

Minutes of the Corsham Railway Station Town Team meeting held on Friday 6th April 2018 at Hartham Park Library, Corsham

Present P Pearson (Chairman)
Councillor S Abbott (Corsham Town Council)
M Baker (MOD Corsham)
J Dorman (MOD Corsham)
Councillor Mrs R Hopkinson (Corsham Town Council and Wiltshire Council)
P Johnson (Transwilts)
R Murphy (Wiltshire Council)
Councillor H Prickett (Wiltshire Council)
Mrs C Ramsey (MPs Office)
G Sangster (Bath Spa University)
Councillor C Fuller (Corsham Town Council)

In attendance D Martin (Chief Executive, Corsham Town Council)

TT 11 Apologies

Apologies were received from Alan Cudlipp (Resident/Volunteer), Ms M Donelan MP, Councillor R Le-Var (Corsham Town Council), D Philips (Wiltshire Council), Mrs L Simons (Corsham Institute), N Spreadbury-Clews (MOD Corsham), Prof J Strachan (Bath Spa University).

TT 12 Minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2018 and Matters Arising

The Minutes were approved as a true record.

TT 13 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

There were no matters arising.

TT 14 Revised Town Team Terms of Reference and Membership

The revised Terms of Reference, as issued with the Agenda, were approved.

TT 15 Feedback on responses to the Consultation on the Great Western Rail Franchise

The Chairman updated the meeting on the response he had submitted on behalf of the Town Team to the recent GWR consultation. He explained that Corsham Town Council had also responded to the consultation.

TT 16 Area Board Funding towards Rail Study/Event

Corsham Town Council Chief Executive reported that the Area Board had provided £3,473 towards work on the new railway station. The money had been set aside for research and a stakeholder event.

Wiltshire Council has £70,000 to produce a Rail Strategy and is undergoing the procurement process. The Strategy is likely to be ready in around six months' time but couldn't be finalised until early 2019 as it needed to tie in to the new Local Plan and Industrial Strategy.

TT 17 Stakeholder Event

The Chairman gave an update on various meetings and discussions, which would be helpful in setting out the scope of a stakeholder event later in the year. There was a general discussion and updates from various Town Team members.

Points covered included:

- Transwilt meetings with GWR, DFT and Network Rail;
- Possibility of MetroWest route to Westbury;
- The case for having three trains per hour through Corsham;
- The need to promote community aspects of Corsham and connecting commuters;
- Wiltshire Council has £50,000 to work with Network Rail;
- Major investment in the road network should bring more money to Wiltshire;
- There is a drive to create a sub-national transport body. This might mean two bodies for the south-west region;
- Business case – representatives to register for the GWR Conference on Community Rail in Swindon on 15th June.

Regarding preparation for the Stakeholder Event, the following was suggested:

- MP to lead;
- Include briefings on the context and aspirations by major stakeholders e.g. MOD and BSU;
- Cover where we are now – issues and concerns of key stakeholders;
- What national and local government are responsible for and action they can take;
- Opportunities and commitment;
- Funding;
- Aims and desired outcomes;
- Action plan to follow.

Stakeholders to include West of England Partnership, MP's and local government representatives along the route (Swindon to Bristol i.e. Swindon Borough Council, Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council, Chippenham Town Council, Corsham Town Council, BANES, Bristol City Council) and relevant government departments.

The event would take place from 20th July onwards, subject to the MPs availability.

TT 18 Any other business

R Murphy highlighted guidance published by the Campaign for Better Transport which is available at <https://www.bettertransport.org.uk/blog/rail/how-expand-our-railways>.

TT 19 Date and Time of Next Meeting

3pm on Friday 11th May 2018 at Hartham Park Library to discuss the draft agenda for the Stakeholder Event.