

Minutes of the Corsham Railway Station Town Team meeting held on Friday 22 June 2018 at Hartham Park Library, Corsham

Present P Pearson (Chairman)
Councillor S Abbott (Corsham Town Council)
J Dorman (MOD Corsham),
Councillor Mrs R Hopkinson (Corsham Town Council and Wiltshire Council)
P Johnson (Transwilt)
Councillor R Le-Var (Corsham Town Council)
D Phillips (Wiltshire Council)
G Sangster (Bath Spa University)

In attendance Mrs K Gilby (Planning and Events Officer)
D Martin (Chief Executive, Corsham Town Council)

TT 26 Apologies

Apologies were received from M Baker (MOD Corsham), A Cudlipp (Resident/Volunteer), Councillor H Prickett (Wiltshire Council), Ms L Simons (Corsham Institute), Councillor P Whalley (Wiltshire Council), Councillor Mrs A White (Corsham Town Council).

TT 27 Election of Chairman

Councillor P Pearson was elected as Chairman for the forthcoming year.

TT 28 Welcome and introductions

Round table introductions were made.

TT 29 Election of Vice-Chairman

Councillor R Le-Var was elected as Vice-Chairman for the forthcoming year.

TT 30 Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2018

The Minutes were approved as a true record.

TT 31 Matters Arising from the above Minutes

Following approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 6 April, R Murphy had sent an update to say that money allocated for the rail strategy would tie in with the SWLEP's Industrial Strategy and, Swindon BC's and Wiltshire Council's respective Local Plan processes and that the rail strategy would not, therefore, be finalised until early next year. It was also highlighted that the Department for Transport's Major Road Network proposal would provide opportunities to bid for funds. Also, South West authorities were looking to develop a sub-regional transport body(ies).

TT 32 Great Western Railway's Community Rail Conference

P Pearson and D Martin reported on the Great Western Railway's Community Rail Conference held on 15 June. The main points to come out of the day were that, in order to get a station for Corsham, there must be a clear vision, the political will and funding and, that we needed to get Wiltshire Council fully engaged. It was highlighted that Cornwall Council had been very successful in improving rail and bus services in their area.

TT 33 Preliminary Meetings with Stakeholders, and Stakeholder Event

It was felt to be of the utmost importance to engage positively with Wiltshire Council. It may be possible to request the raw data from the current metro counts being carried out on roads all around Corsham.

ACTION: P Pearson would email D Phillips the letter from GWR which states that they are happy for the Town Team to see the full Atkins report. P Pearson would request the information under the Freedom of Information Act if it was not forthcoming within two weeks.

TT 34 Business Case and Economic Study

D Phillips and R Murphy were meeting the Department for Transport next week. D Phillips was asked to feedback to the Town Team if possible.

There were currently four options for a service at Corsham, some of which had previously been discounted but now needed to be re-visited. The two most likely options were three services per hour through Chippenham and, extending the MetroWest service from Bristol to Chippenham.

The Town Team would like to explore the possibility of working with Wiltshire Council so that when their consultants were developing the rail strategy for Wiltshire we could gain source information to help Corsham's business case. It was also suggested that the consultants could be commissioned to carry out research for Corsham's economic case as an add-on to the Wiltshire Rail Strategy. Ideally this would be done at the same time to keep consultancy costs and timescales down and, could be funded by the Town Council and other parties. D Phillips would give this suggestion consideration once the consultant has been appointed.

ACTION: D Philips to explore possibility of additional consultancy work on the Corsham economic study as part of the Wiltshire Rail Strategy work;

ACTION: Arrange meetings with Wiltshire Council, Bath and North East Somerset Council and Chippenham Town Council to discuss issues around congestion and air quality and, their commitment and support for a Corsham Rail Service (P Pearson, R Le-Var, Mrs R Hopkinson, P Whalley and D Martin).

ACTION: D Martin to forward Corsham Town Council's response on the Great Western consultation and, Neighbourhood Plan research into why businesses choose to locate themselves in Corsham, to D Phillips.

ACTION: P Pearson to invite Dan Okey (GWR Development Manager) to a Town Team meeting regarding a Corsham Rail Service.

ACTION: P Pearson to contact the local MP to establish current level of support for a stopping service at Corsham.

ACTION: P Johnson to invite Bridget Fox at Better Transport to a Town Team meeting. P Johnson to send a copy of her recent presentation, to the Town Team members.

TT 35 Any other business

A draft Corsham Rail leaflet was circulated. Feedback was requested to Mrs K Gilby by 6 July 2018.

TT 36 Date and Time of Next Meeting

3pm on Friday 3 August 2018 at Hartham Park Library.