## making Frome a better place

#### EXTRAORDINARY FROME TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 25 June 2014, 6pm

Saxonvale Centre, Garsdale, Frome. BA11 1RZ

Members of Frome Town Council are:

Dave Anderson; Eve Berry; Adam Boyden; Carole Bullen; Graham Burgess; Adrian Dobinson; Toby Eliot; Pippa Goldfinger; Tricia Golinski; Damon Hooton; Claire Hudson; Peter Macfadyen (Chair); Dickon Moore; Helen Sprawson-White; Helen Starkie; Mel Usher; Nick White and

Cara Honey (Mayor for Young People); Alex Shingler (Deputy Mayor for Young People)

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Questions, comments and information from the public and county and district Cllrs
- 2. Apologies for absence, declaration of members' interests and minutes from the last meeting on 21 May 2014
- 3. An update on what the Council is working on at the moment
- 4. Agree to endorse the proposed amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan and submission of the finalised Plan to Mendip District Council
- 5. The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 23 July, Assembly Rooms

Yours sincerely

Peter Macfadyen

Chair of Frome Town Council

Frome Town Council, 5 Palmer Street, Frome. BA11 1DS

18 June 2014

## making Frome a better place

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Questions, comments and information from the public and county and district Cllrs
- 2. a. Any apologies for absence?
  - b. Clirs to declare any interests on the agenda
  - c. To consider and approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 21 May 2014

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## 3 An update on what the Council is working on at the moment

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTION	MINUTE NO.	CMTEE	MEETING DATE	RESPONSIBILITY	RESPONSIBILITY PROGRESS REPORT	Target Date
Frome Community Hub	2014/40	FC	21/05/2014	Paul Wynne	Initial period of consultation ends on 9 July 2014. Submitted application to SCC to reduce price. Informal liaison with potential tenants on going. Full report to Council 23 July 2014.	23/07/2014
MDC plans for Local Legacy Grant Scheme for 2014/15	2013/57	FC	24/07/2013	Paul Wynne	These are being developed in partnership with groups in the town. Closing date is August 2014.	31/07/2014
Southfield Farm pedestrian access	2014/27	FC	19/04/2014	Peter Wheelhouse	s106 agreement due to be signed shortly, provision of £100,000 for the creation of the link has been allocated.	
MDC Leisure Strategy and Frome Leisure Centre	2014/11	EAC/FC	EAC/FC 26/02/2014	Paul Wynne	No response from MDC	
The Showfield	2014/44	FC-EAC	-C-EAC 21/05/2014	Paul Wynne	The Agricultural Society have been asked if they would like to sell it.	
Frontier Estates application for development at Saxonvale					The Planning & Development Officer can give a verbal update on the application at the meeting.	25/06/2014
Sole managing trustee meetings		FC		Paul Wynne	Annual meeting of these trustees	23/07/2014
Annual Report		FC		Paul Wynne		23/07/2014
Precept Demand and agree Budget		FC		Jackie Wheeler		07/01/2015
Sign off Work Programme		FC		Paul Wynne		07/01/2015
Dispensation for Cllrs to vote on precept		FC		Paul Wynne		07/01/2015
Key						
	Overdue					
	On going (on schedule)	hedule)				
	Action required	_				
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### making Frome a better place

# 4 For Decision - To Endorse the Proposed Amendments to the Neighbourhood Plan and Submission of the Finalised Plan to Mendip District Council

Author: Planning & Development Officer

#### Summary

Following the Public Consultation and engagement exercise on the Draft Neighbourhood Plan, a series of amendments is being proposed. A summary of the main amendments are detailed in the 'Discussion' section of this report. It is recommended that Councillors endorse the proposed amendments and the submission of the Neighbourhood Plan to Mendip District Council.

By endorsing the plan, Council will be establishing a comprehensive policy base related to all aspects of land use planning in Frome until 2028 (while formal planning policies will become statutory, the other sections of the plan where, for example, "FTC will push for...." will become FTC policy)

#### Background

The Neighbourhood Plan once adopted will be a statutory guide to development in Frome until 2028, informing all planning decisions in Frome. Frome will be a front runner for putting a plan in place.

The plan focuses on these six main themes:

- Improving Frome Town Centre
- Employment & Enterprise ensuring there is space for them to operate and enable small businesses to start and grow
- Housing including the option for self-build sites to encourage affordable housing
- Transport & Movement
- Open Space
- Design

On the 26 June 2013, the External Affairs Committee agreed to consult the public on the draft Neighbourhood Plan. The Public Consultation was carried out from 28 October 2013 – 31 December 2013 and a copy of the Draft Plan was sent to all Councillors on 29 October 2013. If you would like a paper copy of the current draft Plan, please contact Laura Poulton.

Following the consultation and engagement exercise, 50 responses were received, all of these responses were considered and as a result a series of amendments were proposed.

#### Discussion

The original aims of the plan have not changed. The main amendments to the plan, as set out below, are being proposed following comments and advice received from Mendip District Council Development Management & Planning Policy Teams and were agreed by the Steering Group on 9 June 2014. The proposed amendments include:

## making Frome a better place

- Changing some of the statutory planning policies to FTC (non-statutory) policy (I
  have referred to the latter as statements in this report to avoid confusion)
- Rewording and adding clarity to some of the supporting text and policies
- Providing supplementary advice
- Corrections to plans
- Updates in line with current legislation and updated figures where available
- 1. The plan contains "Three Golden Threads" these are Participation, Vitality and Sustainability.

VC01 – Participation currently has the following policy:

Planning applications for development should be supported by appropriate evidence of local community consultation.

To make this policy more robust, supplementary guidance has been added, setting out what steps should be taken by developers to consult and engage with the community.

VC02 - Vitality currently has the following policy:

Planning applications for major development should identify the impact of such development in terms of social integration and economic benefit to the Town.

MDC has advised that this is seeking to introduce a local validation requirement, which is not the role of the Neighbourhood Plan. It is proposed to remove this as a policy but to keep the text as a statement. In addition supplementary advice setting out what constitutes a major development has been added for clarity.

VC03 – Sustainability currently has the following policy: The principles of One Planet Living should inform all future development in Frome.

It is proposed to remove this as a policy and keep the text as a statement, further outlining that the 10 Principle of OPL should be used as a guide. VC02 & VC03 will be amalgamated.

#### 2. Housing

Housing policy H1 – Planning for Growth: currently has the following policy: The Council will support proposals that address current and future housing need within the plan period.

It has been agreed that this is not a Neighbourhood Plan policy, but as it is a Town Council policy, it will be removed as a policy and left as a statement.

Housing Policy H7 – Future Growth Area: currently has the following policy: Land at The Mount is identified in the Draft Mendip Local Plan as a future growth area. When this site is required, Frome Town Council will work to ensure the site is brought forward in accordance with the principles of this plan.

## making Frome a better place

It has been agreed that this is not a Neighbourhood Plan policy, but as it is a Town Council policy, it will be removed as a policy and left as an aspiration.

#### 3. Town Centre Policies

Town Centre policy TC2: St Catherine's & Badcox Area: currently has the following policy:

To protect retail frontages the Town Council will apply for an Article 4 direction to restrict the permitted change to uses falling within Use Class A2 as defined by The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) to no more than 4% of the total retail units within the area shown on the map opposite.

It has been agreed that this is not a Neighbourhood Plan policy, but as it is a Town Council policy, it will be removed as a policy and left as a statement. Further clarification has also been added relating to MDC Local Plan polices regarding Primary & Secondary retail frontages.

Town Centre policy TC4: The Cattle Market Car Park: currently has the following policy:

Landscape and infrastructure improvements to the Cattle Market Car Park that improve this arrival point and enable this area to develop as a cultural destination will be supported. The Town Council, in collaboration with Mendip District Council, will seek to scope out a plan for the short term management and longer term development options for the Cattle Market site.

It has been agreed that this is not a Neighbourhood Plan policy, but as it is a Town Council policy, it will be removed as a policy and left as a statement.

Town Centre Policy TC5: Saxonvale: currently has the following policy: (shown in part) Plans for the redevelopment of Saxonvale should seek to achieve the overall vision for the redevelopment of the site based on the 2005 Planning Brief.

The Town Council, in collaboration with Mendip District Council, and other landowners and the local community, will seek to refresh and redefine the Brief and consider the commercial viability and delivery mechanisms to facilitate the development of this site within the plan period.

It has been agreed to remove the second paragraph became the steering group this was unachievable.

#### **Timescale**

If the proposed recommendation is agreed by Council, all consultation respondents will be informed of the amendments and the plan will be re-published, and submitted to MDC by the end of July 2014 as per the schedule.

## making Frome a better place

MDC will then appoint an Independent Inspector, who will receive further comments following the statutory six week consultation. The Inspector will then decide whether the plan goes to referendum.

#### Recommendation

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group recommends that Councillors endorse the proposed amendments and the submission of the Neighbourhood Plan to Mendip District Council for further consultation and examination.

To view the Neighbourhood Plan please use the following link: <a href="http://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/">http://www.frometowncouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan/</a>

5 The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 23 July, Assembly Rooms

## making Frome a better place

#### 2 c. To consider and approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 21 May 2014

#### **Draft Minutes of an Annual meeting of Frome Town Council**

Wednesday 21 May at 7pm
Assembly Rooms, Christchurch Street West, Frome. BA11 1EB

#### Present:

Councillors: Dave Anderson; Eve Berry; Carole Bullen; Graham Burgess; Adrian Dobinson; Toby Eliot; Pippa Goldfinger; Tricia Golinski; Peter Macfadyen; Dickon Moore; Helen Starkie; Mel Usher; Nick White

Cara Honey (Mayor for Young People); Alex Shingler (Deputy Mayor for Young People)

#### In attendance:

Gavin Ball (Frome College), Claire Wilson (Frome Standard), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Jackie Wheeler (Responsible Finance Officer), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development & Regeneration Manager), Jane Llewellyn (Planning & Development Officer), Allan Bennett (Planning & Regeneration Apprentice), Ruth Knagg (Community Projects Officer), Anna Francis (Energy & Recycling Officer), Laura Poulton (Administration Officer)

Approx. 40 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2014/29/FC	1 QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC Michael Day a Cllr for Wanstrow Parish Council noted how public transport is vital for rural villages to stay connected to their parent towns. Michael requested FTC take an initiative to reconnect Frome with surrounding villages via public transport. Cllr Usher noted the issue surrounding public transport was coming up more and more and asked Michael to leave his contact details to see if a joined up approach with other parishes could be helpful.	
2014/30/FC	2 PRESENTATION FROM GAVIN BALL, HEAD TEACHER AT FROME COLLEGE Gavin explained that when he was appointed as head teacher Frome College had been rated as unsatisfactory. He also needed to save £300,000. By the end of January 2014 the college had been rated as good by Ofsted. Gavin noted this had been achieved by a stronger focus on teaching and learning especially in Maths and English.  The College had also become the regional centre for staff training. They had impressed the Ofsted inspector with their initiatives for post 16 students such as providing a base for entrepreneurial	
	students to set up and run a business, working with more businesses in Frome to offer apprenticeships and offering career	

		T
	advice in break times.	
	He noted their aims for the future were to create a sports development centre, develop community education and continue to develop their enterprise centre.	
	Cllr Usher noted that Gavin's philosophy of helping yourself chimed with FTC's. He asked Gavin what he felt the impact of the Steiner School would be. Gavin said his personal view was that state money should go to state schools. Due to the Steiner philosophy children who have attended a Steiner School are difficult to teach at GCSE level and require additional (costly) support.	
	Cllr White asked Gavin if children were obliged to stay at the college until the age of eighteen was there provision of practical courses. Gavin noted that they were working with Mindset, a training provider, to offer courses and provide individual learning programmes.	
	Cllr Starkie arrived at 7.25pm	
2014/31/FC	3. a. TO ELECT THE TOWN MAYOR  Cllr Usher proposed Cllr Macfadyen, seconded by Cllr White, agreed by majority.  Cllr Macfadyen signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.	
	Cili Macradyen signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.	
2014/32/FC	<b>3 d. ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR</b> Cllr Usher proposed Cllr Golinski, seconded by Cllr Goldfinger, agreed by majority.	
	Cllr Golinski signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.	
2014/33/FC	3 a. APOLOGIES  The Chairman formally opened the Council meeting at 7.05pm and apologies of absence were received from Cllrs Hooton, Hudson and Sprawson - White.	
2014/34/FC	4 b. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS  A declaration was received from Cllrs Bullen and Dobinson 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.	
	Cllr Dobinson declared an interest in item 9.	

2014/35/FC	4 c. MINUTES	
	The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 19 March	
	2014 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by	
	the Chair.	
2014/36/FC	5 A QUICK UPDATE ON PREVIOUS ACTIONS AND A LOOK AT WHAT	
2014/30/16	IS COMING UP	
	Cllr Macfadyen asked about the progress of the footpath at the	
	Southfield Farm development. The Planning and Development	
	Officer explained that the developers were going to contribute	
	£50,000 towards the creation of a footpath however the sum may	
	not be enough.	
2014/37/FC	6 FOR DECISION - CONSIDER MINOR CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S	
	STANDING ORDERS	
	The Town Clerk explained that the Standing Orders were reviewed	
	annually and provides the rules for the Council to follow. He noted	
	that if Cllrs were to approve them they would also approve the terms of reference for Internal Affairs, External Affairs and the	
	Planning Sub Committee. He explained that the intention was to	
	work towards a more open and transparent Council which could be	
	achieved by encouraging recording and photographing at meetings.	
	The recommendations were:	
	1. Approve the Standing Orders as proposed at Appendix 1	
	2. Agree 'photographing, recording, broadcasting or	
	transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is	
	permitted' at any meeting of Council or its Committees until	
	Council agrees otherwise	
	Proposed Cllr Eliot, seconded Cllr Berry, agreed unanimously.	
2014/38/FC	7 FOR DECISION – APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND LEADER	
	OF THE COUNCIL	
	The recommendations were:	
	<ol> <li>To elect 9 Cllrs to the Internal Affairs Committee</li> <li>To elect 9 Cllrs to the External Affairs Committee</li> </ol>	
	<ol> <li>To elect 9 Cllrs to the External Affairs Committee</li> <li>To elect 7 Members to the Planning Sub Committee</li> </ol>	
	3. To elect 7 Wellibers to the Flamming 3ub committee	
	Internal Affairs Committee	
	Political balance: 6 (IfF): 1 (Con): 2 (LibDem)	
	Cllr Eve Berry	
	Cllr Pippa Goldfinger	
	Cllr Claire Hudson	
	Cllr Peter Macfadyen	
	Cllr Dickon Moore	

Cllr Helen Sprawson - White Cllr Helen Starkie Cllr Mel Usher Vacancy  External Affairs Committee Political balance: 6 (IfF):1 (Con):2 (LibDem) Cllr Dave Anderson Cllr Eve Berry Cllr Graham Burgess Cllr Adrian Dobinson Cllr Toby Eliot Cllr Tricia Golinski Cllr Damon Hooton Cllr Peter Macfadyen Cllr Mel Usher  Planning Sub Committee Political balance: 4(IfF):1(Con):2(LibDem) Cllr Carole Bullen Cllr Graham Burgess Cllr Pippa Goldfinger Cllr Tricia Golinski Cllr Damon Hooton Cllr Dickon Moore Cllr Helen Sprawson - White  Proposed Cllr White, seconded Cllr Berry, agreed by majority  4. To receive proposals for and to elect the Leader of the Council
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Council
Cllr Moore proposed Cllr Usher, seconded Cllr Goldfinger, agreed by
majority.
014/39/FC 8 FOR DECISION – CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2014/15
The recommendation was to move the Planning Sub Committee
meeting from Thursday 7 May 2015 to Friday 8 May 2015 to avoid a
clash with the elections. All other dates to remain as agreed at the
previous meeting of Council.
previous meeting or council.
Proposed Cllr Burgess, seconded Cllr White, agreed by majority.
014/40/FC 9 FOR DECISION - DECIDE WHETHER TO ACQUIRE THE SOCIAL
SERVICES BUILDING TO ESTABLISH A FROME COMMUNITY HUB
Cllr Boyden arrived at 8.18pm

## making Frome a better place

The Town Clerk explained that a valuation had been carried out on the building and it had been valued at £325,000. He noted SCC would be willing to consider negotiating down this based on future services provided. Work would be required on the building and he explained this would be completed within four years as per the recommendations from the surveyor.

Cllr White noted that this was an excellent opportunity; however Frome had already paid for the building. He asked if there would be grounds for a legal challenge. The Town Clerk noted that a challenge would be lengthy and costly. In addition SCC had agreed to keep the building off the market until July 2014 after then it would be available on the open market.

Cllr White proposed exploring a legal challenge to allow the transfer of the building to FTC at no cost, seconded by Cllr Dobinson, motion not carried.

Cllr Usher noted that the building provided a real opportunity for both FTC and the community. The main space would be for the use of community groups and individuals and these spaces were in demand.

The	recommendat	tions were	٠.

- Establish a Community Hub at the Social Services Building on Christchurch Street West
- 2. Acquire the property for a maximum of £325,000 from the County Council
- 3. Agree the financial requirements derived from the building survey report to restore the property
- 4. Agree the costings plan showing capital spend requirements and the on-going income and expenditure
- 5. Agree, in principle at this stage, to take out a loan for £550,000 from the PWLB over 25 years with repayments of £35,336 pa at a fixed interest rate of 4.16%
- 6. Establish an £115k EMR to support community groups physically access the building (following DDA compliance survey) and to help them afford their rental costs
- 7. Engage the community to design and plan the Hub
- 8. Delegate the Town Clerk and the RFO in consultation with the Leader of the Council to deliver the recommendations above
- Present at the July Council meeting the results of the public consultation and formally agree whether to take out a PWLB loan
- 10. Update Cllrs of progress over the summer via the Clerk's

**PWy** 

PWy

JW

**PWy** 

PWv

**PWy** 

	Members' Update  11. Present at the November Council meeting a formal update on progress and next steps  Proposed Cllr Starkie, seconded Cllr Usher, agreed by majority.  Cllr Dobinson left at 8.50pm. The Chair called for a five minute break.	PWy
2014/41/FC	The Economic Development & Regeneration Manager presented a series of screen grabs demonstrating what the Frome Community and Discover Frome websites would look like.  The Frome Community site would make use of a widget system which would display the hot topics for people to easily access. The site would have details of services in the town, community projects and news stories.  The Discover Frome site would provide the opportunity to buy products from the independent retailers. The site would also have pages for each annual festival and other events; there would be an interactive map and information on business spaces. Both sites would link with FTC's Facebook and Twitter pages.  A group of volunteers were to test the new sites before the expected launch on 23 June 2014.  Alex Shingler, Deputy Mayor for Young People, asked if there would be a section for young people. The EDRM confirmed there would as well as a page for the Mayor for Young People.  Clir Moore asked what the mechanism for going between the sites would be. Jon Curle from the web developers Zonkey explained that they would be multi-platform and would each have a link to the other.  Clir Usher thanked the EDRM, staff and Clirs involved in the project for their hard work.	
2014/42/FC	Cllr Boyden left the room at 9pm  11 FOR DECISION - AGREE THE ANNUAL RETURN FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014	

	Cllr Macfadyen noted that the 2013/14 budget was £7000 and staff
	costs had only increased £3000. Cllr Usher thanked the Responsible
	Finance Officer and her staff for their hard work to achieve this.
	The recommendations were:
	1. Approve the Annual Return for year ended 31 March 2014
	and instruct the Mayor to sign the following parts on behalf
	of Council:
	Section 1 Accounting Statements to certify that the
	accounting statements fairly present the financial
	position of Frome Town Council at the end of the
	financial year 2013/14  • Section 2 Annual Governance Statement that to the best
	of their knowledge the Council has ensured there is a sound system of internal control including the
	preparation of the accounting statements in place and
	boxes 1 – 9 are ticked to agree yes to the statements
	2. To agree the Earmarked Reserves position as at 31/03/2014
	3. To note that the Internal Auditors report approves the final
	accounts and the summary in the Annual Return
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
	Proposed Cllr Moore, seconded Cllr Anderson, agreed unanimously.
	Cllr Boyden returned to the room at 9.09pm
2014/43/FC	12 FOR INFORMATION – APPOINTMENT OF PLAY INNOVATION TO
	SUPPLY AND INSTALL MULTI USE GAMES AREA
	Cllrs were asked to note that Play Innovation will be contracted to
	supply and install a MUGA in Mary Baily Playing Field.
2014/44/FC	13 FOR DECISION – UPDATE ON SHOWFIELD DISCUSSIONS
	Cllr Boyden noted that there were several options to try and
	resolve the issues surrounding the transfer of the Showfield
	including writing to SCC to make a quick decision on the Village
	Application as it had been with them for three years and was still
	not number one on the list for decision.
	Cllr Usher proposed additional recommendations. Cllr Berry
	suggested that fencing be considered in order to prevent travellers
	from accessing the site.
	The Chair proposed that all the recommendations be considered
	together.
	The recommendations were:
	1. Note the report from Cllr Boyden

1	2 Confirm to MADC that FTC is still assessed to tall as a still	DVA
	<ol> <li>Confirm to MDC that FTC is still prepared to take on the lease (or a sub-lease) of the Showfield and express FTC's disappointment that they unwilling to enable this</li> <li>Retain the action to explore freehold acquisition with the Agricultural Society and if it is possible, in principle, explore how much this might cost and where funding could be</li> </ol>	PWy
	sourced 4. Return to a future meeting of IAC with updates	PWy
	<ul> <li>5. Accept that the Village Green application will take some time to be determined. However in the meanwhile prepare with MDC and the Agricultural Society, and funded by the Town Council, a project plan prepared by a landscape architect that respects the consultation undertaken so far but does not infringe any possible legal issues and subsequently to use part of the s106 agreement to fund; <ul> <li>The improvement of the existing footpaths</li> <li>Plant large numbers of amenity and orchard trees</li> <li>Cut back or remove superfluous fencing/hedges</li> <li>To improve the drainage in boggy areas</li> <li>Improve the existing play area</li> <li>Provide high quality seating and bins around a picnic area</li> <li>Explore the possibility of raising the standard of grass cutting to amenity standard, perhaps sharing the funding between the Town and District Council</li> <li>Security fencing</li> </ul> </li> <li>6. To accept that no action is unacceptable especially as public consultation has advanced so far.</li> </ul>	PWy
	7. The Town Clerk to report progress to the next Council meeting.  Proposed Cllr Goldfinger, seconded Cllr Boyden, agreed unanimously.	PWy
2014/45/FC	12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING  The next meeting will be at 7pm on 23 July 2014, Assembly Rooms	