

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

Minutes of a meeting of the External Affairs Committee

Wednesday 3 September 2014 at 7pm
Saxonvale Centre, Garsdale, Frome. BA11 1RZ

Present:

Councillors: Dave Anderson; Eve Berry; Graham Burgess; Adrian Dobinson; Toby Eliot; Tricia Golinski; Nick White

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

In attendance:

Cllr Peter Macfadyen, Claire Wilson (Frome Standard), Faye Penfold, Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development & Regeneration Manager), Kate Hellard (Community Projects Officer), Lyndsey Haines (Finance & Administration Apprentice), Allan Bennett (Planning & Regeneration Apprentice)

10 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2014/40/EAC	<p>1 QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC</p> <p>Sue Hughes asked Cllrs if a railing could be put by the lower steps of the Millennium Green to assist elderly walkers when on the Health Walks. The Town Clerk responded that FTC is helping the Millennium Green Trust manage the area, and will see if the idea could be implemented.</p> <p>Charles Wood noted the Somerset Towns forum network event would be held at the Cheese & Grain on 15 October 2014. It would be a joint event between V4F and FTC.</p> <p>Cllr White stated that SCC was attending the Frome Cheese Show as a 'roadshow' event where Frome residents could go and express their views about what SCC could do for Frome.</p>	PWy
2014/41/EAC	<p>2 SHORT TALK FROM BOB SARGENT, FRIENDS OF THE RIVER FROME</p> <p>Bob Sargent expressed FORF's gratitude for the community grant they had received the previous year. The grant had been spent on buying waders and life jackets to enable access to deeper parts of the river to collect litter and control the invasion of weeds.</p> <p>He noted that implementation of the river strategy had begun. The main progress was the installation of a new footpath between Henley Way and Welshmill. The area will include an allotment pocket park which is on Council owned land, installation of benches and angling points. There will also be a timber constructed ramp at</p>	

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

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	<p>the bottom of Henley way to allow disabled and motorized vehicles access. The works on the footpath were due to begin the following week and would be completed by Mindset.</p> <p>From Henley Way, FORF were also planning to install a footpath leading to the railway viaduct. It was expected that Network Rail would give permission for the footpath to go under the railway bridge, although this was taking some time.</p> <p>Bob explained the next part of the strategy was the installation of a footpath across the river, from Southfield to Adderwell. It was possible the project could be funded by a s106 agreement. The vision was to connect Rivers Reach to Rodden Meadow as well.</p> <p>Cllr Burgess commented that when the Planning Sub Committee saw the Southfield Farm application they noted they were keen to see a link to the town centre. One option was to use the existing arch under the railway, or build a pedestrian bridge alongside the existing railway bridge. Bob Sargent noted that FORF are trying to keep the footbridge away from existing viaducts to avoid the flood level issues and try to minimize potential for damage to the viaduct.</p> <p>Cllr White asked if FTC had a contact at Network Rail. It was confirmed that a series of meetings had been held with Network Rail. The Economic Development & Regeneration Manager noted that he would speak with the Regional Development Manager at First Great Western who has a good working relationship with Network Rail.</p> <p>Cllr Dobinson asked FORF if there would be interest in creating Friends of the River Rodden as he was considering spending his Community Environment Grant from MDC to conduct a feasibility study to prevent flooding along Wallbridge and Warminster Road. Bob suggested discussing Cllr Dobinson's proposal after the meeting.</p>	PWh
<p>2014/42/EAC</p>	<p>3 a. APOLOGIES The Chair formally opened the Council meeting at 7.23pm and an apology of absence was received from Cllr Usher.</p>	
<p>2014/43/EAC</p>	<p>3 b. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS Cllr Dobinson declared that he had resigned from the Liberal Democrat party and was now an Independent Cllr.</p>	

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

2014/44/EAC	<p>3 c. MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the External Affairs Committee meeting held on 25 June 2014 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p>	
2014/45/EAC	<p>4 AN UPDATED ON WHAT THE COUNCIL IS WORKING ON AT THE MOMENT</p> <p>The Town Clerk informed Cllrs that he had received an email from FTC's solicitors notifying him that the paperwork was ready to be signed for the transfer of land at Foundry Barton and Henley Way from Persimmion Homes to FTC.</p> <p>Cllr Eliot enquired about the progress of the Garston Road play area and the s106 agreement. The Town Clerk explained MDC were in discussion about what to do with the s106 monies, one potential idea was to use the money to contribute to the footbridge project described by Bob Sargent (as above).</p>	
2014/46/EAC	<p>5 FOR DECISION – MARKETS IN FROME – A STRATEGIC APPROACH</p> <p>The Economic Development & Regeneration Manager explained to Cllrs the idea of a survey was to assist in the enhancement of the Wednesday and Saturday markets in Frome. The plan was to work closely with MDC and other market operators in Frome and FTC would design the survey for them to encourage participation.</p> <p>Cllrs asked the EDRM to ensure the survey encompass a wide range of people including visitors to the market, Frome residents, shop keepers, stall holders, and all interested parties. The EDRM ensured them that it would be a rounded survey covering all interested parties and would be extensively promoted.</p> <p>The EDRM noted he would be discussing the opportunities for Markets in Frome with Stuart Finney at MDC as well as a strategic placing of market stalls on different days, including evening.</p> <p>The EDRM also noted that the results of the 2014 Benchmarking survey would be posted within the next couple of weeks.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Economic Development & Regeneration Manager make contact with local market operators to secure their support for a survey on local markets and a contribution to the costs of paying volunteer expenses 2. A brief to be prepared with a view to completing the research by the end of November 2014 3. A contribution by FTC to the cost of paying volunteer expenses 	<p>PWh</p> <p>PWh</p> <p>PWh</p> <p>PWh/JW</p>

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

	<p>up to a maximum of £500 utilising the Market Regeneration EMR</p> <p>4. Come back to EAC in December with a strategy to create Frome as “THE Market Town”</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Burgess, seconded Cllr Golinski, agreed unanimously.</p>	PWh
<p>2014/47/EAC</p>	<p>6 FOR INFORMATION – UPDATE ON A PROPOSED ‘CULTURAL QUARTER’</p> <p>Amanda Sheridan from Black Swan Arts provided an update on the ‘Cultural Quarter’ project. She noted that the ‘Cultural Quarter’ was a working title and Black Swan Arts had been working on the project since 2012. The C&G, Frome Library and the Merlin Theatre were now involved. She noted that the Frome Museum had yet to commit.</p> <p>MDC had stated their interest and their intention to be involved with the steering committee, as had the Houser & Worth Gallery at Bruton.</p> <p>The Black Swan Arts were applying to the Arts Council for the sum of £45,000, of which 10% would be match funded by the Black Swan and FTC. This would then pay for two consultants to conduct a feasibility study. All venues in the town would hopefully be engaged in the process.</p> <p>The application was due to be submitted on 27 September and the Black Swan was confident their application would be approved. The application could open the door to over £2million of funding.</p>	
<p>2014/48/EAC</p>	<p>7 FOR DECISION – VISION 4 FROME – COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE AND REVIEW</p> <p>Kate Hellard provided an update on V4F matching the findings from the Participate Frome and Young People’s consultations. The report highlighted a list of themes and projects and the objectives of the V4F community plan.</p> <p>Some of the most significant points raised since V4F’s publication were access to the river, increasing and improving community coherence between elderly and young people in Frome and a focus on activity for local residents in Frome. It was also noted that more support was needed to promote Frome to local residents as well as tourists.</p> <p>The recommendation was to continue to support the community plan review process alongside V4F.</p>	KH

FROME TOWN COUNCIL
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	Proposed Cllr Eliot, seconded Cllr Anderson, agreed by majority.	
2014/49/EAC	<p>8 FOR DECISION – AWARD OF COMMUNITY GRANTS</p> <p>Cllr White declared an interest due to the application by the Merlin Theatre.</p> <p>Cllr Macfadyen asked that declarations of interests from Cllrs on the working party were always included on the report.</p> <p>The recommendation was to agree the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Board at Appendix 1.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Burgess, seconded Cllr Golinski, agreed by majority.</p>	RK
2014/50/EAC	<p>9 FOR INFORMATION – UPDATE ON OPEN SPACES</p> <p>Cllr Golinski asked for an update on the location of the Portway pedestrian crossing. The Town Clerk explained that the developers were in the construction stage and the date had yet to be confirmed. He noted he would ask the CPO to find out its location and the date work would begin.</p> <p>Cllr Burgess enquired as to why Whatcombe Fields was not a part of the update from the CPO. The Town Clerk explained that it was not an FTC campaign.</p> <p>Cllr Macfadyen commented how fantastic it was to see so many items near completion or already completed.</p> <p>Cllr White noted he had not seen any promotion regarding the Scything Workshop. The CPO would be promoting this on her return to the office.</p>	JL RK
2014/51/EAC	<p>10 FOR DECISION – FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITES</p> <p>The Planning & Regeneration Apprentice explained he had been working to establish a community database. He noted a skills database was also being discussed which would enable people to put forward their skills for current/forthcoming projects in Frome.</p> <p>FTC was trying to prioritise internal staff hours and was looking into the administrative rights to areas of the website which could allow Community Groups to edit their own events.</p> <p>Cllr Eliot noted that FTC was taking on board feedback about the two websites which was taken into account as development was</p>	

FROME TOWN COUNCIL
making Frome a better place

	<p>continuing.</p> <p>The recommendation was to agree to delegate decisions regarding further development work and marketing of the websites to a small working group comprising Cllrs Eliot, Moore, Berry and Usher, Deputy Mayor for Young People and the Planning & Regeneration Apprentice.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Eliot, seconded Cllr White, agreed unanimously.</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>PWh/AB</p>
2014/52/EAC	<p>11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on 22 October at the Assembly Rooms.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.16pm