

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

Minutes of a meeting of the External Affairs Committee

Wednesday 22 October 2014 at 7pm
Assembly Rooms, Christchurch Street West, Frome BA11 1EB

Present:

Councillors: Dave Anderson; Eve Berry; Graham Burgess; Adrian Dobinson;
Toby Elliot (Chair); Tricia Golinski; Damon Hooton; Mel Usher; Nick White;
Alex Shingler (Deputy Mayor for young people)

In attendance:

Cllr Peter Macfadyen, Martin Dimery & Bob Morris (Frome Festival), Bob Sargent (FORF), Cllr Tom Killen, Deputy Leader of MDC, Caroline Wood (Frome Standard), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Lyndsey Haines (Finance & Administration Apprentice), Faye Penfold, Alison Reid, Ruth Knagg (Community Projects Officer)
7 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2014/53/EAC	<p>1 QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC</p> <p>Mr. Crean of Leyvale residents association, has started a petition for installation of litter/dog bins on the estate and requested funding to supply two bins from the Town Council. He identified two problem areas. He said that The Landscape Group and MDC have committed to fit and empty the bins if funding can be provided to buy them. The cost quoted was £395 +vat each.</p> <p>Cllr Usher responded saying if there was funding available from this year's budget come the end of the financial year, he would support a proposal that the bins are funded by FTC, but if the funding was not available this year it could be funded from next year's budget.</p>	PWy
2014/54/EAC	<p>2 SHORT TALK FROM MARTIN DIMERY & BOB MORRIS, FROME FESTIVAL</p> <p>Martin Dimery and Bob Morris gave a joint brief review of events that have been successful for Frome Festival this year. They also spoke of the involvement with the Children's Festival which was a huge success.</p> <p>Thanks were given to the Town Council for the continued advice as well as the £10,000 grant enabling forward planning for Frome Festival 2015.</p> <p>Cllr Usher thanked the speakers for their hard work.</p>	

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	<p>SHORT TALK FROM BOB SARGENT, SAVE OPEN SPACES</p> <p>Bob Sargent updated Councilors on the work undertaken by Save Open Spaces on ways to protect key open spaces in the town. He explained the criteria used that led to the eventual top 6 areas being identified.</p> <p>Cllr Elliot said the report was commendable and stressed its use in updating and developing the Open Spaces Strategy. Cllr Usher added briefly that we should be aware of the situation at Rodden Lake Stream Meadow and ensure that it should not be repeated. He also asked that it be included within the Neighbourhood plan. The Town Clerk said the Open Spaces Strategy was part of the Neighbourhood Plan and Bob's report would inform it. The Town Clerk noted that a report on the Open Spaces Strategy would be part of the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>SHORT TALK FROM Cllr TOM KILLEN, DEPUTY LEADER MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL on the Economic Development Strategy.</p> <p>Tom Killen gave an update of the past 18 months for the Mendip Economic Development Strategy. The areas of strength and weakness in the district were identified in the strategy and the needs to address them were discussed. Discretionary rate relief for new businesses prompted questions from the members.</p> <p>Cllr Burgess asked about the rate relief scheme and criteria to qualify. Tom replied that there was discretionary rate relief across the whole district, but only for larger businesses. With reference to the Mendip Local Plan, Tom Killen noted that the "minimum" of 2300 houses for the district was inserted by the planning Inspectorate.</p> <p>Cllr White asked how Mendip will help Frome College with apprenticeships and grants. Cllr Killen stated this is an area they want to take forward and are happy to discuss it with the College and FTC.</p>	
2014/55/EAC	<p>3 a. APOLOGIES</p> <p>The Chair formally opened the Council meeting at 8:30 pm and an apology of absence was received from Cara Honey, Mayor for Young People.</p>	
2014/56/EAC	<p>3 b. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</p> <p>None declared.</p>	

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2014/57/EAC	<p>3 c. MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the External Affairs Committee meeting held on 3 September 2014 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Burgess, seconded Cllr Usher, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2014/58/EAC	<p>4 OUTSTANDING ACTIONS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS</p> <p>The Town Clerk gave a brief update on Garston Road stating he has a meeting with Paul Green from Bloor Homes on Monday 2 November to discuss the play area and S106 agreement.</p>	
2014/59/EAC	<p>5 UPDATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & REGENERATION PROJECTS</p> <p>Cllr White asked Cllr Usher if a timescale had been decided for the prospectus and if this would be before or after the Frontier Estates planning application decision. Cllr Usher stated it would be before.</p> <p>Cllr Hooten raised concerns about £10,000 being spent on the project. Cllr Usher noted that the issue was discussed and agreed at the previous meeting.</p>	
2014/60/EAC	<p>6 UPDATE ON FROME MEDIA PROFILE FROM COMMONSENSE EVENTS AND PR</p> <p>Faye Penfold from Common Sense Media gave an update on the last 6 months. She said 70 different stories were covered by the media. How better to package Frome as a tourist destination and developing the use of Facebook and Twitter were used as examples of the ongoing developments. Cllr White asked if more emphasis could be put into engaging the people of Frome that wanted to be involved and to stop trying to engage the people that don't.</p>	
2014/61/EAC	<p>7 FOR DECISION - REVIEW OF CONTRACT TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY GROUPS WITH FUNDRAISING</p> <p>Councilors noted the report.</p> <p><i>Recommendations</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Green Strand to be contracted for a further 12 months at a fee of £10,000 to build on the successful work done to date. 2. A revised contract to be drafted reflecting the discussion and successes described above. <p>Proposed Cllr Usher, seconded Cllr Burgess, agreed by majority.</p>	<p>JW(RFO) RK(KPO)</p>

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<p>2014/62/EAC</p>	<p>8 UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNITY PROJECTS OFFICER AND THE ENERGY & RECYCLING OFFICER Ruth Knagg (Community Projects Officer) briefly outlined the works currently progressing and also those at fruition, including the MUGA and new path at Mary Bailey playing fields and the current situation for the application for new tennis courts. She also confirmed that the funding for widening of the path from Henley Way to Welshmill from the Environment Agency was now in place so the works should be completed by Christmas.</p>	
<p>2014/63/EAC</p>	<p>9 REDEVELOPMENT OF TH WHITE SITE ON VALLIS ROAD DEVELOPMENT – DEED OF EASEMENT The Town Clerk gave a brief summary of the site and the request by the developer to remove a small section of wall owned by FTC to create adequate sightlines. He also noted that there was a proposed open space on the site which FTC would probably organise consultation over and possibly acquire in the future. Cllr White asked how the S106 money would be used. The Town Clerk responded that it would be used to make initial improvements and to maintain the site thereafter.</p> <p><i>Recommendations</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sign the Deed of Easement to allow the small section of wall to be removed. 2. Once the S106 agreement has been signed, to consult over future use of the proposed openspace. 3. The potential acquisition of the public open space be noted. <p>Proposed Cllr Hooten, seconded Cllr Usher, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PWy</p>
<p>2014/64/EAC</p>	<p>10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be at 7pm on 17 December at Saxonvale Centre.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:15 pm