

# MINUTES

**Meeting:** Corsham Area Board  
**Place:** Corsham Town Hall, High Street, Corsham, SN13 0EZ  
**Date:** 12 December 2024  
**Start Time:** 19.00 pm  
**Finish Time:** 21.00 pm

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Please direct any enquiries on these minutes to:

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## **In Attendance:**

### **Wiltshire Councillors**

Cllr Ruth Hopkinson  
Cllr Helen Belcher OBE  
Cllr Derek Walters  
Cllr Dr Brian Mathew MP

### **Wiltshire Council Officers**

Ros Griffiths – Strategic Engagement & Partnership Manager  
Max Hirst – Democratic Services Officer

### **Partners**

Chief Constable – Catherine Roper  
Wiltshire Police – Inspector Pete Foster

**Total in attendance: 16**

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<u>Minute No..</u>	<u>Summary of Issues Discussed and Decision</u>
26	<p><u>Chairman's Welcome and Introductions</u></p> <p>The Chairman, Cllr Ruth Hopkinson, welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
27	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>There were no apologies for absence.</p>
28	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2024 were presented for consideration and it was:</p> <p><b><u>Resolved:</u></b></p> <p><b>To approve and sign as a true and correct record of the minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2024.</b></p>
29	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>
30	<p><u>Chairman's Announcements</u></p> <p>The Chairman updated the board on the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Transport Plan Consultation</li> <li>• Spot The Signs</li> </ul>
31	<p><u>Information Items</u></p> <p>The Board noted the following Information items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BSW Together (Integrated Care System)</li> <li>• Community First</li> <li>• Wiltshire Police Quarterly Update on Violence Against Women and Girls</li> <li>• Vaccine Confidence Training Sessions</li> <li>• EV Chargers</li> <li>• Cost of Living Update</li> </ul>
32	<p><u>Chief Constable</u></p> <p>The Board was pleased to welcome the Chief Constable Catherine Roper.</p> <p>The CC reminded the Board that the force was put into special measures 2 years ago, and in August received a grade that had zero “requires improvement”</p>

	<p>ratings and included areas that had improved by two or more ratings.</p> <p>Control Centres had been a priority and response times were now 8 minutes, down from 28 minutes 2 years ago. There had also been work to improve the quality of life and leadership structure within the Centres. Wiltshire had progressed from 43/43 to 17/43 in a matter of months, and whilst the CC was quick to assure that further improvement would be made, it was a significant development.</p> <p>It was clarified that one of the two areas where grades hadn't improved related to data, where technology had failed the force and therefore accurate data couldn't be provided. Improvements had been recognised by HMIC but not quite enough yet to allow a higher grade.</p> <p>The other area where there was no improved grade was investigating crime where support for victims, the administrative process, and overall speed was highlighted following an internal audit, these areas had received an enormous amount of effort to improve, and the aim was to begin evidencing improvements to HMIC in the coming year.</p> <p>Regarding cost pressures, the Chief Constable stated that the focus was on the community and although she was fully aware that savings would need to be made, that focus wouldn't change. The CC also clarified that she had been thinking and preparing however the budget settlement wouldn't be read out until the 19 December.</p> <p>Councillors thanked the Chief Constable for her detailed account and greeted the positive achievements and outlook provided.</p>
33	<p><u>Partner Updates</u></p> <p>The following written updates were noted and attached to the agenda:</p> <p>Corsham Town Council Box Parish Council Lacock Parish Council</p> <p>Colerne Parish Council's written update was noted and attached to the minutes</p> <p><u>Wiltshire Police</u></p> <p>Inspector Pete Foster gave a presentation, which was attached to the agenda, highlighting actions and statistics for Corsham.</p> <p>Councillors thanked Inspector Pete Foster for his presentation, highlighting the concerns of residents in the area regarding speeding, and urged the police to assist in enabling more SIDs in the area.</p>

	<p>Inspector Foster highlighted the potential for an overwhelming amount of data from SIDs, which is purely informative and not an enforcement method.</p> <p>The Chief Constable also wished to highlight that speeding is a multi-agency approach, including parties such as the Road Safety Partnership but that feedback was always welcomed and would be considered and communicated within the partnership.</p> <p>It was also clarified from a question relating to the presence of females in Wiltshire Police that the numbers were particularly good compared to the national picture (approximately 30% female), however further thought is always welcomed.</p> <p>An issue with drugs in Box was highlighted and it was clarified that since an actioned warrant in October no further issues had been reported.</p>
34	<p><u>Priority Updates</u></p> <p>The Board’s Councillors gave an update on their respective Priority Areas:</p> <p><b>Youth engagement and positive activity opportunities (Cllr Helen Belcher)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LYN Meeting was unfortunately rearranged at short notice but looking to reconvene in January 2025.</li> </ul> <p><b>Addressing climate change (Cllr Derek Walters)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drew attention to home upgrade grants available for the worst performing homes rated D-G on the EPC rating and could be used for upgrades such as better boilers and insulation.</li> <li>• Cllr Walters had recently completed a carbon literacy programme which was described as informative.</li> <li>• Trees were due to be planted in Finlay Park</li> </ul> <p><b>Promoting wellbeing and reducing social isolation in older and vulnerable people (Cllr Dr Brian Mathew MP)</b></p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing Group</u></p> <p>The following update had been received from Emma Higgins, Head of Combined Place for the BSW Integrated Care Board regarding Pharmacy provision and the Health Centre:</p> <p><b>Pharmacy Queries</b>  <i>“The ICB maintains a positive dialogue with those in the Corsham community.”</i></p>

	<p><i>“The Health and Wellbeing Board for Wiltshire has given its approval to the most recent Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, which outlines current provision and whether more is needed, and this remains valid until a new review is carried out in the new year.”</i></p> <p><i>“We will be working closely with all local partners to ensure the next assessment accurately reflects the needs of people living and working in Corsham.”</i></p> <p><b>Health Centre</b></p> <p><i>“The ICB is continuing to explore with system partners if there is a potential future use for the site and no decision has been made.”</i></p> <p><i>“Should the site not be required by partners, then the ICB will revert to its original intention to confirm to NHS Property Services who own the site, that the site is surplus to Health requirements and can be disposed of. A final decision will be made early in the new year.”</i></p> <p><b>Supporting the local economy (Cllr Ruth Hopkinson)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Hopkinson has been meeting with many local businesses and urging them to network with each other. A Business Breakfast was being held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at the Digital Mansion between 8-10am, free of charge.</li> </ul>
35	<p><u>Area Board Funding</u></p> <p>The Board’s budget was summarised to attendees and the following grants were considered.</p> <p>SMASH requested £1930 towards After School Peer Mentoring Sessions</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Helen Belcher OBE and seconded by Cllr Derek Walters</p> <p>It was:</p> <p><b><u>Resolved</u></b>  <b>To award SMASH £1930 towards After School Peer Mentoring Sessions</b>  <b><u>Reason</u> – The application met the Youth Grants Criteria 2024/25.</b></p> <p>Corsham Windband Association requested £5000 towards their Youth Music Development Project.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Helen Belcher OBE and seconded by Cllr Derek Walters</p> <p>It was:</p> <p><b><u>Resolved</u></b>  <b>To award Corsham Windband Association a reduced amount of £2500 towards their Youth Music Development Project</b>  <b><u>Reason</u> – The application met the Youth Grants Criteria 2024/25.</b></p>

	<p>Corsham Rugby Club requested £2500 towards junior equipment.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Helen Belcher OBE and seconded by Cllr Derek Walters</p> <p>It was:</p> <p><b><u>Resolved</u></b>  <b>To award Corsham Rugby Club £2500 towards junior equipment</b>  <b><u>Reason</u> – <i>The application met the Youth Grants Criteria 2024/25.</i></b></p> <p>Corsham Windband Association requested £1045 towards their Primary School Music Development Project</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Dr Brian Mathew MP and seconded by Cllr Helen Belcher OBE</p> <p>It was:</p> <p><b><u>Resolved</u></b>  <b>To award Corsham Windband Association £1045 towards their Primary School Music Development Project</b>  <b><u>Reason</u> – <i>The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2024/25.</i></b></p> <p>Share and Repair requested £423.50 towards a new PAT Tester</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Ruth Hopkinson and seconded by Cllr Helen Belcher OBE</p> <p>It was:</p> <p><b><u>Resolved</u></b>  <b>To award Share and Repair £423.50 towards a new PAT Tester</b>  <b><u>Reason</u> – <i>The application met the Community Area Grants Criteria 2024/25.</i></b></p> <p>Inclusive Intergenerational Dance requested £2500 towards a Creative Lunch Event</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Dr Brian Mathew MP and seconded by Cllr Ruth Hopkinson</p> <p>It was:</p> <p><b><u>Resolved</u></b>  <b>To award Inclusive Intergenerational Dance £2500 towards a Creative Lunch Event</b>  <b><u>Reason</u> – <i>The application met the Older and Vulnerable Adults Grants Criteria 2024/25.</i></b></p>
36	<u>Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Group (LHFIG)</u>

	<p>The Board considered the notes and recommendations from the recent meeting of the Local Highways and Footways Improvement Group (LHFIG) which took place on 9 October 2024.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr Ruth Hopkinson and seconded by Cllr Helen Belcher OBE it was:</p> <p><b><u>Resolved</u></b></p> <p><b>To approve the recommendations from the meeting of the Local Highways and Footways Improvement Group on 9 October 2024.</b></p>
37	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting will be on 20 February 2025.</p>

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## **Colerne Parish Council - Update re activities since last Area Board Meeting** **JM December 2024.**

### **Footpaths**

Thanks to the Area Board for the Grant allocated to our parish and matched by the PC for accessibility gates for our large network of rights of way within the parish and connecting us with neighbouring parishes. Please see attached a report with pictures, from our Parish Warden who has been working hard with other Cotswold Voluntary working parties.

### **Energy matters**

With the arrival of cold weather we are now lending out our parish Thermal Imaging Camera to households. We understand that other parishes have had problems obtaining such a camera due to overdemand. If any of our local parishes would like to make use of our camera, we have a £10 fee for 48 hrs use, and the PC has authorised the sharing of this asset to neighbouring parishes I would be happy for you to share my details within your parishes. jane.mellett@colernepc.uk

We have back up information to guide users - 2 videos and hard copy guidance notes.

### **Biodiversity work**

We now have small working groups clearing and planting corners of the parish to increase biodiversity and habitat areas. We have also brought inhouse the mowing of land owned by the PC and this has improved the quality of recreation areas and wild corners.

### **Play/recreation facilities, Pinewood**

The PC has agreed to the transfer of a Local Green Space in the centre of Pinewood housing area, North Colerne. This estate is all civilian and the play area has fallen into disrepair over the past 5 years.

We are facilitating a PC working Group of local residents and parish councillors to develop a plan for clearance and replacement of recreational facilities for all ages and abilities. This will inevitably be a step by step process. However, as it involves creating important facilities for children and young people, we are giving warning that we may well be coming to the Board for support in the near future.

### **Rural Roads**

Most roads within our parish are narrow single track lanes, often sunken and heavily used by walkers, cyclists and horses. We have a growing issue around the speed and volume of traffic using these lanes which is making it increasingly dangerous for families to use the lanes recreationally in safety. This is partly due to delivery vans, but also to the major Wedding Venue at Euridge where international and city people come for magical events completely unaware of the existing road limits.

Our parish would like Wilts Highways to give serious consideration to road signage about use of such lanes by walkers, children, elderly cyclists and horses, in the same manner as already occurs in South Glos.

I would welcome thoughts from other small parishes re this, and whether we might make a joint effort at the LHFIG.

The size of farm traffic and the commuting of farm traffic to and from land outside the parish also brings concerns. Clearly they need to do this, but within the village, this is requiring us to address the safety of pedestrian traffic, and ways to ensure this. This is due to be addressed in the next financial year by the LHFIG.









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 <p><b>All Together</b> Supporting families in Wiltshire</p>	<p><b>COLERNE PARISH COUNCIL</b></p> <p><b>Corsham Area Board</b></p>  <p><b>Cotswolds National Landscape</b></p>
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### **Corsham Area Board - Grant Award for ABG1801 for Colerne Parish Rights of Way Improvement Project Report 2024 - 2025**

We are pleased to announce we were able to purchase 1 Marlow Pedestrian gate, 1 Stratford Pedestrian, 3 Stoner Kissing Gates and 1 Chiltern bridleway Gates with the grant money provided by Corsham Area Board Grant ABG1801 and the grant money from Colerne Parish Council. The gates all replaced stiles on the Colerne Parish Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network. Note I have a hoop spare to use on a later project.

The Cotswold Voluntary Wardens (CVW) have installed gates on Rights of Way COLE 16, COLE 9 / BOX 7, COLE 17, COLE 38 COLE 6 / BOX 9 COLE 9 / BOX 6.

<b>PRoW COLE 16 (Two Pedestrian Gates)</b>			
			
<b>PRoW COLE 9 BOX 7 (Kissing Gate)</b>		<b>ProW COLE 9 / BOX 6 (Kissing Gate)</b>	
			

### PRoW COLE 17 (Bridleway Gate)



### ProW COLE 6 / BOX 9



### PRoW COLE 38



Two of the footpaths linking Colerne to Box are now stile free (one bridge to be modified). Colerne Parish Council and the CVWs continue to receive thanks for the installation of the gates so far as part of the project from locals and walking groups as well as landowners and farmers. We intend to apply for another grant for PRoW improvements for the Colerne Parish PRoW Network.

To undertake this Project, the CVW need to work in cooperation with the landowners and farmers to gain their permission to replace the stiles with gates. CVWs have been supported throughout the Project by the Wiltshire Council Countryside Access Officers (CAO). Also, we need to give a big thanks to the Corsham Area Board and Colerne Parish Council for awarding a grant to pay for the grates.

Robert Brain

Colerne Parish Wardens  
Cotswolds Voluntary Wardens Avon  
Valley District  
Cotswolds National Landscape  
[www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk](http://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk)

