision Pilates and If The Shoe Fits sponsoring the three trees in the town centre. Music would be provided by the Rock Choir, performing in Chapel Garden from 3-5pm, Corsham Windband, playing in the Martingate during the event, and Hip Route on the stage from 5pm, and The Shing-a-Lings after 6pm. (Corsham Windband, who would be busking in the town centre on 3, 10 and 17 December, would benefit from additional sponsorship from No 3 The Deli, Jaine Whitfield Estate Agent and Clear Vision

Accountancy.) The search for a Father Christmas was continuing. More Councillor volunteers to help at the event would also be welcomed.

The update was noted.

**CS 12/22**     **Tourism Update (*Notes of the Informal Community Services Committee Meeting 13 July 2022 – Item 8*)**

The Community Services Officer (Tourism and Events) gave an update on the tourism work being undertaken. Promotion of Corsham as a visitor destination had continued with the two Instagram takeovers: Visit Bath (on 5 October) and Visit Wiltshire (on 14 October), resulting in 37 more followers to the Visit Corsham Instagram page. Corsham was featured as part of Visit Wiltshire's autumn/winter promotional campaign. The Tourism and Events Officer would be attending the Great West Way online marketplace event, linking up with UK and global tour operators, on 16 November and then a face-to-face networking event on 18 November.

The Canine Corsham initiative had been postponed, but photography was due to take place soon and sponsorship from local vets was being sought.

The update was noted.

**CS 13/22**     **Business Support Update (*Notes of the Informal Community Services Committee Meeting 13 July 2022 – Item 9*)**

The Community Services Officer (Tourism and Events) gave an update on the work being done to support local businesses. The Business Map, designed by artist Susie Brooks, was at second draft stage with the key to businesses now categorised and colour-coded (this would be produced separately to the map, making it easy to up-date). An accessible version would also be produced, with support from Cllr Bush. The map would go in the noticeboards once these had been refurbished.

The Town Council, in conjunction with Digital Mansion Corsham (DMC), would be holding a Corsham Means Business breakfast event at DMC on 15 November, 8-10am, for local businesses. Twenty-four businesses had booked to attend. There would be presentations from Wiltshire Council's Growth Hub and Corsham business Naturally Social.

Promotional advertising, focussing on Christmas shopping and free parking, to support the town centre businesses had been placed in various local magazines.

The Town Council Chairman, Tourism and Events Officer, Environmental Project Officer and Andrew Hall of Martingate had met to discuss waste management within Martingate. The plans were linked to the refurbishment of the old Lloyds Bank building so it would take 12-18 months before they were fully in place.

The update was noted.

**CS 14/22**     **Community Services Budget 2023/24**

The Committee was asked to consider the draft proposals for the Community Services budget for the next financial year.

The Chief Executive reported that, as well as the allocated budget for 2023/24, there was approximately £60,000 in Earmarked Reserves allocated to Community Services budget streams and projects, as well as funding within the Strategic Plan budget.

**Resolved**

That the draft proposals for the Community Services budget for 2023/24 be supported.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and closed at 9.21pm. There was one member of the public present at the beginning of the meeting and none at the end.

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CHAIRMAN

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DATE