

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

Minutes of the meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 28 October 2015 at 7pm
Selwood School Hall, Berkley Rd, Frome, Somerset BA11 2EF

Present:

Councillors: Al O’Kane, Alison Barclay, Cath Puddick, Colin Cobb, Heather Wride, Kate Bielby, Mel Usher, Nick White, Peter Macfadyen, Pippa Goldfinger, Rich Ackroyd, Sheila Gore, Toby Elliot, Tricia Golinski

In attendance:

District Cllrs Damon Hooton and Mike Rideout
Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development & Regeneration Manager), Jackie Wheeler (Responsible Finance Officer).

30 members of the public

| Minute Ref | Agenda Item | Action |
|------------|---|--------|
| 2015/90/FC | <p>The meeting started at 7.00pm with a statement from the chair informing the meeting that Frome Town Council has been awarded Council of the Year, and runner-up in Project of the Year by the National Association of Local Councils.</p> <p>1a. Apologies for absence Received from Gary Collinson, Tim O’Conner, and Jean Boulton. Al O’Kane informed the meeting that he had to leave at 8pm.</p> <p>1b. Declaration of members’ interests None</p> <p>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 23 September 2015 The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 23 September 2015 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair. Proposed Peter Macfadyen, seconded Nick White, agreed unanimously.</p> | |
| 2015/91/FC | <p>2. Questions and comments from the public A member of the public asked when the Police Post in the Library would be established. Town Clerk Paul Wynne said he understood that the intention was still to have a presence in the Library and would report back. He also agreed to find out if the Police Post in the Market Yard was short of volunteers.</p> | PWy |

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

| | | |
|------------|--|----|
| | <p>The Syria Refugee Group were holding a public meeting on 4 November 7.30 pm at Critchill School, Frome.</p> <p>A request was made for a hand rail to help people climb the steps in the Dippy. Paul said that Chris Stringer (Environment Manager) would investigate with the Mount Community Association.</p> | CS |
| 2015/92/FC | <p>3. Questions and comments from Cllrs</p> <p>Damon Hooton said that MDC was ensuring that bailiffs would be used in cases of non-payment of Council Tax appropriately in future. He went on to say that the Thematic Network event in Murrhardt had been a positive experience for all and that there was a need for volunteers to provide accommodation at the next one which takes place in Frome in March 2016. He also said that the Frome Design Statement was now adopted as supplementary Planning Guidance by MDC.</p> <p>Cllr Heather Wride requested to be kept up-to-date with the use of bailiffs.</p> <p>Panels update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting of the Keep Frome Clean Panel would be on 17 November. • The Town Centre Panel was on course to report to Council in December. • The Sports Panel was meeting on next on 16 November and an audit was being carried out of facilities in the town. | |
| 2015/93/FC | <p>4a Short talk by Terry Bishop, Apprenticeship Project Coordinator</p> <p>This post is part funded by FTC for two years and is a joint project with Frome College. The main role was to be a link between young people and employers, and to develop the skill set of young people. Terry also provides a weekly list of apprenticeships available.</p> <p>Terry noted that his target was to set up 25 apprenticeships a year.</p> <p>A good discussion followed. Terry was asked for an update on progress on a quarterly basis and was thanked for his presentation.</p> <p>4b Short talk by Julie Carey-Downes, Health Connections Coordinator</p> <p>This post is part funded by FTC and is a joint project with Frome Medical Practice through the NHS. The project helps members of community to self-manage their health and wellbeing. Julie's role is to inform the community about current services and self-help groups. She is training Volunteer Health Champions to do this and be a point of contact within various parts of the community - including the Polish Community, young</p> | |

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

| | | |
|------------|---|----------------------|
| | <p>people, patients with specific medical conditions, large employers such as Asda and via the internet (digital health champions).</p> <p>Cllr Mel Usher noted that both Terry's and Julie's projects show the breadth of work the Council is involved in.</p> <p>A good discussion followed, during which Julie was asked for a quarterly update on the project and was thanked for her presentation.</p> | |
| 2015/94/FC | <p>Cllr Al O'Kane left at 8pm.</p> <p>5. For information: Report on workspace study presented by Seamus Cleary</p> <p>Initial findings from the research revealed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a significant demand from new small businesses for premises for 1-3 people. • There was a stock of underused, primarily first floor, premises in the town and that the challenge was to encourage landlords to re-configure these and make them available to businesses. • The town centre was a popular location for small businesses. • There were 115 businesses less than 2 years old in Frome. • There is a demand for new mixed-use development in the town. <p>Seamus was asked for some real examples of what can be achieved in order to illustrate solutions to landlords.</p> <p>Colin Cobb noted that the town centre was a good place for office-based businesses, while the industrial estates in the town were probably more appropriate to industrial enterprises.</p> <p>Mike Rideout agreed to explore with MDC whether some of the redundant toilets in the town could be converted into premises for small businesses.</p> <p>The Council thanked Seamus for his report.</p> | <p>PWh</p> <p>MR</p> |
| 2015/95/FC | <p>6. For information: Outstanding actions and update on current projects</p> <p>Cllrs noted the report</p> | |
| 2015/96/FC | <p>7. A proposal for Frome Town Council: Road safety concerns along Stonebridge Drive</p> <p>Cllr Richard Ackroyd outlined concerns about ineffective speed bumps on Stonebridge Drive and Brunel Way.</p> | |

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

| | | |
|-------------|---|----|
| | <p>There was a good discussion around the benefits of speed bumps and a 20mph speed limit and whether there really was a problem.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support a further traffic survey at Stonebridge Drive and Brunel Way, to be carried out by Somerset County Council as suggested by County Councillor Linda Oliver. • Investigate the cost of a Small Improvement Scheme (S.I.S.) to change the current speed cushion layout. • Following the survey and costs of SIS , FTC and other Councillors to meet and review the findings. • Explore with SCC further phased plans for speed reduction measures along Stonebridge Drive with an eventual aim of a twenty mile an hour speed limit. <p>Proposed Pippa Goldfinger, seconded Peter Macfadyen, agreed unanimously.</p> | RA |
| 2015/97/FC | <p>8. For endorsement: Frome Town Council’s response to 14th Onshore Oil & Gas Licensing Round Habitats Regulations Assessment</p> <p>Cllr Peter Macfadyen informed the meeting that FTC had sent a response in advance of approval from Frome Town Council due to the tight deadline for submissions. The response outlined opposition to fracking in the vicinity of Frome.</p> <p>Recommendation Endorse the submission made to the Department for Energy and Climate Change on 29 September 2015.</p> <p>Proposed Sheila Gore, seconded Richard Ackroyd, agreed unanimously.</p> | |
| 2015/98/FC | <p>9. For decision: Internal Auditor</p> <p>Jackie Wheeler explained the role of the internal auditor and that it is mandatory to appoint annually a competent, independent internal auditor.</p> <p>The recommendation was to re-appoint Fair Account for 2015/16</p> <p>Proposed Mel Usher, seconded Nick White, agreed unanimously.</p> | JW |
| 2015/99/FC | <p>10. For information: Brief financial update and payments over £500 since the last meeting.</p> <p>Cllrs noted the report.</p> | |
| 2015/100/FC | <p>11. For Information: Town Hall Summary</p> | |

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

| | | |
|-------------|---|-----|
| | <p>Colin Cobb updated the meeting on project progress. He said that there will be a full report to the next meeting in November where Council will decide the outline designs and costings. In the meantime the Architects and Quantity Surveyor will develop final outline drawings and costings, and stakeholders will be contacted.</p> <p>Cllrs noted the report.</p> | Pwy |
| 2015/101/FC | <p>12. For information: Mendip District Council Local Plan Part II</p> <p>Peter Wheelhouse outlined how FTC would develop its response to this draft Local Plan Part II. The Planning Advisory Group would explore the plan and its implications in detail and propose a response at the next Council meeting. Initial thoughts were that the proposed lack of employment land and a large area of land for residential development was worrying.</p> <p>Once the response was agreed, FTC would need to use all the communication channels at its disposal to ensure concerns were heard by MDC.</p> <p>Cllrs noted the report.</p> | PWh |
| 2015/102/FC | <p>13. The next meeting will be 25 November at 7pm at Selwood Academy Hall.</p> | |

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.