

# FROME TOWN COUNCIL

*making Frome a better place*

Minutes of the meeting of Frome Town Council

Wednesday 25 November 2015 at 7pm  
Selwood School Hall, Berkley Rd, Frome, Somerset BA11 2EF

**Present:**

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

**In attendance:**

District Cllr Mike Rideout, Chris Reeves (Mendip CCTV Manager), James McGillivray (NVB Architects), Claire Wilson (Frome Standard)  
Paul Wynne (Town Clerk), Peter Wheelhouse (Economic Development & Regeneration Manager), Jackie Wheeler (Responsible Finance Officer), Kate Hellard (Community Projects Officer), Laura Poulton (Administration Officer)

16 members of the public

Minute Ref	Agenda Item	Action
2015/103/FC	<p>The meeting started at 7.00pm</p> <p><b>1a. Apologies for absence</b> Received from Heather Wride</p> <p><b>1b. Declaration of members’ interests</b> Pippa Goldfinger declared an interest in item 6 as she was an employee of Rook Lane Chapel where NVB Architects offices are based.</p> <p><b>1c. Minutes from the last meeting on 28 October 2015</b> The minutes of the Frome Town Council meeting held on 28 October 2015 were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p> <p>Proposed Pippa Goldfinger, seconded Peter Macfadyen, agreed by majority.</p>	
2015/104/FC	<p><b>2. Questions and comments from the public</b> Gill Fone enquired about the progress at Foundry Barton. Chris Stringer confirmed the summary of the recent consultation would be available by the end of the week. He also confirmed he and his team were looking to work with residents on a garden open during daylight hours only.</p> <p>Gill Fone also asked if FTC could investigate the issue of Button Bridge ponding. Chris Stringer confirmed the rangers would see if a solution</p>	CS

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	<p>could be found. Mel Usher also asked Mike Rideout to follow this up at a district level as Mendip own the bridge.</p> <p>Pat Newton asked if FTC were able to contact Network Rail to discuss the continued problems of pigeons roosting underneath Rodden Bridge. Colin Cobb informed her that he and other Cllrs for the town and district had recently met with Network Rail to discuss the issue. He confirmed that they were awaiting a costing plan to install spikes on the ledges where the birds roost. He noted he would inform the public when he had heard back from Network Rail.</p>	<p>MR</p> <p>CS</p>
<p>2015/105/FC</p>	<p>Cath Puddick arrived at 7.10pm</p> <p><b>3. Questions and comments from Cllrs</b></p> <p>Jean Boulton informed the meeting that Somerset County Council were undertaking a review of bus services that would affect Frome. Two online consultations were open and printed copies were available from FTC. She asked Laura Poulton to ensure extra copies were distributed amongst the Medical Practice, library and health food shop.</p> <p>Tricia Golinski thanked Chris Stringer and the rangers for arranging the installation of solar lights along the cycle track and noted how much of a difference they had made. Chris Stringer reported that within the last week two had been smashed.</p> <p>Paul Wynne gave an update on behalf of Adam Boyden who noted he and District Cllr Claire Hudson had submitted a motion to MDC to publicly congratulate Frome for their recent national awards at their next meeting on 14 December. He asked if any FTC Cllrs would be able to attend the meeting. He also noted Fusion had begun refurbishment of Frome Leisure Centre and had discovered asbestos meaning the completion date would be later than expected. In addition Selwood Academy had received planning permission for their proposed 3G artificial pitching and were currently seeking funding.</p>	<p>LP</p>
<p>2015/106/FC</p>	<p><b>4 Short talk by Chris Reeves Mendip CCTV Manager</b></p> <p>Chris Reeves explained that Mendip was a low crime area and CCTV was there to deter or provide evidence of crime and to enhance community safety. The management centre is based in Wells and covers five towns within the district. He explained that the cameras were aging but fit for purpose at the present time. Chris provided some statistics since the installation of the CCTV system in Frome of incidents each year. He explained that although CCTV was a tool for preventing crime it was also used to protect the vulnerable, recently they had been able to alert the police to young girls who were in need of assistance.</p>	

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	<p>Pippa Goldfinger asked Chris if when installing a new camera they were required to apply for planning permission. He said that they did even for temporary cameras. Pippa explained that it would be good to review the location of a camera on a large pole outside the gates to St Johns church as part of a planned review of street furniture in town.</p>	PG
2015/107/FC	<p><b>5. For decision: Frome Town Council's support of CCTV in Frome</b>  The recommendation was to sign another four year SLA agreement with MDC at a cost of £8.3k per year (2016/17).</p> <p>Proposed Richard Ackroyd, seconded Jean Boulton, agreed unanimously.</p>	JW
2015/108/FC	<p><b>6. For decision: To agree the outline design and costings for refurbishment of Frome Town Hall</b>  James McGillivray from NVB Architects, gave a presentation with an overview of the design. He summarised the design proposals including a fire escape would be added to the back of the Council Chamber, a lift installed and a ramp outside the front door. He noted the hall needed to be accessible in all aspects for the whole community.</p> <p>Paul Wynne presented the costings to deliver this design proposal and proposed that in order to deliver additional access and health and safety requirements. The total cost to deliver the design had been estimated by the project quantity surveyor, Alan Holley, at £750k and that in order to fund this FTC would need to apply for an additional Public Works Loan of £200k. Other costs could be found within existing budgets and reserves.</p> <p>Paul also explained that winter works on the building were required to make it weather proof.</p> <p>Nick White asked James whether the installation of an access ramp and lift was necessary as the building already had disabled access. James explained that from a building control point of view they weren't necessary additions, however, for equal accessibility they were. He noted that someone could take issue under the Disability Discrimination legislation.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approve the outline design and costings</li> <li>2. Apply for an additional £200k loan from the DCLG to complete the project.</li> <li>3. Allocate £115k currently in the EMR Community Groups subsidy to the Town Hall project.</li> <li>4. Allocate £115k from the sale of 5 Palmer Street to the Town Hall project.</li> </ol>	<p>JW</p> <p>JW</p> <p>JW</p>

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	<p>5. Note the works that are required over the winter period in advance of the main project.</p> <p>6. Delegate responsibility to take the project through to completion to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Project Sponsor, Colin Cobb.</p> <p>Proposed Jean Boulton, seconded Colin Cobb, agreed unanimously.</p>	
2015/109/FC	<p><b>7. For information: Boyle Cross – MDC rejection of planning application</b></p> <p>Peter Wheelhouse informed the meeting that FTC had now been given the reasons for MDC’s refusal of the application which centred around the loss of the free parking spaces and, in MDC’s opinion, the harm the refurbishment would cause to the Boyle Cross which is listed structure. He explained that FTC had grounds for appeal.</p> <p>Mel Usher pointed out that Vision for Frome’s 2009 report, the Local Plan 2014, Neighbourhood Plan, Frome Manifesto, Town Centre Panel, Planning and Conservation Officers and Highways have all publicly given support to a more pedestrian friendly town centre to which the Boyle Cross project would contribute. Mel Usher said he was at a loss to understand MDC’s decision.</p> <p>Peter Macfadyen noted he was to meet Harvey Siggs, Leader of MDC, the next day and would be discussing with him a way forward would report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>Richard Ackroyd proposed that FTC officers consider the options open to FTC and then come back to the next meeting for decision. Pippa Goldfinger seconded and it was agreed by majority.</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>PWh</p>
2015/110/FC	<p><b>8. Short talk by Kate Hellard, Community Projects Officer, providing an update on her work this year</b></p> <p>Kate Hellard explained that her work over a period of eight months had been focused on three themes. The first was ‘Community Involvement and Participation’. The second was ‘Capacity building and support of organisations’. The third theme was ‘Information’. She explained that the Frome Town Hall would be an excellent source of multiple amounts of information accessible to the community.</p> <p>Jean Boulton noted that the work Kate had done so far was very impressive and asked if there were any other ways to share information prior to the opening of Frome Town Hall. Kate noted that regular bulletins were printed in the Frome Times, a community projects newsletter was sent out on a regular basis and posters around the town.</p>	

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	Kate Bielby asked Cllrs if there were any other officers they would like similar updates from. Jean Boulton suggested an update on Economic Development.	PWh
2015/111/FC	<b>9. For information: Outstanding actions and update on current projects</b> Pippa Goldfinger noted that Frome was awarded The Great Town Award by the Academy of Urbanism. She explained the Academy were impressed by Frome's approach and that all members of the community contribute to making Frome the success that it is.	
2015/112/FC	<b>10. For information: Initial thoughts on the main messages heard from the community about the cleanliness of the town during October Watch Campaign</b> Chris Stringer explained that during October they received 100 reports of various issues of cleanliness around the town. He noted that the findings tallied with outcomes of previous consultations. Chris also explained that it highlighted that the standards of the contract with The Landscape Group were falling short of where they should be.  Richard Ackroyd thanked Chris and the rangers for their efforts in keeping the town clean.	
2015/113/FC	<b>11. For information: Budget forecast at 31 October</b> Cllrs noted the report.	
2015/114/FC	<b>12. The next meeting will be 16 December at 7pm at Rook Lane Chapel.</b>	

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.