

# FROME TOWN COUNCIL

*making Frome a better place*

## Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 7 January at 7pm

**Frome Town FC Berkley Road Frome BA11 2EH**

**Present:**

Councillors: Dave Anderson; Eve Berry; Adam Boyden; Graham Burgess; Adrian Dobinson; Toby Eliot; Pippa Goldfinger; Tricia Golinski; Damon Hooton; Peter Macfadyen (Chair); Mel Usher; Helen Sprawson-White; Helen Starkie; Alex Shingler (Deputy Mayor for Young People); Cara Honey (Mayor for Young People)

**In attendance:**

Caroline Wood (Frome Standard); PCSO Shelly Day; Faye Penfold(Common Sense Media); Kate Hellard (Fair Frome); Paul Wynne (Town Clerk); Jackie Wheeler (Responsible Finance Officer); Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development and Regeneration Manager); Ruth Knagg (Community Projects Officer); Anna Francis (Energy and Recycling Officer); Tegwyn Jones (Interim Grounds and Property Manager); Alison Reid (Administration Officer).

34 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
<b>2015/01/FC</b>	<p><b>1 Questions, comments and information from the public including county and district Cllrs</b></p> <p>Charles Wood objected to the proposed precept on the grounds that FTC received a grant from central government in the current financial year that could be used to reduce it.</p> <p>Gill Fone of Foundry Barton asked for an update on the transfer of the land on the Singers estate. Paul Wynne stated that all parties involved had now signed and the land will be transferred once the funds are lodged with the bank.</p> <p>A member of the public asked if the Council were aware of the proposed cancellation of the 161 bus service on Saturdays from Frome to Wells. Anna Francis confirmed that FTC is aware and had written to SCC opposing this.</p> <p>County Cllr Linda Oliver gave a brief update on her work since her previous report, including grants awarded through the SCC Health and Wellbeing Grant scheme for monthly surgeries held at The Cheese and Grain. Concerns were raised over the future of youth and community building being leased by YMCA at Vallis Road were raised and Linda assured the meeting that with the support of John Osman she would be working to take the lease transfer forward.</p> <p>Other town and district Cllrs also gave brief details of grant recipients locally.</p>	<b>JW</b>
<b>2015/02/FC</b>	<b>2 Short presentations from Karen Deverell, Mendip YMCA and Edventure Frome</b>	

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	<p>CEO of Mendip YMCA Karen Deverell gave an informative talk about the works and challenges facing the organisation locally. Support of young people facing housing problems and personal crisis were discussed and explanations of how these are managed on a day to day basis were explained.</p> <p>Edventure Frome gave a short presentation on the results of a survey carried out on public health that was warmly received.</p>	
<b>2015/03/FC</b>	<p>The Chairman formally opened the Council meeting at 7.58</p> <p><b>3 a. Apologies for absence?</b> Apologies of absence were received from Cllr Moore; Cllr Hudson and Cllr Bullen.</p> <p><b>b. Cllrs to declare any interests on the agenda</b> A declaration was received from Cllr Hooton and Cllr Sprawson-White who have seats on MDC that their views on any items on this agenda as an FTC member were not necessarily those as in his role as an MDC Cllr.</p> <p><b>c. To consider and approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 5 November 2014</b> The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 5 November 2015 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair following an amendment proposed by Cllr Usher.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Hooton, seconded Cllr Goldfinger, agreed by majority</p> <p><b>d.To receive for information the minutes of the last Internal and External Affairs Committee meeting</b> Councillors noted the minutes for information.</p>	
<b>2015/04/FC</b>	<p><b>4 Outstanding actions and forthcoming items</b> Councillors noted the table and a reply from Stuart Brown, MDC, regarding the New Homes Bonus, Community Infrastructure Levy and the Local Legacy scheme. Paul Wynne was asked to explore further with Stuart the future of CIL and how MDC will embrace it.</p>	<b>PW</b>
<b>2015/05/FC</b>	<p><b>5 To consider a loan to the Cheese and Grain for LED lighting</b> Anna Francis outlined the proposal to loan £22k over a period of 4 years 10months. Cllr Hooton asked if it was legal for FTC to be charging interest on a loan of this nature and was assured by Paul Wynne Town Clerk it was. Cllr Berry asked if there were any other sources of funding the Cheese and Grain could look to for support. Steve Macarthur, C&amp;G, explained that there was not</p>	

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	<p><i>Recommendation</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make a loan to the Cheese and Grain for £22,000 over four years and 10 months at the same interest rate as that used by the Public Works Loan Board on the day the loan agreement is signed in order to install LED lighting in the hall and stage area. And establish an EMR to this effect until they draw it down from the general reserve.</li> <li>2. Include in the loan agreement an appropriate level of security if the Cheese and Grain defaults on payments.</li> <li>3. Include in the loan agreement that the Cheese and Grain will use a green energy supplier for at least the period of the loan.</li> </ol> <p>Proposed Cllr Usher, seconded Cllr Starkie, agreed majority.</p>	<b>JWh</b>
<b>2015/06/FC</b>	<p>Cllr Boyden arrived 8:15</p> <p><b>6 To consider contributing towards the community project to acquire fields at Whatcombe</b></p> <p>Paul Wynne said this was a recommendation from EAC on 17 December 2014. Securing the fields will provide a huge resource for the people of Frome and this was a one off opportunity to buy the space. Cllr White raised concerns over the slope of the site and also felt that if FTC were going to contribute a large proportion of funding FTC should not be entitled to more than a single stakeholder say in the future. Cllr Berry asked for further clarification of the costs involved and these were explained by Ruth Knagg. Cllr Usher asked why there was urgency to this project and it was explained that the area had already had interest from property developers and had been signposted as development land for properties.</p> <p><i>Recommendation</i></p> <p>Allocate £35,000 from the general reserve towards this campaign and to establish a new EMR accordingly. If the campaign to purchase the fields was unsuccessful then it will be returned less legal costs, not exceeding £3500.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Burgess, seconded Cllr Anderson, agreed majority.</p> <p>Cllr Hooton abstained as he felt he had a pecuniary interest in the proposal.</p>	<b>JWh</b>
<b>2015/07/FC</b>	<p><b>7 To consider the current litter situation in Frome</b></p>	

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	<p>Tegwyn Jones (Interim Grounds and Property Manager) gave a short talk on the current litter situation in and around Frome town centre. He highlighted the standard that is set out within the contract with MDC and that it is currently not being met by the contractor, The Landscape Group. Stuart Finney MDC outlined the current works procedures for Frome and highlighted the difficulties in maintaining grade A standard within Frome. He also explained the current monitoring procedures in place; these being both reactive in that issues are addressed as and when complaints are received and secondly via random inspections.</p> <p>A representative from The Landscape Group explained that new road sweeping equipment had recently been purchased which may improve things in some areas although he was aware not all of Frome would be accessible with the wider/heavier equipment.</p> <p>Peter Macfadyen felt is that we cannot improve the situation by paying more for a better service as MDC are already paying for a grade A service; and that we need to monitor therefore the current service and proactively report any failings to MDC and The Landscape Group.</p> <p>Further discussion ensued and the consensus was for FTC to actively monitor the problem, accept MDC's offer of training in order to do so and continue to work together to get the situation improved.</p>	TJ
2015/08/FC	<p><b>8 Progress report on the old Social Services Building project</b></p> <p>Kate Hellard outlined the current situation and the meeting was shown the short film of the building. A vote was taken on all names submitted for the building and the following were shortlisted to go out for public vote. Frome Town Hall, The Town Hall, The F Rooms and Public's Offices.</p> <p><i>Recommendations</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the update and timeline</li> <li>2. Shortlist three names to take forward for a public vote.</li> </ol> <p>Proposed Cllr Hooton, seconded Cllr White, agreed unanimously</p> <p>Cllrs Berry and Dobinson left at 9:35.</p>	
2015/09/FC	<p><b>9 To consider the work programme and agree the budget and precept demand for 2015/16</b></p> <p>Paul Wynne and Jackie Wheeler presented the proposed work</p>	

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	<p>programme, organisational chart, budget and precept demand for 2015/16. Jackie also noted that the current budget forecast for the end of 2014/15 was a £30,000 underspend.</p> <p>Council discussed the proposals and took into account the likely underspend. As a result, a revised precept proposal was tabled which would result in the budget retained and the Band D Council Tax remaining unchanged.</p> <p><i>Recommendations</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Approve the Action Plan to March 2016</li> <li>b. Approve the proposed organisational chart</li> <li>c. Approve the Budget for 2015/16</li> <li>d. To set the precept demand at £1,034,685 and therefore keep the Band D equivalent Council Tax at the same level as 2014/15.</li> <li>e. Note the forecast General Reserve at 1 April 2015 is £180,00 Proposed Cllr Elliott, seconded Cllr Starkie, agreed unanimously.</li> <li>f. That IAC consider the options the Council has regarding the £110,000 grant from MDC and report back to Council its recommendations.</li> </ol> <p>Proposed Cllr Hooton, seconded Cllr Burgess, agreed unanimously.</p>	<b>PWy/Jwh</b>
<b>2015/10/FC</b>	<b>10</b> The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 18 March 2015 at Assembly Rooms, Christchurch Street West, Frome. BA11 1EB	

The Chair closed the meeting at 10:17pm