

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Town Hall on Monday 11 November 2024

Present Councillor A Brown (Chair)
Councillors S Abbott, H Belcher OBE, N Brakspear, J Brook, T Ellis,
R Hopkinson, A Jones, G McCaffery, J Robertson, L Waugh, A White and
R Williams

In Attendance Mrs M Jones (Head of Finance and Administration)
D Martin (Chief Executive)
Sgt M Tripp (Wiltshire Police)

In Attendance Online Councillors T Bush, A Mackie, R Munn and G Ward

150/24 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Councillors N Farmer, D Jarman and A Thomas.

151/24 Public Question Time and Petitions

There were none.

152/24 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.

153/24 Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 October 2024

Minute 143/24 Wiltshire Independent Remuneration Panel: Allowances Survey - It was suggested that this Minute be amended to clarify that the Town Council did not support Town Councillor allowances but would support carers' allowances.

Resolved

That the Minutes, as amended, be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

154/24 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

Minute 141/24 Corsham Fire Service – The Chief Executive had written to Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service asking them to reconsider a decision to remove the second engine from Corsham. As of the date of the meeting, no reply had been received.

155/24 Policing and Community Safety

Sgt Tripp attended the meeting and gave the following report.

In October, the local policing team had been involved in 42 community engagements. These included a Corsham School talk regarding the danger of weapons and knife crime.

Officers also took part in Business Safety Week where members of the Wiltshire Police Neighbourhood Harm Reduction Team attended Corsham to engage with local business owners and shop workers. This was to identify retail safety problems and provide support to address any issues raised.

Shoplifting was on the increase nationally. Katherine Park Co-op had been targeted by criminals from outside of the area.

Local police incidents included two arrests for suspicion of possession of controlled drugs; two drug warrants executed in the Corsham area; two adult males arrested for driving whilst unfit through taking drugs; two adults arrested for drink driving; three vehicles seized for driving with no insurance.

Local officers had taken part in speed checks on Park Lane, in Neston and at Cross Keys.

As Christmas approaches the drink drive and road safety campaign would be increased further.

Councillor Robertson, in her role as a special constable, had taken part in Operation Serent with the local Neighbourhood Policing Team to carry out a range of preventative measures across Wiltshire to tackle crime and disorder associated with the night-time economy.

Councillors thanked Sgt Tripp and his team for policing at the Remembrance Day Parade.

156/24 Chair's Announcements

On 21 October the Chair attended a follow-up meeting with the Area Manager of Shaunaks.

On 24 October the Chair and Chief Executive had attended a joint meeting with other local Chief Executives, Leaders and Chairs at Chippenham Town Council. Sarah Gibson MP attended the meeting.

On 25 October the Chair attended a service and memorial-laying at St Bartholomew's Church for Captain Daniel Clutterbuck, who took part in the charge of the Light Brigade.

On 27 October the Chair attended the Twinning Association dinner at the Town Hall.

On 10 November the Chair attended the Remembrance Sunday service at St Bartholomew's Church and the procession to the War Memorial.

The Chair informed Councillors that the Christmas meal would be on 18 December.

157/24 Correspondence

- i) Members Information Sheet Nos. 581 and 582 were noted.
- ii) Late correspondence – there was none.

158/24 Reports from Council representatives appointed to outside bodies

Councillor Robertson reported that, on 28 November, The Pound was showing a film called Rewilding and that there would be a discussion after the film.

Councillor Robertson informed Councillors that thermal imaging cameras could be loaned from the Corsham Library for use in the community.

Councillor Hopkinson had attended the Gastard Village Hall AGM and reported that grant funding from the Town Council and Octavian had put them in a good position to improve the facilities at the hall.

Councillor Hopkinson and Councillor McCaffery had attended the Sports Forum which had been an excellent and positive meeting.

Councillor White reported that fliers had been delivered in the Corsham area informing residents of the online pharmacy at Bumpers Farm, Chippenham.

The Chair informed Councillors that The Corsham School was hoping to open the MUGA for community use in the future.

159/24 Minutes of the Finance and Administration Committee Meeting held on 23 October 2024

Resolved

That the Minutes be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

160/24 Matters arising from the above Minutes

There were none.

161/24 Minutes of the Council (Planning) Meeting held on 30 October 2024

Resolved

That the Minutes be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

162/24 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were none.

163/24 Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 6 November 2024

Resolved

That the Minutes be approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

164/24 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were none.

165/24 Enabling Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting at Local Authority Meetings (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Consultation)

Government was consulting on introducing Powers for local authority members to apply to the relevant authority for a dispensation to attend formal council meetings remotely and vote by proxy in certain circumstances. If the legislation was changed it would apply to town and parish councils. Responses were invited from councils, individual Councillors, members of the public and local government representative organisations.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) welcomed the announcement regarding remote council meetings. Their position regarding proxy voting was unclear as it may throw up concerns, such as pre-determination.

The Town Council was in favour of remote meetings but had concerns about proxy voting.

Resolved

That the Chief Executive responds to the consultation on behalf of the Town Council and that Councillors also be encouraged to respond individually.

166/24 Issues for Corsham Area Board Consideration (Various Minutes)

Further to previous meetings, this regular agenda item asks the Town Council to identify issues for Area Board consideration.

There were no specific Area Board issues but the Chair of the Council would attend the next Area Board meeting.

167/24 Authorisation of cheques and payments

Name	Amount
Salaries & Payments - CTC Staff	£28,811.17
Wiltshire Pension Fund - Pension Contributions for November	£9,659.21
HMRC - Tax & NI for November	£9,158.16
	£34,600.00

Methuen Hall Trust - Half Yearly Grant

Methuen Hall Trust - Hire of Chamber and Town Hall for October	£710.00
Methuen Hall Trust - Hire of Town Hall for Community Meetings in September and October	£1,020.00
Simply Sweepers - Street Sweeping Areas 3 and 4	£1,671.12
James Creighton - PA System for Christmas Lights	£450.00
Travis Perkins - Gravel, Wipes, Line Marking Paint, Bin Repairs, Brackets and Gutter Stops	£124.09
Corsham Tyre Service - Wheel Barrow Tyre/Inner Tube	£22.91
Corsham Print - Newsletter Design and Print, Christmas Shopping Directional Signs	£1,076.60
Online Playgrounds - Swing Bearing	£68.60
Auditing Solutions - Interim Internal Audit	£612.00
Corsham Twinning Association - Twinning Gift	£75.00
Milk and Tweed - Rebuild of Corsham Town Council and Visit Corsham Sites	£4,155.00
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - 2 x Poppy Wreaths	£40.00
Addex Urban - Hire of Electric Maxwind Sweeper for 3 x Months	£4,470.00
Amazon - Recyclable Eco Cups, Items for Christmas Lights, Battery Lanterns, HDMI Lead	£292.76
Workwear Express - Europa Bomber Jacket, Uniform for Nick Maggs	£191.28
Screwfix - Safety Boots	£49.99
Wessex Water - Pre-application Site Visit	£75.00
Wessex Water - Park Place Allotments Water Connection and Administration Fee	£4,348.80
Landmark - Noticeboard for Long Stay Car Park (at Hobbs Walk)	£3,936.00
Wired Publishing (West Wilts Magazine) - Advertising Christmas in Corsham	£198.00
Quoakle - Renewal of Great Days Out UK Listing	£108.00
My Skills for Life - Emergency 1st Aid at Work - Mark Gilby	£77.00
Wiltshire Council - Replace Bus Shelter Glass in Newlands Road	£443.06
Your Wiltshire - Advertising in Your Wiltshire	£78.00
Newsquest - Advertising Christmas in Corsham in Wiltshire Living and Swindon Advertiser	£300.00
Idverde - Monthly Grounds Maintenance and Toilet Cleaning	£4,143.60
Global Media Group Services Ltd - Autumn Winter Advertising Campaign	£923.66
Balloonitude - Balloon Modelling at Christmas Lights Switch On	£260.00
Garry Ford - Reimbursement Towards Lenses for Computer use	£60.00
1st Aid 4 Fencing Ltd - Anti Trap Bow Top Gates for Pockeridge Play Area	£981.67
Matthew Holmes - High Street Busking	£50.00
Urban Foresight - Part Payment Town Transport Plan Inspection Programme	£6,000.00
The Corsham School - Music Therapy	£3,200.00
Military Wives Choir - Busing in High Street and Wishing Tree Event	£150.00
Jake Adams - DBS Check - Skate Park Group	£18.00
Commercial Washrooms - Multifit Toilet Paper Dispenser	£43.20

Cheque	
Petty Cash - October	£93.54
Charge Card	
Emorsgate Seeds - Wildflower Seeds	£78.00
Wessex Water - Park Place Allotment Water Connection	£186.00
Squarespace - Renewal of Storytown Website Domain	£192.00
Grants	
Wiltshire Music Centre	£750.00
The Pounds Arts Trust	£379.00
Souper Friday	£685.00
Prospect Estate Community Defibrillator	£750.00
Sub total	£125,765.42
Cheques/Internet Banking Paid Outside of Meeting	
Ashbridge Trees Ltd - Fruit Trees for Neston Rec, Freestone Way and Sundries	£1,551.21
Henchman Ltd - Tripod Ladder	£649.00
TES Roofing Ltd - New Roof Public Convenience	£6,156.00
Payments Made by Direct Debit/Standing Order	
Wessex Water - Public Conveniences Water	£789.91
Wessex Water - Water for Springfield Standpipe and Grove Field Allotments	£110.98
West Mercia Energy - Guide Hut Electricity October and November	£249.66
West Mercia Energy - Electricity for Public Conveniences October and November	£141.44
UK Fuels - Fuel for Work Vehicles	£224.03
Hills Waste - Refuse Collections, Skip Exchange	£954.30
SGW Payroll - Monthly Payroll Processing	£28.56
Peninsula - Monthly HR and Health & Safety Advice	£460.72
Excalibur Bridge Solutions - Monthly IT and Telephone Support	£1,088.76
Vodafone - One Net Mobile Telephones Plus Additional Invoice	£397.37
SSE - Electricity for Skatepark Lighting	£111.77
SSE - CCTV Electricity	£21.32
Viking Direct - Stationery, Paper and Batteries	£176.23
Mainstream Digital - Line rental	£16.93
SUB TOTAL	£13,128.19
TOTAL	<u>£138,893.61</u>

Resolved

That the cheques and transfers be authorised for payment.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 8.35pm. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

CHAIR

DATE