



# FROME TOWN COUNCIL

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	<p>Cllr Dobinson presented Cllrs with a proposal for using his MDC Community Environment Funding to carry out a feasibility study into the issue of flooding at Wallbridge.</p> <p>Cllr Boyden arrived at 7.27pm.</p>	
<b>2014/67/FC</b>	<p><b>2 SHORT TALK FROM BOB ASHFORD, CHAIR OF FAIR FROME</b></p> <p>Bob explained that Fair Frome was started as a charity in order to help vulnerable people in Frome through periods of poverty. He noted that the charity now had 11 trustees and twenty six people had signed up to volunteer. At their launch in July they had raised £1000 which was then matched by Barclays Bank.</p> <p>Their current projects were: to launch a food bank based in Frome on 1 October; A similar project but providing packs of kitchen utensils (100 packs donated already); a washing project which would include providing washing packs and tokens to use the launderette at Culverhill in Frome; and a community dining project which aims to bring people together and help alleviate social isolation.</p> <p>Bob explained that future aims included building on the number of volunteers, ensuring the food bank was a success and trying to reach the Eastern European and travelling communities in the town.</p> <p>Cllr Usher asked if there was a possibility the food bank could offer fresh food in the future. Bob explained they were currently looking into ways of bringing together food stores and other Frome bodies to see what they could do to help provide fresh food. He noted that he was due to meet with the Manager of Lidl and that they had secured a stall at the next Independent Market which would be giving away fresh food and soup made from food bank parcels.</p> <p>Cllr Eliot asked if Fair Frome had linked with the credit union. Bob said that they had.</p> <p>Cllr Sprawson White arrived at 7.44pm.</p>	
<b>2014/68/FC</b>	<p><b>3 a. APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>The Chair formally opened the Council meeting at 7.50pm and apologies of absence were received from Cllrs Hudson and Starkie.</p>	
<b>2014/69/FC</b>	<p><b>3 b. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b></p> <p>A declaration was received from Cllrs Boyden, Bullen, Dobinson and</p>	

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	<p>Hooton who have seats on MDC that their views on any items on this agenda as an FTC member were not necessarily those as their roles as an MDC Cllr.</p> <p>Cllr Moore declared a personal interest in item 7. Cllr Moore declared a personal and pecuniary interest in item 8.</p>	
<b>2014/70/FC</b>	<p><b>3 c. MINUTES</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 23 July 2014 were amended to reflect the context of a comment made by Charles Wood and were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p>	
<b>2014/71/FC</b>	<p><b>4 AN UPDATE ON WHAT THE COUNCIL IS WORKING ON AT THE MOMENT</b></p> <p>The Responsible Finance Officer noted that the notice of completion for the Annual Return had been received and there was nothing to report.</p> <p>Cllr Macfadyen noted that the Neighbourhood Plan had been submitted to MDC and he congratulated the Planning &amp; Development Officer, Economic Development &amp; Regeneration Manager and Cllr Burgess for all their hard work so far. The Town Clerk noted that at the next Council meeting a presentation would be given on the Neighbourhood Plan and what it means for Frome.</p>	
<b>2014/72/FC</b>	<p><b>5 FOR DECISION - LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME EMPLOYERS DISCRETIONS POLICY</b></p> <p>Catherin Pearce was introduced as the Deputy Manager at Peninsula Pensions.</p> <p>Cllr Usher asked Catherine who Peninsula Pensions were and whether other local authorities had adopted the discretion policy. Catherine explained that each Council is required to run a pension fund. Somerset County Council and Devon County Council have a shared service that is known as Peninsula Pensions. She explained that the policy had been a requirement since 1997; however employers were now being contacted to ensure a policy had been put into place.</p> <p>The recommendation was to approve the Local Government Pension Scheme Discretions policy.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Hooton, seconded Cllr Goldfinger, agreed unanimously.</p>	<b>JW</b>

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	<p><b>6 FOR DECISION – PURCHASE OF PUBLIC OFFICES ON CHRISTCHURCH STREET WEST</b></p> <p>Charles Wood was invited to speak. He noted that he believed the Council Support Grant should have been used to offset the precept.</p> <p>The Town Clerk thanked those who contributed to the campaign for SCC to transfer the building to FTC at no cost. SCC had agreed to reduce the price by £50,000 to £275,000.</p> <p>ClIr Berry asked what the figures in the report were based on. The Responsible Finance Officer explained that these were based on rates paid on similar rooms in Frome and other nearby towns.</p> <p>ClIr Anderson enquired about the clawback agreement. The Town Clerk explained that if FTC were to sell the building SCC would take a percentage of the difference between the two sale prices however the percentage had not been determined.</p> <p>ClIr Sprawson White asked that there be a minimum of free community space available.</p> <p>ClIr Eliot asked what the contingency budget was. The Responsible Finance Officer confirmed it was 10% of the refurbishment costs.</p> <p>ClIr White offered to approach a receiver at Butler and Tanner to enquire about a lift that could be used in the building.</p> <p>ClIr Bullen asked what time scale was being worked to. The Town Clerk explained that the contracts would be exchanged in November with FTC taking possession in March/April 2015. He said he hoped the building would be up and running by the summer of 2015.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Acquire the Public Offices from the County Council for a price of £275,000, as soon as possible, by drawing down the loan from the PWLB in a phased way to minimise interest repayments</li><li>2. Note and continue to refine the forecast capital expenditure, and ongoing income and expenditure as more information becomes available</li><li>3. Progress developing the participative process of working with the community to develop a design brief</li><li>4. Provide a progress report to the November Council meeting</li><li>5. Keep ClIrs up to date between Council meetings via Members' Up</li><li>6. Make sure there is provision for Community Groups to use</li></ol>	<p><b>ClIr White</b></p>
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	<p>Association needed financial support in order to organise the Quadripartite for 2015. She also noted that the Association would like to reinstate regular meetings with the Council. Overall she explained that twinning over the years had benefitted many people in the town.</p> <p>Cllr Moore expressed his feeling that twinning benefits a small proportion of Frome and the expenditure on events could no longer be justified. He explained that the planned thematic conferences presented a new benefit for the town and he felt the young people in the town should take the lead in where twinning progresses.</p> <p>Cllr Sprawson White suggested that the events needed to go back to basics such as pen friends between school children. She noted the event in 2007 proved that they don't have to cost a lot.</p> <p>The Mayor for Young People explained she felt twinning was important however there was a lot of pressure on the Youth Council to organise their involvement. In addition many young people in the town were now keen to travel further and outside of Europe. The Deputy Mayor for Young People felt that the model of twinning required modernising and links outside of Europe should be explored.</p> <p>Cllr Hooton, Chair of the Twinning Association, explained that Frome was the largest twin town yet had the least support. He noted that although twinning does have relevance it needed to change and evolve. He expressed his support for what was written in the report and felt that withdrawing support completely was not the answer.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Work with the Twinning Association to deliver a successful conference on energy in Spring 2016 and underwrite this event by £17500 Proposed Cllr Usher, seconded Cllr Moore, agreed unanimously.</li><li>2. Cllrs to consider the two options about the Frome quadripartite in 2015 and decide either a) to allocate £20000 and deliver it with the Twinning Association Proposed Cllr Berry, seconded Cllr Bullen, the proposal was not agreed. or b) to support the Twinning Association to deliver it on Frome's behalf and allocate the remaining £2800 in the current twinning budget to support this, if the Association wishes</li></ol>	
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	<p>Proposed Cllr Burgess, seconded Cllr Moore, agreed unanimously.</p> <p>3. Discuss with the Twinning Association next steps for twinning in Frome and inform the other twin towns whether the 2015 quadripartite is going ahead and if so the extent of it. The general future of Town Twinning should be part of this discussion</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Goldfinger, seconded Cllr Usher, agreed by majority.</p> <p>4. Encourage new cultural exchanges with other towns in other countries led by young people and schools and consider allocating a budget to support this next year</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Moore, seconded Cllr Eliot, agreed by majority.</p> <p>Cllr Sprawson White left at 9.20pm.</p>	<p><b>Cllr MacFadyen</b></p>
<p><b>2014/75/FC</b></p>	<p><b>8 FOR DECISION - PREPARATION OF PROSPECTUS FOR SAXONVALE</b></p> <p>Cllr Moore left the room at 9.46pm</p> <p>Cllr White asked who the prospectus would be aimed at. Cllr Usher clarified that it would be for the benefit of funders who have the ability to develop a site like Saxonvale.</p> <p>Cllr Usher proposed to amend the recommendation to remove references to the Carley Development Trust and the outcome of the current planning applications relating to Saxonvale.</p> <p>The recommendation was to support the principle of preparing a prospectus that sets out an alternative plan for the regeneration of the Saxonvale site. To be commissioned by the Town Council at a cost of £10,000 to be financed using the Town Centre Redevelopment EMR.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Golinski, seconded Cllr Hooton, agreed by majority.</p>	<p><b>PWh</b></p>
<p><b>2014/76/FC</b></p>	<p><b>9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 5 November, Frome Football Club</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.56pm