

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Town Hall on Monday 8 April 2024

Present Councillor H Belcher OBE (Chair)
Councillors S Abbott, J Brook, A Brown, T Ellis, N Farmer, R Hopkinson,
A Jones, J Roberton, A Thomas, A White

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

In Attendance Online Councillor T Bush

265/23 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors N Brakspear, D Jarman, G McCaffery and G Ward.

266/23 Public Question Time and Petitions

There were none.

267/23 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.

There were none.

268/23 Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 11 March 2024

Resolved

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

269/23 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were no matters arising.

270/23 Policing and Community Safety

Sgt Tripp had submitted the following report on recent policing incidents:

The Community Policing Team had carried out 56 community engagements with schools and community groups during March.

Corsham officers, along with members of the Wiltshire Police Neighbourhood Harm Reduction Team, took part in a knife sweep operation in Katherine Park. This is for public reassurance to ensure persons are not using play parks or green areas to hide weapons. No items were located.

On 21 March a moped, laptop and bicycle were stolen. Three suspects were identified and interviewed. The investigation was ongoing.

Over the Bank Holiday there were three thefts and two attempted thefts of motorbikes in the Corsham area. On 5 April an arrest was made of a male suspect in connection with the motorbike thefts. The investigation was ongoing.

One adult male from Corsham was arrested for driving without a licence and for public order and traffic offences. A male had been arrested for possession with intent to supply class B drugs and for cultivating cannabis.

Local police had conducted test purchases of age-restricted products in Corsham, Calne and Chippenham. Three stores in Corsham were targeted, Londis in the town centre had failed the test and details had been given to Trading Standards.

271/23 Chair's Announcements

There were no announcements.

272/23 Correspondence

- i) Members Information Sheet Nos. 566 and 567 were noted.
- ii) Late correspondence – there was none.

273/23 Reports from Council representatives appointed to outside bodies

Councillor A White informed Councillors that the Walking Festival brochures were now available.

Councillor J Robertson reported that Corsham Climate Action would be holding a community garden working party and a stall at the Eco Fair promoting zero waste.

Councillor T Bush reported on progress of the deaf and disabled people's group 'We Are The People'.

Councillor R Hopkinson had attended the Corsham Storytown presentations at the Town Hall. The young people taking part had been very inspirational, and everyone enjoyed the evening.

274/23 Minutes of the Council (Planning) Meeting held on 13 March 2024

Resolved

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

275/23 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were none.

276/23 Minutes of the Community Services Committee Meeting held on 20 March 2024

Resolved

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

277/23 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were none.

278/23 Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 27 March 2024

Resolved

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

279/23 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were none.

280/23 Minutes of the Council (Planning) Meeting held on 3 April 2024

Resolved

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

281/23 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were none.

282/23 Minutes of the Corsham Youth Council Meeting held on 25 March 2024

The Minutes were noted.

283/23 Corsham – An Age-Friendly Community (*Minute CS 65/23*)

At the Community Services Committee Meeting on 20 March 2024, the Committee discussed the possibility of Corsham becoming a recognised Age-friendly Community as part of a UK Network. An Age-friendly Community sees older residents (age 50+) engaged in shaping the place where they live, meaning local groups, the Town Council, businesses and residents all work together to identify and make changes in both the physical and social environment, for example transport, outdoor spaces, volunteering and employment, leisure and community services.

The first step in the process was for the Town Council to make a written commitment to work actively towards Corsham becoming an Age-friendly Community. If the Council agreed to support the work, a Steering Group would be set up.

Resolved

That the Town Council approves the process of Corsham becoming an Age-friendly Community.

284/23 Fairtrade Corsham

Further to Corsham being awarded Fairtrade Town status for 2023-2026 and the recent Town Council grant awarded to the Group, the Town Council was asked to confirm its continuing support for Fairtrade to support future applications for Fairtrade status. The Town Council would continue to promote the scheme and appoint representatives to the Fairtrade Corsham group.

Resolved

That Corsham Town Council continues support for Fairtrade and supports future applications for Fairtrade status.

285/23 Strategic Plan 2022-2026 Update (*Minute 213/23 and others*)

The fifth monitoring report, in the form of a RAG (Red/Amber/Green) Report and update sheet was circulated.

The update was noted.

286/23 Loss of Boots Pharmacy Update (*Minute 241/23*)

Further to the Council meeting on 12 February 2024, Corsham Area Board's Health and Wellbeing Group received an update from the Associate Director of the Wiltshire Integrated Alliance Programme and Delivery Lead. The key points were:

- The ICA had received no feedback from local GPs regarding any concerns about the closure of Boots and no concerns about the closure from other local pharmacies.
- Contact had been made with Shaunaks who were happy with the status quo.
- An update was planned for a month or two to see how things were going.
- Before closing, Boots staff had encouraged those with regular prescriptions to transfer them to other pharmacies.
- There was a 'Pharmacy Needs Analysis' being undertaken by the ICB's Community Pharmacy Lead and its Chief Pharmacist. Lack of pharmacies, particularly in rural areas, was recognised as a strategic priority.

Councillors were very concerned that Boots the chemist had closed leaving only one pharmacy serving the residents Corsham. Concerns raised by users of the pharmacy included queues, long waits to get served, car parking and the impact of future growth on the town on pharmacy and other health services.

Resolved

That a representative from Shaunaks Pharmacy be invited to a meeting to discuss plans on how the pharmacy could manage the services in the future.

287/23 Former Family Health Centre, Beechfield Road (*Minute 169/23 and others*)

Further to the Council meeting on 13 November 2023, Corsham Area Board Health and Wellbeing Group received an update from an Associate Director of the Wiltshire Integrated Alliance Programme and Delivery Lead. The key points were:

- The Associate Director had spoken with their Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Primary Care Network (PCN) colleagues regarding the Family Health Centre.
- There was still general interest in using the building for health services and discussions were underway with two main providers, with others interested. They were unable to say who the providers were but thought it likely both were NHS services.
- A decision on the building's future was due in May 2024.
- Should no health providers want to use the building, then the ICB would give first priority to a public body buying it. If no public body was interested, the building would be sold on the open market.
- The ICB's preference was for the building to have a health use.

The Town Council discussed issues around pharmacy provision with respect to the recent closure of Boots in the town centre and also the future of the former family health centre on Beechfield Road. The Town Council was increasingly concerned over the lack of appropriate pharmacy provision at Shaunaks and the difficulties getting appointments at The Porch Surgery.

Councillors would like to ask the ICB what the plan is for delivering services for Corsham.

Resolved

That the Council Chair writes to the Chair of the ICB requesting an urgent meeting with members of the ICB to discuss the growing issues around the provision of healthcare and pharmacy services to Corsham community.

288/23 Committee Preferences and Representation on Outside Bodies

The Chief Executive explained the process for deciding Membership of Committees and appointing Representatives to Outside Bodies in preparation for the Annual Council Meeting on 13 May 2024.

289/23 Issues for Corsham Area Board Consideration (*Various Minutes*)

Further to previous meetings, this regular agenda item asked the Town Council to identify issues for Area Board consideration. There were no new issues.

290/23 Appointment of Neighbourhood Planning Consultants

Interviews for Neighbourhood Planning Consultants took place on 27 March 2024. There were just two submissions, and both were within the agreed budget of £25,000 to £35,000. Approval is sought to appoint the consultant which submitted a slightly higher figure but had much more experience in Neighbourhood Planning work. The difference in price was less than £2,000+VAT.

Resolved

That the consultant which submitted a slightly higher figure but had much more experience in Neighbourhood Planning work be appointed to support the delivery of the new Neighbourhood Plan.

291/23 Councillor Vacancy, Corsham Pickwick Ward (*Minute 262/23 and others*)

There was one Town Councillor vacancy, which was for Corsham Pickwick Ward. As no election was called, the vacancy could be filled by co-option. The vacancy had been advertised and one application had been received from Richard Munn, who addressed Councillors in support of his application.

Resolved

That Richard Munn be co-opted as a Town Councillor for Corsham Pickwick Ward.

292/23 Authorisation of cheques and payments

Salaries & Payments - CTC Staff	£31,494.16
Wiltshire Pension Fund - Pension Contribution for April	£10,590.90
HMRC - Tax & NI for April	£10,156.53
Methuen Hall Trust - Hire of Council Chamber and Town Hall for April Council Meetings	£680.00
PSS Live - Annual Licence Fee for Playground Safety Checks	£3,150.00
Screwfix - Safety Footwear, Goggles and Helmet	£65.47
Planks Dairies - Town Hall Milk Deliveries in March	£42.58
Pear Technology - Technical Support and Software Updates	£288.00
Travis Perkins - Chainsaw Safety Workwear	£142.08
SLCC Enterprise - Project Management and AI Webinars	£150.00
Wiltshire Council - Ladbroke Lane Cemetery Non-Domestic Rates	£1,896.20
Simply Sweepers - Road Sweeping Zones 3 & 4	£1,260.00
Your Wiltshire - Advertising in April 2024 for Eco Fair	£78.00
Greenway Training - Equipment Hire for Chainsaw/Cross Cutting Course	£15.00
CPRE - Annual Membership Renewal	£36.00
West Wilts Magazine - Advertising Eco Fair	£126.00
Rialtas - Asset Management, Making VAT Digital, Omega Cashbook, Annual Software Support	£1,495.20
Milk and Tweed - Website Support and Hosting	£348.00
Corsham Town Football Club - Renewal of Advertising Board 2024/25	£298.80
Corsham Print - Spring Newsletter Design, Print and Delivery	£959.00
Zeta Technova Ltd - Youth Shelter Solar Lighting	£2,518.31
Dyno Rod - Unblocking of Gully in Public Conveniences	£247.00

J H Jones & Sons - Grave Digging x 1 Triple Depth	£1,228.00
Hartham Park Estates Ltd - Middlewick Lane Allotment Water	£21.67
Coppard Plant Hire Ltd - Wood Chipper Hire	£540.48
Proludic - Play Equipment Spares	£772.12

Cheque

Petty Cash – Carried over to May

Grants

Fairtrade Corsham	£504.33
Corsham Bowls Club	£2,000.00
Gastard Village Hall	£2,000.00
Corsham Youth Zone Management Committee (1st Instalment)	£4,500.00
Pound Arts Trust (1st Instalment)	£3,000.00

Charge Card

No Statement Received

Sub total

£80,603.83

Cheques / Internet Banking Paid Outside of Meeting

There were none

Payments Made by Direct Debit/Standing Order

Wiltshire Council - Rooms at Arnold House Non-Domestic Rates	£1,035.43
West Mercia Energy - Public Conveniences Electricity	No Invoice
West Mercia Energy - Guide Hut Electricity	No Invoice
UK Fuels - Fuel for Work Vehicles in March	£295.80
Hills Waste - Refuse Collections and Skip Exchange	£495.47
SGW Payroll - Monthly Payroll Processing for March	£64.32
Peninsula - Monthly HR & H&S Consultancy	£460.72
Excalibur - Samsung Mobile (JW), Office 365 Licences	£592.20
Vodafone - One Net Mobile Telephones	£752.47
Viking - Stationery	£239.35
ICO - Data Protection Renewal	£55.00

SUB TOTAL

£3,990.76

TOTAL

£84,594.59

Resolved

That the cheques and transfers be authorised for payment.

The meeting commenced at 7.00pm and closed at 8.25pm. There was one member of the public present.

CHAIR

DATE