Corsham
TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, High Street, Corsham, Wiltshire SN13 0EZ

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17 September 2026

To: All Members of the Community Services Committee: Councillors A Brown, J Coward, D Jarman, G McCaffery, R Munn, N Pocock, I Scrannage, V Steadman and A White.

All other Members of the Council for information.

The next meeting of the Community Services Committee will be held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 23 September 2026 commencing at 7pm.

Yours sincerely

David J Martin
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Press and Public – To observe the meeting online or take part in Agenda Item 2 - Public Question Time and Petitions, please click here or email dmartin@corsham.gov.uk for instructions.

AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Public Question Time and Petitions

3. 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.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 29 July 2026 – *for information only*.

5. Grant Applications

   There is one for this meeting.

Stay Safe Initiative CIC –Stay Safe Initiative is requesting £900 (50% of the total project cost) to help fund two projects run at The Corsham School: Boyz-2-Men and the Digital Empowerment Programme. Boyz-2-Men looks to combat toxic masculinity by supporting teenage boys, through safe, challenging, conversations, allowing them to explore positive masculinity, strengthen emotional wellbeing and develop healthier attitudes towards relationships and violence against women and girls (VAWG). The Digital Empowerment Programme equips young people to navigate the online world safely and responsibly, with a strong focus on preventing grooming and exploitation, critical thinking, healthy screen habits and emotional wellbeing.

The application is *attached – for consideration.*

6. Review of the Grants Scheme – Officers have commenced a review of the grants scheme as one of the actions identified in the Strategic Plan 2026-2030. The initial meeting identified a number of areas which could be updated and improved. Suggested changes include: moving Health and Wellbeing Grants from the Community Services Committee to the Finance and Administration Committee; increasing all in-year grants from £750 to a £2,000 maximum; creating a web-based application form alongside a paper version; improving clarity over the grant criteria and information to be provided by applicants; promoting the grants scheme more widely to increase take up and creating a new 'Business Events Grants' scheme targeted at supporting the town centre (with a maximum of £2,000 per application). The plan would be to introduce any changes from April 2027.

   The suggestions were discussed by the Finance and Administration Committee at its meeting on 19 August, where it was

   Resolved That, from 2027/28,

   i) the maximum value for all in-year grants be increased from £750 to £2,000;

   ii) the Finance and Administration Committee be responsible for the consideration and awarding of all grants;

   iii) the Council be recommended to amend Standing Orders so that Committee Chairs are automatically appointed to the Finance and Administration Committee;

   iv) the budget towards The Pound Arts Centre be transferred to the Community Services Committee;

   v) that the eligibility criteria for grant applications be revised to allow local businesses to apply for funds towards town centre events.

   - for discussion and comment.

7. Community Wellbeing Update *(Minute CS 18/26 and others)* – The Committee will be updated on the Town Council's latest community wellbeing activities.

   - The Community Wellbeing Officer continues to engage with and support a wide range of local groups and organisations. Recent visits have included the Corsham Foodbank, as well as talking to organisations such as Home Instead and Corsham Link at the Street Fair. Feedback is available upon request.

- Rise Trust's detached youth workers continue to provide outreach sessions in Corsham on Wednesday and Friday evenings, offering ongoing support, guidance, and positive engagement opportunities for local young people. The Open Blue Bus, funded by the Town Council, also continues to visit every Wednesday evening, providing a welcoming and safe space for young people to connect and access support. In addition, the new youth safe space will soon be available on Friday evenings in the Martingate Centre.

- The My Space group (previously run at The Corsham School) is welcoming more young people. Sessions take place each Wednesday after school at The Springfield Campus. The sessions focus on supporting young people's wellbeing through creative activities, providing a safe and inclusive space where they can build confidence, develop new skills, and connect with their peers.

- The fortnightly Monday Creative Lunch sessions for older/vulnerable people are being held at The Pound Arts Centre during September, with plans to move to St Patricks Church Hall this autumn.

- The Move, Make, Eat group has restarted at Holton House every Thursday between 11.30am-1.30pm for residents and non-residents.

- Funding for the Citizens Advice Wiltshire (CAW) outreach service, delivered fortnightly on Tuesdays at the Foodbank, has ended following the replacement of the centrally-funded Household Support Fund (HSF) by the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF), which helps households in need direct. Representatives from Wiltshire Council, Corsham Town Council, Corsham Foodbank and CAW are discussing future funding and delivery options, with the aim of ensuring continued access to advice and support services for local residents.

- The Town Council's Warm Spaces leaflet is being updated and will be available online and from the Town Hall in November 2026**.** The leaflet will highlight a range of free and low-cost warm spaces across Corsham, providing residents with information on places where they can stay warm, access support, and connect with others during the winter months.

  The next Corsham Community Wellbeing Working Group meeting will be held online at midday on 3 November**.** The meeting will focus on support for older people and the promotion of warm spaces and related services across the Corsham area.

  – *for information and comment*.

8. Corsham – An Age-friendly Community *(Minute CS 19/26 and others)* – The Chair of the Town Council and the Head of Community Services will update the Committee on the latest steps taken towards Corsham becoming an Age-friendly Community. A meeting of the Age-friendly Corsham Working Group took place on 4 August 2026 to discuss the Age-friendly Corsham Action Plan (*attached*) – *for discussion.*

9. Public Art Projects *(Minute CS 21/26 and others)* – The Arts Officer will update the Committee on the progress of the Town Council's public art projects – *for information and comment.*

10. Events Update *(Minute CS 22/26 and others)* – The Tourism and Events Officer and Head of Community Services will report on the Street Fair (12 September), Heritage Open Days (11-20 September) and the 'Ramp Antics' Skate Jam (19 September), as

well as the plans for the Wishing Tree event (28 November) and Christmas Lights Switch On (4 December).

Town of Culture 2028 – Following Corsham's unsuccessful bid to become Town of Culture 2028, it is still hoped to build on the discussions that took place and the relationships that were made during the work to put the Expression of Interest (EOI) together. A meeting will be held with all interested parties in early October to look at ways in which suggestions made in the EOI could be implemented

– *for information and comment.*

11. 2027 Event Dates – The Committee is asked to approve the following suggested dates for Town Council events in 2027:

    Eco Fair: 17 April 2027
    Taste of Corsham: 15 May 2027
    Street Fair: 11 September 2027
    Wishing Tree: Saturday 27 November 2027
    Christmas Lights Switch On: Friday 3 December 2027

    – *for discussion and approval.*

12. Tourism Update *(Minute CS 23/26)* – The first annual Tourism Report has been produced, and the Destination Marketing and Management Plan 2025-2030 Action Plan has been updated for Year Two: 2026/27 (both *attached*) – *for discussion and comment.*

13. Business Support Update *(Minute CS 24/26)* – The Head of Community Services will report on the plans for the Town Council's next Business Breakfast (22 October) and other initiatives to support local businesses – *for information and comment.*

14. Community Safety: Bleed Kits – Wiltshire Police is working with HeartSafe UK, NHS England South West, and South West Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust to launch the Wiltshire Police Bleed Kit Partnership. The initiative aims to improve community safety by providing potentially life-saving emergency bleed kits in public spaces throughout local communities.

    Following discussions with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team, it is proposed that three medically approved NHS bleed control kits and dispensers be installed alongside the Town Council's three defibrillators, which are sited at the Newlands Road public toilets, the Town Hall and, with permission from the landlord and brewery, The Royal Oak on the High Street. Each dispenser and kit costs £239+VAT.

    The former members of Peacock WI may be interested in fundraising to supply other venues with bleed control kits in the future, or organisations could approach the Town Council for grant funding to enable the purchase of kits.

    The Committee is asked to approve the purchase of the three bleed control kits at a total price of £717+VAT – *for discussion and approval.*

15. Budget Setting for 2027/28 – To discuss suggestions and priorities for inclusion in the 2027/28 budget – *for discussion.*