

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

Minutes of a meeting of the External Affairs Committee

Wednesday 23 October at 7pm
Saxonvale Centre, Garsdale, Frome. BA11 1RZ

Present:

Councillors: Dave Anderson; Graham Burgess; Adrian Dobinson; Tricia Golinski; Damon Hooton; Peter Macfadyen; Mel Usher; Nick White
Cara Honey (Mayor for Young People); Alex Shingler (Deputy Mayor for Young People)

In attendance:

Pat Burton (Mindset Training), Tessa Hibbert, Claire Wilson (Somerset Standard), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development & Regeneration Manager), Jane Llewellyn (Planning & Development Officer), Sarah Hobbs (Community Projects Officer), Caroline Stevens (Outside Services Administration Officer), Laura Poulton (Administration Officer)

7 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2013/76/EAC	<p>1 QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC</p> <p>David Taylor asked for clarification on what co-option meant with regard to the vacancy for the College Ward. The Town Clerk explained that there has to be ten or more electors to call an election otherwise the Council will elect a member through a co – option.</p> <p>David also asked which budget the current advertised job vacancies would come from. Cllr Usher explained that one member of full time staff is leaving and the two new part time positions will come from the same salary budget.</p>	
2013/77/EAC	<p>2 SHORT TALKS FROM:</p> <p>a. Mindset will give a summary of how installing the new road access at Welshmill was successful and their hopes for future training initiatives</p> <p>Pat Burton from Mindset Training explained that the purpose of the Future Works Programme was to give six unemployed people from Frome the training and skills in the construction industry on a live project to obtain qualifications. This would hopefully give them a better opportunity of being employed by the end of the project. At the time of the meeting two candidates had found employment and two had the prospect of employment.</p> <p>Mindset was hoping to continue projects such as the Future Works</p>	

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	<p>programme and perhaps with other Council's in Somerset. One of their next projects was to provide basic training for working on a nuclear site; this could become especially important with the planned nuclear station at Hinkley Point.</p> <p>CLlr Usher said that he welcomed the scheme and hoped that a similar scheme could be done in the future for a project like the remodeling of the town centre.</p>	
<p>2013/78/EAC</p>	<p>2 b. Tessa Hibbert on her current findings from her research into what services young people need in the town</p> <p>Tessa explained that one of her starting points for this research project was to ask young people what their wish for Frome was. Her research found there were seven areas that came up the most often:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better access to activities including better use of social media – the barriers were mostly cost and transport 2. More hang out spaces (for older young people) – young people often said they felt like they were seen as a nuisance without these spaces 3. Local safe spaces to play, facilitated by skilled workers (for younger ones) 4. Better relationships between young people – many found large groups intimidating and a need is required to bring young people together 5. Need for flexible services 6. Better attitudes from older people 7. Affordable transport – buses do not run at times that are convenient for young people to get across town <p>In doing this as part of the consultation process she has identified the gaps in services and her report will make recommendations for future policy.</p> <p>CLlr Usher requested that there be a comment in Tessa's report on current facilities with practical recommendations for future improvements to guide the Town Council.</p> <p>CLlr Hooton requested that Critchill School is included in the consultation.</p>	
<p>2013/79/EAC</p>	<p>3 a. APOLOGIES</p> <p>The Chairman formally opened the Council meeting at 8.15pm and an apology of absence was received from CLlr Berry.</p>	

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2013/80/EAC	3 b. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS A declaration was received from Cllrs Dobinson and Hooton who have seats on MDC that their view on any items on this agenda as an FTC member were not necessarily those as their role as an MDC Cllr.	
2013/81/EAC	3 c. MINUTES The minutes of the External Affairs Committee meeting held on 4 September 2013 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.	
2013/82/EAC	4 AN UPDATE ON WHAT THE COUNCIL IS WORKING ON AT THE MOMENT Cllr Hooton left the meeting at 8.24pm Renewable Energy The Economic Development & Regeneration Manager demonstrated the Energy Hub website which allows you to see the energy usage for a particular town and focused on the statistics for Frome. He noted that a full report of Frome's carbon footprint from Converging World was expected within a week and it would be presented at the next EAC meeting. Community Tree Planting Scheme The Community Projects Officer noted that on 18 November Phil Hand from Bees and Trees will be hosting a talk about Orchards and how an Orchard could be set up in Frome. Cheese & Grain The EDRM presented some images of the internal and external works currently happening at the Cheese & Grain and noted the project is on schedule. Cllr Golinski raised concern over the Sustrans route that ran close to the building. The EDRM confirmed that this was being discussed with interested parties. Heart of Wessex Local Action Group The EDRM noted that this currently wasn't progressing but was hoping for more positive news in the new year. Rodden Meadow/Millennium Green The Community Projects Officer noted that she and the Grounds & Properties Manager had met with the volunteers for the Millennium Green and had agreed to take over some of the maintenance. The Outside Services team had cleared the path and cut back some trees to open access. A programme of events was also currently being organised.	

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	<p>Garston Road play area The Community Projects Officer explained the agreement to transfer the play area had been signed and there was a s.106 agreement in place for establishing a play area and maintaining it. The Town Clerk noted that this project had taken two years of perseverance to come to this point.</p> <p>Leisure Centre Feasibility Study The Community Projects Officer noted that she had now received the final report and was currently arranging a meeting with officers at MDC to discuss the findings.</p> <p>Riverside Project (Henley Way/Welshmill Lane) The Community Projects Officer noted that a meeting was taking place at Rossetti House to discuss the options for the area. The Town Clerk noted that due to not receiving the full grant applied for from MDC the project would now be staggered.</p> <p>Rodden Lake Stream Meadow The Community Projects Officer explained that a dialogue was being kept open with the new owner. The sale of this piece of land has prompted a review of the Open Spaces Strategy for the town. Cllr Dobinson asked to be kept informed of any development at the Rodden Lake Stream Meadow site as this was within his ward.</p>	
<p>2013/83/EAC</p>	<p>6 FOR DECISION – HEART OF WESSEX COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP This item was brought forward on the agenda.</p> <p>The Economic Development & Regeneration Manager explained that the partnership had been operating for ten years and it supports a number of activities, promoting services and provides communication between the community and Network Rail.</p> <p>It is expected that Somerset County Council will withdraw their funding and the concern is that it will destabilise the partnership. With the national attention on the north/south rail links without the partnership there would be no focus on the east/west.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Frome Public Transport Association, John Leech, was invited to speak. He noted that the working party looked after the platform at Frome Station and through the partnership were able to liaise with Network Rail and First Great Western. He noted that without the partnership this line of communication would be lost.</p>	

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	<p>The recommendation was to write to Somerset County Council urging them to continue to support the Heart of Wessex Community Rail Partnership citing the conclusions in the report.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr White, seconded Cllr Golinski, agreed unanimously.</p>	PWh
<p>2013/84/EAC</p>	<p>5 FOR INFORMATION – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION</p> <p>The Planning and Development Officer noted that the public consultation would officially launch on Monday 28 October. The consultation will last a period of six weeks and will consist of drop in events, one per week and in different areas of the town and at different times of the day. There will also be a more structured presentation as part of Participate Frome Week in November.</p> <p>After the public consultation the plan would then be submitted to MDC for inspection.</p> <p>Cllr Anderson asked if MDC were bound legally to see the plan through in six weeks. The Planning and Development Officer explained that MDC were only bound to facilitate a public consultation for a six week period.</p> <p>Cllr Golinski asked when the referendum is likely to happen. The PDO explained that there was no certainty but hopefully in March.</p> <p>The Economic Development & Regeneration Manager explained that they would be ensuring there is some national publicity as Frome is one of the front runners for producing a Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	
<p>2013/85/EAC</p>	<p>12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 18 December at the Cheese & Grain.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.25pm