

FROME TOWN COUNCIL
making Frome a better place

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Report 2014 - 2015

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Frome
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Introduction

Our work falls into three main categories:

1. Representing – the local community
2. Providing – services to meet local needs
3. Striving – to improve the quality of life in Frome

The Council has a 'Strategy for Success' which sets out our priorities.

You can view this on our website http://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/ftc_strategy_final_version_dec_2011.pdf

Areas of Focus

Currently, the Council has five areas of focus:

1. Building a sustainable economy for the town
2. Building a vibrant community that is able to participate in local community life and decision making about public services
3. Creating a thriving town centre
4. The delivery of efficient and effective public services
5. An innovative and supportive Town Council

The current programme of work is explained in our action plan. A copy of our action plan can be found on our website. Here is the link <http://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Action-Plan-for-website-2015-.pdf>

Consultation, Feedback and Accessibility

We welcome any views on this Annual Report and on the services provided by Frome Town Council. Members of the public are also very welcome to attend every Council meeting to ask questions, make comments and raise matters of local interest.

Please send any comments to the Town Clerk at 5 Palmer Street, Frome, BA11 1DS or telephone 01373 465757 or email to admin@frometowncouncil.gov.uk

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The Mayor

What is the role of a Town Mayor in the twenty first century? And how can the role enhance that of a Town Council seeking to re-engineer the relationship between local government and the people? The Mayor clearly has a formal role to represent the townspeople at certain functions – such as the Remembrance service – and to chair the main council meetings.

There are occasions where tradition and history are important in establishing how a town sees itself and expresses this. As Mayor from May 2014-15, I sought to recognise those events and respect the role as the honour that it is, while also trying to ensure that the Mayor, Council and staff became more easily accessible and relevant to the people of the town.

As a Council we have made great strides to reduce the formality of meetings and enable greater engagement and to seek ways in which both staff and councillors become more available to the public. I – and all the immediate Mayors – have made the case that the Mayor can lead this message. We recognise that this may upset some for whom the formality and historical status of the role takes precedence. My testing of that boundary with a large number of different Mayoral chains was, on balance, widely enjoyed and accepted – demonstrating that change can indeed be positive.

This is especially important because we need to recognise that the relationship between local government and the people of Frome needs to evolve. With central government austerity reducing the County and District Councils' ability to fund anything outside what they legally have to provide, the onus will fall more and more on Frome to provide for ourselves. Last year the Town Council took further steps towards control of land (primarily the Dippy and the old Showground) and regaining the old Park Road Social Services building for the community.

In these and other cases we are building relationships with the community to make the decisions on how these relationships will be managed, then to support the people to do this. This is a vital difference in approach by the Council – working to support the community to provide, rather than to provide itself. While clearly this makes financial sense, it also places the Council as part of the community constantly looking to bring more people into decision making and ownership of the town in a broad sense.

So, my year as Mayor aimed to underpin this adjustment. I have strived to clearly signal that councillors are members of this community, undertaking an important voluntary role, aiming to both lead and take decisions, while also looking to constantly tap the enthusiasm, experience and skills in Frome. The year ended just

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after an election which demonstrated an extraordinary level of engagement in democracy here, with all seats contested and a record number of candidates – a solid signal that the direction the Council is taking is being recognised.

Yours



June 2015

About Frome Town Council

Frome Town Council was formed in 1974 following the reorganisation of local government in England.

Frome Town Council is the parish authority for the town of Frome and is the largest of the 52 parishes in the Mendip District. It is the first tier of local government working with Somerset County Council and Mendip District Council.

How are we funded?

Each year the Town Council calculates the money it needs to raise to provide its services and any projects planned for the year ahead. Then it deducts the income that it expects to receive from fundraising and other income leaving a net amount. This sum, called the precept, is the amount it levies on Mendip District Council and which is collected as a proportion of the total Council Tax paid by Frome households. For the financial year 2014/15 the precept was £1,022,787

Frome Town Councillors

The Town Council has 17 Councillors elected for a term of four years. The civic year runs from May to April. The election of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and the Chair of the Council takes place at the Annual Town Council Meeting in May. These two roles are filled by Councillors who have been nominated and voted for by their fellow Councillors. The Council also elects a Leader of the Council.

Councillors have to act within the ethical framework laid down by law and must sign a Code of Conduct. They have decided to remain unpaid, and currently do not receive any attendance allowance or payments for their duties, which they undertake on a voluntary basis. The Mayor receives a small allowance to cover the expenses of their public office.

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The Council and its Committees (May 2014 – April 2015)

Town Mayor – Cllr. Peter Macfadyen

Deputy Town Mayor – Cllr. Tricia Golinski

Berkley Down Ward



Cllr Eve Berry

9 Whitestone Road, Frome, BA11 2DN

01373 467309 / 07973 816190

berrye@frometowncouncil.gov.uk

Conservative



Cllr Graham Burgess

22 Innox Hill, Frome, BA11 2LW

01373 464241

burgessg@frometowncouncil.gov.uk

Independents for Frome



Cllr Adrian Dobinson

Rodden Cottage, Warminster Road, Frome, BA11 5LE

01373 462730 / 07542 003964

dobinsona@frometowncouncil.gov.uk

Lib Dem

College Ward



Cllr Carole Bullen

Flat 1 Montgomery Court, Frome, BA11 1QP

01373 465969

bullenc@frometowncouncil.gov.uk

Conservative

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Adam Boyden
102 Rodden Road, Frome, BA11 2AL
07809 284817
boydena@frometowncouncil.gov.uk
Liberal Democrat



Cllr Nick White
23 Acacia Drive, Frome, BA11 2TS
01373 301899 / 07770 814812
whiten@frometowncouncil.gov.uk
Independents for Frome

Keyford Ward



Cllr Dave Anderson
Yew Tree Cottage, Lullington, Frome BA11
07967 960298
andersond@frometowncouncil.gov.uk
Independents for Frome



Cllr Toby Eliot
10 Vallis Road, Frome, BA11 3BD
07954 166442
eliott@frometowncouncil.gov.uk
Independents for Frome



Cllr Pippa Goldfinger
11 Keyford Gardens, Frome, BA11 1JY
07732 023311
goldfingerp@frometowncouncil.gov.uk
Independents for Frome

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Market Ward



Cllr Tricia Golinski
25 Innox Hill, Frome, BA11 2LW
01373 474086
golinskit@frometowncouncil.gov.uk
Independents for Frome



Cllr Dickon Moore
33 Vicarage Street, Frome, BA11 1PU
01373 473246
dickonm@frometowncouncil.gov.uk
Independents for Frome



Cllr Mel Usher
The Old Presbytery, 2 West End Court, Frome, BA11 1ET
07766 742064
usherm@frometowncouncil.gov.uk
Independents for Frome

Oakfield Ward



Cllr Peter Macfadyen
85 Nunney Road, Frome, BA11 4LF
01373 466399 / 07794 593179
macfadyenp@frometowncouncil.gov.uk
Independents for Frome



Cllr Helen Sprawson-White
14 Wallington Way, Frome, BA11 3NF
07713 565265
whiteh@frometowncouncil.gov.uk
Lib Dem

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Park Ward



Cllr Damon Hooton
169 Whatcombe Road, Frome, BA11 3AT
01373 301765 / 07850 681163
hootond@frometowncouncil.gov.uk
Lib Dem



Cllr Claire Hudson
169 Whatcombe Road, Frome, BA11 3AT
01373 301765
HUDSONC@frometowncouncil.gov.uk
Lib Dem



Cllr Helen Starkie
Ashbourne House, Marston Road, Frome, BA11 4DD
01373 465390 / 07799 338386
starkieh@frometowncouncil.gov.uk
Independents for Frome

Internal Affairs Committee:

Toby Eliot (chair); Pippa Goldfinger; Claire Hudson; Dickon Moore; Peter Macfadyen; Helen Sprawson - White; Helen Starkie; Mel Usher

External Affairs Committee:

Dave Anderson; Eve Berry; Graham Burgess; Adrian Dobinson; Tricia Golinski; Damon Hooton; Peter Macfadyen (Chair); Mel Usher; Nick White

Planning Sub Committee:

Graham Burgess (Chair); Carole Bullen; Pippa Goldfinger; Tricia Golinski; Damon Hooton; Dickon Moore; Helen Sprawson-White, Cara Honey (Mayor for Young People); Alex Shingler (Deputy Mayor for Young People)

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Town Council Meetings

During the Civic year 2014-15, the following numbers of meetings (including extraordinary meetings) were held:

- Full Council 7
- Internal Affairs Committee 5
- External Affairs Committee 6
- Planning Sub Committee 13
- Annual Town Meeting 1

Councillors' Attendance at Meetings during the Civic Year 2014-15

Councillor	Total Number of Meetings	Total Number of Meetings Attended	Total Number of Apologies Tendered
Cllr Dave Anderson	13	13	0
Cllr Eve Berry	18	15	2
Cllr Adam Boyden	7	6	1
Cllr Carole Bullen	20	14	5
Cllr Graham Burgess	26	23	3
Cllr Adrian Dobinson	13	11	0
Cllr Toby Eliot	18	18	0
Cllr Pippa Goldfinger	25	17	7
Cllr Tricia Golinski	26	22	4
Cllr Damon Hooton	26	18	6
Cllr Claire Hudson	12	6	6
Cllr Peter Macfadyen	12	11	1
Cllr Dickon Moore	25	13	11
Cllr Helen Sprawson-White	25	10	9
Cllr Helen Starkie	12	7	2
Cllr Mel Usher	18	14	4
Cllr Nick White	13	11	2

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Town Council Staff at March 2015

Paul Wynne	Town Clerk
Central Services	
Allan Bennett	Planning and Regeneration Apprentice
Anna Francis	Energy and Recycling Officer
Hannah Paniccia	Finance and Administration Apprentice
Jackie Wheeler	Responsible Finance Officer
Jane Llewellyn	Planning and Development Officer
Kate Hellard	Community Projects Officer
Laura Poulton	Administration Officer
Ruth Knagg	Community Projects Officer
Patrick Moss	Town Centre Regeneration Manager
Peter Wheelhouse	Economic Development and Regeneration Manager
Rebecca Krzyzosiak	Administration Officer
Information Centre	
Hayley Barnsley	Customer Services Advisor
Teresa Cotterell	Customer Services Advisor
Tricia Mugridge	Customer Services Advisor
Outside Services	
Chris Stringer	Environmental Manager
Kevin Matthews	Outside Services Assistant
Sarah Russell	Community Projects Officer

Community Grants Awarded 1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015

Name of Project	Organisation	Amount
Historic Organ Refurbishment	Wesley Methodist Church	£500.00
Digitisation Project	Frome Talking Newspaper	£1,000.00
More Trees Frome	More Trees Frome	£300.00
Start-up costs for community programme over 2014-2015	Frome Writer's Collective	£270.00
Purchase of 'Easystand Glider' Exercise Machine	Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre (Wessex) Ltd	£300.00
Lecture Costs	White Horse Decorative and Fine Arts Society	£300.00

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Frome Happy Nappies Library	Frome Happy Nappies Library	£695.41
FromeFM Youth Radio	Frome Community productions CIC (incorporating FromeFM)	£300.00
First aid in sport training	Frome Roller Disco Ltd	£300.00
Frome on the Front Line' Exhibition	Frome Museum	£950.00
Mendip Community Transport	Mendip Community Transport	£1,000.00
Bursary Fund to support Frome Residents	Relate Mid Wiltshire	£250.00
YPAR: Youth Participation and Retention	Frome Canoe Club	£700.00
Merlin Theatre	Merlin Theatre	£5,000.00
Frome FM Radio Youth Project (the project will be renamed by young people once group formed)	Mendip YMCA	£2,000.00
Positive Action on Cancer	Positive Action on Cancer	£1,000.00
Cockey lamp survey and Report	Frome Society	£1,500.00
Last Tree dreaming	Frome Community College	£1,500.00
Edventure Frome	Edventure Frome Community Interest Company	£5,000.00
Cutting Costs and Carbon in Schools	Frome Renewable Energy Co-op	£3,000.00
Frome Allotment Association	Frome Allotment Association	£3,000.00
Moving a new meeting place	Frome Breastfeeding Group	£300.00
Core and promotion costs	Frome Development CIC	£300.00
Upgrading of Lighting in the Assembly Rooms for benefit of hirers	Frome Memorial Theatre Trust	£500.00
Monthly Singing and Activity Session	Golden Oldies Charity	£300.00
Incredible Edible Frome	Incredible Edible Frome	£3,000.00
Frome Community Productions (Incorporating Frome FM)	Frome Community Productions (Incorporating Frome FM)	£3,000.00
Welshmill After Hours	Edventure Frome Community Interest Company	£1,000.00
The Twilight Zone	Young People Frome	£981.00
Lamp	Frome Selwood Bowling Club	£300.00

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World Mental Health Day	World Mental Health Day	£300.00
Frome Children's Festival involvement at the Participation Fair at Frome College	Young People Frome	£150.00
Zumba, sitting exercise and yoga	Frome Day Centre/Active Learning	£1,000.00
Presents at Santa's Grotto	YPF (for Childrens Festival)	£300.00
People's Choice Award	Black Swan Arts	£250.00
Help with Christmas party & presents	Frome Gateway Club	£300.00
Youth Training Equipment	Frome Collegians FC	£300.00
Art materials	Society for Disabled Artists (Frome)	£50.00
Merlin Youth Activities	Merlin Theatre	£500.00
Turner a new leaf	Young People Frome	£1,000.00
Frome Active Childrens Festival	Young People Frome	£2,000.00
Cycle 4 Charity	Frome Community College	£850.00
Year of Percussion	Jackdaws Music Education Trust	£500.00
Plant Notes	Frome Community College	£460.00
Frome Music School spring workshops	Ifa Yoruba Contemporary Arts Trust	£720.00
Frome Bureau	Mendip CAB	£4,000.00
Forced Walks: Honouring Esther	Bath Spa University	£300.00
Developing adult football in Frome	Frome Town Sports Football club	£500.00
Bringing the Freedom Theatre group from Jenin	Frome Friends of Palestine	£300.00
Step in Stone	Step in stone	£300.00
Transforming Youth & Community Centre	Mendip YMCA	£3,000.00
The Newsdesk	Frome Community College	£826.00
Toy Library Development Programme	Jack in the Box Toy Library	£2,600.00
Movie Creators		£1,000.00
SeedHub app		£75.00

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Budget Summary

The Income and Expenditure Account

Income and Expenditure budgets are divided into nominal codes under a cost centre heading.

The General Reserve at the beginning of the year plus the precept and other income less the running costs expenditure, and Earmarked Reserves expenditure, leaves the General Reserves closing balance at the end of the financial year.

Frome Town Council 2014/20 15	
Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31 March 2015	
Income	
Precept	1,022,787
Town Events	2,683
Community Support	31,014
Grounds & Property Maintenance	73,247
Capital & Land Acquisitions	84,790
Town Centre	41,000
Central Services	132,165
Total Income	1,387,686
Expenditure	
Democratic Management & Civic	5,077
Town Events	48,872
Community Support	144,390
Grounds & Property Maintenance	59,139
Capital & Land Acquisitions	148,040
Town Centre	170,408
Cheese & Grain	93,698
Accommodation	28,346
Toilets	3,720
Outside Services	104,094
Central Services	395,666
Total Expenditure	1,201,449
General Reserves Opening Balance 01/04/2014	231,976
Plus : Income for Year	1,387,686
Less : Expenditure for Year	(1,201,449)
Less : Ear Marked Reserves Expenditure	(162,379)
General Reserves Closing Balance 31/03/2015	255,834

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The Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet itemises Current Assets specifically cash held in the bank and investments plus money owed to the council.

The Current Liabilities are monies owed by the Council, expenditure invoices relating to 2014/15 but yet to be paid, expenditure incurred in 14/15 but invoices not received, coach tickets sold on behalf of travel companies up to and including 31 March but not yet reconciled. Credit card payments take three days to process through the bank so there is usually a difference at the end of each month. The Mayor's charity fund is not Council's money but held for the Mayor until the end of their Mayoral term in May.

The Current Assets less the Current Liabilities £1,155,408, is held in General Reserves and the Earmarked Reserves.

Frome Town Council 2014 15 Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2015	
Current Assets	
VAT to be reclaimed by FTC for January to March 2015	24,922
Debtors – invoices owed to FTC	2,255
C&G Trust Ltd Loan outstanding to FTC	21,614
Lloyds Current account	248,461
Lloyds Business Instant access	202,732
Triodos Bank	145,974
CCLA Bank	125,520
Mendip Credit Union	1,000
Lloyds Fixed 90 Day	200,000
Lloyds Fixed 90 Day	200,000
Petty cash held at Information Centre	48
Petty cash held at the Town Office	21
Total Current Assets	1,172,546
Current Liabilities	
Creditors – invoices owed by FTC	12,479
Accruals – FTC payments relating to 14/15 not invoiced	3,662
National Express Ticket sold not reconciled	-180
Berrys Coaches Tickets sold not reconciled	24
Credit card payments	144
Mayor's Charity fund	1,009
Total Current Liabilities	17,139
Total Current Assets less Total Current Liabilities	1,155,408

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Represented By	
General Reserves	255,834
EMR Youth Research & FE	44,500
EMR Committed	3,644
EMR Youth Council & Support	3,878
EMR S106	78,501
EMR CCTV	7,500
EMR Litter & Grit bins	3,200
EMR Town Centre Improvements	289,223
EMR Elections	20,066
EMR Fair Frome	18,281
EMR Sports	9,037
EMR Machinery & vehicle	24,445
EMR The Dippy	15,513
EMR Play equipment	31,165
EMR Office relocation	139,357
EMR Market Regeneration	7,067
EMR Community Groups Subsidy	115,000
EMR River Corridor	10,000
EMR Twinning Thematic Network	12,360
EMR Neighbourhood Plan	14,310
EMR Tourism	3,750
EMR Trees	8,776
EMR Open Spaces	30,000
EMR Website	10,000
	1,155,408

Fixed Assets and Borrowings

As at 31 March 2015 the Town Council's Fixed Assets totalled £1,441,547.

Fixed Assets as at 31 March 2015	Value
Premises incl Palmer St, Victoria Park buildings	£750,563
Mary Baily Playing Field Play Equipment	£229,835
Street Furniture incl bins, bus shelters, Bunn pillars, artefacts	£94,505
Welshmill Play Area incl Pump Track	£87,535
Victoria Park Tennis Courts & Polytunnel	£69,750
Motor Vehicles incl tractor & ride on mower	£44,480
C&G building PV Solar Panels	£40,735
Town Office equipment incl IT	£27,175
Market equipment incl umbrellas & container	£13,730
Outside Services Machinery	£13,756
Foundry Barton Play Area incl equipment	£13,000

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Christmas Lights	£10,417
Civic Regalia incl Mayor's chain	£9,650
Victoria Park Office equipment incl IT	£7,900
Information Centre equipment incl stock	£6,876
Outside Services Equipment & tools	£6,177
Victoria Park Toilets Fixtures and Fittings	£6,100
Frome Town Hall furniture	£6,000
Floral Equipment	£2,690
Bowls Pavilion fixtures & fittings	£650
Land and Open Space (all land valued at £1)	£23

As at 31 March 2015 the Town Council's borrowings totalled £1,067,913.

Loan No.	Purpose	Term yrs	Advance	Advance Date	Outstanding at 31/3/2015
480735	Renovation of the Cheese & Grain building for use by the community	25	£215,000	31/03/1998	£104,961
486578	Improvement of the sound insulation properties of the Cheese & Grain building	25	£150,000	28/03/2002	£96,681
486730	Improvement of the sound insulation properties of the Cheese & Grain building	25	£200,000	28/06/2002	£130,614
487642	To cover the shortfall in the capital resources for the Cheese & Grain project	25	£55,000	26/03/2003	£36,599
501876	Acquisition of the land at Garsdale, to enable the safeguard of the training, advice and guidance operations on the site	10	£265,000	26/02/2013	£216,334
502473	Improvements to the Cheese & Grain building	25	£500,000	27/08/2013	£482,724