

Town Mayor – Cllr Leanne Buckingham

Town Clerk – Felicity Ryan

Web site <http://www.corbytowncouncil.gov.uk>

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Minutes of the meeting of **Full Council** held at 7pm on Tuesday 12 September 2023 at Stephenson Way Community Centre, Stephenson Way, Corby, NN17 1DB.

Present: Cllrs : Leanne Buckingham (Town Mayor) Martyn Reuby (Deputy Leader), Alison Dalziel, Ross Armour (Deputy Mayor), Matt Keane, Tafadzwa Chikoto (arrived 19.23) , Ray Beeby, Simon Rielly, Peter McEwan, Anthony Dady, Callum Reilly, Lawrence Ferguson, Robert Newby (arrived 19.19) , William Colquhoun

Apologies: Cllrs : Mark Pengelly (Leader) , Lyn Buckingham, Seth Goddard

Also Present: Felicity Ryan, Clerk to Corby Town Council, Stewart McNeill, Projects and Administration Officer

31 / 23 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to approve apologies for absence from Cllrs Mark Pengelly, Lyn Buckingham and Seth Goddard.

32 / 23 - TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RELATED TO BUSINESS ON THE AGENDA

None declared

33 / 23 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Martin Langford from Corby Foodbank was in attendance and gave a presentation regarding current need in the town.

34 / 23 - MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes for the Full Council meeting held on 31st July 2023 and these were signed by the Mayor.

35 / 23 - LGPS PENSION STATEMENT

It was **RESOLVED** to admit Stewart McNeill, Projects and Administration Officer into the LGPS pension scheme from the first date of employment, 6th September 2023.

36 / 23 - CONSULTATIONS

- Post Office in Corporation Street temporary branch closure (to agree to publicise and to agree a response) : [Consultation Hub – Corby - NN17 1NH](#) – Noted

- Corby Rail Station ticket office consultation : A response had been submitted as follows:

*‘Corby Town Council are strongly against the proposed closure of Corby station ticket office and are encouraging residents and workers to use the consultation to voice their own opinions. <https://www.transportfocus.org.uk/ticket-office-consultation/>
 It is the councils opinion that ticket office staff do so much more than just sell tickets.*

- *Without staffed ticket offices, passengers will be forced to use alternative means to buy tickets, either by booking online or using the ticket machines. The consultation states that 88% of customer transactions already happen without customers setting foot in a ticket office. It is unclear if that figure relates to Corby or if this is a national average. This closure does not account for people who do not have access to the internet. This is particularly hard for passengers who do not own smart phones or have computer access.*
- *The ticket machines can be difficult to use for some passengers and experience technical problems. There is no strategy in place for this, the suggestion being to board the train and purchase a ticket, but this then opens the risk of challenge and fare evasion and puts further pressure on onboard staff.*
- *The ticket office staff are on hand to help passengers plan their journey as the fares system is too complicated e.g. Do I want an advance single, single, super off-peak day single, anytime day single, off-peak day single, anytime day single? It is not easy to feel confident that you have got the best value ticket, particularly for an unusual journey. Going into a ticket office and speaking to someone experienced with the fares system helps build confidence in travel and ensures passengers are treated fairly.*
- *These changes will make Corby station and its services inaccessible to disabled passengers. The ticket office is one of the most vital accessibility features of this station. It impacts everything from the ability to buy tickets, receive assistance, access site facilities, navigate the station, plan routes, and feel confident in making journeys.*
- *The presence of on-site staff is no replacement for a ticket office. The confidence of set opening hours for a ticket office will give people who need assistance the confidence to visit and travel by train.’*

37 / 23 - MATTERS FOR INFORMATION OR DISCUSSION

- It was noted that the listed asset of community value, Forest Bowls club had been granted a ten year lease.

38 / 23 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14th November 2023, 7pm, Stephenson Way Community Centre.

Meeting Closed 20:05pm

Signed:

Date: