Corsham
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee Meeting held at Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 27 May 2026

Present	Councillor T Ellis (Chair) Councillors S Abbott, H Belcher OBE, N Brakspear, J Brook, J Coward and G Ward
In Attendance	J Whittleton (Head of Technical Services)
In Attendance Online	Councillor R Hopkinson

P&A 01/26 Apologies

None received.

P&A 02/26 Public Question Time and Petitions

Start Dates for Allotment Tenancies (agenda item 10) - Representations were received from the tenant who had submitted a request to change the start dates for allotment tenancies. He stated that under the current arrangements, tenants have until the end of April to confirm that they wish to continue with their plots. This meant any plots that became available did not do so until mid/late May. As a result, new tenants had a very truncated first growing season, and plots were often overgrown as they have lain fallow since the previous autumn. He stated that by changing the start date to 1 January, new tenants would have more time to plan and work their plot and that plots would be taken on in a better condition. He asked that the proposed change be supported.

The Linleys - Request for traffic calming, signage, crossing points, lighting and improved sightlines (agenda item 12iv) - Representations were received from the resident who had submitted the Highway Improvement Request at The Linleys. He stated that The Linleys was very dangerous for residents and other pedestrians and that he and his wife had experienced a number of close calls when vehicles had sped past, narrowly missing them. They had also heard a couple of crashes when in their house as vehicles had clipped each other or hit another object when passing through. He asked that the request for improvements be supported.

Lacock Road, Corsham – Request for Maintenance and Kerbing (agenda item 12v) - Representations were received from the resident who had submitted the Highway Improvement Request at Lacock Road He stated that parking along Lacock Road caused regular log jams, that it presented difficulties accessing driveways along Lacock Road and that the verge had been cut up by people using it as a spot to drop off school pupils. He stated that he had been advised by a director at Wiltshire Council to submit a Highway Improvement Form and that as well as requesting maintenance and kerbing, he wanted to know the classification of the verge and whether it was classed as a footpath. He asked that the request for improvements be supported.

P&A 03/26 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

P&A 04/26 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee meeting held on 25 March 2026

There were none.

P&A 05/26 Guide Hut and Arnold House Feasibility Study *(Minute P&A 70/25 and others)*

The Committee noted that the feasibility study and cost plan would be presented to a meeting of the Strategic Planning Working Group on 10 June 2026 and that the Town Council's architect would be present to introduce the plans and answer any questions. After consideration of the study and the likely costs, the Town Council would need to decide how and when to move forward with the remodelling of the Guide Hut and Arnold House to improve the condition of the property and facilities for the grounds team.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 06/26 Public Realm Update *(Minute P&A 74/25 and others)*

The Head of Technical Services reported that he and the Chief Executive had met with Wiltshire Council's Traffic Engineering Manager to outline the Town Council's plans for the Pickwick Road/Newlands Road junction and to ask how the Town Council might take them forward. The Traffic Engineering Manager undertook to conduct some internal conversations with colleagues and to let us know his thoughts. He had stated that it might be possible to take the scheme forward internally, so as to avoid consultant's costs. He also roughly estimated that there might be £150,000 worth of work within the proposals.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 07/26 Service Delegation/Asset Transfer *(Minute P&A 76/25 and others)*

Consideration was given to Report No.7 which recommended that Officers open discussions with Wiltshire Council with a view to transferring seven sites to the Town Council and rationalising agreements already in place. The seven sites were: Brook Drive, Cresswells, Hatton Way, Newlands Road/Arnolds Mead, Valley Road, Velley Hill and the Lagger Playing Field.

Resolved

That Officers open discussions with Wiltshire Council about transferring seven sites to the Town Council and rationalising the agreements already in place throughout the town.

P&A 08/26 20mph Speed Limits in Corsham and Wiltshire Council's new Speed Limit Policy *(Minute P&A 58/25 and others)*

The Committee noted that an informal Members' meeting would take place on Monday 1 June to take an initial look at changes/additions to 20mph limits in the town centre. Wiltshire's new Speed Limit Policy contained a section on the assessment process for the introduction of 20mph limits and zones.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 09/26 Corsham Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

The Committee noted that the Corsham LCWIP had been approved by Wiltshire Council. Town Council Officers had reviewed the plan and noticed that Route 3/3A overlapped with a key intervention in the Town Transport Plan. Officers also felt that the Town Council might be better placed to push for this route as it owned part of the land on which improvements were proposed (Meriton Rec).

Issues discussed included:

- The indicative cost estimates at Appendix B in the LCWIP and how these were arrived at; and
- Whether this route should be a priority, given the cost of delivering the improvements.

Resolved

1) To undertake a site visit of Route 3/3A when undertaking the annual site visits on 20 July 2026.

2) To contact the consultants who produced the plan to ask how they arrived at the costs for the routes.

P&A 10/26 Start Dates for Allotment Tenancies

Consideration was given to a proposal from an allotment tenant to change the start dates for allotment tenancies from 1 April to 1 January.

Issues discussed included:

- The additional administrative work that might be created by making the change;
- That new tenants would have more time to plan and work their plot during their first growing season if the start date for tenancies was brought forward;
- Whether existing tenants would support the proposal;
- Whether 1 January, 1 February or 1 April was the best start date; and
- The importance of consulting with tenants before making any changes.

Resolved

To consult existing allotment tenants and those on the waiting list to ask their views on changing the start date for allotment tenancies, and their preferred date.

P&A 11/26 Update on Local Highway & Footway Improvement Group (LHFIG) Issues *(Minute P&A 75/25 and others)*

The Committee received an update on issues arising from the LHFIG meeting on 6 May 2026.

Issues included:

- That Councillor R Hopkinson was stepping down as Chair of the Group after eight years;
- That the number of LHFIG meetings was being reduced from four to three, with meetings in May, September and January;
- That the recently painted lines along Pickwick Road were due to be re-done in primrose yellow – the correct colour for the designated Conservation Area;
- That work to put in the SID socket at Elley Green was imminent;
- That the Senior Traffic Engineer was due to re-cost the A4 crossing near the Middlewick Lane turning and that the LHFIG would consider taking this forward as a possible substantive bid in 2026/27; and
- That the LHFIG had agreed to contribute £1,000 towards a SID socket at Westwells. This was being costed and drawn up and would hopefully be taken forward at the same time as SID sites were put in at Box.

The Committee was asked to consider contributing up to £1,752 towards dropped kerbs for an informal crossing at Newlands Road near its junction with Bences Lane.

Resolved

1) To note the update.

2) To contribute up to £1,752 towards dropped kerbs for an informal crossing at Newlands Road.

P&A 12/26 Requests for Highway Improvements and Traffic Surveys (*Minute P&A 76/25 and others*)

i. Dickens Avenue, Corsham – Request for double yellow lines outside 6 Dickens Avenue.

Issues discussed included:

- Whether this would set a precedent and move the issue elsewhere; and
- Whether this would have wider support amongst residents in the area.

Resolved

Not to support the request.

ii. Hitherspring, Corsham – Request to reinstall gravel path.

Issues discussed included:

- That reinstating the path would only benefit a small number of people;
- That there was an alternative route which didn't add much to walking times; and
- That this would be low priority compared to other requests for intervention.

Resolved

Not to support the request.

iii. Brockleaze, Neston

Issues discussed included:

- That there was space for two vehicles to pass at this point, but that issues might be caused by tractors and lorries in the winter;
- Given the LHFIG's relatively small budget and that the issue here is not safety related, the request would be considered a low priority; and
- Whether the verge is part of the highway or forms part of a private dwelling.

Resolved

Not to support the request and to inform the applicant that the Town Council suspects that the verge was part of the highway as it was marked as such on Wiltshire Council's grounds maintenance system.

iv. The Linleys – Request for traffic calming, signage, crossing points, lighting and improved sightlines.

Issues discussed included:

- Whether issues were caused by a lack of space or speeding vehicles;
- That the site does present a significant risk and as such should be prioritised;
- That safety could probably only be improved via an engineering solution;
- The possibility of speed humps or a priority give-way scheme such as that in Biddestone.

Resolved

1) To support the request going on to the LHFIG

2) To ask the Senior Traffic Engineer how much the scheme at Biddestone cost.

v. Lacock Road, Corsham – Request for Maintenance and Kerbing.

The Head of Technical Services gave a quick summary of efforts to address issues at this location. He stated that the issue was first considered at an informal meeting of the Property & Amenities Committee on 1 July 2020, following the receipt of five highway improvement forms calling for a tarmac

path and proper kerbing. Councillors had agreed to send the request on to the Community Area Transport Group (CATG) [the predecessor of the LHFIG] with the comment that any solution should aim to stop parking along Lacock Road. The issue had then been looked at in some depth at the CATG/LHFIG. They noted that a footway had been considered as part of the Taking Action On School Journeys initiative but had not been taken forward due to the large-scale drainage works and relocation of utilities that were required. Nevertheless, the LHFIG ordered trial holes and a topographical survey (at a cost of £6,500) which found services along the verge (some very shallow) including a high-pressure gas pipe. The LHFIG concluded that this would make a path prohibitively expensive. The LHFIG (with Town Council support) arranged for zigzags to be put down on the road in an effort to discourage parking and these became enforceable from 1 July 2024. The LHFIG also asked for targeted enforcement to take place during school times by Parking Services (Town Council Officers did not know to what extent enforcement took place). Whilst the possibility of a footpath had been ruled out, the LHFIG did draw up a scheme to install kerbing along the verge. This was costed at £45,000 and would have required a successful substantive bid. However, the scheme did not go forward as the Town Council was unwilling to contribute £7,000 towards it.

Issues discussed included:

- Councillor Hopkinson stated that she had requested street sweeping along the verge in order to keep the yellow lines visible and to make enforcement possible;
- That the issue was probably best tackled by proper enforcement, rather than with expensive engineering solutions;
- Corsham Town Council's historic efforts to ease the parking situation by putting in the path to the rear of the Methuen Arms car park; and
- Whether the verge was classed as a footpath or a verge.

Resolved

1) That Councillor Hopkinson and Councillor Belcher would discuss how they might get more enforcement carried out at this location.

2) To determine whether the verge is classed as a footpath or a verge.

3) To consider the LHFIG kerbing scheme when the Town Council next looks at highway/transport priorities.

P&A 13/26 Brockleaze Traffic Survey

The results of a traffic survey along Brockleaze had found that there was an 85th percentile of vehicles travelling at 28.33mph. This would qualify under Wiltshire Council's Practice Note for the deployment of a Speed Indicator Device (SID). As such, the Committee was invited to consider submitting a highway improvement form to that effect.

Resolved

To send a highway improvement form asking for a SID socket to be installed at this location.

P&A 14/26 Highway Improvement Form – Corsham to Chippenham Cycling Route *(Minute P&A 76/25)*

The Head of Technical Services reported that Officers were in contact with Corsham Estate about the proposed traffic-free route. The Environmental Project Officer was due to meet with a representative of the Estate to clarify proposals. Once the Estate's views were known, the Town Council would consult with neighbouring properties and businesses and present these views to the Committee.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 15/26 Proposed Traffic Regulation Order for Consultation

Consideration was given to a proposed Traffic Regulation Order which would affect the parishes of Chippenham, Chippenham Without, Lacock and Corsham. There was only a very short section, south of the Chequers roundabout which would affect Corsham, with the speed limit being lowered to 40mph on the approach to the roundabout.

Resolved

To note the proposed Traffic Regulation Order.

P&A 16/26 Speed Indicator Devices and AutoSpeedWatch *(Minute P&A 79/25 and others)*

A Speed Indicator Device (SID) had been deployed at Elley Green from 18 February to 5 March 2026. It had recorded average speeds of 21.82mph (incoming) and 22.71mph (outgoing). The maximum speeds recorded were 52mph (incoming) and 50mph (outgoing).

The Head of Technical Services reported that the AutoSpeedWatch Device had been repaired and should now work throughout the winter. It had recently been installed at Gastard, opposite the Old Post Office and was operating correctly.

P&A 17/26 Road Safety Update – Wiltshire Police

Consideration was given to the Road Safety Update which was produced for the Corsham Area Board. The Committee noted that between January and April 2026, the Police had issued either speed awareness training, fines or court referrals to 220 motorists in the Corsham area.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 18/26 Proposed Path at Beechfield Nature Area *(Minute P&A 71/25)*

At the Committee meeting on 25 March 2026, Councillors considered a request to install a gravel path around Beechfield Nature Area. Before making

a decision, the Committee resolved to consult with the Pickwick Association and users of the space to see if there would be support for such an initiative.

A consultation exercise was conducted through SurveyMonkey from 19-26 May. There had been 59 responses, c.87% were opposed, 8% in favour and 5% neutral/other. The Pickwick Association and the Beechfield Trustees had both expressed opposition to the proposal.

Issues discussed included:

- The amount of opposition to the scheme and the strength of some of those opinions.

Resolved

Not to take forward the proposal.

The meeting began at 7.00pm and ended at 8.35pm. There were four members of the public present.

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CHAIR DATE