

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

Minutes of a meeting of the Internal Affairs Committee

Tuesday 5 August 2014 at 7pm
Saxonvale Centre, Garsdale, Frome. BA11 1RZ

Present:

Councillors: Eve Berry; Toby Eliot; Claire Hudson; Dickon Moore; Mel Usher
Alex Shingler (Deputy Mayor for Young People)

In attendance:

Caroline Wood (Frome Standard), Jackie Wheeler (Responsible Finance Officer), Simon Woollen (Grounds & Properties Manager), Laura Poulton (Administration Officer)

3 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2014/41/IAC	<p>1 QUESTIONS, COMMENTS AND INFORMATION FROM THE PUBLIC</p> <p>Charles Wood asked why the grant funding from MDC was not shown as part of general reserves. The Responsible Finance Officer explained that the information was correct as of 30 June 2014, for July it would show as part of the ear marked reserves for the Frome Community Hub project. Charles Wood enquired as to what had been asked from MDC with regard to the One Frome project. Cllr Usher explained that he wrote a letter to Cllr Harvey Siggs asking for a discussion to see how to move forward however he had not received a response.</p> <p>Margaret Merrell expressed her disappointment that the proposal to keep dogs on leads at all times in Victoria Park was to be reversed. Cllr Moore noted her concerns would be addressed when the item came up for discussion.</p>	
2014/42/IAC	<p>2 a. APOLOGIES</p> <p>The Chair formally opened the Council meeting at 7.10pm and apologies of absence were received from Cllrs Goldfinger, Macfadyen, Starkie and Sprawson - White.</p>	
2014/43/IAC	<p>2 b. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</p> <p>A declaration was received from Cllr Hudson who has a seat on MDC that her view on any items on this agenda as an FTC member were not necessarily those as her role as an MDC Cllr.</p>	
2014/44/IAC	<p>2 c. MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the Internal Affairs Committee meeting held on 11 June 2014 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p>	

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<p>2014/45/IAC</p>	<p>3 AN UPDATE ON WHAT THE COUNCIL IS WORKING ON AT THE MOMENT</p> <p>The Responsible Finance Officer confirmed that the representative for the Local Legacy Fund panel was selected by officers. She also clarified that the Community Environment Fund was for projects that are of natural build or of social benefit to the Cllrs' ward. To date 80% of the fund had not been spent and the fund was open until 2015. She also noted that she had been in contact with the Chair and Clerk of the Local Government Pension Scheme committee who said that FTC's letter raising concerns about their lack of ethical investment policy would be raised at their next meeting. However, it was not on the agenda subsequently.</p>	
<p>2014/46/IAC</p>	<p>4 MENDIP WATCH – SUMMARY OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FROM MDC</p> <p>At the last meeting it was agreed Cllr Hudson would approach officers at MDC for an update on each of the outstanding actions. She explained that she had spoken to Stuart Brown (Chief Executive), Donna Nolan (Corporate Manager Governance, Assets and Public Spaces and Monitoring Officer) and Cllr Harvey Siggs (Leader of the Council) and they provided the following information.</p> <p><i>The Dippy</i> Stuart explained this was likely to go ahead imminently.</p> <p><i>North Parade</i> An unexpected valuation for the land had come up and MDC needed to analyse this before proceeding.</p> <p><i>Henley Way</i> Cllr Hudson was expecting a reply from Stuart Brown about the area the following week and would forward his response for Cllrs to see.</p> <p><i>Garston Road</i> The issue was that Bloor Homes had broken their planning conditions by allowing Wessex Water to install a plastic water tank that was not load bearing. Stuart indicated that the transfer of the land would happen quicker if FTC were willing to take on the land with the restriction of the water tank otherwise the issue of the planning condition violation would have to be explored further.</p> <p><i>One Frome</i> Stuart Brown was unaware of a letter about the project and asked Cllr Usher forward a copy of the letter he originally sent to Cllr Siggs to Stuart to allow him to reply.</p> <p><i>Showfield</i> MDC were unable to move further on this until the issue of the outstanding village green application had been resolved.</p> <p><i>Planning board meeting re. Frontier Estates application</i></p>	<p>MU</p>

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	<p>The request to hold the meeting in Frome had not been refused rather they were currently waiting to see what else will be on the agenda to make sure the meeting is held in the most accessible place for everyone to attend.</p> <p><i>Leisure Centre</i></p> <p>The strategy was quite complex and it would be worth asking Cllr Boyden, who sits on the committee that made the decision about the leisure centre, provides an explanation of the situation so far.</p> <p><i>Electric charging points</i></p> <p>Stuart Brown was currently looking into the request.</p> <p>Cllr Usher thanked Cllr Hudson for following up the actions with MDC however it was still a long list that wasn't getting any shorter. Cllr Hudson raised her concern that the item 'Mendip Watch' did not encourage a more positive relationship with MDC. Both Cllrs Eliot and Usher expressed their opinion that 'Mendip Watch' was the last resort to encourage MDC to take action as previous attempts at communication had not provided any results.</p>	
<p>2014/47/IAC</p>	<p>5 FOR INFORMATION – MAYOR'S DISCUSSIONS</p> <p>Cllr Hudson asked that the discussions be widely advertised in advance of the meeting dates.</p> <p>Cllrs noted the paper</p>	<p>Cllr Macfadyen</p>
<p>2014/48/IAC</p>	<p>6 FOR DECISION - THE NEXT STEP ON DOG CONTROL ORDERS</p> <p>Cllr Eliot, in response to the concern raised earlier in the meeting, explained that since the last meeting where it was proposed to enforce dogs are on leads at all times in Victoria Park there was a very strong representation from a group in the town that were against this enforcement. He and the Town Clerk had recently attended a meeting with representatives from the group where they listened to their concerns about the impact of the order. The suggestion was that FTC works toward an order that allows dogs off leads at certain times of the day. The new proposal included two reviews of the DCO's to see if they had an impact.</p> <p>Cllrs Hudson and Berry requested that in the future public consultations are more carefully considered to ensure wider participation and less confusion over the outcome. Cllr Usher proposed a fourth recommendation be added to ensure appropriate signage be erected in the most appropriate locations in Victoria Park and Mary Baily Playing Field.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Retain the agreement from the last meeting regarding Dog 	

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	<p>Control Orders with the following amendment: solely for Victoria Park, dogs must be on leads from 10am until 6.30pm from 1 April until 30 September and from 1 October until 31 March dogs will be allowed off leads at all times</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Review this arrangement on 8 April and October 2015 3. Return to IAC on 8 October 2014 for final approval 4. Ensure correct signage is erected at the most visible locations in Victoria Park and Mary Baily Playing Field <p>Proposed Cllr Usher, seconded Cllr Eliot, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>Cllr Hudson requested that Cllrs ensured that users of Victoria Park and Mary Baily Playing Field are properly informed of the DCO's once they come into force.</p>	PWy
2014/49/IAC	<p>7 FOR INFORMATION - REVISED ARRANGEMENTS TO COVER SARAH RUSSELL'S MATERNITY LEAVE AND OTHER MINOR STAFF MATTERS</p> <p>Cllrs noted the paper.</p>	
2014/50/IAC	<p>8 FOR INFORMATION - A BRIEF UPDATE ON PAYMENTS OVER £500 MADE SINCE THE LAST MEETING AND OTHER FINANCE MATTERS</p> <p>Cllr Moore asked to see invoices from David Partner and Somerset County Council as part of the spot check, both invoices tallied with Appendix 2.</p>	
2014/51/IAC	<p>9 FOR INFORMATION – HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE</p> <p>The Responsible Finance Officer gave an update on the outstanding claim at Mary Baily Playing Field. She had been contacted by FTC insurers Zurich who had not had any correspondence from the claimant since May therefore it was not expected for the claim to progress.</p> <p>Cllrs noted the paper.</p>	
2014/52/IAC	<p>10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 8 October 2014, Saxonvale Centre.</p> <p>Cllr Hudson gave her apologies in advance of the next meeting.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.03pm