

FROME TOWN COUNCIL

making Frome a better place

Minutes of a meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 5 November 2014 at 7pm
Frome Medical Practice, Enos Way, Frome, BA11 2FH

Present:

Councillors: Dave Anderson; Eve Berry; Adam Boyden; Carole Bullen; Graham Burgess; Adrian Dobinson; Toby Eliot; Pippa Goldfinger; Tricia Golinski; Damon Hooton; Peter Macfadyen; Mel Usher; Clare Hudson; Alex Shingler (Deputy Mayor for Young People)

In attendance:

Caroline Wood (Frome Standard); PCSO Shelly Day; Paul Wynne (Town Clerk); Alison Reid (Administration Officer); Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development and Regeneration Manager); Jane Llewellyn (Planning and Development Officer); Kate Hellard (Fair Frome).

Members of the public 19

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2014/77/FC	<p>1 Questions, Comments and information from the public and County and District Cllrs</p> <p>A member of the public asked if the proposed Hustings would be held as an open session to which Cllr Macfadyen responded that they would be.</p> <p>Gill Fone of Foundry Barton addressed the Council about the Singers site. She also presented the meeting with photographs showing litter and neglected areas around the town. The Town Clerk stated that FTC are aware of this situation and are in agreement with her that the areas are not being correctly maintained.</p> <p>The delay in transferring Foundry Barton lies with MDC; Cllr Mel Usher outlined the various steps he has taken to move this situation forward and he hoped the transfer would happen soon. Cllr Peter Macfadyen agreed with Gill Fone that it was time for the residents to act and become proactive in approaching MDC themselves.</p> <p>Jean Lowe asked for information on what had happened to gifts from twinned towns to Frome. Cllr Damon Hooton responded that he was storing these items until a suitable place was identified to display them. Cllr Eve Berry suggested that the new council building would be an ideal venue.</p>	
2014/78/FC	<p>2 Apologies for absence, interests and minutes</p> <p>The Chairman formally opened the Council meeting at 7.25pm and apologies of absence were received from Cllrs Moore, White and Sprawson – White and Cara Honey Mayor for young people and County Cllr Linda Oliver.</p>	

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	<p>A declaration was received from Cllrs Bullen, 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>The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 17 September 2014 were approved as a true record of the meeting following the insertion of the correct recorded vote which was attached and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Burgess, seconded Cllr Goldfinger, agreed unanimously</p>	
2014/79/FC	<p>3 Outstanding actions and forthcoming items</p> <p>Councillors noted the report. Cllr Hooton suggested that the Town Clerk write to MDC asking if they intend to implement the County Infrastructure Levy.</p>	PWy
2014/80/FC	<p>4 Local legacy scheme- FTC's unsuccessful applications</p> <p>The Town Clerk noted that FTC had submitted three unsuccessful applications. This was because MDC had decided to change the criteria to exclude previously successful applicants. They did this three months after the closing date. The Clerk noted that it had taken approximately 20 days of officer's time to work with partners to plan the projects and complete the applications. It was requested that the Town Clerk writes to MDC outlining our complaint, firstly stating that we had met all criteria as published on MDC website, and secondly to query the change to eligibility. Cllr Usher added that as MDC were bound by MDC policy to allocate 40% of £800,000 funding to the Local Legacy Scheme, and had so far only allocated £200,000 and were not fulfilling the promises made.</p> <p>Cllr Boyden arrived 17:45.</p>	PWy
2014/81/FC	<p>5 Neighbourhood plan – what it means for Frome</p> <p>Peter Wheelhouse Economic Development and Regeneration Manager and Jane Llewellyn Planning and Development Officer gave a comprehensive presentation to the meeting. They outlined the structure of The Neighbourhood plan, the framework for developers, policies and timescales moving forward. Peter Wheelhouse confirmed firstly that the Local Plan now has a minimum of 2,300 houses to be built over the life of the plan confirming there is no upper limit. Secondly he confirmed the reference to a “medium” sized supermarket at Saxonvale means there was no fixed limit.</p>	

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<p>2014/82/FC</p>	<p>6 Proposal to hold a Democracy day in advance of the General Election in May 2015</p> <p>Cllr Macfadyen introduced the proposal to hold a Democracy Day to include a Hustings event in Frome. Prospective Parliamentary candidates would be invited to sit on a “Question time” panel, and all candidates for the local elections would be invited to “set out their stall”. This was enthusiastically received by the meeting. Cllr Hudson stated it needs to be centered on local issues and was a brilliant idea. Cllr Goldfinger asked who would do the selection of candidates and Cllr Usher suggested perhaps the editor of a local newspaper would be an ideal candidate. Cllr Hooten volunteered himself to help out with this event as he has experience from a similar event in 2010. He also suggested opening the event to local television with the possibility of a presenter chairing the proceedings.</p> <p><i>Recommendation</i></p> <p>The Town Clerk to organise a Democracy Day in advance of the May elections in 2015.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Hooten, seconded Cllr Goldfinger, agreed unanimously</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PWy</p>
<p>2014/83/FC</p>	<p>7 Proposal to buy the Old Showfield</p> <p>The Town Clerk updated Council on discussions with the Agricultural Society over the possible purchase of the Old Showfield. This was enthusiastically received by Council. There followed a discussion over how to buy the site and it was proposed to apply to the public works loan board for a loan.</p> <p><i>Recommendations</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Acquire the land shaded in red on the map from the Frome Selwood Agricultural Society for a price of £125,000. Both parties to pay their own legal fees. 2. Transfer the ownership of this land to the Theodora Ann Le Gross Trust for Open Spaces as soon as possible and for the trust to ask the Official Custodian for Charities to hold the title on its behalf. 3. To take on the existing lease (approx. 85 years remaining) of the land, shaded in blue on the map, from the Frome Selwood Agricultural Society on a pepper corn rent. Note that this lease is on a six month notice period. 4. Review the current unimplemented management plan for the site (following public consultation two years ago) to confirm community views remain unchanged. 5. Implement the plan with community with the help of the 	

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	<p>£39,000 S106 budget currently held by Mendip.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Anderson, seconded Cllr Boyden, agreed majority</p> <p>6. Take out a public works loan board loan over 25yrs for £125k, and utilise reserves as a “bridging loan “if the loan is delayed.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Usher, seconded Cllr Hudson, agreed majority</p>	<p>PWy</p> <p>PWy</p>
2014/84/FC	<p>8 Progress report on the Old Social Services building project</p> <p>A scale model of the building was on display for the meeting. The Town Clerk explained how the model would prove crucial in the process of finding out and planning how the building will be best utilised. There are also plans to make a video of the interior of the building in a bid to make things a more interactive process. There was further discussion on how choosing a name for the building would be open to the general public and the proposed timescale involved. It is hoped that by the New Year the design brief would be out to tender. It was emphasised that the building will be a community building and not solely for FTC. The sale of Palmer Street offices were also briefly discussed as a must once the new building is purchased.</p>	
2014/85/FC	<p>9 Date of next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 7 January, Frome Football Club</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:50