

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 23 July 2014 at 7pm
Assembly Rooms, Christchurch Street West, Frome. BA11 1EB

Present:

Councillors: Dave Anderson; Eve Berry; Adam Boyden; Adrian Dobinson; Toby Eliot; Pippa Goldfinger; Tricia Golinski; Damon Hooton; Claire Hudson; Peter Macfadyen; Dickon Moore; Mel Usher; Nick White
Alex Shingler (Deputy Mayor for Young People)

In attendance:

Claire Wilson (Frome Standard), Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development & Regeneration Manager), Jackie Wheeler (Responsible Finance Officer), Laura Poulton (Administration Officer)

4 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2014/53/FC	<p>1 QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC AND COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS</p> <p>A member of the public expressed concern that Mendip District Council’s working group minutes from their meeting in January 2014 suggested MDC were told by the Department of Energy and Climate Change they would benefit financially from allowing fracking and shouldn’t be concerned about the impact on the environment. Cllr Hooton noted that the working group would be meeting again on 16 September and he would raise her concerns at the meeting. Cllr Boyden also noted that he had spoken with the Chief Executive at MDC and asked him to write to DECC requesting they remove areas in Mendip and around Bath from a future licensing round. Like Cllr Hooton, Cllr Boyden offered to raise the residents’ concerns at the next working party meeting.</p> <p>Charles Wood noted that he felt that some community groups who would like to hire rooms couldn’t afford to and should be permitted to use the rooms free or low cost. Cllr Usher clarified that this would be the intention.</p> <p>Jill Fone expressed concern that there was still no progress on the transfer of the old play park at Foundry Barton and it was once again overgrown. Cllr Usher noted that FTC was still very willing to take ownership. Cllr Hooton noted he would raise these concerns at the next CAMG meeting.</p>	<p>Cllr Hooton</p> <p>Cllr Boyden</p> <p>Cllr Hooton</p>
2014/54/FC	2 a. APOLOGIES	

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

	<p>The Chair formally opened the Council meeting at 7.20pm and apologies of absence were received from Cllrs Bullen, Burgess and Sprawson – White and Cara Honey (Mayor for Young People). Cllr Moore would arrive late to the meeting.</p>	
2014/55/FC	<p>2 b. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</p> <p>A declaration was received from Cllrs Hooton and Hudson 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.</p> <p>Cllr Hooton declared an interest in item 5, Cllr Boyden declared an interest in item 6 and Cllr Hudson declared an interest in item 10.</p>	
2014/56/FC	<p>2 c. MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 21 May 2014 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>The minutes of the Extraordinary Frome Town Council meeting held on 25 June 2014 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p>	
2014/57/FC	<p>3 AN UPDATE ON WHAT THE COUNCIL IS WORKING ON AT THE MOMENT</p> <p>Cllr Boyden handed a letter from the Strategic Assets Manager at MDC to the Town Clerk which was a reply to his letter about the Leisure Centre strategy. Cllr Macfadyen asked the Town Clerk to circulate the letter to all Cllrs.</p> <p>Cllr Golinski asked how many Local Legacy grant applications FTC would be submitting to MDC. The Town Clerk explained there were four in total and two were in partnership with community groups in the town. Cllr Golinski also asked if MDC had responded as to whether they would reconsult over the Frontier Estates amended travel plan. The Economic Development & Regeneration Manager explained they would not be formally reconsulting. However they were asking for representations and that FTC were putting together a response.</p>	PWy
2014/58/FC	<p>4 FOR DECISION – TO TAKE OUT A LOAN FROM THE PWLB FOR £550,000 TO ACQUIRE AND RESTORE THE SOCIAL SERVICES BUILDING</p> <p>Cllr Boyden left and Cllr Moore arrived at 7.34pm</p> <p>Cllr White asked the Town Clerk if he had any confirmation from</p>	

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

Somerset County Council as to whether they would be willing to transfer the building to Frome Town Council free of charge or if they would reduce the asking price. The Town Clerk confirmed that the commissioning directors had not yet made a formal decision.

Cllr Usher noted that ten days previously he wrote to the leader of SCC to ask that he consider the transfer of the building however had not yet received a reply.

Cllr Hudson expressed her concern that there were unknowns about the cost of the repairs that were recommended in the survey. The Town Clerk confirmed that there was a significant contingency to cover unknown costs at this stage.

The recommendation was:

Based on the result from the public consultation, to submit a loan application to PWLB for £550,000 in order to acquire the building

Proposed by Cllr Goldfinger and seconded by Cllr Eliot.

Cllr Hooton requested a recorded vote. The vote was recorded as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain
D Anderson	✓		
E Berry			✓
A Dobinson	✓		
T Eliot	✓		
P Goldfinger	✓		
T Golinski	✓		
D Hooton		✓	
C Hudson	✓		
P Macfadyen	✓		
D Moore	✓		
M Usher	✓		

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

	N White	✓			
	The recommendation was agreed by majority.				
2014/59/FC	<p>5 FOR DECISION – MENDIP’S INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH AN ‘ENTERPRISE AREA’ AT THE BATH & WEST SHOWGROUND AND ITS IMPACT ON FROME</p> <p>The Economic Development & Regeneration Manager proposed an additional recommendation.</p> <p>Cllr Goldfinger asked the EDRM if an environmental impact and travel assessment would have to be carried out. In addition how would design quality be ensured. He explained that if a Local Plan Policy was in place this would have a planning framework, also safeguarding design quality.</p> <p>Cllr Hudson noted that Commerce Park was not in the Frome Parish and FTC should ensure the neighbouring parish council was consulted.</p> <p>Cllr Berry asked if the NDO would be applicable to Commerce park as well. The EDRM confirmed this and explained that Marston Trading Estate and Wessex Fields were also being explored as potential sites. Cllr Dobinson noted that the biggest problem for the Commerce Park site was that it was not serviced by public transport.</p> <p>Cllr Hooton invited the EDRM to the next Scrutiny Board meeting to address MDC Cllrs about the proposal.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The report and the questions it raises are submitted to Mendip DC with a request that these matters are considered by Mendip’s Scrutiny Committee 2. Further representations are made to Mendip DC objecting to Local Plan Policy CP9 as modified 3. Authority is delegated to the Economic Development & Regeneration Manager to consult with other agencies, Councils, landowners and their agents and others potentially affected by these proposals and feedback is provided to Councillors as soon as possible 4. Council authorises the EDRM to enter into exploratory discussions with local landowners, their agents and neighbouring parishes to establish whether there is support for the introduction of a Neighbourhood Development Order that 				<p>Cllr Hooton/P Wh PWh</p> <p>PWh</p>

FROME TOWN COUNCIL
making Frome a better place

	<p>would permit development for employment purposes in Frome</p> <p>Proposed Cllr White, seconded Cllr Dobinson, agreed by majority. Cllr Hooton abstained.</p>	
2014/60/FC	<p>6 FOR DECISION – TO CONSIDER HOW TO ALLOCATE LAND SUPPLY IN FROME FOR DEVELOPMENT (IMPLEMENTING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN)</p> <p>Cllr Hudson requested that archaeological impacts should be taken into consideration for these suggested sites.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote the “call for sites” through the media, website and Social Media 2. Work with the relevant groups and interested Cllrs in the town to identify appropriate sites to bring forward within the allocation criteria and produce a master map of sites to inform the allocation process 3. Make contact and work with land owners to bring the identified sites forward 4. Ensure that the Policies within the Neighbourhood Plan are implemented by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting existing employment sites • Allocating a further 5 ha of employment land • Allocating Self/community build sites within the Development Limits • Designing additional public open space <p>Proposed Cllr Hudson, seconded Cllr Goldfinger, agreed unanimously.</p>	JL
2014/61/FC	<p>7 FOR INFORMATION – UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF THE MARKET PLACE PROJECT</p> <p>Cllr Golinski asked where the replacement free parking would be located. The EDRM noted this would be at the entrance to Bridge Street on the right hand side opposite the Market Yard car park.</p> <p>Cllr Hudson requested that FTC had ownership of the land before going out to tender. The EDRM agreed to this.</p>	
2014/62/FC	<p>8 FOR DECISION – TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14</p> <p>The recommendation was to adopt the draft Annual Report for 2013/14.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Golinski, seconded Cllr Goldfinger, agreed unanimously.</p>	PWy

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

2014/63/FC	9 FOR DECISION – LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME EMPLOYERS DISCRETIONS POLICY It was agreed to defer this item until the next Council meeting in September when a member of Peninsula Pensions, the administrators of the Local Pensions Scheme, would attend the meeting to clarify the details of the policy required.	
2014/64/FC	10 FOR DECISION – TO APPROVE CHANGES TO THE STAFF HANDBOOK AND OTHER CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION Cllr Dobinson left the meeting at 8.35pm. The recommendations were: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approve the formatting changes to Chapters 4a, 5, 6, 7, 8,9,11, 13, 16, 17 and 182. Approve the amendments to the Staff Handbook Proposed Cllr Moore, seconded Cllr Anderson, agreed unanimously.	
2014/65/FC	11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 17 September, Assembly Rooms	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.36pm